



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 24

18 May 2017

What we've been doing

16 May 2017

Peacock Meadows

Leader: Richard Elsbury

BFC ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

We met at Swift Fields car park. House martins were hawking over the car park, and a skylark was singing in the field.

We made a start on tree guard removal on the bank of the A329. This was hard work, and much still needs to be done here. We then moved to repairing and constructing 3 sets of fences around groups of young trees in the field. The purpose of this seems to be to prevent grazing of the trees by horses brought by travellers. Finally, we made a bonfire of cut tree material left by travellers.

The weather was warm and sunny. Six volunteers attended. Skylarks were singing all the time we were in the field; a group of us had a very good view of a skylark, which was clearly nesting at the end of the field closest to the Peacock Farm pub.

Previous visits

We last visited Peacock Meadows on 14 June 2016. We removed tree guards and worked on fence construction. It was extremely wet in the long grass.

Peacock Meadows

A history of Peacock Meadows is given here:

<https://www.caba.org.uk/about-us/peacock-meadows/history-peacock-meadows>

This is a field between the Easthampstead Road and A329. It abuts on to Big Wood, which has some very fine oak and other trees. There is also a veteran Wild Service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) on the corner of Big Wood, which was measured by the group in 2015; the girth then was 3m. The tree consists of a small section of dead wood which would have been about half of the lower part of the main trunk, and one trailing side branch which is still producing foliage and flowers. Some shrivelled berries still remained on the branches.

Coming up next

23 May 2017

Savernake Park

Gaultheria removal, hedge laying and dead hedge creation. Wellies might be advisable.

News from Lily Hill Park manager's report

A Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) near the wildflower meadow has been "soft felled" (not sure what that means). The intention is to mill the wood or create a sculptural feature in the future.

Path improvements in Starch Copse will start at the end of May 2017.

A Lows fir (*Abies concolor* var. *lowiana*) has been planted out near the location of the previous Low's fir in Forester's Hill.

BCV has been praised for our work on clearance around the specimen Rhododendrons and constructing the wooden edging along the wildflower meadow. BCV will replace the bridge by the Running Horse car park in due course.

What's on

South Hill Park

Parks Photo: exhibition of interpretations by amateur photographers of "our borough's wonderful trees"

Friday 21 April 2017 – Sunday 11 June 2017

Long Gallery, SHP

Cat movement study

The University of Reading are recruiting cat owners in Bracknell for a study of cat movements. Your cat will be fitted with a GPS tracker. All participants will get a detailed map of where their cat has been.

Contact Dr. Tara Pirie at:

t.pirie@reading.ac.uk

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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