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 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 11th March **Winter/Spring Work at Hook Area Reserves**

We will be returning to one of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust reserves in the area around Hook to continue with winter management work. The sites have a wide variety of habitat from heathland through woodland and farmland to wet fen. Depending on the site the work could be path clearance, scrub management, coppicing or possibly some early fencing. 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 25th March **Coppicing at Pamber Forest**

We will be finishing off the autumn/winter coppicing programme in Pamber Forest. 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. 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 8th 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 HiWWT. These sites have a rich diversity of flowering plants, but there is one plant, Hard 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: Steve Phone: 07425 160394

Tuesday 10th 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 22nd April Willow cutting at Black Dam

Black Dam and Crabtree Plantation, along with Basingstoke Common, are owned by Basingstoke and Deane Council. The wooded springs and streams of Black Dam are part of the headwaters of the River Loddon and have a wide range of wetland plant and animal species. Many of these benefit from good access to sunlight and are suffering from the encroaching shade of streamside willow trees. We will be helping local volunteers to cut back some of the willows and stacking the cut material for disposal. 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 29th April Bike Ride

Join us for a bike ride through the North Hampshire and West Berkshire countryside. The plan is to start from the village of Ecchinswell and head out towards Hungerford, taking in some of the scenic back lanes to be found between the River Kennet and the North Wessex Downs. We should be able to get some lunch in Hungerford. Exact details will be published nearer the time.

Leader: Mike Phone: 01635 268482

Sunday 13th May Spring work at Hook Area Reserves

This will be another day working on one of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust's Hook Area reserves. The winter season has now finished so we are more likely to be carrying out some fencing or possibly some rhododendron/Laurel bashing as last year. 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 20th May Spring Walk at Ashford Hangers

The Ashford Hangers, a Hampshire County Council reserve, are part of the chalk escarpment on the western edge of the Weald between Alton and Petersfield. Consisting of a mixture of Beech woodland and Hazel coppice interspersed with patches of open grassland and scrub, the Hangers have an intricate mosaic of habitat that hosts a wonderfully rich array of plants and animals. Many of the delights of the area are at their best in late spring so we plan a walk to take in some of the best parts. Exact details to be published nearer the time.

Leader: Steve Phone: 07425 160394

Sunday 27th 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: Barry **Phone: 07971 036166**

Week commencing Monday 28th May ***Nightjar evening***

Our traditional early-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 29th May ***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 17th June **Fence checking/repair at Pamber Forest**

After many years of springtime effort by BCV and others, the fencing of coppice plots in Pamber Forest is more or less complete. However, no fence stays intact for ever, so there is a need to regularly check sections of fence and carry out any repairs found necessary. The exact location of the work and the meeting place will be determined nearer the day. 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: Graham Phone: 01189 700155

Mid-late June **Bioblitz at Ecchinswell Pond**

A bioblitz is a short intensive survey of the wildlife of a defined site in order to find out as much as possible about its wildlife value. The maintenance plan for the area of the pond in Ecchinswell village is currently under review and so the information gained by a bioblitz will help inform any changes to be made to the plan. This is likely to be a half-day activity and will be kept floating in the schedule (could be Saturday or Sunday) to try and take advantage of good weather. 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 24th June ***Salisbury Plain Walk***

A walk on Salisbury Plain to enjoy the wildflowers and hopefully see some of the special insects and birds of the area. We will be going to the area around Sidbury Hill where there is good access maintained by agreement with the MoD. 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: Stuart ***Phone: 07848 007947***

Sunday 8th July **Scrub clearance at Micheldever Chalkies**

Advance notice of the first task of the next programme.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**

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!***	