



Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

A society for everyone interested in nature and its conservation

The Nightingale Triangle Woodland Restoration Project

Over the past three years, with the agreement of Bracknell Council, Members of the Bracknell Forest Natural History Society have been working with volunteers to improve the woodland between Nightingale Crescent and Firlands - which is adjacent to the Bagshot Road, opposite the Leisure Centre.



The purpose of the project is to restore the native woodland, enhance biodiversity and create a safer and more pleasant environment for everybody.

Our monthly volunteer Working Parties, which commenced in January 2018, have always been very well attended, with at least fifteen people turning up to help on each occasion.

Despite the more recent Covid-19 upheavals, when we had to take lengthy breaks from our monthly gatherings, a great deal of hard work has been put in over the years - and a large number of the tasks on our Work Plan have been achieved:

- Improved access by creating an attractive woodland footpath with wood chips
- Reduction of brambles, holly, saplings and scrub to create woodland glades
- Removal of fly-tipped rubbish, litter and dumped garden waste (including removal of alien species introduced from the latter)
- Reduction of Rhododendron Ponticum (an invasive shrub that reduces biodiversity and prevents regeneration of native plants)
- Creation of log piles as habitat for beetles and other insects

And of course, once a considerable area of unsightly undergrowth was cleared, a major task has been the planting many bulbs and spring flowers - and native woodland trees and shrubs, provided by **The Woodland Trust**. **Over...**



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These pictures (Winter and Spring) give a brilliant indication of just how much we have already been able to improve the 'look and feel' at Nightingale Triangle.



We have also been surveying the species present in the woodland - and monitoring fly tipping and dumped garden waste, conducting litter picks and undertaking the light maintenance tasks required, all year. Once the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, we will be erecting a hand-carved commemorative plinth within the Triangle, and intend to hold a celebratory Open Day - to which residents, our volunteers and sponsors will be invited.



We are immensely grateful to our hard-working volunteers - particularly local residents, who have given us their wholehearted support and help over the past three years. Thank you, too, to our sponsors and the Bracknell Conservation Volunteers who have come along *en masse* on several occasions, to help us with the big jobs!



THERE'S STILL LOTS TO DO!

We are always looking out for more people prepared to help with various important clearance and improvement tasks on-site. Once we are allowed to meet in groups outside, our Work Parties will recommence on the first Saturday of each month. We welcome enquiries to our Chairman, Gill Cheetham on

**01344 423440 or email her on
bfnathistsoc@rocketmail.com**