



**Buckinghamshire
& Milton Keynes**
Biodiversity Partnership

Biodiversity News

Issue 5 Summer 2010

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of Biodiversity News—the newsletter of the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership.

The Buckinghamshire's Wonderful Wildlife event at College Lake was a great success. Highpoints were the sheer number of visitors, the dedication of the volunteers in the heat (especially those on car park duty), the Little Ringed Plovers sitting on their nest in front of the bird hide and the Hobbies soaring over the crowds. The sit down and the beer at the end of the day were pretty good too!

Jez Elkin

Biodiversity Project Officer

Crowds Flock to Encounter Bucks' Wonderful Wildlife

Over 1000 people attended the Buckinghamshire's Wonderful Wildlife Event at College Lake on 23rd May. The day proved to be a great hit with everyone who came along. So much so that the car park had to be closed in the morning and the café ran out of ice cream (sadly before I was able to pay it a visit!).

"There are 30 of us and everyone's had a fab time" was one comment.

The crowds visited stands, activities and guided walks run by a range of Organisations from the Biodiversity Partnership.

Wycombe District Council helped visitors make 35 bird boxes and over 70 bird feeders, Natural England made clay animals while the Forestry Commission made camouflage masks.

The Natural History Museum brought along some of their 'handling collection' from Tring, which included a mammoth tooth, and Bucks and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre also brought along specimens, this time from the Buckinghamshire County Council Museum Service. Living creatures were supplied by the Milton Keynes Natural History Society and included giant cockroaches and millipedes.

The newts and other inhabitants of the pond dipping pond were probably extremely relieved when the day ended as this activity proved extremely popular, as did Minibeasts Under the Microscope where soil invertebrates were magnified and displayed on the wall.

The newly built octagonal hide was the Bucks Bird Club's base for the day, and visitors got the opportunity of seeing Lapping chicks, Little Ringed Plovers on the nest and Hobbies hunting overhead through telescopes and binoculars.

Cont on Page 2



Reusing plastic bottles to make bird feeders with Wycombe DC Woodland Rangers Photo: Robert Lewis

Birds were one of the themes of a series of guided walks which ran throughout the day also including dragonflies, butterflies, fossils & geology, arable weeds, wild flowers and parent & child activities.

The Biodiversity Partnership ran a digital photographic competition for photographs taken on the day.

The adult's prize was won by Helen Palmer of Wycombe with a portrait of a Common Blue Damselfly, while Ben White of Aylesbury won the Under 16s category with his landscape shot of the lake.



Among the activities for children were the North Bucks Bat Group's Flying Bats which were competing with the Chilterns Conservation Board's Flapping Red Kites in the popularity stakes.

Aylesbury Vale Barn Owl Project brought along Barn Owl boxes and pellets for investigation.

This event was the first to be held at College Lake since the completion of BBOWT's new visitor centre on the site.

The event was funded financially by Natural England, Wycombe District Council and the Bucks & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership and also by BBOWT through the extraordinary amount of staff time that went into helping the days organisation and smooth running on the day.

I would like to thank all those involved at BBOWT and also all of the staff and volunteers from the other organisations which took part in the day and helped to make it such a great success.

Launch of the Big Lottery Fund's Community Wildlife Programme

The Big Lottery Fund has teamed up with the BBC to launch the Community Wildlife Programme, which brings communities together to improve or protect the natural environment by raising awareness of threatened wildlife or places. The Programme will be officially launched on the BBC's Springwatch show on 8 June at 8pm.

For details see http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_wildlife?regioncode=-uk

The programme celebrates the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, by allowing local groups and communities to get more involved with, enhance and protect their local wildlife. So far £2m has been allocated to this programme for just the one year but this maybe extended. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are being provided for one-year projects that:

Improve rural or urban environments for people to enjoy, for example by:

- protecting wildlife habitats;
- creating a nature trail, woodland walk or wildlife garden; or
- improving community spaces such as rivers, ponds, woodlands.
- Projects that get people more active and healthier, for example by:
 - exploring parks, rivers and the countryside to look for rare or endangered species;
 - encouraging people to take up gardening or to go on nature walks; or
 - providing opportunities for children to learn about nature through play.

