



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 28

15 June 2017

What we've been doing

13 June 2017

Popes Meadow

Leader: Richard Elsbury

BFC ranger: Luke Dawson

We removed Parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) from the pond into the boat and then barrowed the material to the trailer.

Roger and Maggie Britt did a botanical survey of the meadow. Vegetation was characteristic of acid-neutral grassland. Buttercups are the dominant flower at the moment: at least 2 species were present, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and creeping buttercup *R. repens*. Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) grows in one patch and appears to be spreading. Meadowsweet leaves (*Filipendula ulmaria*) were present in damper areas, but no flowers yet.

Other volunteers cut down small trees and some huge brambles to expose some of the larger veteran trees and piled the material ready for removal later.

Two members of the public thanked us for our work: one person was subject of a survey by Barbara Jerome; the other person thanked us spontaneously while passing with his dog. The weather was cloudy initially and then hot and sunny. Eleven volunteers attended.

Previous visits

We visited Popes Meadow twice in 2016: on 24 April we replaced edging and stone chippings on a path and scrubbed and repainted benches; we also had our AGM.

On 1 November 2016 we carried out coppicing to provide hedging material and cleared and burnt vegetation.

Popes Meadow

This area of 13.7 acres of parkland in Binfield parish was at one time part of the grounds of Pope's Manor, which was the home of the poet Alexander Pope. The park has been given a Green Flag award. It has been designated a Local Wildlife Site.

See: <https://files.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/bracknell/documents/pop-es-meadow-leaflet.pdf?GzFIpVwqGVLVMkHHMO6kQw0kDIOqNhHM>

Coming up next

20 June 2017

Lily Hill Park (Starch Copse)

Vegetation clearance. Meet at the Running Horse car park, but beware that this is the first day of Royal Ascot; we may have to park in the main LHP car park.

Invasive species

Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

This invasive species originated as a water garden and aquarium plant, and then spread rapidly from discarded plants.

See factsheet at:

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/factsheet/factsheet.cfm?speciesId=2285>

A good read

The Wood for the Trees

Richard Fortey

2016 William Collins

ISBN 978-0-00-810466-5

Richard Fortey bought a piece of woodland in the Chilterns not far from Henley-on-Thames. This is an account of woodland life throughout the year as it is now and as it was in the past, when the Chiltern beechwoods were a living resource for local craftsmen.

Rhododendron poisoning

Research at Kew has found that nectar from *Rhododendron* may be toxic for honeybees, although it seems not to affect bumblebees.

<http://www.kew.org/blogs/kew-science/hidden-poisons-rhododendron-nectar>

What's On

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

Wildflower Identification at Goddard Way

Wednesday 21 June

10:00 – 14:00

Meet at site noticeboard, Goddard Lane, off Priory Way, Warfield RG42 2JP

Himalayan balsam pulling at Garth Pond

Saturday 1 July

13:00 – 15:00

Meet at Garth Pond entrance, opposite Totale Rise, Bracknell RG42 2PW

Himalayan balsam pulling at Horseshoe Lake

Sunday 2 July and Saturday 8 July

13:00 – 15:00

Meet at Horseshoe Lake car park, off Mill Lane, Sandhurst, GU47 8JW

All Parks and Countryside events up to October 2017 are listed at:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/pc-events-prog-may-to-oct-2017.pdf>

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening nightjar walk, led by RSPB

Thursday 29 June (no further details available as yet), see website for further information:

<http://www.bfnathistsoc.org.uk/events.html>

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Rhododendron and bramble clearance at Westmorland Park

Sunday 18 June

Meet on site at 10:15, park at Westmorland Park car park

Invasive species control at Ambarrow Court

Sunday 25 June

Meet on site at 10:15, park in car park at grid reference SU825626.

See list of events at:

<http://www.berkshire-conservation-volunteers.org.uk/>

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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