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 March to June 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).

3rd March – Coppicing at Pamber Forest

The first task of the new programme of events marks the last task in the coppicing season at Pamber Forest. Spring is now getting very close, and the first signs of the woodland flora coming into bloom should be evident – always an uplifting sight. With the new growth however, comes the danger of damaging it and disturbing nesting wildlife whilst we work, so the coppicing season comes to an end …
The meeting place will be announced a few days before the task.
Leader: Paul Olive Phone: 01635 49304

17th March – Aldersbrook Farm

This could be a milestone event on this privately owned site, which lies close to Headley and forms part of the HWT Enborne Valley Project. If all goes well, we may finally see the end of the dense blackthorn scrub on the eastern side of the meadow. With an established grazing regime in place, there should be no danger of it returning and once again smothering the grassland species currently present in the open areas.
The exact meeting place will be announced in the week before the task.
Leader: Stuart Shurlock Phone: 07848 007947

24th March – Sherbourne Meadow

We finish off the "winter" tasks with a visit to this damp meadow in Sherbourne, where we'll be cutting back some scrub before spring gets into full swing. Conditions under foot are likely to be very wet, so make sure you have some wellies available if needed.
This is a private-owned site where parking is restricted, so it is essential to inform the leader that you plan to attend.
Leader: Barry Hedger Phone: 07971 036166

14th April – Fen cut at Mapledurwell Fen

This reserve often needs a cut before the summer to keep the coarser plants in check, and this is today's plan of action. The Fen is one of HWT's smallest reserves, but also represents possibly the most valuable ½ hectare in Hampshire, containing many rare plants including helleborines and orchids. Once again, this is a wetland location, so bring some wellies in case they are needed.

Meeting location will be provided during the week before the task.

Leader: Mike Norman Phone: 01635 268482

21st April – Fencing at Pamber Forest

Following the winter's coppicing efforts, there will be lots of new hazel shoots springing up from the newly cut stools and this is manna from heaven for the local deer population. The problem with that is that this browsing can seriously stunt the regrowth and even kill the hazel in some cases. The solution is to erect exclosure fences to keep the deer away from the hazel and this is today's task.

Note that Dave will also be leading a short "bird song" walk in the forest before the task – see the social programme for full details.

Exact meeting point will be provided in the week before the task.

Leader: Dave Jewsbury Phone: 01256 420818

12th May – Bracken Bash at Pamber Forest

This is a chance to let loose and get rid of any pent up energy that you may have. With recent legislation on chemical usage, currently the best (legal) way to control bracken in the forest is to "bash it" manually, so that's what we'll be doing today. This bashing consists of finding a suitable stick and using it to break the stems of the bracken.

After a morning's hard work, we'll spend a more relaxing afternoon exploring some of the plots that have been coppiced in recent times, to see the mass of woodland flowers that come to life when the conditions are right. If you'd like to learn how to identify more woodland plants, this is your chance!

Meeting location will once again be provided a few days before the task.

Leader: Graham Dennis Phone: 01189 700155

16th June – Ragwort Pull at Foxlease Meadow North

Foxlease Meadows, close to Fleet, are managed by HWT, using grazing to maintain the open conditions that bring in a rich range of wildlife species. Today we will be joining the local volunteer group to perform a mass ragwort-pull - this work is essential for the health of the grazing animals as ragwort is poisonous to them.

The reserve will be at its prime at this time of year, so this task will also allow us to enjoy some of its wildflowers and their accompanying fauna.

Meeting place will be provided, as usual, a few days beforehand.

Leader: Steve Ord Phone: 07425 160394

SOCIAL EVENTS March to June 2013

Saturday 9 March **18:00** **Wii Night**
Elizabeth is hosting a "food and Wii" evening at her house. Most of us will be complete novices, so it should be a laugh. Please bring along some food to share.
Contact Elizabeth Hole on 01256 765367 for more details and to coordinate food supplies.

Monday 1 April **10:00** **Adder Walk**
We could call this event "early spring flowers walk" or "spring butterflies walk", but the promise of snakes is hard to beat …
Dave will be leading us on a meandering stroll through Pamber Forest in search of adders and much more. Fingers crossed for some suitable weather.
Meeting place will be announced a few days beforehand.
Contact Dave Jewsbury on 01256 420818 for more details.