The programme has three funding rounds, with the following deadlines:

21 July; 22 September & 24 November 2010.

Bucks' Wonderful Wildlife Event at College Lake



Above. Excitement in the bird hide. Discovering the birds of College Lake with Bucks Bird Club.

Photo: Robert Lewis



Top. Dragonfly Walk led by County Dragonfly Recorder Alan Nelson

Above. A Lapwing chick. The event wasn't only for human youngsters!

Photos: Robert Lewis



Above. Pond Dipping with BBOWT

Left. Discovering the wonders of soil minibeasts with BBOWT volunteer Martin Woolner

Photos: Robert Lewis



NI197 Reporting 2009/2010

National Indicator 197 - Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

The indicator measures the performance of Local Authorities for biodiversity improvement by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management of Local Sites (LS). The indicator relates to the influence Local Authorities have on Local Site systems and the measures and procedures involved in ensuring effective conservation management is introduced to, and acted upon, by Local Site owners and managers.

Meeting good performance will stimulate positive biodiversity outcomes on the ground. Assessing the extent of positive management will identify sites where positive management is lacking and will help to focus the efforts of Local Sites Partnership in ensuring Local Sites are managed and their biodiversity value is maintained or enhanced.

The findings of the 2008/2009 report for Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes showed that **118 (27%)** of the **431** Local Sites were in positive conservation management.

The number of sites in positive conservation management in 2009/2010 are 185 (42%) of the 441 Local Sites; meaning a 15% increase on last year.

Identifying sites in positive conservation management

To show that positive conservation management is being undertaken on a Local Site, there must be documented evidence of management that contributes to maintaining or enhancing the features of interest for which a site has been selected and designated. The nature of the management activity appropriate to interest features of a site will commonly be defined within one, or more of the following:



- Management schemes - agri-environment or conservation management agreement or scheme
- Site management plan
- Management guidance and advice
- Relevant Biodiversity Action Plan (including habitat action plan, species action plan or local biodiversity action plan). Where a

Table 1: Summary Reporting Data for NI 197 Monitoring in Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes 2009-2010

NB: Reporting is up to 31st March 2010 - Total no. of sites is 441. 2008-2009 numbers in brackets.

District/ County	Total number of Local Sites	Total number of LSs in Positive Conservation Management		Total number of LSs Not in Positive Conservation Management		Total number of LSs which are Data Deficient	
Milton Keynes	23 (22)	15 (11)	65% (48%)	0 (0)	0% (0%)	8 (12)	35% (52%)
Aylesbury Vale	180 (176)	86 (54)	48% (31%)	31 (9)	17% (5%)	63 (113)	35% (64%)
Chiltern	70 (70)	23 (18)	33% (26%)	1 (0)	1% (<1%)	46 (52)	66% (74%)
South Bucks	28 (24)	12 (8)	43% (33%)	2 (1)	7% (4%)	14 (15)	50% (63%)
Wycombe	140 (137)	49 (27)	35% (20%)	6 (3)	4% (2%)	85 (107)	61% (78%)
Buckinghamshire (excluding MK)	418 (407)	170 (107)	41% (26%)	43 (13)	10% (3%)	210 (287)	50% (71%)
Total: Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	441 (430)	185 (118)	42% (27%)	43 (13)	10% (3%)	218 (299)	49% (70%)

site is designated primarily for its geological features, the recommended management activity may be defined within a site specific management plan or, more broadly, within a Local Geodiversity Action Plan

For Local Geological Sites the monitoring process and guidance (available at www.ukrigs.org.uk) provides a basis for judging whether appropriate management is being undertaken.

