

# CROW NEWS

The Official Publication of CONSERVE READING ON WEDNESDAYS



*British Trust for Conservation Volunteers*



**Reading**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Issue no. 21

**WINTER 97/98**

PRACTICAL MIDWEEK VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION WORK TO  
PROTECT OUR LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE





# CROW Winter 97-98

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## TASK DETAILS

### OCTOBER 1997 - FEBRUARY 1998

#### Key:



The date of the task



The type of work we will be doing



The name of the site on which we will be working



Ordnance Survey grid reference



This symbol indicates where the minibus is most likely to be parked, if making your own way, find the bus and follow arrows from there.



This indicates approximately where the task will take place

CROW hold practical conservation tasks in and around Reading (almost) every Wednesday. Anybody is welcome to come along and join in for all or part of the day. We provide transport from the back of Reading railway station (short term car park area) at 9:30am and sometimes do a pickup around midday too. You can also make your own way to the worksite and meet us there. We aim to return people to the station at around 4-5pm. All you need to bring is a packed lunch and wear sensible outdoor clothing and strong footwear. We provide all necessary tools and training and also cups of tea / coffee and biscuits. If you've not been on a CROW task before, please phone (0118) 9477917 to let us know you are coming. You can also contact us during a task by phoning mobile no. 0378 743210.



# OCTOBER 1997



**22nd October**



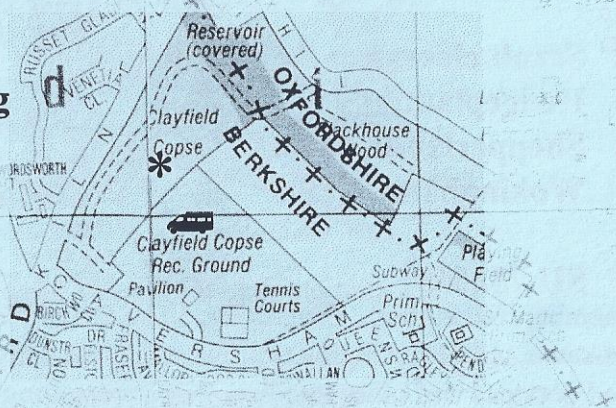
**Sycamore Felling**



**Clayfield Copse,  
Emmer Green**



**SU 725772**



We will be felling sycamore trees which have invaded an area of the wood.



**29th October**



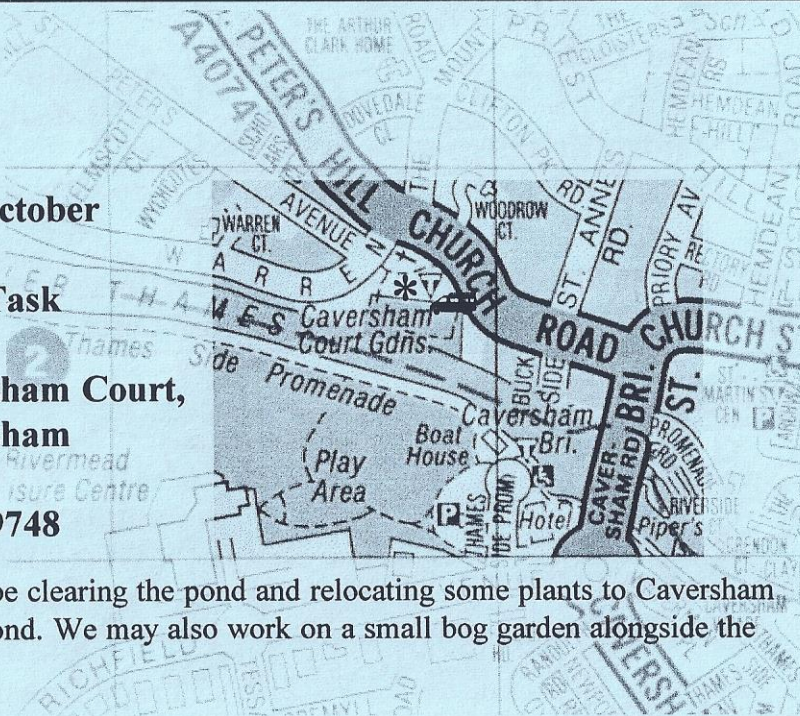
**Pond Task**



**Caversham Court,  
Caversham**



**SU 709748**



Here we shall be clearing the pond and relocating some plants to Caversham Park Village pond. We may also work on a small bog garden alongside the river Thames.



