



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 25

26 May 2017

## What we've been doing

**23 May 2017**

**Savernake Park**

**Leader: Graham Coe**

**BFC ranger: Rob Solomon (standing in for Liz Vango-Smith)**

We started off coppicing saplings around the pond. We used the brash to create a dead hedge to block off a path in the woods which had started life as a "desire line" for walkers. The weather was lightly cloudy and warm. Twelve volunteers attended. We held an AGM *en plein air* in the coffee break.

### ***Previous visits***

We last visited Savernake Park on 11 April 2017. The task was clearing *Gaultheria* and painting sculptures.

### ***Savernake Park***

This is a 6.5ha (16.1acre) public open space. There is a balancing pond, a play area and mixed woodland. Noctule bats are resident.

Savernake Park takes its name from Savernake Forest in Wiltshire. The site probably used to be part of the Great Windsor Forest. In the 1990s Savernake Park was adopted by Bracknell Forest Council who now manage the site for recreation and wildlife.

See: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/savernakepark>

## Coming up next

**30 May 2017**

**Horseshoe Lake**

Removal of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and other tasks.

## How's this for a veteran tree?

Methuselah is a Great Basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) growing in the mountains of Eastern California. Methuselah was sampled for dendrochronology, probably in 1957, and is now at least 4848 years old, that's older than the stone circle at Stonehenge. The tree grows at an altitude of about 3000m, and growth is very slow in the harsh climate.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methuselah\\_\(tree\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methuselah_(tree))

## 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](mailto:t.pirie@reading.ac.uk)

### ***Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers***

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