Local Authorities are expected to report evidence from the last five years by 31st March of the reporting year i.e. for reporting 31st March 2010 evidence collected between April 2005 and March 2010 may be used. This period accords with the recommendations made by the Local Sites guidance to monitor each site every 5-10 years. The deadline for data to be submitted to the CLG Data Interchange Hub by Buckinghamshire County Council is 30 June 2010.

Turning 'ticks' into trees (or meadows, or marshes...)

Do you go bird-watching? Do you make a note of what you see? Do you send your records in to the local recorder or enter them at BirdTrack.net?

If you've answered 'yes' to the first two questions, but 'no' to the last, then here's an example of how valuable those notes could be!

The Bird Conservation Targeting Project (BCTP) is a partnership between the RSPB, BTO, Natural England and Forestry Commission in England. For the last four years, each organisation has shared records of 33 key farmland and woodland species, and has gathered records from most of the local bird groups across the country as well as the BirdTrack website.

Now including data from the Bird Atlas and Volunteer & Farmer Alliance farm surveys, the BCTP initiative has enabled us to build up the most comprehensive picture available of the distribution of key species. In practice, this can enable us to give appropriate conservation advice to almost any farmer, irrespective of whether they know anything about the birds on their land already.

For example, when Tuckey Farm near Winslow applied for Higher Level Stewardship

(HLS) funding from Natural England, the Natural England advisor came to RSPB for information on what birds were in the area and which measures might suit them. Thanks to the BCTP, we were able to highlight 5 key bird species local to the farm, including grey partridge, lapwing, tree sparrow and yellow wagtail, and give detailed advice on the best conservation measures and locations to match these species.

Seven months on, the farm is about to start a 10-year programme of conservation work, including specially-tailored wild bird seed mixes, a fallow plot for lapwing and flower-rich plots to boost insect numbers. To date we have worked in a similar way with 70 farms across the county, all thanks to the combined recording efforts of bird-watchers from a wide range of backgrounds.

So be brave, and share what you know. Check what's in your area at www.rspb.org.uk/targeting

Kirsty Brannan (kirsty.brannan@rspb.org.uk)

Ancient Trees in South Bucks

Many sites in South Bucks such as Burnham Beeches and Langley Park are extremely important for their ancient trees, but we believe there are many more on unprotected or designated sites. These trees are vital for saproxylic beetles (beetles which live in dead wood) many of which are nationally scarce.

The Chiltern Woodland Projects Special Trees and Woodlands Project has recorded some of these trees in South Bucks, as has the Woodland Trust's Ancient tree Hunt—but we believe that there are many more waiting to be recorded—they may be in private gardens, in hedgerows, on agricultural land or on suburban roadsides.

If you know of any ancient trees in South Bucks or would like to help survey for them please contact Jez Elkin on 01296 382949 or jelkin@buckscc.gov.uk

College Lake Visitor Centre

Opens

On 17th June, 150 invitees gathered together for the grand opening of the new visitor centre at the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)'s College Lake Nature Reserve. The centre was officially opened by Steve Backshall, Honorary Vice President of BBOWT and natural history presenter.

Building was completed in May and the public have been flocking ever since to see the new building, learn about the history and ecology of the site, attend the Biodiversity Partnership's Bucks' Wonderful Wildlife event and, most importantly, to get out onto the reserve and enjoy the wonderful wildlife it has to offer.

A £1.6million project, the new Visitor Centre and visitor facilities at College Lake have been made possible thanks to generous funding from Biffaward, Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England and Aylesbury Vale Community Chest, as well as support from other individual trusts and donors, to which BBOWT is grateful.

Once a chalk quarry, College Lake was transformed into a wildlife haven thanks to the vision of one man, Graham Atkins, and a band of hard-working volunteers. While working for Castle Cement, the company running the quarry, Graham saw the potential the site had as a place where wildlife and people could

come together; a place to inspire the next generation to enjoy and help the natural world. Having convinced the company to give the land over to wildlife and not agriculture, he opened the site for visitors and made it wildlife-friendly with limited resources and the help of BBOWT. The quarrying finally finished in the 1990s, and in 2007, BBOWT was able to secure a long-term lease on the site enabling it to invest in the future of the area.