# NOVEMBER 1997



**5th November**



**Scrub clearance & Hedgeplanting**

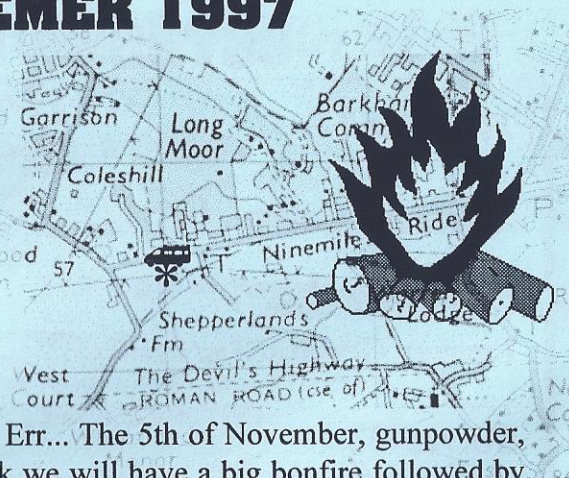


**Shepperlands Farm  
Wokingham**



**SU 782645**

Remember, remember... Erm,... Err... The 5th of November, gunpowder, trees-sawn and plot. On this task we will have a big bonfire followed by baked potatoes and other goodies. Bring something to eat / drink (but not whilst wielding sharp tools).



**12th November**



**Pond Task**

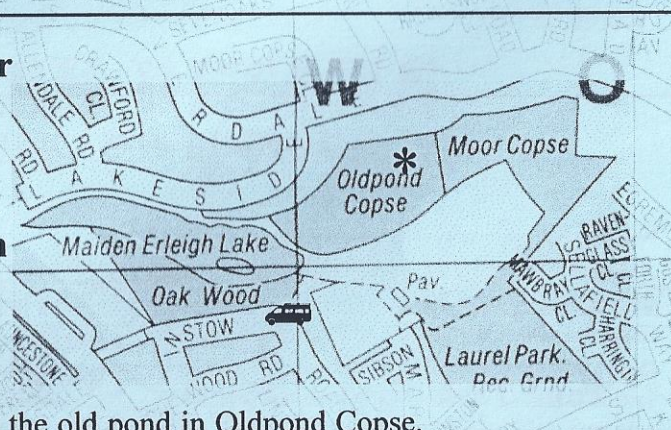


**Maiden Erlegh  
Park, LNR**



**SU 750709**

We will be working on the old pond in Oldpond Copse.



**19th November**



**Otter Holt  
Construction**

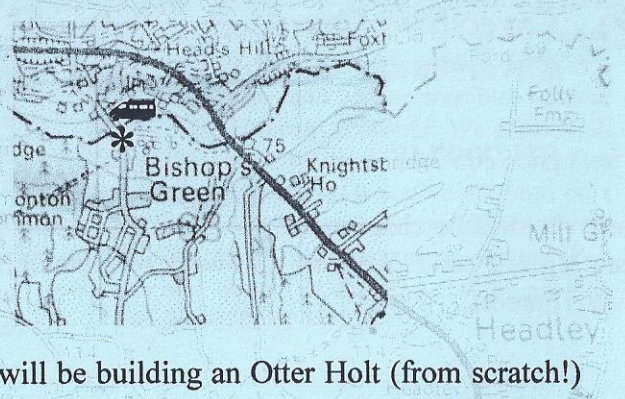


**Bishop's Green  
Nr. Newbury**



**SU 502636**

We will be building an Otter Holt (from scratch!)





