

C.R.O.W.

Conserve Reading on Wednesdays

NEWSLETTER

BOX 14, ACORN BOOKSHOP,
17 CHATHAM STREET,
READING, RG1 7JF.



Most Wednesdays, whatever the weather, CROW carry out PRACTICAL CONSERVATION TASKS in and around the Reading area.

We meet at the front of Reading Railway Station at 10am, and usually go (in a minibus) within five minutes. We will collect at 1.30pm as well if asked in advance - half a day's help is fine by us. We try to be back before the 5pm rush hour.

Come along there's always a first time!!



Protecting the Environment

Autumn Relaunch

Most of us are aware of the everchanging face of Berkshire's countryside and green urban areas, you may also be aware of the ecological problems that are attached to development and neglect of our environment, hedgerows that have been with us for hundreds of years are being flattened, ponds and woodland area are undermanaged and left to dis-repair. Closer to home on our own doorstep Reading's urban green areas accessible to the public have become dumping grounds for household refuse and industrial waste.

It is not only aesthetically displeasing but contributes to a breakdown in eco-systems and consequently a decline in natural habitats for wildlife.

This act of criminal folly has generated the re-launch of CROW - "Conserve Reading on Wednesdays", a local voluntary group affiliated to the B.T.C.V. - British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

With the help and technical advice of the BTCV and Reading Rangers, we aim to carry out practical conservation work within Reading and around the Berkshire area. By doing so, CROW hopes to raise an awareness amongst the public, through involving schools and giving people the chance to participate in conservation projects - creating an understanding and giving people the chance to aquire practical skills needed for conservation activities.

There is a need for dedicated/interested people to strengthen the organisation and to increase the capacity for conservation projects. We meet fortnightly on wednesdays, there is a pick-up at the front of Reading station at 10am.

Funds are needed for transport, tools and running costs. Donations payable to:

C.R.O.W. : Box 14, Acorn Bookshop, 17 Chatham Street, Reading, RG1 7JF.

CONTACT No's

Annette - 0734 482301

Kesty (B.T.C.V) - 0628 771189

Reading Rangers - 0734 477917

If you want to come along, then wear old clothes, wellies, or strong boots, a packed lunch if you intend staying the whole day, and either waterproofs or suntan lotion depending on the weather!! It's a help if you phone beforehand, especially if you want to be picked up at lunchtime. If you can't reach us then come along anyway.

We provide drinks, biscuits and tools, as well as any training required, don't feel that you have to be an expert, or experienced at all, to make a worthwhile contribution. We have all started as complete novices, and learnt what we need to know from each other and occasional short courses.

Other Local Groups

For anybody interested, but busy on Wednesdays, there are other active groups that carry out practical conservation work at weekends.

Berkshire Conservation Volunteers, (BeC),

Contact: Maurice on 0734 874034

or

Phil on 0734 596970

Reading Urban Wildlife Group, (R.U.W.G),

Contact: Trish on 0734 68341

WORK PROGRAMME

WED Sept 12th

Bulmershe Pond - One of the few remaining ponds left in this area. So we need your support to keep this site in good shape. We will carry out a variety of tasks to encourage better growth for existing flora and aquatic life. The work will be fun and we will learn a bit more about aquatic habitats. This day out should prove to be interesting!!!

WED Oct 10th

Blundells Copse - An ongoing task in one of Reading's urban green areas near Tilehurst. This is an area of great natural beauty and is rich in wildlife. We shall carry out path clearance and general tidying of the area. It has been neglected over the years and therefore there is a lot of work that needs to be done.

WED Nov 14th

McIlroy's Park - Another of Reading's green areas in Tilehurst. It is a beautiful park that has a glorious view of the surrounding countryside and the meandering River Thames from its highest points. Again there is much work to be done, we shall be tree felling (Now the birds have nested) to encourage better growth in existing habitats. This is another fun day out, so come along!!!!

WED Dec 5th

Edgebarrow Woods:- **Xmas Tree Task**

Come out to Crowthorne for the day and get yourself a FREE Xmas Tree, we will be clearing pine and birch from this heathland area. This is very important to sustain the heathland habitat. If you are interested in making your own way there, then the Grid. Ref. is OS Map No.175, Gr. 837631.

There may be other tasks arranged for other Wednesdays as we progress through this programme. Lets hope autumn/winter brings out a bumper crop of volunteers. Keep in touch for details.

Antony and Louis.