

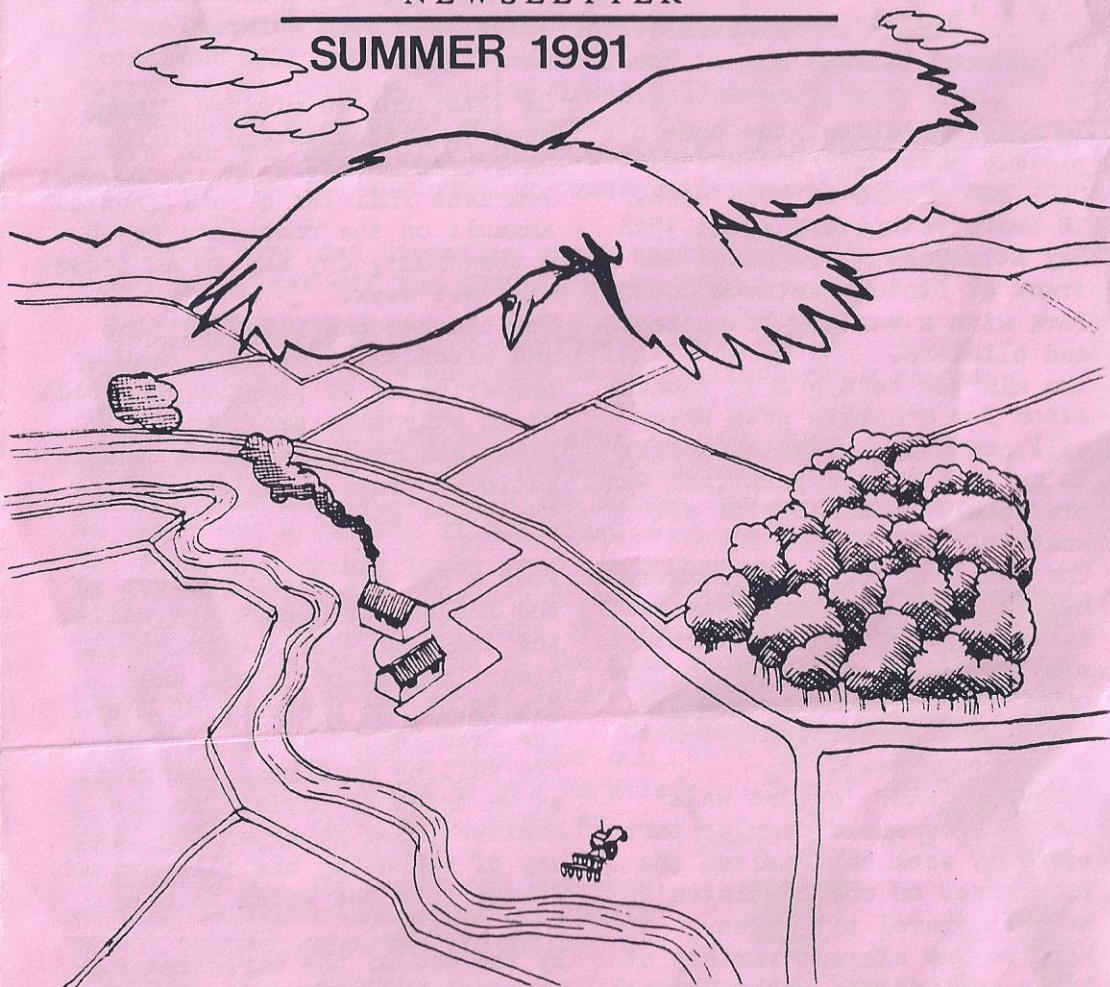
C.R.O.W.

Conserve Reading on Wednesdays



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1991



PRACTICAL MIDWEEK
VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION
WORK TO PROTECT
OUR LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE


NATURE
CONSERVANCY
COUNCIL



As from September, CROW will be venturing outdoors every 2 weeks, rather than our previous 'monthly' outings. See the work programme on the back page for details.



Well, what have we been up to since the last newsletter? Despite what you might think, we have been working!

In order to dispel the completely unfounded belief that CROW are afraid of hard work, 18 brave volunteers spent 15th May attacking a compacted mud track at Dinton Pastures Country Park with a variety of mattocks and blisters.

The aim was to dig a 4" foundation for a hoggin path which will now allow disabled access to an area of the park that was previously impassable in wet weather.

The resident Wokingham Rangers had the good sense to stay well clear of the proceedings, being sighted occasionally during the day, whizzing along a distant track on an assortment of motorised buggies.

The usual CROW 'guided walk' that has become a regular part of every work day, visited the bird hides on one of Dinton's huge ex gravel pit lakes.