The Visitor Centre is an eco-building; all the materials used have been sourced to be as environmentally friendly as possible, energy saving technologies have been integrated into the centre and a turf roof using grass cut straight from the reserve, makes the whole centre simply an extension of the reserve, providing more habitat for species and giving it low profile so it blends into the landscape. Inside the centre, rammed chalk walls provide a window into the past of the site, impressive photos showcase the wildlife on site, detailed information offers an in depth view of the conservation work BBOWT does across the county and a small café provides refreshments for visitors at the weekends.

College Lake is one of the best places in Buckinghamshire to see waterbirds such as lapwings, common terns, oystercatchers, wigeon and redshank, many of which breed here. It's also home to hares, green hairstreak butterflies, traditional cornfield flowers such as the corncockle (now extinct in the wild) and a whole host of mammals including polecats which bred on site last year.



Steve Backshall addresses the crowd. Photo: Steve Karpa

Philippa Lyons, BBOWT's Chief Executive, says: "Our ambition of being able to show thousands of people the local wildlife around them and ultimately inspire them to care for their local environment is now being realised at College Lake. We are truly grateful for the generous support of all those who have helped us to achieve our vision."

CFE Launch a Resounding Success

More than 90 farmers and landowners attended the launch of an initiative to help protect and enhance the environmental benefits on their land.

The Campaign for the Farmed Environment www.cfeonline.org.uk is a nationwide initiative that encourages farmers to protect soil and water and to conserve farmland wildlife through environmentally sensitive land management practices. It is a chance for farmers to show they can provide a healthy environment within commercial agriculture and to help prevent the re-introduction of compulsory set-aside.

The Campaign in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire was launched on March 25 at Phillimore Farms, Dunsden Green, near Reading on the Oxfordshire/Berkshire border. The event was hosted by Phillimore Farms' manager Simon Beddows, a keen proponent of Environmental Stewardship.



Ian Waller, Chair of CFE local Liaison Group and Bucks Farmer. Photo: FWAG

Visitors were welcomed by Laura Francis, CFE coordinator in the three counties, and Ian Waller, a Buckinghamshire farmer and chairman of the local liaison group which is driving forward the Campaign in the area. He was delighted with the response and said: "The event was oversubscribed, demonstrating the level of interest in the Campaign. Farmers, land agents and crop advisers attended. There was a real buzz and enthusiasm for the Campaign which was obvious from the number of questions we received at the outset and during the farm walk. We just need to make sure that this enthusiasm spreads across the three counties,

The CFE Team. Photo FWAG



Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. We will be holding a wide range of events to deliver on-farm advice at grassroots level between now and 2012."

Visitors enjoyed a guided farm walk while advisers pointed out measures that enhance farmland biodiversity, many of which are funded under environmental stewardship schemes. These can include wild bird seed plots and fallow areas to provide wildlife with food, shelter and breeding sites, and grass buffer strips beside watercourses to limit runoff into rivers and streams.

The Campaign has brought together farming organisations including the NFU and CLA in a partnership with Defra and its agencies, and conservation groups including RSPB and BBOWT (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust).

Local 'beacon' farms are already being selected to demonstrate how commercial farming and environmental management can work hand-in-hand.

Over 50 farmers and advisers attended last month's CFE Beacon Farm event, kindly hosted by Lionel Wells and Alistair Welford at Leadenporch Farm in Deddington, Oxfordshire. The day included a farm walk and



The RSPB's Rotary Ditcher proves a big hit. Photo: FWAG

informative talks by Jon Bellamy of The Arable Group, Jeanette Wooster from the Environment Agency and Mike Shurmer for the RSPB.

Over 50 farmers and advisers attended last month's CFE Beacon Farm event, kindly hosted by Lionel Wells and Alistair Welford at Leadenporch Farm in Deddington, Oxfordshire. The day included a farm walk and informative talks by Jon Bellamy of The Arable Group, Jeanette Wooster from the Environment Agency and Mike Shurmer for the RSPB.



