Membership and Subscriptions

If you want to join BCV, or change the method by which you receive the programme, phone the Membership Secretary, Mike on 01635 268482 or email membership@basingstokecv.org.uk.
Membership of BCV is free if you receive the programme by e-mail. If you want a paper copy posted to you, this costs £3 per annum (£2 unwaged, £5 family).
For the latest news on events, follow the Events Programme link at www.basingstokecv.org.uk.
Access to web-site members' area - User : bcvnet, Password : honeymill.

BCV Task Programme July to October 2013

Meet up for projects on site at 10.00 a.m. except where stated. Please tell the leader in advance that you are coming so that he can plan tools and refreshments. The leader is also the person to phone if you want, or can offer, a lift to the site. Please cycle or walk to the site if possible. The leader can be contacted on site during the day on 07910 317 135 (but bear in mind that in some locations the signal can be poor).

July 21st Ragwort Pull and walk at Foxlease Meadow

Ragwort is a plant that can be a serious problem to grazing animals; it contains alkaloids which if ingested in enough quantities can cause illness and death in livestock. Grazing is an important part of the management in grassland as it provides many microhabitats which are exploited by a large range of invertebrates and plants. For this to continue ragwort removal is therefore important. We will stop after lunch to enjoy a stroll around the reserve to see many of the fascinating plants and animals that benefit from grazing management.

Leader: Steve Phone: 07425 160394

July 28th Haymaking at Pamber Forest

The end of July marks the time for the hay cut in Pamber Forest. This sunny, long and linear meadow is flanked by high woodland cover to one side and lower more thickly vegetated coppice coupes on the other. Its many herbaceous plants and grasses (which are crowded out in the neighbouring woodland habitats) are exploited by a myriad of invertebrates looking for nectar, cover or a place to roost, which will be in turn eaten by birds and bats. Look out for butterflies such as the Silver Washed Fritillary and Ringlet feeding while on task. The meeting point will be Impstone Road. All further details to be confirmed by the leader before the task.

Leader: Steve Phone: 07425 160394

August 11th Meadow Cut at Sherbourne St John

This small site is a surviving fragment of a much larger wet meadow/fen. The current owners have managed it admirably for its wildlife interest for years but now require some help. This site has limited parking and access and numbers are limited on this task. Contacting the leader beforehand is a must.

Leader: Dave Phone: 01256 420818

August 18th Grass cut at Headley Gravel Pit

The grass cut at Headley ensures the grassland does not turn into scrub and keeps nutrient conditions low across the site. This ensures that the large Green Winged Orchid population on site continues to flourish. Parking can be limited on the reserve so make sure to contact the leader for full details.

Leader: Mike Phone: 01635 268482

Aug 30th – Sep 1st Residential task at Wytham Woods, Oxford

BCV has the opportunity to help in an unusual project for the group; a long running ecological experiment turning arable land into wildlife rich limestone grassland. This has been very successful and it has now gained SSSI status despite only going since 1982. BCV's main job will be helping to clear one of the experimental plots of scrub to re-establish sheep grazing. This also involves weighing the scrub cut (rather than burning it) to inform long term data sets. Accommodation is free but the site is close enough to Basingstoke for day trippers. A guided tour of Wytham Woods will be provided by scientist Nigel Fisher. Belonging to the University of Oxford, the woods' wealth of plants, invertebrates and large badger population have been well studied, which should make for a fascinating visit.

Leaders: Paul, Mike and Dave

September 15th Coppicing at Pamber Forest

It is time again for the coppicing season at Pamber. Coppicing was a traditional practice of producing materials from underwood, usually Hazel. It creates a series of open spaces in different stages of growth and each stage is exploited by a range of different species. The high biodiversity value this creates ensures that this practice remains a priority of woodland conservation. The leader will provide details of the meet point beforehand.

Leader: Graham Phone: 01189 700155

September 29th Scrub bash at Aldersbrook

The combined effect of BCV's scrub removal and the establishment of a grazing regime by the owner should now be shaping the site for the benefit of wildlife. A lot of progress has been made in clearing the scrub alongside the brook and (fingers crossed) this may be the last of it!

Leader: Stuart Phone: 07848 007947

October 13th Coppicing at Pamber Forest

It is time to go back to Pamber again to continue with this autumn's coppicing programme. This may or may not be in the same place as the previous task and the leader will confirm this and any change of meeting point before the task.

Leader: Paul Phone: 01635 49304

October 27th Glade Creation at Headley Gravel Pit

Sheltered, warm and sunny glades create a useful microhabitat for many species of invertebrate. This will also be an opportunity to increase the spread of neutral grassland, Headley's most valuable habitat. Parking can be limited on the reserve so be sure to watch out for the leader's email or contact the leader regarding alternative parking arrangements.

Leader: Barry Phone: 07971 036166

BCV Socials Programme July-October 2013

July 6th Wildlife Photographer Exhibition at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke

This year the Willis museum holds a spectacular exhibition of winning and commended photographs from an international competition to find the best wildlife pictures. Admission is free.

Contact: Dave Phone: 01256 420818

July 10th Orchid Walk at Ladle Hill

Ladle hill is an ancient monument of Bronze Age barrows and a partly completed Iron Age hill fort. Its shape (and its historical significance) has meant it has escaped modern arable agriculture. Instead it has been grazed and as such represents a botanically rich area of now declining chalk downland. Apart from the spectacular views look out for the striking two-toned burnt orchid. There will also be the opportunity to stop off afterwards at the Royal Oak in Ecchinswell for a drink and a chat.

Contact: Mike Phone: 01635 268482

July 20th or 27th Silchester Picnic and Games

Following the success of last year's BCV 25th anniversary event we will be having a similar day of fun, games and food. Please bring along some games to play (cricket/football/boules) and some lunch. Fingers crossed for good weather again this year!

Please note the exact date of the event will be established nearer the time as it is dependent on availability of car parking facilities.

Contact: Graham Phone: 01189 700155

July 20th or 27th Moth Trapping at Headley

It is time to see what weird and wonderful moths we can trap as we sample the night life of Headley. The date of this event is due to be on the alternative weekend to the Silchester event and will be confirmed nearer the time.

Contact: Graham Phone: 01189 700155

August 25th Visit to Noar Hill

Come along for a visit to the very special Hampshire Wildlife Trust reserve a couple of miles out from Selbourne. A mecca for chalk grassland specialists the site is brim full of botany (including many orchid species) and interesting invertebrates.

Contact: Dave Phone: 01256 420818

Sep 21st Wii evening

Elizabeth is hosting another 'food and Nintendo Wii' evening at her house starting at 6pm. Please bring along some food to share as you attempt to beat your high score/ fellow BCV members.

Contact: Elizabeth Phone: 01256 765367

The BCV Committee

Training	***Graham Dennis***	***01189 700155***
Membership	***Mike Norman***	***01635 268482***
Project Co-ordinator	***Steve Ord***	***07425 160394***
Treasurer	***Digby Cole***	***01256 818092***
Tools	***Dave Jewsbury***	***01256 420818***
Web-site	***Paul Olive***	***01635 49304***
Social Secretary	***Sally Hurst***	***01189 292304***