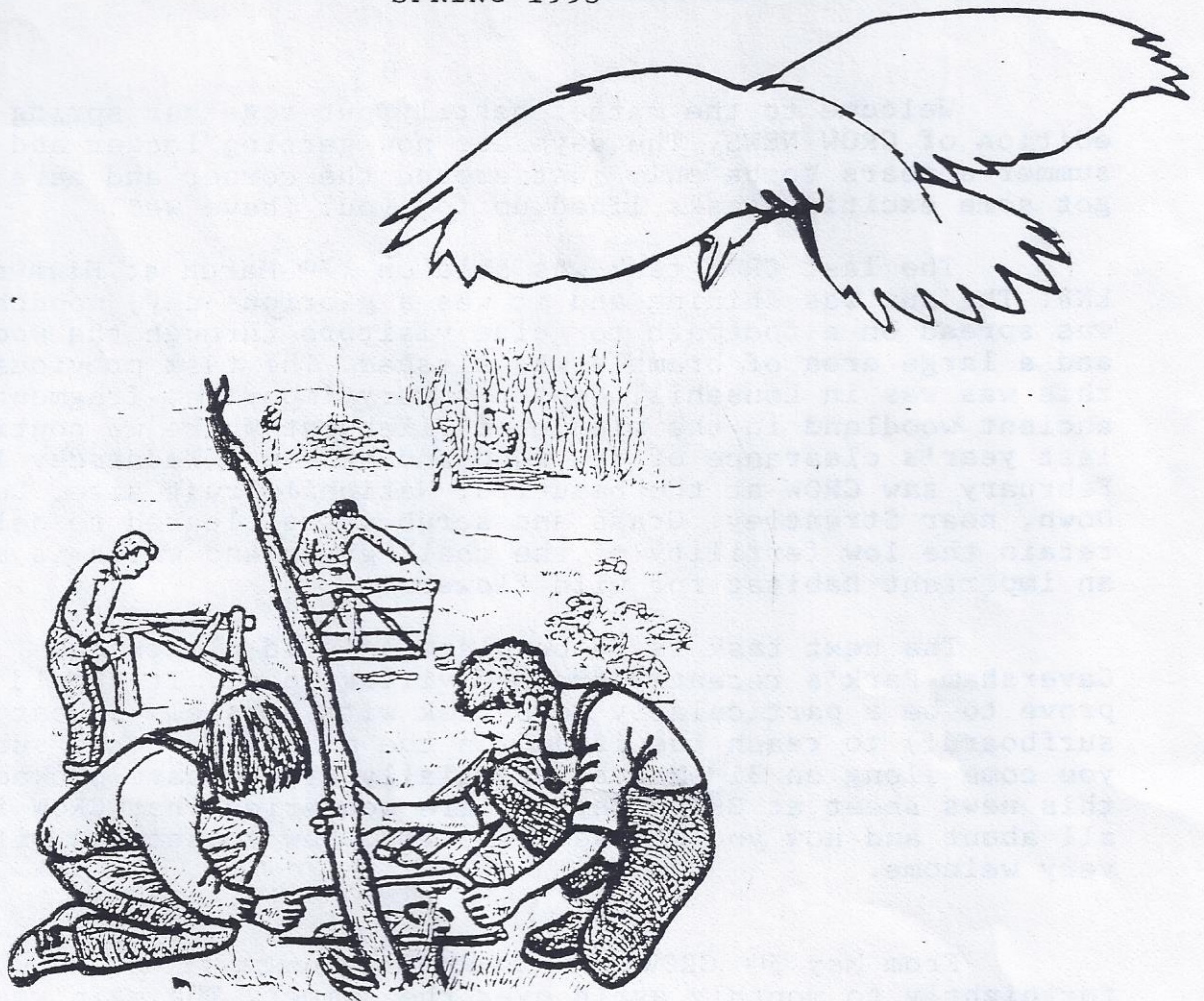


# C.R.O.W.

*Conserve Reading on Wednesdays*

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1993

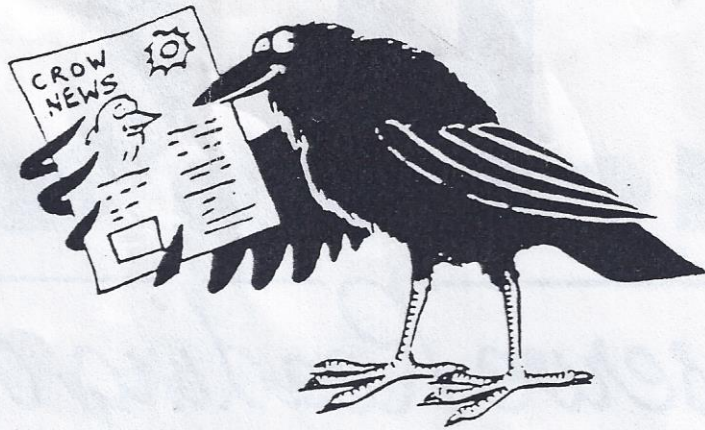


PRACTICAL MIDWEEK  
VOLUNTARY  
CONSERVATION WORK  
TO PROTECT OUR  
LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE



Reading  
BOROUGH COUNCIL





# DIARY

Welcome to the rather hastily put together spring 93 edition of CROW NEWS. The days are now getting longer and summer appears to be only just around the corner and have we got some exciting tasks lined up for you. (have we?)

The last CROW task was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Highwood LNR. The sun was shining and it was a glorious day, woodchip was spread on a footpath to guide visitors through the woods and a large area of bramble was slashed. The task previous to this was in Lousehill Copse, a very important fragment of ancient woodland in the middle of Tilehurst where we continued last year's clearance of the woodland streams. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February saw CROW at the beautiful National Trust site, Lough Down, near Streatley. Grass and scrub were cleared to help retain the low fertility of the chalk grassland which is such an important habitat for wild flowers.

The next task is to be planting wild plants in Caversham Park's recently dredged village pond. It should prove to be a particularly good task with possibly a boat (or surfboard!) to reach the island in the middle. So make sure you come along on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Especially if you have picked up this news sheet at Green Day and are wondering what CROW is all about and how you can get involved. New volunteers will be very welcome.

From May 5<sup>th</sup> CROW will probably revert from fortnightly to monthly again over the summer. The main reason for this is that the workload tends to drop off in the summer (you can't go tramping through the woods disturbing plants and animals). If extra tasks can be found they will be squeezed in, there is a chance we may be doing some fence construction.





## A Brief History

Conserve Reading on Wednesdays is a local midweek conservation group that carries out practical work in and around the reading area to protect and improve the countryside and open spaces, approximately half the tasks are inside Reading District.

