



Newsletter

Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Newsletter No. **110**

30 January 2020

What we've been doing

21 January 2020

Ambarrow Court

The main task was clearance of bramble and scrub from around oak trees and where there was encroachment on the meadow. Brash was burned on a bonfire, which took a long time to get started. A stag beetle loggery was constructed. Conditions were very wet underfoot, which made it very difficult to drag material for burning.

13 volunteers attended; a lower turnout than usual. The weather was cold and sunny.



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28 January 2020

The Chestnuts

This site was new to many of us, and we were greatly impressed by the ancient chestnut trees on site. BCV made 2 visits here in 2014, when we were clearing around the bases of the ancient trees.

There is an old ice house on site, which used to belong to the Warfield Park estate:



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A stone marks a chestnut tree which was grown from seed by Lady Emily Walsh, presumably a member of the family at Warfield Park, but it was impossible to read the date.



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The main task today was clearing brambles from areas under the trees. Some holly seedlings were dug up ready for transplanting elsewhere. A tree and encroaching vegetation were removed from around the ice house. Some overgrown hazel stools were coppiced. Other volunteers worked on replacing the sign at the entrance to the site.

We found a large frog in one cleared area. Bluebells were shooting at many parts of the site.

A large edible bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) was present, presumably planted at some time, since this tree does not usually seed itself. Nearby was a substantial hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) which was almost unrecognisable under a thick covering of bramble and ivy. Volunteers cleared some of the brambles from this tree.

We had a good turnout of 21 volunteers, and we were very pleased to welcome a new volunteer. The weather was sunny, cold at first but warming up later.

Coming up next

4 February 2020

Englemere Pond

Clearing heathland of trees and scrub.

Park in the designated car park off the B3017 Swinley Road in Ascot. There is usually enough parking space here.

<https://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=490131&Y=168568&Z=110>

SL5 8BB

SU901685

11 February 2020

Farley Copse

Holly thinning.

Roadside parking in Tippets Mead.

<https://streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?X=484886&Y=169583&Z=106>

RG42 1FH

SU848695

What's on

Warfield Environment Group

Hedge maintenance at Larks Hill

Saturday 8 February 2020

10:30 – 14:00

Meet at Larks Hill car park:

See poster:



hedge maintenance
poster 080220.pdf

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

Evening talk on **The Wildlife and Geology of Iceland and Norway** by David Phillips

Monday 17 February 2020

19:00 for 19:30

South Hill Park

Wildlife in Ascot

Help to maintain our public wildflower beds.

Saturday 15 February 2020

11:00-12:00

London Road edge of Victory Field, Sunninghill, SL5 7DG

Friday 28 February 2020

11:00 – 12:00

Victoria Road side of South Ascot recreation area, SL5 7DG

A free talk on Gardening for Wildlife by Bracknell Forest ranger Rob Solomon

Wednesday 26 February 2020

20:00

King Edward's Hall, King Edward's Road, North Ascot SL5 8PD

Contact Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

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