Membership and Subscriptions

If you want to join BCV phone the Membership Secretary Mike on 01635 268482 or email membership@basingstokecv.org.uk. 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. *Italics* indicates a social event or committee meeting rather than a conservation task.

BCV Programme March to June 2015

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 they 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.

Sunday 8th March Coppicing at Pamber Forest

This is the final coppicing task of the season. 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 biodiveristy value this creates ensures that this practice remains a priority of woodland conservation. BCV will be mimicking this practice by cutting the hazel, creating the odd habitat pile and burning the brash on a nice bonfire. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader and look out for their email advertising the task to find the details.

Leader: Steve Phone: 07425 160394

Sunday 22nd March Fence repair at the Hatch

Come along to this fascinating restored wet grassland site, adjacent to one of the botanically richest half acres in Hampshire, Mapledurwell fen. Work here helps in the management of both sites which share many species and habitat management requirements. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader and look out for their email advertising the task to find out whereabouts we will be working.

Leader: Dave Phone: 01256 420818

Sunday 12th April Fencing at Pamber Forest

This marks the first of our deer fencing of the coppice coups to protect them from excessive browsing by deer. Deer now exist in much larger numbers than in the past. Hunting of deer is now limited and they have no natural predators left. This increase in numbers, coupled with the introduction of non-native deer causes excessive browsing within woodlands. This can lead to a removal of structure and plant diversity which results in fewer microhabitats and a change in plant and animal assemblages. This ultimately lowers biodiversity. By ensuring the deer have no access to coups, normal ecological processes can continue unhampered.
Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader before-hand and look out for their email to find out the details.

Leader: Paul Phone: 01635 49304

Tuesday 14th April Committee Meeting

Committee meeting at Mike's house to discuss how the programme is progressing.

Leader: Mike Phone: 01635 268482

Sunday 19th April Fencing at College Copse Farm

We will be returning to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's new farm site to help with fencing repairs. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader before-hand and look out for their email to find out the details.

Leader: Mike Phone: 01635 268482

Sunday 3rd May Fencing Repairs at Pamber Forest

We will be repairing the fencing around the coppice coupes. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Either Graham or Dave will be leading and this will be confirmed nearer the time. Please contact the leader before-hand and look out for their email to find out the details.

Leader: Graham Phone: 01189700155/ Leader: Dave Phone: 01256 420818

Sunday 17th or 24th May Orchid Count at Headley Gravel Pit

In a change of proceedings for BCV, we will be conducting a different type of practical task; orchid counting! Headley has an unusually large population of Green Winged Orchids, a scarce plant which prefers unimproved grassland. This is a rare and declining habitat in the UK. Having an idea of the number of flowering plants will give us a rough estimate of population size and when compared with previous years will make a comment on the suitability of habitat management for the species. This management can also act as a proxy for other species with similar requirements. Please note the two dates means there may need to be a slight shifting depending on how many of the plants are in flower (they flower May-June). Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader before-hand and look out for their email to find out the details.

Leader: Barry Phone: 07971036166

Wednesday 3rd June Committee meeting

Committee meeting at the Red Lion pub, Mortimer West end to discuss the next programme. Meeting time is 8pm.

Leader: Graham Phone: 01189700155

Sunday 7th June Bracken Bashing at Pamber

A native of woodland, bracken was a useful plant in historic terms; it was collected so it could be burned for potash or used for animal bedding. No longer controlled via harvesting, it can creep into open glades and heathlands where it can shade and enrich the soil. This is usually detrimental to the special attributes of these habitats. Within Pamber several of these vulnerable areas exist; in the recent past bracken encroachment was controlled through a combination of pesticide use and occasionally by hand. We shall be helping with the latter. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader and look for their email with the task details beforehand.

Leader: Graham Phone: 01189700155

Sunday 15th June Marsh Fritillaries at Pewsey Down

Join us for the first of our social double bill. We will be visiting the exceptional Pewsey Down; a site renowned for its high nature and history interest (the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument as well as a SSSI). While we will be soaking up some of the history of the site, we will be primarily there to find the rare and beautiful Marsh Fritillary butterfly. Expect to see many other spectacular plants and beasties during this trip. Please note the date may be subject to change to ensure sufficiently good weather to increase the chance of finding the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

Leader: Paul Phone: 01635 49304

Friday 19th June Nightjar Walk

This evening we will be looking for Nightjars, likely on Silchester common or Benyon's enclosure. Nightjars like to nest in open areas on heathland and are active at night. Last year brought truly stunning views; several nightjars flying and churring up close and a pair of low flying battling woodcocks whipped over our heads as well as plenty of bats. Look out for the email from the leader with meeting point and meeting time ahead of the event.

Leader: Graham Phone: 01189700155

Sunday 21st June Ragwort pulling at Foxlease Meadow

We will be visiting this Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and MOD managed site near Fleet. We will be carrying on with work undertaken in previous years to control Ragwort at the site. Ragwort is a valuable plant in ecological terms; it is the food plant of the attractive day flying Cinnabar moth and a popular stop off for nectar for many butterflies. It is extremely bitter for animals to eat and is avoided when alive, however when bundled into hay and suitably dried the bitterness is lost and it can be consumed. This is problematic as it is poisonous and if eaten in enough quantity it can seriously harm the livestock. Therefore a measured control programme is in place to provide an adequate balance. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader. Please contact the leader and look for their email with the task details beforehand.

Leader: Stuart Phone: 07848007947

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***
Publicity	***Vacant – Please Apply!***	