Sunday 7 April **10:00** **Stream Dipping**
HWT - Booking required Dave is running this HWT event to discover the mini-beasts that abound in the streams and ditches in Pamber Forest. BCV members are welcome to attend, but a small donation to The Trust will be requested.
Meet at the Honeymill entrance to the forest.
Contact Dave Jewsbury on 420818 to book.

Wednesday 10 April **20:00** **Committee Meeting**
It's the mid-programme committee meeting, tonight being held at Dave J's house. Usually getting through the agenda is quite easy for these meetings, so there's time for some general reflection and discussion of ideas. All welcome.
Contact Dave Jewsbury on 01256 420818 if you need directions.

Sunday 21 April **9:00** **Bird Song Walk**
It's Dave again! This time Dave is guiding a short walk (just an hour before today's task) around Pamber Forest, listening out for the spring time bird song. Exact meeting location will be announced in the week beforehand.
Contact Dave Jewsbury on 01256 420818 for all the details.

Sunday 5 May **9:30** **Bentley Wood walk**
Join us for a spring walk in the area around Bentley Wood, just over the border in Wiltshire. The accent will be on butterflies as, while woodland specialists have been declining in many of our woods, Bentley Wood has resisted this trend. In early May, if the weather is favourable, we might be lucky enough to see both Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary as well as more familiar spring species like Brimstone, Orange Tip or Speckled Wood. We may also be able to take in the views from the chalk ridge of Dean Hill. Departure time from Basingstoke will be 9.30, meeting on site at 10.30.
Contact Mike Norman on 01635 268482 for more details.

Saturday 11 May **10:00** **Spring Walk**
HWT - Booking required Graham is running this HWT walk through Pamber Forest in search of butterflies, day-flying moths and any other wildlife that is around. A small donation will be requested.
Meet at the Impstone Road car park.
Contact Graham Dennis on 01189 700155 to book.

Sunday 12 May **13:00** **Why Coppice?**
Following this morning's task, Graham is leading a walk through some of the recently coppiced plots in Pamber Forest to see the effects of our work. Hopefully we'll be able to see the progression of the flora as the years pass after a coupe is cut.
Meet at the work site for today's task. Make sure Graham knows that you are coming so that we don't set off without you!
Contact Graham Dennis on 01189 700155.

Wednesday 12 June **19:00** **Committee Meeting**
It's time to plan the new programme of events, and we're meeting at the Red Lion pub in Mortimer West End. The start time is 7pm and we're planning to be finished by 9pm in time for the event below …

Wednesday 12 June **21:00** **Nightjar Watching**
Weather permitting, once we've finished the meeting, we'll head off across the road and into Benyon's Enclosure in search of nightjars. This charismatic nocturnal bird should be performing its remarkable territorial behaviour at this time.
Contact Graham Dennis on 01189 700155 for more details.

Sunday 23 June **10:30** **BBOWT Reserve Visit**
The final BCV event of this programme is a trip into foreign territory. We're heading north into the world of BBOWT (Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust), and will be visiting Dry Sandford Pit near to Abingdon. This is a varied reserve, ranging from sandy "cliffs" (reputedly with fossils) and grassland, to woodland and wetland. We'll be meeting on site at 10:30 and a pub lunch may be an option.
More details will be provided in the week leading up to the event.
Contact Paul Olive on 01635 49304 for more info.

Friday 28 June **21:00** **At night in the Quarry**
HWT - Booking required Dave is leading this hunt for glow worms and other nocturnal creatures in Old Burghclere Lime Pits. A mothing lamp will also be running, so there should be plenty of moths to see and hopefully their presence will entice some bats into the area. Be sure to bring some sunglasses for use near the moth trap. A small donation will be requested.
Meet at the northern end of the nearby farm storage yard.
Contact Dave Jewsbury on 01256 420818 to book.

The BCV Committee

Training	***Graham Dennis***	***01189 700155***
Membership	***Mike Norman***	***01635 268482***
Project Co-ordinator	***Paul Olive***	***01635 49304***
Treasurer	***Digby Cole***	***01256 818092***
Tools	***Dave Jewsbury***	***01256 420818***
Web-site	***Paul Olive***	***01635 49304***
Social Secretary	***Sally Hurst***	***01189 292304***
Publicity	***Vacant – Please Apply!***	