Membership and Subscriptions

If you want to join BCV phone the Membership Secretary Paul on 01635 49304 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 July to October 2017

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 9th July **Hay cutting at Pamber Forest**

The site where a sewer line was laid through the Forest in former years has turned into sunny, long and linear meadow between high woodland cover to one side and a series of 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. Selected areas of the grassland are cut each year to stop the ranker grasses from suppressing the herbaceous plants. 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: David **Phone: 07767 822265**

Sunday 16th July Hay cutting at Audrey's Meadow

BBOWT have a grassland reserve on the edge of Newbury called Audrey's Meadow that they are managing as a hay meadow to try and improve the value for wildlife while generating some feed for their grazing stock. Encouraging the local community is important so a volunteer day is held each July where members of the public can help make hay while learning about wildlife. However, experienced scythers are at a premium and there is lots to cut so last year some BCVers went along to help out and we had such a good time we are doing it again. This is not an official BCV event but the organisers provide plenty of refreshments. Even if you don't want to scythe you can still help out with raking or making hay-bales. Please note the start time may be different to normal, so please check the email sent out the week before.

Leader: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Sunday 23rd July Cycle ride

The plan is to cycle a circluar route near Basingstoke of 25 – 30 miles. The pace will be leisurely, giving time to enjoy the countryside en route. The exact start/finish point and meeting time will be given in the email the week before.

Leader: Dave **Phone: 01256 326828**

Sunday 30th July Fencing at Bartley Heath

Bartley Heath is a HWT heathland reserve near Hook that has greatly benefitted from the presence of grazing livestock to combat scrub encroachment. To ensure the livestock are suitably contained it is necessary to erect and maintain stock fencing. This summer there is some fencing to be done on the southern part of the reserve, south of the M3. 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: Graham **Phone: 01189 700155**

Tuesday 1st August Committee Meeting

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

Leader: Dave **Phone: 01256 326828**

Saturday 12th August Visit to Magdalen Hill reserve

An afternoon visit to this chalk downland site near Winchester to see some of the summer butterflies for which it is noted, such as Chalk-hill Blue. Look out for the email for details of meeting place and time.

Leader: Dave **Phone: 01256 326828**

Sunday 13th August Grass-cutting at Headley Gravel Pit

This Hampshire Wildlife Trust site is well-known for its display of Green-winged Orchids in the spring. In the absence of any grazing (other than by rabbits), it is necessary to cut back invasive rank grass and scrub to stop the orchids being smothered. In summer this principally means cutting areas of grass with scythes and raking the cut material into heaps. 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: Stuart **Phone: 07848 007947**

Saturday 26th August BCV BBQ

BCV came into being in 1987, so we are having a party to celebrate our 30th birthday. This will be held at Silchester recreation ground. As well as a BBQ/picnic, we hope to play some games, so please see if you have something you could bring along. The start time will be 6pm.

Leader: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Sunday 10th September Meadow cutting at Sherbourne St John

This small site is a surviving fragment of a much larger wet meadow. The current owners have managed it admirably for its wildlife interest for many years but now require some help. We will be cutting the fen vegetation and raking it into piles away from the wetter areas. Due to the sensitive nature of the site and its location, spaces are limited for this task so please contact the leader beforehand to let them know you are interested in coming. Tea/Coffee, refreshments and biscuits will be provided by the leader.

Leader: Paul **Phone: 01635 49304**

Sunday 24th September Coppicing at Pamber Forest

The first 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 biodiversity 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 bonfire.

Leader: Steve **Phone: 07425 160394**

Week commencing Saturday 30th September or Saturday 7th October ***Mothing at Pamber Forest***

Depending on weather, Graham wil be setting up some moth traps in Pamber Forest to see what is on the wing there in late September/early October (maybe the legendary Blue Underwing?). There will be an opportunity to see the moths arriving during the evening and also in the morning to check what is in the trap. See email nearer the day for full details.

Leader: Graham **Phone: 01189 700155**

Sunday 8th October **Pond clearance at Ecchinswell**

BCV have helped the residents of Ecchinswell village with their annual pond maintenance day for a number of years, by providing extra people, tools and expertise. This is not an official BCV task; BBQ lunch is provided by the locals, but please bring any extra refreshments you may require. If you would like to come please let Mike know the week before.

Leader: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Tuesday 10th **October** ***Committee meeting***

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

Leader: Graham **Phone: 01189 700155**

Saturday 21st October ***Themed Food Evening***

The return of a BCV institution. The idea is that everyone brings a dish that fits the theme. This time we are going for Middle Eastern (or north African). The venue will be Mike's house from 7pm. Look out for the email the week before for details.

Leader: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Sunday 22nd October **Coppicing at Pamber Forest**

We will be continuing the autumn/winter coppicing programme in Pamber Forest. The exact location in the Forest will be provided nearer the day. 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: Barry **Phone: 07971 036166**

Sunday 5th November **Coppicing at Pamber Forest**

Technically the first task of the next programme. We will be continuing the autumn/winter coppicing programme in Pamber Forest. The exact location in the Forest will be provided nearer the day. 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: Dave **Phone: 01256 326828**

The BCV Committee

Training	***Graham Dennis***	***01189 700155***
Membership	***Paul Olive***	***01635 49304***
Project Co-ordinator	***Mike Norman***	***01635 268482***
Treasurer	***Digby Cole***	***01256 818092***
Tools	***Dave Jewsbury***	***01256 326828***
Web-site	***Steve Ord***	***07425 160394***
Publicity	***Vacant – Please Apply!***	