Here we saw a great variety of birds, including a Hobby, Gadwall, Yellow Wagtail, Little Ringed Plover, and even the odd fox!

On 12th June we visited Simons Wood on Finchampstead Ridges, near Crowthorne. Fearless Phil led a full frontal assault on the rhododendron on a thankfully dry day in an otherwise wet week.

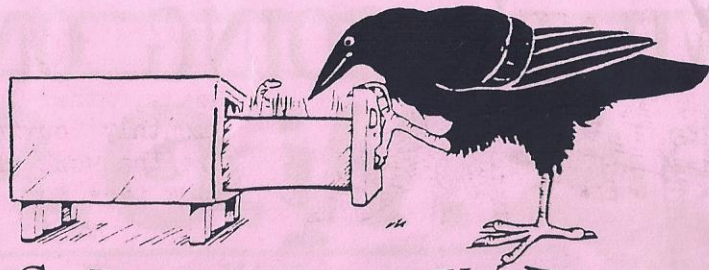
The bracken and invading pine and birch saplings also took a hammering, as we started what will be an extensive programme of heathland reclamation by the National Trust on this very important site.

From a far off clearing, deep in the rhododendron, came the wailing tones of "Abide With Me", a clear indication to all and sundry, of the presence of Maurice from BeC.

The wailing continued unabated, as we tried to explain to the hapless press reporter the best way of remedying his ill advised foray into the woods in his Ford Fiesta.

By the end of the day, great progress had been made. The site had been cleared, the journalist had found his way out of the wood, and Maurice had stopped singing.

The ragwort pull at the Hollies, outside Streatley, on 10th July, saw us battling against the yellow peril in 30 degree heat and a variety of silly shorts.



AS THE CROW FILES

A huge variety of wild flowers thrive here on the chalk grassland SSSI, including Pyramidal and Common Spotted Orchids, Hairy Violet, Centaury, Quaking Grass, Yellow-wort, Fairy Flax, Marjoram, and Wild Basil and Thyme.

Steve led the usual walk after lunch, with fantastic views of Streatley and the surrounding countryside possible from the top of the hill.

If you're ever out Streatley way, a visit to this National Trust site, just off the A329, is highly recommended.

WHO WE ARE : WHAT WE DO

Conserve Reading On Wednesdays is a local voluntary conservation group, who work closely with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, and Reading Borough Council's Park Ranger Service. We are also supported financially by a grant from English Nature, formerly the Nature Conservancy Council. We carry out a variety of practical conservation tasks in the Reading area, and badly need new volunteers to help us.

We meet at 10.00am on the day of the work task, outside the main entrance of Reading railway station, and travel to the site by minibus, getting back usually before 5.00pm.

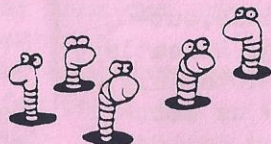
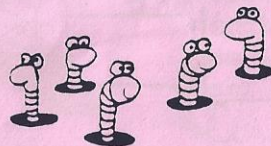
Alternatively, you could make your own way to the work site, or we may be able to pick you up from home. Phone us beforehand for details.

We provide all the tools and know-how as well as light refreshments. You'll need a packed lunch and suitable clothing.

So, if you're at a loose end on a Wednesday, why not come along and give it a go? Have a great day out, as well as help improve the quality of your local countryside.



WHAT'S GOING ON ?



WORK PROGRAMME - AUTUMN 1991

Wednesday 11th SEPTEMBER

STRATFIELD SAYE

Bridge building!



Wednesday 25th SEPTEMBER

WATERLOO MEADOWS

We'll be clearing the path along the River Kennet of overgrown brambles etc.



Wednesday 9th OCTOBER

RUSCOMBE POND, Nr TWYFORD

A welcome return to Ruscombe, to clear debris from the pond, cut back overhanging trees, and possibly plant a beech hedge.



Wednesday 23rd OCTOBER

LOUSEHILL COPSE, TILEHURST

We'll be clearing the various streams that run through the wood of overgrown vegetation and rubbish.

Wednesday 6th NOVEMBER

MOOR COPSE, Nr TIDMARSH

Hazel coppicing at this very picturesque BBONT site.



Wednesday 20th NOVEMBER

McILROY'S PARK, TILEHURST

A follow up to last year's Sycamore felling task, continuing the work and tidying the area.



Wednesday 4th DECEMBER

NORTHGRAVE WOOD, CHECKENDON

Planting beech and cherry trees at this Woodland Trust site to compensate for the lack of natural regeneration.

Wednesday 18th DECEMBER

XMAS TASK AT CLAYFIELD COPSE

The Christmas spirit will no doubt be taken too far, as we end the year at the same site at which we began it.

Conserve Reading On Wednesdays, C/O Caversham Court Gardens,
Church Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7AD

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