



Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

A society for everyone interested in nature and its conservation



We're back!

The Nightingale Triangle Woodland Restoration Project

As you'll be aware, **The Bracknell Forest Natural History Society** has been working with the Council's landscape contractor, **Continental Landscapes**, the **Bracknell Conservation Volunteers** and a big party of **local Volunteers** on improving 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.

Following a break during the Summer, to allow the flora and fauna to flourish naturally, we will shortly be back at work on **Phase 2** of the project (which will run from now until March 2019, when most of the restoration and replanting work will be complete). **We hope you'll be able to put these dates in your diary** – they are all Saturdays and our 'working day' is 10.00am till 3.00pm, but you are welcome to join (or leave!) us at any time during these hours:

**29th September, 27th October, 24th November, 8th December –
and in 2019... 5th January, 2nd February, 9th March**



BEFORE – and AFTER!

See over for the latest news on just some of what has been happening at Nightingale Triangle over the past few months.

Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

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Waitrose Our thanks to Waitrose for their generous contribution to this project

Our Volunteer working parties have been very well attended, with as many as 30 people turning up to help on each occasion they were held. We are also very grateful to the **Friends of Nightingale Triangle** – who, during the break, have conducted regular litter picks and a performed a variety of important maintenance and improvement tasks, to the benefit of all of us.

Over the entire period to date, a great deal of hard work has been put in, and many tasks on our Work Plan have already been achieved:

- Improved access by creating a 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)
- Planting of native trees and shrubs, provided by The Woodland Trust
- Creation of log piles as habitat for beetles and other insects

During the past six months, many changes in the flora have taken place – right from bluebells emerging, filling the woodland with colour and fragrance, attracting bees and butterflies... to recently sighted wildflower seedlings growing from seeds sown in the Spring. In spite of the dry weather over the Summer months, many of our shrubs have taken and grown - and will continue to do so, until late into Autumn. Also, areas cleared of ivy and invasive lamium are showing evidence of re-sprouting wild plants, and with foxglove plants already surging upwards, we can expect to see plenty of colour as Winter progresses into Spring.

Upon completion of Phase 2, we plan to erect a hand-carved commemorative plinth within the Triangle, and to hold a **celebratory ‘thank you’ occasion** - to which residents, our Volunteers and sponsors will be invited.

THERE’S STILL LOTS TO DO!

If you would like more information on participating in the Nightingale Triangle restoration project, please email Ray Hodges at bfnhspublicity@outlook.com

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