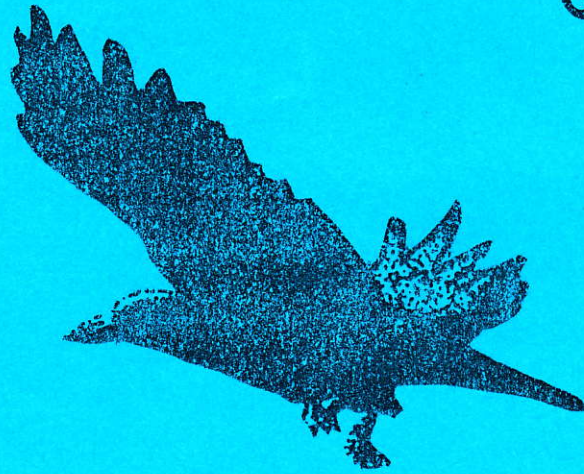


Conserve Reading



On Wednesdays

ANNUAL REPORT

1986

CONSERVE READING ON WEDNESDAYS - REPORT FOR 1986

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INTRODUCTION

Conserve Reading On Wednesdays (CROW) is a voluntary group set up in March 1986 to undertake practical consevation work in and around the Reading area.

Projects, or tasks, are undertaken on Wednesdays throughout the year within a 10 mile radius of Reading town centre.

CROW is affiliated to the national body, the British Trust for Consevation Volunteers. (BTCV)

Postal Address :- CROW
Box 14
C/o Acorn Bookshop
17 Chatham Street
Reading
Berkshire. RG1 7JF

ANNUAL REPORT 1986

1986 may well be noted in history as the year in which CROW was formed! Starting with a few tentative, fortnightly, half-day tasks in March, things soon gathered momentum into full day tasks, held more often than not, every week, which allowed 40 tasks to be completed in this first year. This shows that there is both the demand for more conservation work to be done in the area, and that there are the numbers of people interested available & willing to do the work midweek, when there are few other equally stimulating activities to pursue!

The success of CROW in it's first year would not have been possible without the support from the Berkshire Conservation Volunteers (BeC). Not only the financial support which carried us through early cash flow problems, and being able to use the BeC minibus, tools & toolstore, but also through their experience and help in all matters throughout the year, for which we are duly grateful.

The end of this year sees CROW in a reasonably healthy position in which to enter the new. A grant from the Royal Jubilee & Princes Trusts of £100.00 enabled us to make a modest basic tools purchase in 1986, which we hope to be able to add to in 1987 if support for the group continues.

TASKS SUMMARY

During this first year of CROW, from 1st April 1986 to March 31st 1987, there were a total of 205 workdays completed during 40 tasks on 12 different worksites.

WORKSITES

Abbreviations used :

BeC	Berkshire Conservation Volunteers
BBONT	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust
RUWG	Reading Urban Wildlife Group
WDC	Wokingham District Council

Hurley Chalk Pit

A $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre site owned by BBONT, which is open to the public, and around which we were erecting stock-proof fencing

Ufton Court

Owned by Berkshire County Council Education Department as an Environmental Education Centre, and here we were creating a wildflower nursery and coppicing.

California Country Park

Owned by W.D.C. where we had several tasks of scrub clearance hedge planting, and rhododendron clearance.

Dinton Pastures Country Park

Another regular site, also owned by W.D.C. where we carried out work in the wildflower garden & nursery, as well as improving the habitat value around one of the lakes.

Devil's Dip

A site in Southcote, managed by R.U.W.G., where CROW worked alongside the Cleaner Reading Task Force, Reading Alternative School, the Scouts, and some Debenhams YTS trainees, in tasks of digging out a pond, fencing and later in the year, hedgelaying.

Aldermaston

A site in the Blue Circle Cement H.Q. grounds, where BeC fenced off an area with rabbit-proof fencing and constructed a stile, & we, helped by the children from the local primary school, dug over the ground and prepared beds for a tree nursery to be used by the school.

Northgrove Wood

A typical Chiltern Beech wood, owned by the Woodland Trust, where we weeded around recently planted trees.

Ruscombe Pond

An old pickling pond, belonging to the parish council, which with the local scouts we cleaned out and let the light in!

Curtis Wood

Owned by the Calcot Golf Club, and managed by the Friends Of Curtis Wood. Here we were thinning out Sycamore trees.

Broadmoor Bottom

An area of heathland, owned by B.B.O.N.T. where we pulled out invasive pine trees, to prevent the heathers from being overgrown.

Bulmershe Pond

A RUWG site on the edge of college grounds where we were asked to transplant water plants to the recently improved pond.

Lodge Wood

Together with Bec, we were asked to fence off this BBONT wood and to erect a stile, to stop cattle from the surrounding farmland from entering the wood & destroying it's ground flora.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of CROW is open to all between the ages 16 - 70, these limits being for insurance reasons.

As CROW is a mid-week group, it naturally attracts members who are inbetween jobs, and as these members go on to find employment the membership becomes very fluid. This can make continuity and stability in the group difficult. Through the year April 86 - March 87 there were 53 members who attended tasks.

Task Leaders

Each task has a leader who is an experienced CROW member. The leader is responsible for the day's work and liases beforehand with the "Userbody", a member of the organisation for whom the task is being carried out.

There were 8 task leaders in this period :-

Malcolm Chandler

Martin Newman

Nick Clark

Malcolm Hackett

Steve Marshall

Penny Williams

Andy Moody

Susan Wilson

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THE ACCOUNTS

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ACCOUNTS

1 APRIL 1986 TO 31 MARCH 1987

BANK RECONCILLIATION : CASH BOOK MOVEMENT

<u>PAYMENTS</u>		<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Bus hire	247.94	Task charges	416.45
Tools	94.14	Donations	30.00
Newsletter & Publicity	12.00	Grants	114.10
Insurance	15.00	Fundraising	19.59
Bank charges	1.42	Other	1.14
Task expenses	79.39		
EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	<u>131.39</u>	EXCESS PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS	<u>0.00</u>
	581.28		581.28
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

NOTE : The above is only a record of the money flowing through the books during this period, and is not therefore an accurate record of the groups activities. The results have therefore been adjusted to show the expenditure and income generated over the period, and these results are presented on the next page.

ACCOUNTS

1 APRIL 1986 TO 31 MARCH 1987

ADJUSTED RESULTS

EXPENDITURE

Bus hire	270.88
Tools	94.14
Newsletter & Publicity	12.00
Insurance	15.00
Bank charges	1.42
Task expenses	79.39

EXCESS INCOME
OVER EXPENDITURE

185.33

658.16

INCOME

Task Charges	493.33
Donations	30.00
Grants	114.10
Fundraising	19.59
Other	1.14

EXCESS EXPENDITURE
OVER INCOME

0.00

658.16

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1987

<u>LIABILITIES</u>		<u>ASSETS</u>	
Creditors	22.94	Current account	136.09
Uncashed cheques	4.70	Debtors	76.88
		Tools	75.31
<u>NET WORTH</u>	<u>260.64</u>		<u> </u>
	<u>288.28</u>		<u>288.28</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

DONATION	From Berkshire Conservation Volunteers	30.00
GRANTS	From Queens Silver Jubilee Trust	100.00
	Countryside commission	14.10
FUNDRAISING	Christmas Tree Sales	19.59
DEPRECIATION	On tools	18.82

