

CONSERVE READING ON WEDNESDAYS (CROW)

Reading now has a second conservation group. Following the success of the Berkshire conservation volunteers (BeC) - a new midweek group is being formed. We have transport, equipment and lots of important sites to conserve and protect.

Our first task will be at Moor Copse near Tidmarsh on Wednesday March 12. Please phone Malcolm Chandler on Reading 427107 for details of where to meet (probably in town centre) and for more information about future tasks.

See you there. Chris B.



Malcolm's mission to tidy county

from TELEPHONE INTERVIEW.

By DOMINIC HART

AN unemployed Berkshire man has set up his own action group in an attempt to conserve the beautiful nature spots of the Thames Valley.

And his bid to save and improve the countryside has impressed other conservation groups so much they have offered all the equipment and transport he needs.

Malcolm Chandler, of Oaktree Road, Tilehurst, has already planned several tasks in the coming two months to test the popularity of his scheme.

The work will be carried out on Wednesday afternoons and Mr Chandler, aged 28, hopes the mid-week sessions will attract the unemployed, self-employed, and housewives with time on their hands during the day.

"I used to belong to a weekend conservation group but found most of my time was taken up with other commitments, he said.

"So since leaving my job about six months ago I have had the idea of setting up a group to run during the week to give other groups of people the chance to help conserve the countryside.

"The name of the group is quite simple - CROW -

which stands for Conserve Reading on Wednesdays, which is our basic aim."

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has agreed to provide the tools needed for the work and free transport for the alternate Wednesday afternoons which the new group will initially use for its tasks.

The first task organised by the former Metal Box buyer is set to take place this Wednesday afternoon when CROW will be tackling the shrubs and undergrowth in Curtis Wood, Calcot.

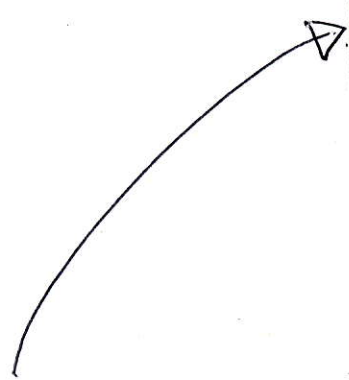
Following that there will be work done at Bucklebury Common, Moor Copse in Tidmarsh near Pangbourne and California Country Park in Crowthorne.

"When these jobs have been completed I shall see what the response is and hopefully arrange other tasks in the area, said Mr Chandler.

"This is only a part-time project for me because I am going to university in October to do a degree in environmental sciences, but if things work out there will be someone else to take over my role."

If anyone wants more information on CROW or would like to help out in the tasks, they can find out more information on the work and transport from Mr Chandler on Reading 427107.

← I MENTIONED BEC HERE!



ACTUALLY, I STATED "PEOPLE; ANYONE WITH TIME ON THEIR HANDS DURING THE DAY" - THIS WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE THE UNEMPLOYED, PART-TIME WORKERS, SELF-EMPLOYED & MEN & WOMEN WHO HAVE TIME WHILE THEIR CHILDREN ARE AT SCHOOL."

They're off to a clean start

CONSERVE Reading on Wednesdays, the group formed to make the town and outlying beauty spots more attractive to the public, has got off to a clean start.

Formed just two months ago by jobless Malcolm Chandler, the group has already attracted numerous offers of help and

prepared a new programme of events for the coming months.

Tomorrow they will be at the California Country Park; June 18 at Ufton Court and on July 2 again at the California Country Park.

Anyone interested in helping should contact Mr Chandler on Reading 42719.

Working to protect wildlife

BERKSHIRE Conservation Volunteers are picking up their spades to improve the countryside.

The group will be fencing a bridleway off the western side of Nine Mile Ride at Finchampstead, to protect wildlife.

The work is the result of a management plan drawn up with the help of Bucks, Berks and Oxon Naturalists (BBONT) for the site, which includes a newly created area of heathland and mature woodland, crossed by the bridleway.

Transport from Bracknell station will be available at 9.45 am for anyone wanting to take part in the scheme. For furth-

er details volunteers can ring Mick Denness on Reading 473160.

But BBONT is not the only active conservationist in the area. A new group, CROW (Conserve Reading On Wednesdays) will be clearing Rhododendrons in California Country Park, Wokingham, on July 4.

The group has been going for just 12 weeks, and has carried out six tasks in the Reading area. An average of eight volunteers have turned up each time, but CROW is still looking for more volunteers.

The work suits anyone between the ages of 16 and 70 and experience is not neces-

sary. The jobs carried out vary from footpath work to wild flower planting and pond clearing.

CROW have tools and transport, so volunteers only need to bring themselves along for the tasks, which especially suit the unemployed as they take place midweek.

Pick ups take place at 10 am and 1.15 pm from Reading Station, depending on whether conservationists want to devote half a day or a whole day to the work.

For further details of tasks, times and places Malcolm Chandler can be contacted on Reading 427107, or Steve Marshall on Reading 424527.

ICE CREAM FOR C.R.O.W.

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION WITH C.R.O.W.

A new midweek group has been formed to carry out practical conservation tasks on alternate Wednesdays, in & around the Reading area.

The name "CROW" stands simply for "Conserve Reading On Wednesdays". We have tools, transport and lots of important sites to work on and protect. The tasks will vary according to the time of year, and will include footpath work, pond work, tree and wild flower planting, fencing coppicing and so on.