 **26th Nov**

 **Tree Planting**

 **Lavells Lake,  
Dinton Pastures**

 **SU 787726**


As part of National Tree week we will be planting trees



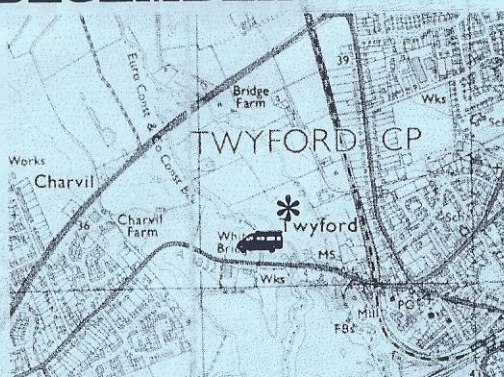
## DECEMBER

 **3rd Dec**

 **Tree Planting**


 **Charvil Meadows,  
Wokingham**


 **SU 782761**



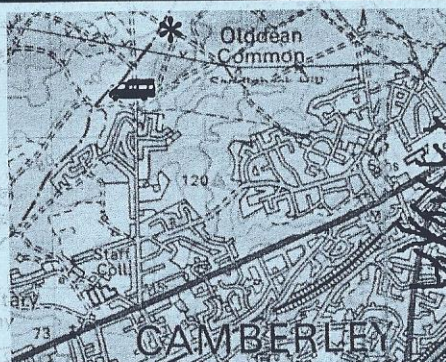
More tree planting as Tree Week continues (Tree Week = 10 days)

 **10th Dec**

 **Xmas Tree Task  
Barossa Training**

 **Area (MOD) Nr.  
Camberley**

 **SU 876622**



We will be clearing Scots Pine trees which have invaded the heathland, these will be sold as environmentally friendly Xmas Trees. A free tree for every volunteer!





**17th Dec**



**Xmas Task**



**Bishops Acre,  
Maidens Green**



**SU 896732**



Our last task of the year will be at Bishops Acre where we will be clearing scrub and having a large bonfire. After the task there will be baked potatoes, roast chesnuts, mulled wine and other xmas stuff. (no carol singing).

## **JANUARY 1998**



**7th Jan**



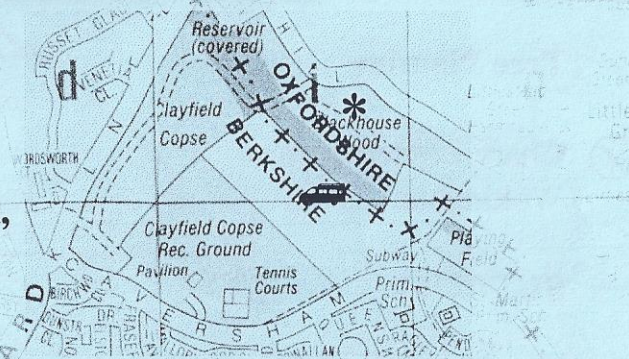
**Fencing**



**Blackhouse Wood,  
Emmer Green**



**SU 505666**



We will be repairing a fence which prevents walkers straying into a sensitive area of the woodland.



**14th Jan**



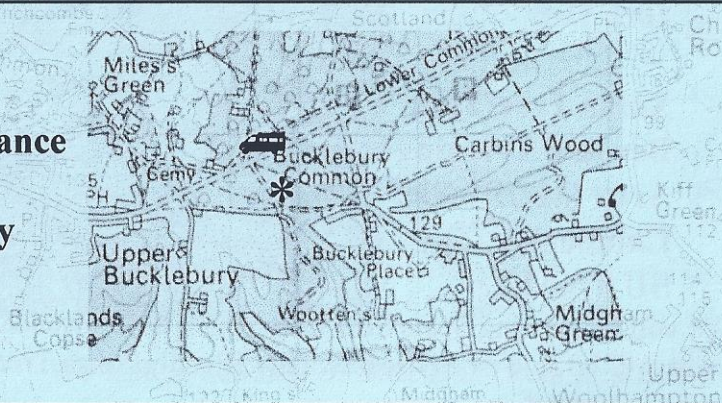
**Birch clearance**



**Buckleberry  
Common**



**SU 552689**





 **21st Jan**

 **Coppicing**

 **Maiden Erlegh Park**  
**LNR**

 **SU 750709**

We shall be working in Oak Wood coppicing hazel and felling diseased elm.

