Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

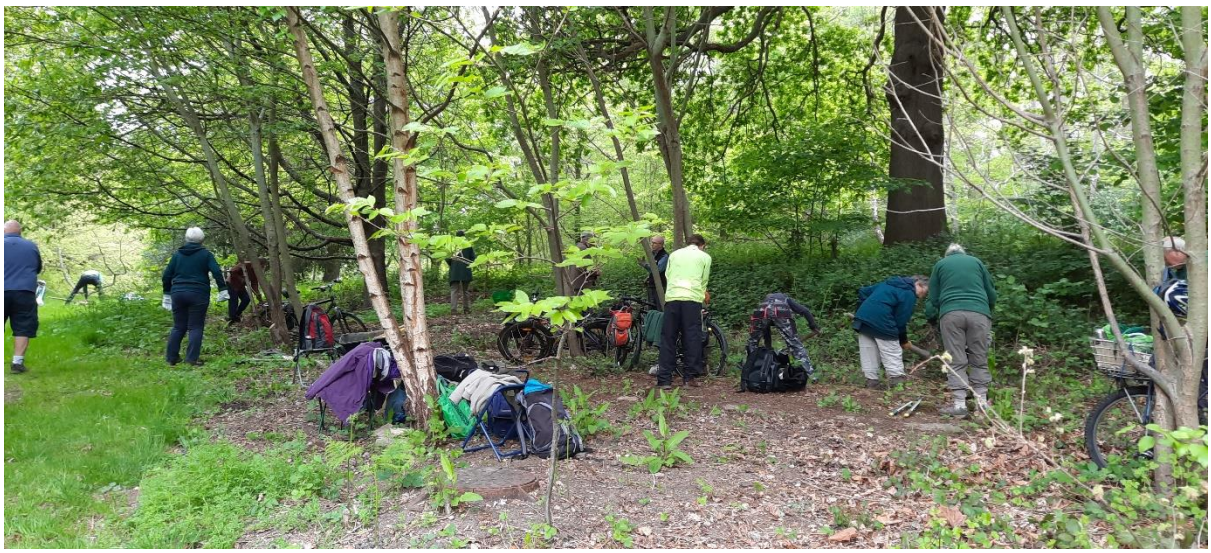
Newsletter No. **150** 12 May 2022

What we've been doing

3 May 2022 Lily Hill Park

Continuing scrub clearance in the vicinity of the Foresters pub site. The task was mainly ground clearance, mostly bramble, but some holly/willow/hazel. We made a fire to burn the debris. We also continued the clearance of the old pub site itself.

21 volunteers attended, a very good turnout. The weather was overcast.



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On this task we found a very special tree: a Wollemi pine which had been planted not very far from our work site.

The Wollemi pine is not in fact a pine, it is a close relative of the monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*). What makes it so special is that it was only discovered as a living tree in Australia in 1994. Until that time, it was only known as fossils, mostly in sediments of Cretaceous age, about 40 million years ago. The Wollemi is a true living fossil. The discovery of the tree was the botanical equivalent of finding a living dinosaur.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wollemia

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10 May 2022 Peacock Meadow

Part of the group cleared out a small pond area, removing wood, cleaning and taking the liner out to create a seasonal unlined pond. This proved to be extremely dirty work.

The larger part of the group removed ragwort from fields to the north of West Garden Copse. Ragwort rosettes are identifiable but still quite small. The grass was very wet: waterproof footwear might have been advisable.

15 volunteers attended. The weather was overcast and we had a sudden sharp shower, but it cleared up later.

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Coming up next

17 May 2022 **Savernake Park**

Task: painting metal barriers

24 May 2022 **Cabbage Hill**

Task: ragwort pulling

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What's on

Wildlife in Ascot

Conservation work at Allens Field

Saturday 14 May 2022 **09:30 – 12:30**

Meet in the car park off Liddell Way off Bouldish Farm Rd South Ascot SL5 9UZ
Dress for painting! and gardening work. Contact ascot.wildlife@gmail.com for more info.

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society (BFNHS)

'St Kilda and the Hebrides, cruising to the edge of the world'

Evening talk by Sara Frost

Monday 16 May 2022 **start 19:30**

Recital Room, South Hill Park: £1 for members, £3 for visitors, pay on door

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
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