



Conserve Reading On Wednesdays

Details inside.....

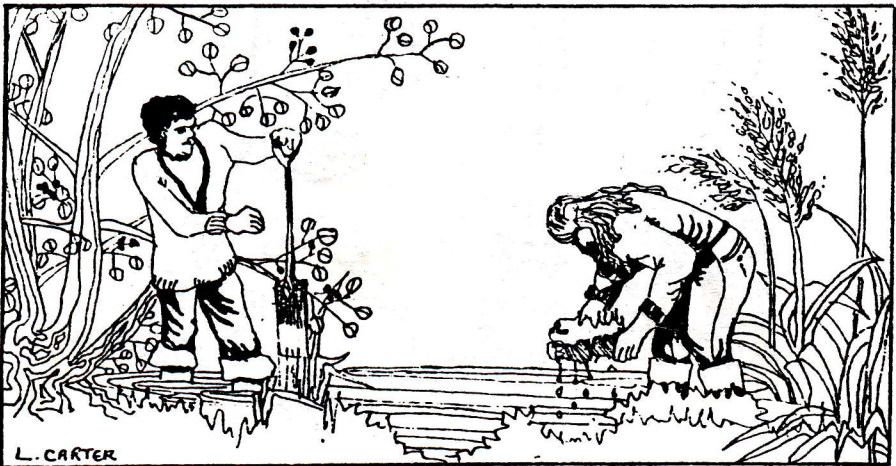


CROW

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As population and leisure-time increase, so demands for the use of more land continue to grow. More and more of our countryside is being exploited for recreation, housing, industry and agriculture and this constant encroachment is causing widespread destruction of many long-established (& sometimes unique) habitats for plants and animals. Ultimately, this destruction diminishes the richness and diversity of the countryside.

Fortunately, the need for active and effective management of what remains is being recognised and, as is happening in other regions, a local group is being set-up to undertake practical conservation tasks. These will be carried out on behalf of local Nature Reserves, Private Landowners and Town/Parish Councils. The tasks will vary depending on the time of year, but will include Footpath work, Coppicing, Pond work, Tree planting and Woodland work.



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Every-other Wednesday, whatever the weather, the volunteers will work on sites in and around Reading. To start with, the group will work in the afternoon only, meeting at Reading Station's short-term car park (the central pick-up point) at 2pm; returning at about 5pm.

All tools will be provided, as will refreshments. Anyone over 16 is welcome and the work requires no special skills, just a willingness to learn. All you need bring are old clothes, strong boots (or a pair of Wellies) and waterproofs (so that it won't rain !).

PROGRAMME FOR MARCH/APRIL

12th March - Curtis Wood

26th March - Bucklebury Common

9th April - Moor Copse

23rd April - California Country Park

see overleaf for work and joining details...

If you can't go on any of these tasks but would be interested in helping in some other way, please give either of the contacts overleaf a ring.

TRANSPORT will leave Reading Railway Station at 2:00pm.

WORK PROGRAMME

CURTIS WOOD, TILEHURST

Curtis wood is an area of very old woodland adjacent to Calcot Park Golf Course. It has been saved from development by the Friends of Curtis Wood. Now that its future is secured, work has started to manage the wood after 40 years of neglect. We will be tree thinning to give the selected trees room to grow to maturity.

BUCKLEBURY COMMON

Bucklebury Common is one of the largest remaining areas of heathland in Berkshire. Since the Common stopped being grazed by sheep and cattle, birch and pine have started to shade out the heather, the plant traditionally found on heathland. We will be removing the scrub to help promote the heather.

MOOR COPSE, TIDMARSH

Moor Copse is a 50 acre woodland beside the River Pang. It is owned by Berks, Berks and Oxon Naturalists Trust. It has large areas of Bluebells and primroses. These are amongst the 270 plant species on the site. It has been designated a site of Special Scientific Interest. We will be helping to re-establish a coppice cycle in the wood.

CALIFORNIA COUNTRY PARK, FINCHAMPSTED

California Park is owned by Wokingham District Council. It has a large pond and wetland area as well as woodland and heathland. We have been asked to help with the clearance of rhododendron, which is starting to dominate areas of the woodland.

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Please ring one of the contacts below by the Monday before the task so that we can organise tools and transport. If you can't, just turn up at the pick-up point on the day and look out for a white mini-bus with BTCV stickers on it.

CONTACTS:

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Malcolm Chandler : Reading 427107

Mick Deness : Reading 473160