



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 62

6 March 2018

What we've been doing

6 March 2018

Bill Hill

Leader: Graham Coe

Ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

A very good turnout of 13 volunteers cut holly from just below the barrow close to Beech Glen and burnt the cut material on a bonfire. We were very pleased that 3 recent recruits to our group chose to come back. The weather was relatively warm for the time of year, with sunny periods.

One of our volunteers, who has recently had to undergo surgery, visited us. We all send our very best wishes for a quick recovery.

Previous visits

We last visited Bill Hill on a wet 22 November 2016. We planted bulbs of wild cyclamen, snowdrop, lesser celandine, wild daffodil and wood anemone in the copse just across the path from Bill Hill. Later we moved onto Bill Hill proper, near Dundas Close, where we cleared holly and young sycamores.

Bill Hill

Bill Hill is a naturally wooded hillock that rises sharply from grassland off Downshire Way, towards the Bronze Age round barrow at its summit. Bill Hill has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument since the 1950s.

At the top of the hill, on its eastern side, is a circular mound of earth, hollowed out in the centre. Many barrow sites were disturbed by amateur antiquarians in the 18th and 19th centuries. The hollow in the top of Bill Hill barrow may have been the result of an early unrecorded excavation of this sort.

See: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/parks-visit/bill-hill-ancient-monument>

Coming up next

13 March 2018

Winkfield Footpath 8

Gate replacement.

Plogging

This is a craze introduced from Sweden, combining jogging and picking up litter. Could we apply this principle to our work?

See:

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/shortcuts/2018/feb/19/a-rubbish-way-to-get-fit-why-i-loved-going-plogging>

Take a trip to Inkpen crocus field?

This Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve is renowned for the display of crocuses in Spring. The reserve is near Newbury (RG17 9PT). Although the crocus is not strictly a native plant, perhaps a garden escape some hundreds of years ago, it has become extensively naturalised.

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/reserves/Inkpen-Crocus-Field>

Hedgehogs in decline

Hedgehog numbers are difficult to estimate, but it appears that there has been a substantial decrease in recent years:

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/state-britains-hedgehogs-2018/>

Recent surveys have used a "footprint tunnel" to track hedgehogs:

http://www.mammal.org.uk/sites/default/files/National%20hedgehog%20survey%20volunteer%20handbook_2.pdf

New Nature

A new free online magazine for young naturalists, but might also be of interest to the more temporally challenged.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/15ec9b_df98d7e3754c40db9b99ae0af647ff5f.pdf

Fieldfare

Unusually, these large winter thrushes have been coming into gardens to look for food in the recent cold weather. Roger and Maggie Britt had one bird in their garden on 2/3 March, feasting on *Iris foetidissima* berries.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/natureuk/entries/0224cbff-d977-4053-aa7e-4cfe28bc70e1>

What's on

Warfield Environment Group

Hedge laying at Larks Hill

Saturday 10 March

See poster:



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Nightingale Triangle project

Conservation task for residents and volunteers (all invited)

Saturday 17 March 2018 10:00 – 15:00

Park in Firlands.

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "**Conservation in Conversation**" with the Hawk Conservancy

South Hill Park Recital Room

Monday 19 March 2018 19:30 (£3 fee for visitors/£1 for BFNHS members)

Bracknell Forest Council Parks and Countryside

Reptile and amphibian walk at Englemere Pond

Friday 20 April 2018 10:00 – 11:30

NB: walk is dependent on weather, meet at pond viewing platform by Englemere Pond, park in Englemere Pond car park off Swinley Road

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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