 **28th Jan**

 **Sycamore Felling**

 **Marshland Square,**  
**Emmer Green**

 **SU 718762**

Returning to Marshland Square we will continue felling sycamore trees which have invaded an area of the wood.

 **4th Feb**

 **Coppicing**

 **Usk Road,**  
**Tilehurst**

 **SU 680728**

This is a small fragment of woodland on the corner of Usk Road and The Meadway





**11th Feb**



**Hedgelaying &  
Tree Planting**

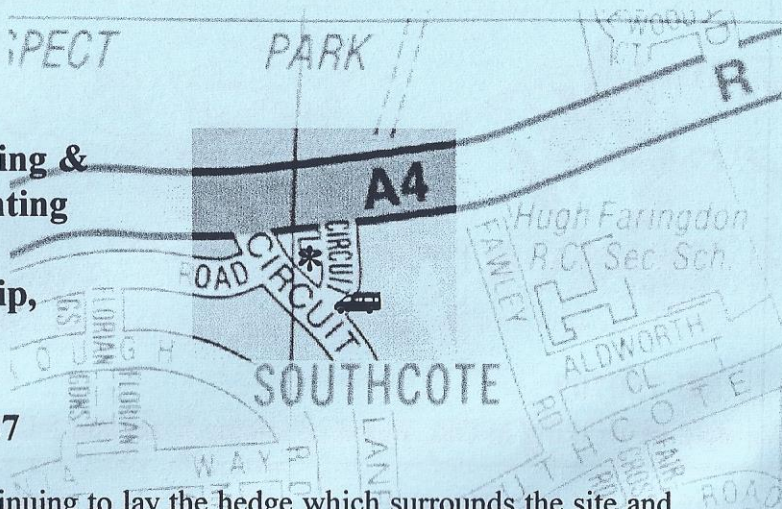


**Devil's Dip,  
Reading**



**SU 783727**

We will be continuing to lay the hedge which surrounds the site and we will also be planting some trees.



**18th Feb**



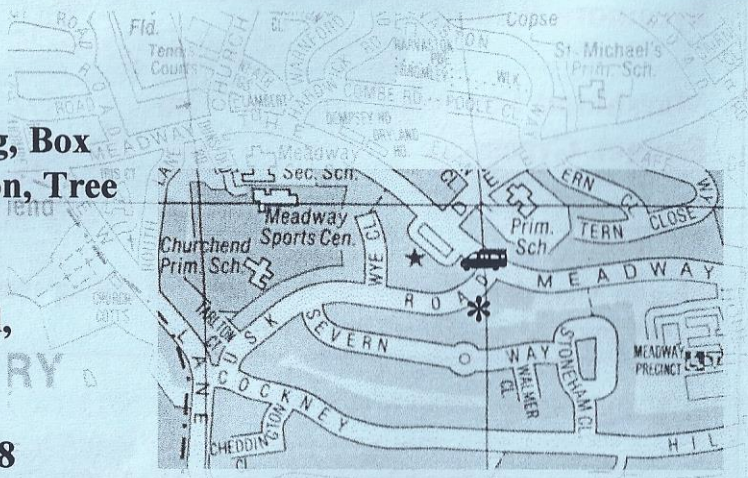
**Coppicing, Box  
installation, Tree  
planting**



**Usk Road,  
Tilehurst**



**SU 680728**



In this fragment of woodland on the corner of Usk Road and The Meadway we shall be Coppicing, installing some bird and bat boxes and planting some trees



Finally it's...

# THE RESULTS OF THE CROW DESIGN A T-SHIRT COMPETITION!



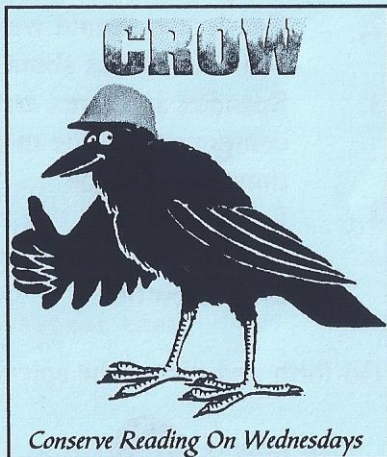
Design 1. 'Reservoir Crows'

Only ten months after the launch of the competition, and only three years after we first thought, "hey, why don't we have a Crow T-shirt?" We can now bring you the results. First Prize goes to a Mr A. Noyes of Winnersh who wins a bus ticket to Finchampstead and a bowl voucher, both of which he kindly donated in the first place.

