



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 45

24 October 2017

What we've been doing

24 October 2017

Beedon Drive

Leader: Graham Coe
Ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

1) We created a stag beetle loggery:



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2) We replaced a waste bin near the playground.

3) We coppiced hazel and other vegetation near the fence adjoining the entrance to Easthampstead Park school. Material for hedge binders and stakes was trailed away by Marie-Anne. Other material was placed in eco-piles.

One substantial oak tree was cut down very professionally. The tree fell exactly where predicted and was cut down with remarkable speed; as a group member commented: "with alacrity".

4) We relocated a bench in the ground; the bench had been uprooted by vandals.

The weather was cloudy but relatively warm. Eleven volunteers attended.

Previous visits

We last visited this site on 19 June 2012, when a pergola was constructed and erected. We walked through the pergola on 24 October. Hedge clearing work was also carried out on our visit in 2012.

Coming up next

31 October 2017

Shepherd Meadows

Scrub clearance from meadow.

Mass extinction of insects

Remember when your car windscreen would be covered in dead insects after a drive in the countryside? That doesn't happen so much now. It is not good news for the environment.

There has been an alarming decline in the number of insects in Western Europe, reflected in the so-called "windscreen phenomenon", a crude measure of insect populations:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/08/26/windscreen-phenomenon-car-no-longer-covered-dead-insects/>

A recent study in Germany has shown a decrease of more than 75% in the number of flying insects:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0185809>

Overall insect populations are rarely studied because there are very few experts who can identify a large proportion of insect species; most experts specialise in small groups of insects, such as bees or moths. An amateur group in Krefeld, Germany, has been monitoring insects since 1905. The Krefeld group used Malaise traps to map the density of insects in areas designated for nature protection in Germany. Even in these protected areas the decline in insect numbers is very worrying.

Malaise traps:

<https://www.amentsoc.org/insects/glossary/terms/malaise-trap>

Entomological Society Krefeld (German only):

<http://www.entomologica.org/>

The reasons for this decline are unclear: it is unlikely to be a result of landscape use change or global warming. The authors suggest that intensive agriculture and use of pesticides may be a factor.

Doing us good again

According to BBC Autumnwatch the Japanese have a concept of "forest bathing", which means improving our mental and physical health by contact with trees. BCV do this every Tuesday, although maybe cutting down trees is not quite the right approach:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/natureuk>

What's On

Community Litter Pick at Savernake Park

Thursday 16 November 2017

Meet at the car park at 10:00, task is scheduled to last about 2 hours.

Bracknell Forest Parks and Countryside

All Parks and Countryside events are listed at:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/events>

Events to April 2018

<https://files.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/bracknell/documents/parks-events-prog-november-17-to-april-18.pdf?VGy1eW6B5kDoGmQezhyJoGJXLlRg.Mq>

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