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 March to June 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 5th March **Gorse Control at Wigmore Heath**

Another return to this site in Baughurst where we have been helping with heathland restoration over the past year. Wigmore Heath is down Shyshack Lane and is remnant habitat left over between the housing developments and forestry plantations. In danger of becoming completely overgrown, Basingstoke and Deane council have been scraping back selected areas and are looking for our help to give the heather regrowth a head start by removing competing vegetation, principally Gorse. 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**

Sunday 19th March **Scrub Bash at North Warnborough Greens**

North Warnborough Greens is a HWT reserve near Hook with a variety of habitats, ranging from calcareous fen to green lanes and broad-leaved woodland. There is a constant need to control the growth of scrub, for instance where it encroaches onto grassland, or to limit the spread of invasive species such as Sycamore in woodland. The exact location of the work will be determined by the warden nearer the time. 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: Dave **Phone: 01256 326828**

Sunday 26th March **Grass cut at Cliddesden Churchyard**

The churchyard at St Leonard's Church, Cliddesden has been designated a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation or SINC by Hampshire County Council due to its unfertilised grassland with an interesting variety of wildflowers. The recommended management of the best areas of grassland is mowing during the winter months. This year, the church community are looking for some help to finish the mowing before spring arrives and the flowers start to bloom. We will be taking our scythes and rakes along to finish the job for them.

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: Barry **Phone: 07971 036166**

Tuesday 4th April ***Committee Meeting at Mike's house***

An opportunity to keep up to speed with the goings-on of BCV. The start time will be 8pm.

Leader: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Sunday 9th April Rush cut at The Hatch

The Hatch and the adjacent Mapledurwell Fen are calcareous wetland reserves on the headwaters of the River Lyde near Basing, managed by HWT. These sites have a rich diversity of flowering plants, but there is one plant, Blunt-flowered Rush, that can become overly dominant as it tends to be avoided by the cattle that graze the site. It is necessary periodically to cut the rush in spring which will reduce its vigour while also encouraging fresh growth which the cattle are more inclined to browse. We will be taking our scythes along to cut the rush and stack cut material away from the open areas. 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**

Sunday 23rd April ***Birdwatching Trip***

By this time the spring migration should be well underway and lots of birds will be either leaving for more northerly latitudes, arriving to breed or simply passing through en route to somewhere else. Join us for a trip to a site on the south coast to see what has dropped in. The exact details will be finalised nearer the day based on recent reports. The departure will be from Basingstoke at 9.30am and we will be out all day.

Leader: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Sunday 7th May **Fencing at College Copse Farm**

College Copse Farm was purchased by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust a few years ago, principally to act as a base for the increasing numbers of livestock that are used to graze HWT reserves across the county. However, HWT are also taking the opportunity to enhance the wildlife potential across the farm, to act as a showcase for what can be achieved on a typical local farm. College Copse itself is a fine area of woodland with a good range of species that has been undergoing re-coppicing. Like other woodland in the area, any coppice regrowth quickly attracts the attention of deer that will browse it and damage the hazel stools. Our task today will be to add some additional fencing to help keep the deer at bay. 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: Mike **Phone: 01635 268482**

Sunday 21st May ***Isle of Wight Visit***

A visit to the Isle of Wight to sample its special wildlife, potentially including Glanville Fritillary and Adonis Blue butterflies, Early Gentians and Red Squirrels. As we need to take the ferry across we will need to car-share as far as possible. To make the most of the day we will be making an early start and a late finish. Exact details to be published nearer the time.

Leader: Dave **Phone: 01256 326828**

Sunday 28th May **Bracken Bash at Pamber Forest**

Bracken needs to be controlled in some parts of Pamber Forest to ensure it does not become too dominant and shade out the ground in more open areas. Use of herbicides has become increasingly restrictive so we will be bashing the newly emerging bracken with long sticks to snap the fresh shoots which deprives the underground rhizomes of energy and so weakens any regrowth. 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**

Week commencing Monday 5th* June** ***Nightjar evening

Our traditional mid-summer evening trip to listen for and hopefully see some Nightjars in the heathland and woodland around Silchester and Mortimer West End. The likelihood of finding the Nightjars is weather-dependent so we will monitor the forecast to pick the best evening during the week. We will be meeting at the Red Lion pub from about 8pm, planning to head out by 9pm. Please remember to bring a torch.

Leader: Graham **Phone: 01189 700155**

Tuesday 6th* June** ***Committee Meeting

Committee meeting at the Red Lion pub, Mortimer West End to discuss the next programme. Meeting time is 8pm unless the same evening as the Nightjar walk, in which case the meeting will start at 7.15pm.

Leader: Graham **Phone: 01189 700155**

Sunday 11th June **Boardwalk construction at Millfield, Old Basing**

This site behind the Millstone pub at Old Basing is a valuable open space that is managed for nature by a local group affiliated to Natural Basingstoke. The field is quite rich in wildlife due to the change in terrain from the higher, drier areas down to fen-edge habitat in lower parts. The latter areas are often quite wet early in the year, so the local group have been gradually building a boardwalk for the use of visitors. Our work today will be to continue laying the base of railway sleepers and then fixing handrails where required. 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: Paul **Phone: 01635 49304**

Sunday 25th June **Bracken Bash at Pamber Forest**

Continuing the bracken bashing started in May. The exact location of the work will depend on the progress so far. 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**

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!***	