*Jon Bellamy discusses arable infield options.
Photo: FWAG*

Jon Bellamy's talk covered the establishment of arable infield options and included advice on how to manage fallow plots for breeding lapwing. Jeanette Wooster discussed resource protection and the importance of efficient pesticide use, while Mike Shurmer advised on wet grassland management to attract breeding waders to a site. The RSPB's rotary ditcher was also on display with Chris Baker of RC Baker Ltd, impressing the crowd with its ability to create foot drains ten times faster and half the cost of an excavator.

The next beacon farm event is on the 6th July at **Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates, Benham Estate Office, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 8LR from 18.00 – 21.30** by kind invitation of Iain Lindsay. The event is free, includes dinner and will look at improving farm efficiency through precision farming and the establishment of key infield options in ELS. Places are limited so please contact coordinator Laura Francis on laura.francis@cfeonline.org.uk or 0300 060 0171.

Prestwood Nature recognised by The Queen with prestigious Award

Prestwood Nature, a conservation group based in Prestwood, has been announced as one of 103 UK volunteering groups, and one of only two in the county of Buckinghamshire, to win this year's The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups.

The prestigious National Honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged of the highest standard.

Prestwood Nature has received the Award for its work to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment in the area around Prestwood through the involvement of local residents. This work has included flower meadow and pond restoration, creation of a local community orchard, woodland management and the creation of a demonstration wild life friendly garden. This could not have been achieved without the support of our sponsors, other organisations and individuals including the Parish, District and County Councils, Great Missenden and Prestwood Revitalisation Group, The Chilterns Conservation Board, The Woodland Trust, The Bucks Community Foundation, The Esmee Fairburn Trust and The Bucks Trust for Conservation.

Winners of this year's Award were selected from 341 groups nominated by members of the public.

Prestwood Nature will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative in Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, at a special ceremony. The group has also received an invitation for representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer.

Lizards' new lounging place in the sun

This summer, a threatened lizard population will enjoy a more stress-free life style thanks to a highly desirable residence built by BTCV volunteers.

Slow worms (*Anguis fragilis fragilis*) and common lizards (*Lacerta vivipara*) are being moved by Wycombe District Council to Tom Burt's Hill on the edge of High Wycombe so that their existing habitat can be re-developed.

Their new 'home on the hill' was prepared by volunteers from BTCV's Biodiversity Action Team and the Wycombe District Council Woodland Service volunteers and staff during the early spring. The Council could then capture the lizards when they came out of hibernation in the summer and move them straight to Tom Burt's Hill.

Popular with dog walkers and local residents, the Hill looks over High Wycombe and boasts two main attractions: a wildflower meadow and a wood. To create the 'wow factor' required by reptiles, the volunteers scalloped the edges of the meadow with a series of half-moon pits.

This makeover gave the lizards a bigger sur-

To 'tick all the boxes', the Council also dug a pit and covered it with a pile of blackthorn branches to create a 'super-hibernaculum' where contented lizards can snooze the winter away.



Slow Worms being translocated. Photo Oonagh Kellaheer

What about the neighbours? The BTCV team has constructed a flight of steps using railway sleepers and improved paths by cutting back some of the overhanging scrub. This will enable local people to make greater use of the site while minimising disturbance to the reptiles and other wildlife.

Anguis fragilis is Britain's most commonly-seen and longest-lived lizard, growing up to 50cm in length. A declining UKBAP Priority species, it is regarded as an indicator for pressing conservation issues and is often linked with *Lacerta vivipara* in Action Plans. The Tom Burt's Hill slow worms are typical of populations in the South of England under pressure due to increasing development.

This BTCV project was funded by the Wycombe District Council Community Support Grant and supported by the Wycombe District Council Woodland Service.

Contact: Oonagh Kellaheer, o.kelleher@btcv.org.uk



*Volunteers Step Building
Photo: Oonagh Kellaheer*

The Environment Centre in High Wycombe is Moving

The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead in High Wycombe closed at the end of March.