These T-shirts are printed in full colour on white cotton and are available in any size for only **£6** each or **£4.50** to CROW members (lifetime membership of CROW is free.)



Design 3. 'The Crow'



Design 2. 'Hard Hat Crow'

NB. Due to the extremely dodgy printing process these T-shirts should be turned inside out and washed separately the first few times. DO NOT iron the printed area (why would you want to iron your clothes anyway?)



# GLAMOURPUSS

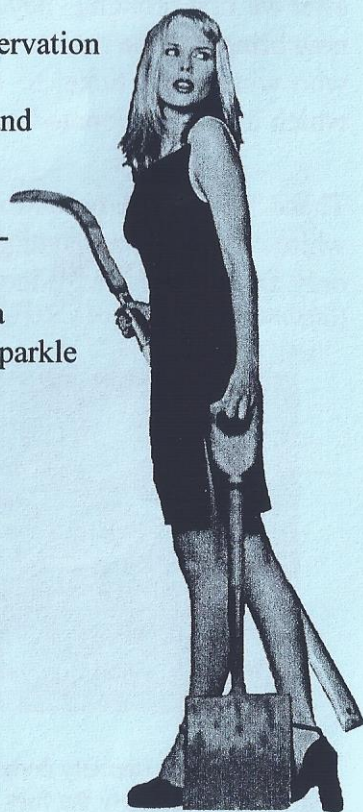
## PUTTING THE SENSATION BACK INTO CONSERVATION

Bored of the same old heavy boots? Fed up with fatigues? For too long conservation has suffered from the image stigma of mad people in old clothes getting dirty in the woods. And although this is still certainly true, we, the fashion police, believe it is high time to be funky. So cast off those comfortable old clothes and come forth in tight, glittery evening wear. Dazzle the wildlife in completely unsuitable suits, bring your cufflinks to the copse and bail out your ballgown for those ponds.

All you need do is remember a few simple but golden rules:

1. When undertaking a serious bout of conservation never dress down.
2. Gentlemen should wear uncomfortable and constricting ties about their necks.
3. Spandex and lurex are essential components of the modern day conservationists wardrobe
4. Ladies, combine that simple dress with a fake fur coat or feather boa to add extra sparkle to your outfit

Go forth and spread the splendor!



Yvonne & John wrote this and Andrew had nothing to do with it.



## ***THE BORING BITS...***

*Highlights from the last committee meetings*

### **CROW MINUTES (1/10/97)**

**Venue:** The Fez 'n Firkin, Reading. 7:30pm

**Present:** John Pearson (**JP**)

Andrew Noyes (**AN**)

**AN** Where's everybody else then?

**JP** Don't know, perhaps they'll turn up.

**JP** Hey, you can have a curry and a pint for only £3, I've just had one it was really nice.

**AN** Bargain! (Goes and orders one).

*10 minutes later...*

**AN** Where's my curry then?

*Another 10 minutes later...*

**AN** Where's my curry then?

*Yet another 10 minutes later, AN's curry finally arrives...*

**JP** Hey, that's not fair I didn't get any bread with mine.

*Eventually...*

**AN** What colour shall we make the next newsletter then?

**JP** How about blue?

*The meeting is drawn to a close and AN and JP leave for Stratfield Saye where they enter a pub quiz and fail to win anything, however AN correctly answers a particularly difficult question on subscriber trunk dialing.*



## **CROW** *Social Events*

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov** Bonfire task, featuring baked potatoes, fireworks, apple pie and Malcolm the exploding volunteer.  
See task details.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec** Xmas task party at Bishops Acre featuring all of the above, with the exception of Malcolm (for obvious reasons).
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan** Skittles or Ten Pin Bowling - to be confirmed
- 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** Let's have another Laserquest! Meet Fez 'n Firkin  
7:30pm prompt to play at 8pm.