

BVCP BULLETIN



JANUARY | 2020

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THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

BVCP volunteers tackling invasive Laurel, highlighting why it's such a big threat to native plant species.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Since our AGM it has become clear that my somewhat pessimistic financial forecast for 2020/21 was, indeed, just that; new site management agreements and a proposed overhaul of our charging structure paint a much rosier picture.

The agreement to promote use of Naishes Wood has started, and we have been working for Rushmoor BC to improve tree safety on a number of sites.

Negotiations continue with Land Trust for a number of new SANG sites which will start in the new financial year.

If the new charges can be agreed at the upcoming Officers' Meeting we still expect a small draw on reserves this year, moving to a balanced budget next.

I may be stuck in the office but the Rangers are out in all weathers - woodland and tree work forming the bulk of the winter's schedule. It's been particularly wet this winter, emphasising the value of the Valley's greenspaces for flood protection. New SANG sites bring the opportunity to incorporate flood mitigation and tree planting, increasing resilience to climate change.

Steve

WELCOME

...to our first quarterly newsletter, sharing our successes and keeping you up to date with our progress.



Head over to Instagram to find out more about us and what we do:

[@blackwatervalleypartnership](https://www.instagram.com/blackwatervalleypartnership)

STOP PRESS

A huge well done to the team at Tice's Meadow who have received £1000 from the National Lottery Community Fund to install a pond dipping platform.

Meanwhile we still await news of who current owners, Hanson, are selling this site to.

All our Rangers hold nationally recognised Tree Inspection qualifications, and our programme of regular monitoring and remedial work meant that our woodlands were in good shape when Storm Brendan hit earlier this month.

The majority of fallen trees were due to rootplate failures. Sodden soils lose strength allowing strong winds to simply push over otherwise healthy trees.

Losing trees is never ideal, but does form part of a natural cycle creating clearings, habitat for reptiles & invertebrates, and room for young saplings to come though, as well as plenty of logs to sell on behalf of the BVCT!



Photo: TBH Partnership

We have been contracted to deliver a community engagement programme at Naishes Wood (left), Church Crookham. One of the first SANGs, it is a lovely mix of woodland and grassland habitats with fine views from its many footpaths. It deserves to be better known; watch this space for news of upcoming events.

AROUND THE VALLEY

MOOR GREEN LAKES

Opening up the bridleway to let in light, dry up the path, & prepare the hedge for laying.

ODIHAM COMMON

Helping the Hart Rangers to rake meadows, allowing wildflowers and orchids to flourish.

FRIMLEY FUEL ALLOTMENTS

Rangers, students & volunteers removing invasive Parrot's Feather from the pond.

WELLESLEY WOODLANDS

Using our mini tractor to improve road safety by scraping away debris to reveal the road edge.