A revitalised board of trustees is searching for premises in High Wycombe Town Centre, where it is hoped they will be able to set up a new centre, in partnership with a vegetarian café.

Wycombe DC Woodland Service Events

For further information or to book your place, contact WDC Woodland Service on 01494 421825 or e-mail Woodland.Service@wycombe.gov.uk

Events are free unless marked as **BOOKING EVENTS** Pricing for these: £ 4 adult, £2 concessions, £10 family ticket

July

Sunday 4th The Butterflies of Sand's Bank LNR, High Wycombe.

Join us on this beautiful Local Nature Reserve with its rare chalk grassland bank, during its peak for butterflies. . **Meet:** 12 noon at the entrance to Wycombe Wanderers FC, Hillbottom Road, Sands, High Wycombe HP12 4HJ (Grid Ref: SU832932). **BOOKING EVENT**

Thurs 8th Work Party - Highfield Wood, High Wycombe.

These work parties will help improve access for local people to enjoy their woodland. **Meet:** 10.15am Micklefield Community Centre, Micklefield Road, High Wycombe HP13 7FY (Grid Ref: SU893933)

Saturday 10th Night Creatures of Funges Meadow – High Wycombe.

A Moth Trap and a bat detector will be used to find the creatures of the night. Don't forget to bring a torch and waterproofs. No dogs please. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Meet:** 8.00pm at Funges Meadow Nature Reserve at the end of Bowden Lane, High Wycombe HP11 1DL (Grid Ref: SU881923). **BOOKING EVENT**

Thurs 15th Work Party - Highfield Wood, High Wycombe. See July 8th for details

Sunday 25th Brush Hill LNR, Princes Risborough.

Monthly Work Party - Chalk Grassland Restoration Project. Help us extend this valuable habitat for wildflowers, invertebrates and much more. **Meet:** 10am Whiteleaf Cross Public Car Park, Peter's Lane, Princes Risborough, HP27 0LQ (Grid Ref: SP822035).

Friday 30th Jewels of the Night - Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe.

A walk in the twilight listening on the detector for bats hunting their prey, looking for signs of our elusive nocturnal creatures, and examining the beautiful jewels of the night caught, but not harmed, in our moth trap. Bring a torch. **Meet:** 8.30pm Cock Lane Cemetery Car Park, Tylers Green, High Wycombe HP10 8DS (Grid Ref: SU895936). **BOOKING EVENT**

Saturday 31st Butterfly Walk - Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe.

Part of National Save Our Butterflies Week. A walk around this diverse Local Nature Reserve in search of Common Blues, Marbled Whites, Skippers and others. . **Meet:** 12noon Cock Lane Cemetery Car Park, Tylers Green, High Wycombe HP10 8DS (Grid Ref: SU895936). **BOOKING EVENT**

August

Friday 6th Beasts of the Night – Tom Burt's Hill, High Wycombe.

Join us for an evening looking out for nocturnal creatures with the help of bat detectors and a moth trap. Please note that the site is on a steep slope. Bring a torch. **Meet:** 8.00pm West End Street, High Wycombe, HP11 2JQ (Grid Ref: SU858929).

Saturday 7th Night Creatures Safari – Spade Oak Nature Reserve, Little Marlow.

This popular, family-friendly event begins with a stroll to Little Marlow Church where we should get our first bat sightings of the evening. The walk then takes us around Spade Oak Gravel Pit where Daubenton's bats may be sighted. In the vegetation along the path, look out for the luminous glow of the female Glow Worm beetle! Don't forget to bring your torch and waterproofs (Approx 2.5 miles)

Meet: 8.00pm Spade Oak Public Car Park, Coldmoorholme Lane, (off A4155), Bourne End SL8 5PS (Grid Ref: SU884876). **BOOKING EVENT.**

Wycombe DC Woodland Service Events

Sunday 8th. Demons of the Deep' – Funges Meadow Nature Reserve, High Wycombe.