The group has been in existence for 10 weeks now, having successfully completed 5 tasks. An average of 8 volunteers have turned up on each occasion, but we still need more. Anyone, between the ages of 16 and 70, is welcome and you don't need bulging muscles or past experience at this kind of work.

To cater for those of you who can only come for half a day, we shall be picking up volunteers from outside Reading Station at both 10am and 1.30 pm (dropping them off again at about 1.15 and 5.15pm)

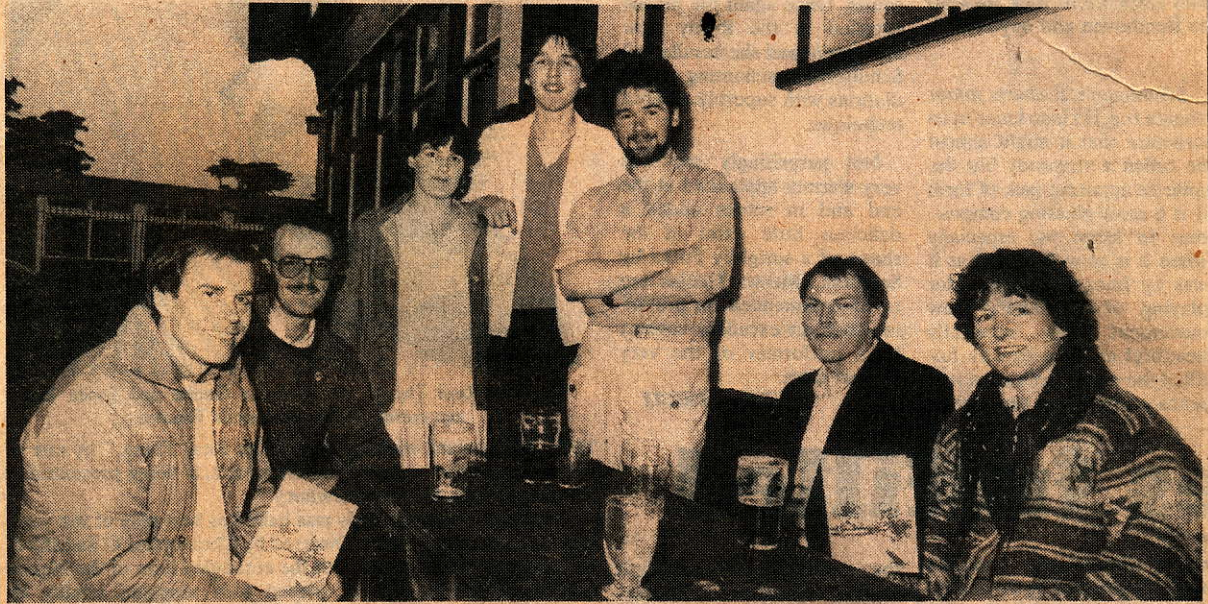
We'd like you, of course to stay all day if you can!

For more details contact:

Malcolm 427107

Steve 424527

LENDING A HELPING HAND



Members of the "Conserve Reading on Wednesdays" group discuss future plans over a drink at The Dove public house. From the left are Andrew Moody, Malcolm Chandler, Alison Haines, Pete Winters, Pete Young, Steve Marshall and Sue Wilson.

EVERY other Wednesday, whatever the weather, members of a newly-formed conservation group in Reading are out and about doing what they can help to conserve the environment.

Called "Conserve Reading On Wednesdays", the group was formed just 12 weeks ago but has already carried out six tasks involving tree planting, footpath work, coppicing, pond work, wild flower planting and fencing.

CROW currently has nine members and nearly all of them turn up on alternative Wednesdays to be bussed out to a site in need of their care and attention. The first task was at Curtis Wood, Calcot — an area of very old woodland, owned by Calcot Park Golf Club, which has been saved from developers by local residents. CROW members removed scrub and thinned trees to let more light in to encourage the ground flora and re-

maining trees to thrive.

Other tasks have been carried out at Bucklebury Common where heathland was cleared, Moor Copse at Tidmarsh and California Country Park near Finchampstead.

Members who offer their services are picked up from the short-term car park at Reading railway station either

at 10 am or at 1.30 pm and transported to the site chosen for that particular Wednesday's work.

Anyone between the ages of 16 and 70 is welcome to join and no special skills or bulging muscles are needed! All tools and transport are provided, as well as refreshments, and all anyone need take along are

old clothes, strong boots or wellingtons, waterproofs and sandwiches.

The minibus returns either at 1.15 pm or 5.15 pm after which members usually pop into the local pub for a drink and a chat.

Further details are available from Malcolm on Reading 427107 or Steve on 424527.



Conservationists clear-up

A NEW mid-week conservation group has been set up to carry out practical conservation tasks on alternate Wednesdays, in and around the Reading area.

The group, pictured clearing out the rhododendrons in the California Country Park, was set up 12 weeks ago and so far they have successfully carried out six tasks.

The keen conservationists have named themselves, CROW, Conserve

Reading on Wednesdays.

The members believe that as population and leisure time increase, so demands for the use of more land continue to grow.

As more of the countryside is used for recreation, housing, industry and agriculture they fear this will lead to widespread destruction of many long established habitats for plants and animals.

To combat this, the group plan to organise such tasks as footpath work, pond work, tree planting, fencing and

wild flower planting.

They meet every other Wednesday, whatever the weather and work on sites in and around Reading. All tools are provided and anyone over 16 is welcome, no special skills are needed just a willingness to learn.

The group meet at Reading station from where the minibus takes them to that days work. Anyone who wants to lend them a hand should contact Malcolm Chandler on Reading 427107.