CROW was first set up in March 1986 and now works closely with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Reading Borough Council's Park Ranger Service. We carry out a variety of different tasks such as coppicing, footpath construction, pond and stream clearance and scrub control. Much of the work carried out by CROW and other voluntary conservation groups would not otherwise be done. In addition to the tasks CROW also hold occasional social events such as pub evenings.

New volunteers are always welcome, no previous experience is required. Training in tool use and safety will be given on task and experienced volunteers will be on hand to explain and demonstrate techniques.

We meet on Wednesdays (see work programme on back page), with a minibus pick-up from the set down point at the rear of Reading railway station, at 9.30 am. Please let us know if you're coming. Alternatively you could make your own way to the site and meet us there at around 10.00 am. We can also pick you up at other places if they are en route to the task.

We provide all tools and training as well as light refreshments. (tea, coffee etc.) You'll need to bring a packed lunch and wear old clothes and strong footwear

So, if you're at a loose end on a wednesday why not come along and join in? Get a bit of exercise and help improve the local countryside at the same time.





# WORK PROGRAMME

WED Mar 31<sup>st</sup> t

*What is the work*

*Invoices*

*slides from Green Day*

*Bank statements*

*RBC April Martin Earle  
cheques*

WED Apr 14<sup>th</sup> h

CAVERSHAM PARK POND

GRID REF 728767

Planting up the recently dredged  
village pond with native wild  
plants.

LAVELL'S LAKE  
WOODLEY

GRID REF 784730

Footpath work  
Probably other work too

WED May 5<sup>th</sup> h

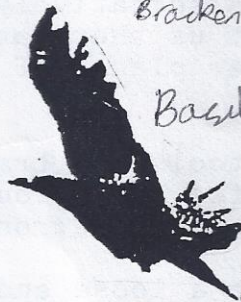
NATIONAL TRUST

Work on a National Trust  
Site, details not yet  
finalised

*2 June*

*7 July*

*Finchampshead Ridges  
bracken & leaf litter clearances*



*Basildon park*

For more details write to:-  
Conserve Reading on Wednesdays,  
Caversham Court Gardens,  
Church Road,  
Reading  
RG4 7AD

Or 'phone Richard on 0734 477917 or the British Trust for  
Conservation Volunteers on 0628 771189