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 2018

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 July **Scrub clearance at Micheldever Chalkies**

The Chalkies at Micheldever were originally piles of chalk spoil left from the digging out of the nearby railway tunnel. Formed of coarse rubble, the mounds have always been very free-draining and so were colonised by grassland vegetation suited to those conditions. Some of the plant species involved have since become much rarer in the general countryside, leaving a very special habitat. Maintaining the site in good condition requires careful management to combat the invasion of scrub. We will be helping to dig out as many small tree seedlings as we can find. 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 full details

Leader: David **Phone: 07767 822265**

Sunday 22nd July **Grass-cutting at Pamber Forest**

The site where a sewer line was laid through the Forest has turned into a 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 shaded out in the neighbouring woodland habitats) are exploited by a myriad of invertebrates looking for nectar, cover or a place to roost, which will in turn be 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 with scythes each year and raked into heaps 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: Graham **Phone: 01189 700155**

Saturday 28th July ***Summer Picnic at Silchester***

Join us for a summer picnic at Silchester recreation ground. As well as the food and drink, we hope to play some games, so please see if you have something you could bring along. The start time will be 3.30pm. Exact details will be published nearer the time. For those interested, there will be an opportunity to follow on afterwards to the next event.

Leader: Mike Phone: 01635 268482

Saturday 28th July ***Moth Evening in Pamber Forest***

Graham will be setting up some moth traps in Pamber Forest to see what is on the wing there in late July. There will be an opportunity to see the moths arriving during the evening and also the following morning to check what is in the trap. The start time will be about 8.30pm. See email nearer the day for full details..

Leader: Graham Phone: 01189 700155

Sunday 5th August **Grass-cutting at Headley Gravel Pit**

This Hampshire Wildlife Trust reserve is well-known for its display of Green-winged Orchids in the spring. Due to the lack of any grazing (other than by rabbits), it is necessary to cut back rank grass and invasive scrub to stop the orchids being smothered. In summer this means cutting the main areas of grass with scythes and raking the cut material into heaps in the nearby scrub. 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

Tuesday 7th August ***Committee Meeting at Dave's house***

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

Leader: Dave Phone: 01256 326828

Sunday 19th August **Boardwalk building at Mill Field, 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 building and maintaining a boardwalk for the use of visitors. Our work today will be to continue laying more of the wire mesh-covered railway sleepers that form the boardwalk and pegging them in place. 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 9th September Fen-cutting at Sherbourne St John

This small private site (designated a SINC by Hampshire County Council) is a surviving fragment of a previously much larger open calcareous wetland. 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. Please contact the leader and look out for their email advertising the task to find the details.

Leader: Dave Phone: 01256 326828

Sunday 23rd September **Coppicing at Pamber Forest**

Coppicing was a traditional practice of producing materials from small trees and shrubs, most notably hazel. The act of harvesting the material by cutting back to ground level creates a series of temporarily 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. 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 14th 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 16th 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**

Sunday 21st October ***New Forest Walk***

A walk in the New Forest to enjoy the autumn foliage and hopefully see some of the wildlife (especially fungi) for which the area is famous. The plan is to take a picnic lunch. Further details to be provided nearer the time. Please contact the leader to let them know to expect you at the meeting point.

Leader: Paul ***Phone: 01635 49304***

Sunday 28th October **Coppicing at Pamber Forest**

We will be continuing the autumn/winter coppicing programme in Pamber Forest. The exact location will be decided 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 full details

Leader: Barry **Phone: 07971 036166**

The BCV Committee

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