



# Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

**A society for everyone interested in nature and its conservation**

## The Nightingale Triangle Woodland Restoration Project

Over the past six years, with the agreement of Bracknell Council, Members of the Bracknell Forest Natural History Society have been working alongside many local 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 safe and pleasant environment for everybody, with attractive footpaths.**

Our monthly volunteer Working Parties, which commenced in January 2018, have always been very well attended, with around fifteen people turning up to help on each occasion. Despite the 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 original Woodland Work Plan have been achieved:

- Improved access for walkers (including adults with children), by creating attractive woodland footpaths with wood chips donated by a local tree surgeon.
- Reduction of brambles, holly, saplings and scrub to create woodland glades.
- Removal of litter, fly-tipped rubbish and dumped garden waste (including removal of alien species introduced from the waste).
- Strategic reduction of *Rhododendron Ponticum* (an invasive shrub that reduces biodiversity and prevents regeneration of native plants).
- Installation of bird boxes and building of log piles as habitats for beetles and 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 - plus 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 many species present in the woodland - and monitoring fly tipping and dumped garden waste, conducting litter picks and undertaking the maintenance tasks required, all year. We have erected a hand-carved commemorative plinth at the main entrance to the Triangle, and hold occasional Open Days - to which residents, our volunteers and representatives of our sponsors are invited.



**We are immensely grateful to our hard-working volunteers – both our Members and many local residents - who have given us so much of their wholehearted support and help over the years. Thank you, too, to our generous sponsors and the Bracknell Conservation Volunteers who come along *en masse* each Spring, to help us with the big jobs!**



## **THERE'S ALWAYS LOTS TO DO...**

**Our Work Parties are held on the first Saturday of each month - and we are always on the lookout for more people prepared to help with all sorts of important clearance and improvement tasks on-site.**

**We welcome enquiries to our Chairman, Gill Cheetham – please contact her by email: [bfnatistsoc@rocketmail.com](mailto:bfnatistsoc@rocketmail.com)**