A session of pond dipping as part of the Revive the Wye Events Programme. **Meet:** 2.00pm outside the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead, The Rye, High Wycombe (Grid Ref: SU) **BOOKING EVENT**

Wednesday 11th Woodland Exploration of Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe

Learn about some of the many trees within the wood and discover some of the many creatures that live there. This event is designed for children aged from 4 to 10 years and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Please note that this event is not suitable for buggies. **Meet:** 10.00am Cock Lane Cemetery Car Park, Tylers Green, High Wycombe HP10 8DS (Grid Ref: SU895936).

Sunday 22nd Brush Hill LNR, Princes Risborough.

Monthly Work Party - Chalk Grassland Restoration Project. See July 25th for details.

Thursday 26th & Saturday 28th Conservation Work Party – Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe.

Help us start this year's vital conservation task to create mixed aged woodland suitable for a wide variety of wildlife from Bullfinches to Violets and other wildflowers. **Meet:** 10am Cock Lane Cemetery Car Park, Tylers Green, High Wycombe HP10 8DS (Grid Ref: SU897935).

September

Thursday 2nd & Saturday 4th

Conservation Work Party - Gomm's Wood LNR, High Wycombe. See August 26th for details

Friday 17th Glow Wild in the Dark – Brush Hill Local Nature Reserve, Prince Risborough.

Are there any Nature Detectives out there? Begin with a bug hunt and nature games, then come for a twilight walk around the site listening out for bats and returning to see what has appeared in our moth trap. Please bring a torch and remember something warm to wear after the sun goes down. A favourite event for families but children must be accompanied by an adult. **Meet:** 6.30pm Whiteleaf Cross Public car park at the top of Peter's Lane, Princes Risborough HP27 0LQ (Grid ref: SP822035) **BOOKING EVENT – FREE OF CHARGE**

Thursday 23rd & Saturday 25th & Thursday 30th Conservation Work Party - Highfield Wood, High Wycombe.

Annual Glade management work & Coppicing to diversify the woodland margin age structure. This work will benefit a wide variety of wildlife including woodland flowers and the insects they support. **Meet:** 10am Micklefield Community Centre, Micklefield Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7FY (Grid Ref: SU893933).



Work Party at Sands Bank Local Nature Reserve, High Wycombe. Photo: John Morris

Sunday 26th Brush Hill LNR, Princes Risborough.

Monthly Work Party - Chalk Grassland Restoration Project. See July 25th for details.

What is the Bucks and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership?

The Partnership consists of organisations working together to promote and enhance nature conservation in Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes.

A Buckinghamshire Partnership

Partners are as varied as our biodiversity. They include all tiers of local government including Bucks County Council, all of the district councils, Milton Keynes Unitary Authority and also Parish Councils.

Statutory agencies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission are all active members, as are the larger conservation charities such as Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, RSPB and the National Trust.

Local conservation organisations also play an important role—whether they are area based such as Chesham & District Natural History Society or focused on one particular aspect of biodiversity—such as Butterfly Conservation Thames Valley Group.

In all around 50 organisations are involved in the delivery of the Wildlife Sites Project and Biodiversity Action Plan, for example through supplying records to BMERC that can be used by the Wildlife Sites Project or by participation in the groups which are developing projects in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.

The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership is kindly funded by Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Chiltern District Council, Environment Agency, Milton Keynes Council, Natural England, South Bucks District Council and Wycombe District Council.

Next Issue

The next issue will be produced in September. If you have an item, project or event that you would like to see included please send details to jelkin@buckscc.gov.uk by Sept 11th.

Tell Us What You Think of Biodiversity News?

We hope you have enjoyed Biodiversity News.

We'd love to hear your feedback.

What information would you like to know more about?

Are the articles interesting and relevant?

Are the articles too long, too short, pitched at your level or too full of jargon?

Do you like the layout?

Please email jelkin@buckscc.gov.uk with your comments

Contacts

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