



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. 66

10 April 2018

What we've been doing

10 April 2018

Beedon Drive

Leader: Jon Munday

Ranger: Marie-Anne Phillips

The group cut back vegetation about 2m from the fence line and burned the cleared material on a bonfire. We found a large number of golf balls, among a considerable amount of general litter. One local resident expressed appreciation of the work we were doing near his house. We had a very good turnout of 13 volunteers on an overcast and damp day.

Previous visits

We visited Beedon Drive on 24 October 2018, when we created a stag beetle loggery, replaced a waste bin, coppiced trees and relocated a picnic bench. The weather was cloudy but relatively warm.

John Dalzell

Many of you will remember John and Barbara Dalzell, who were stalwarts of the group for many years. Sadly, John passed away in December 2017.

John had worked for many years on telephone cables, where he was exposed to asbestos dust. An inquest has now decided that John died of asbestosis, an industrial-related disease. Our thoughts go out to his widow Barbara at this very difficult time:

http://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/bracknell/16144741.Conservationist_39_s_death_was_caused_by_asbestos_inquest_finds/

Coming up next

17 April 2018

Bill Hill

Holly clearance, to fit in around birds nesting.

Spring flowers

Look out for Danish scurvy grass (*Cochlearia danica*) along road verges. This maritime plant, originally from the East of England and Scotland, has been spreading along roadsides for some years, where it can tolerate the salt spread on the road and is able to colonise the bare ground at the edge of the verge. It often turns the edges of roads white or pink with its flowers.

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant-fungi-species/danish-scurvy-grass>

25 Year Environment Plan

The government has unveiled its 25 year Environment Plan, which sets out ambitious goals for the period after brexit:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

The Wildlife Trusts have commented on the plan:

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/2018/01/11/wildlife-trusts%E2%80%99-initial-response-25-year-environment-plan>

Farming after brexit

Leaving the EU offers an opportunity to reverse some of the damage done to the environment by the Common Agricultural Policy. The Wildlife Trusts have published a report proposing a more environmentally friendly way to spend public money on agriculture:

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/ebrodie/what-next-farming-wildlife-trusts-launch-policy-proposals>

Bees in Berkshire

A handbook of bees in our area is about to be published:

Title: **A Guide to Finding Bees in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire**

Author: Peter Creed

Publisher: Naturebureau

Pre-publication price: £4.50

<https://www.naturebureau.co.uk/bookshop/a-guide-to-finding-bees-inberkshire-buckinghamshire-and-oxfordshire-detail>

What's on

Warfield Environment Group

Nest box building at Westmorland Park/Sunday 15 April 2018

See poster:



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

Tree guard removal at Jennetts Park/Sunday 15 April 2018

Meet at Swift Fields car park at 10:15

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on "**British Bats**" by David Endacott

South Hill Park Recital Room

Monday 16 April 2018 19:30 (£3 fee for visitors/£1 for BFNHS members)

Wildlife in Ascot

Planting plugs of marginal plants at Blackmoor Pond

Thursday 19 April 2018 From 14:00

Friday 20 April 2018 From 10:00

also

A talk about Swan Rescue from Kay Webb of Swan Lifeline

Thursday 19 April 2018 Starts 19:30

Imperial College, Silwood Park SL5 7PY in the Centre for Population Biology - upstairs in Building 6

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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