



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 20

19 April 2017

What we've been doing

18 April 2017

Lily Hill Park (Starch Copse)

Leader: Graham Coe

BFC ranger: John Morris

This was a continuation of previous work, clearing mostly bramble and some holly and rowan from around specimen *Rhododendron* trees.

The cleared materials were burnt on a bonfire. Nine volunteers attended. It was sunny but cool, almost perfect weather for the task.

Bluebells are now in flower in Lily Hill Park. Some of the specimen *Rhododendron* trees are coming into flower.

Volunteers found it a satisfying task; we could see the improvement where we had cleared around the rhododendrons.

Previous visits

We last visited Starch Copse on 28 March 2017, doing the same task.

Lily Hill Park

Lily Hill Park covers 56 acres. The site offers a wide range of habitats for wildlife including wildflower meadows, ornamental woodland and ancient woodland. The collection of specimen *Rhododendron* varieties is of historical importance, and has been largely untouched since 1922.

Lily Hill Park is an important wildlife corridor with links to neighbouring woodlands at Scott's Hill and Clinton's Hill.

See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/lily-hill-park-leaflet.pdf>

Coming up next

25 April 2017

Tarmans Copse

Removal of tree guards and stag beetle loggery construction. Park in Blackcap Lane.

Best wishes to Michael and Barbara

Best wishes from all of us to BCV treasurer Barbara Jerome who was due to have an operation on her broken arm on 18 April.

Best wishes also to Michael J. Norton Esq. who is unwell, we hope he's soon fit to come and cut down the more challenging trees again.

Dartford warblers

Dartford warbler numbers on Berkshire heaths showed a marked decline after several recent severe winters.

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/species/dartford-warbler>

The population has now bounced back, and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) has recorded the first Dartford warbler at the Decoy Heath reserve (*near Silchester*) after many years' absence.

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/reserves/decoy-heath>

Doing us good

We all knew it was good for us to be out on task, despite scratches from bramble and gorse, but now it has been proved scientifically:

http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/wellbeing-benefits-fr-nat-env-report-290915-final-lo_0.pdf

Big Garden Birdwatch

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has published the findings from its Big Garden Birdwatch held in January 2017.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/rspb-news/news/439627-robins-starlings-and-blackbirds-joined-by-more-unusual-visitors>

Bracknell Forest Veteran Tree Survey (BFVTS)

See next page for 2 events connected with the BFVTS. Roger and Maggie Britt will be going to the event on 23 April, and Roger Britt will go to the event on 30 April, so if you feel like joining us you would be most welcome.

What's on

Warfield Environment Group

Veteran Tree Survey Event

Sunday 23 April 2017 10:30

Shepherds House (*almost opposite Moss End Garden Centre*), Moss End, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 6ER, on A3095

Lily Hill Park

Bracknell Forest Veteran Tree Survey (run by Bracknell Forest Natural History Society)

Tree trail and pub lunch

Sunday 30 April 2017 11:30

Meet in Running Horse car park. Ian Marsh will lead a walk around Lily Hill Park to look at a few of its collection of remarkable trees.

Jealott's Hill Community Landshare

Blossom and bluebells walk (weather permitting)

Sunday 30 April 2017 13:30 – 16:30 (walk from 13:30, other activities from 14:30)

Wellers Lane, nr Penfurzen Lane, Warfield, RG42 6BQ (off A330 Ascot-Maidenhead road)

Booking for walk recommended: e-mail kate.darrall@bracknellforesthomes.org.uk or tel: 07970 356292

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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