



# Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 53

05 January 2018

## What we've been doing

**2 January 2018**

**Wildmoor Heath Footpath 18**

**Leader: Jon Munday**  
**Ranger: Richard Westwood**

The group cleared trees from heathland and burnt the cleared material on a bonfire. Some work had already been done on tree clearance, and there were large piles of cut trees to be disposed of.

The weather was very wet at first, improving a bit later. All volunteers were thoroughly soaked by the end of the day and very dirty because of smuts from the fire. Nine volunteers were present.

### *Previous visits*

We last visited Footpath 18 on 21 November 2017, when we cleared gorse, willow and birch from the heath and burnt the cleared material on a bonfire.

### *Wildmoor Heath*

Wildmoor Heath is 91 hectares of heathland and is run by Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).

The Reserve is on a slope, which is unusual for heathlands. Lowland heath is now a very threatened habitat, so this is a precious piece of countryside. The Reserve has a rich community of fungi, insects, reptiles, birds, mosses and flowering plants.

Most of the work we do on the site is controlling invasive species, especially Scots pine.

See: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/parks-and-countryside/parks-visit/wildmoor-heath>

## Coming up next

**9 January 2018**

**Allsmoor Pond**

Cutting and burning scrub.

## **Carmen Metson**

We are very sorry to report that Carmen Metson, wife of Dr. David Metson, one of our long-standing members, passed away on 1 January 2018. Carmen had been ill for some time.

Deepest sympathies from all at Bracknell Conservation Volunteers to David in his sad loss.

## **John Dalzell**

We reported the sad death of John Dalzell, a member of BCV since 2008, in the last Newsletter (No. 52).

The funeral service for John will be at Holy Trinity Church, Bracknell, on Monday January 8 at 12:15 pm. All are welcome.

There will then be a family-only service at the Crematorium.

There will be a buffet at the Grange Hotel, Bracknell, at about 14:30. All are welcome to attend.

The nearest car park is the Braccans Walk multi-storey.

## **Pollution in the Cut**

A number of incidents of pollution in the Cut river in Bracknell have been reported. The Environment Agency has had to re-stock the river with fish after a recent incident.

[http://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/15779531.Illegal\\_oil\\_dumps\\_kill\\_hundreds\\_of\\_fish\\_in\\_the\\_River\\_Cut/](http://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/15779531.Illegal_oil_dumps_kill_hundreds_of_fish_in_the_River_Cut/)

## What's on

### ***Bracknell Forest Council***

Heathland management at Wildmoor Heath: practical conservation work. Bring a packed lunch.

Wildmoor Heath car park, Crowthorne Road, RG45 7PP

Saturday 6 January 2018                      10:00 – 13:30

Booking required: call 01344 354441

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

On-site mobile phone: **07986 707 448**

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