

# Newsletter

Winter 2011/12



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## 2012 Programme

### January

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>  
28-29<sup>th</sup>

Woodland management  
Big Garden Watch (item 11)  
The Bourne Crossroads

### Midweek

### February

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

Old churchyard  
Toad watch (see item 8)

### Midweek

### March

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

Footpath Maintenance  
Ridgeway School  
OCY tidy for Palm Sunday

### Midweek

### April

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

Middle Bourne Lane  
Palm Sunday in OCY

### May

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

Bourne Stream clearance  
Middle Bourne Lane

### Midweek

### June

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Balsam bashing  
Balsam bashing

### Midweek

### July

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>

Old Churchyard  
Farnham-in-Bloom judging

Early

### Midweek

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>

Underdown  
**The Bourne Show**

### August

Sunday

MBL or OCY  
Underdown

### Midweek

### September

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

**AGM**

Midweek

Bulb planting/Ridgeway  
School

### October

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Bourne crossroads  
Bulb planting/Leaf clearing

Midweek

### November

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

Middle Bourne Lane

### December

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Woodland Management



Stan Cockett (1942-2011) - Our founder and former chairman at work in the Old Churchyard,

## 1. A Sad Loss for Our Group

We were taken aback in July when our good friend Stan Cockett was suddenly taken seriously ill, and greatly saddened that he never recovered and died at home on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011, just short of 70 years of age. His passing is an unhappy milestone in our short history because he was not just a great character and well-known figure in local conservation circles but also the founder of our Group. We were able to honour that part of his life by compiling an obituary which appeared in the Farnham Herald and is reproduced on our website. Many of our members joined with Stan's family and many other friends at his funeral and we were pleased to assist Yvonne by facilitating the planting of a memorial shrub in the Middle Bourne Lane Community Wildlife Garden where he had spent many hours working over the years. We shall not forget him.



Stan putting up the owl box in Middle Bourne Lane

## 2. Stan Cockett – A Personal Memory

Soon after arriving in The Bourne in July 2002, I received a circular from The Bourne Residents Association, together with a letter signed by a Stan Cockett inviting anyone interested in conservation work to attend an evening meeting in The Bourne Hall. I went along and joined about 12 other people including Didi and Mike Hall and Peter Gillespie. Despite rattling around in the large hall the meeting was very good. Stan was first up. He explained that he was a member of Earthwatch, which had given him a grant to set up a local conservation project. He spoke about the poor

state of public open spaces in The Bourne, and how the project he had chosen was to establish a group to remedy this situation. The other speaker was Ron Hills, a Waverley countryside ranger and who was to become a very good friend of BCG, spoke about the local wildlife. At the end of the meeting there was general consensus that a local conservation group needed to be formed, and the first meeting was arranged for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2002.

The first session was in Burnt Hill Wood. I did not quite know what to expect. Ron Hills had provided the necessary tools and Stan informed us that the aim of the exercise was to cut back as much black cherry laurel as possible. I was still selecting a pair of loppers and thinking about what to do next, when Stan took off down the track, and started vigorously attacking the offending laurel. This the first session taught me a lot about his love of the open air and his boundless energy. It also established the future work patterns for the group; patterns we still adhere to. That year Stan organised eight more sessions and reported on them at the first AGM. This was held at his home in July 2003., when a committee was elected and a constitution adopted. Stan recognising that the local footpaths, like the woodland, were also in sorry state, added their maintenance to the mission statement. Stan much preferred practical work, even so he laid an excellent administrative foundation for BCG's future success.

He continued to guide the gradual expansion of the group's work, remaining as chairman until June 2006 when for personal and business reasons he stood down. His presence was greatly missed but he stayed in touch and I often took his advice on specific issues. He was a doctor of geology and several times we drew upon his professional knowledge as we built up our picture of local ecology. In May 2009 when his business commitments had eased, he was persuaded to re-join the committee as secretary, a job he carried out meticulously with his characteristic efficiency and good humour. Throughout he worked endlessly in the interests of local conservation, always prepared to help out on any task at any time – the harder the job, the better he liked it. Our picture shows him in his element. He fostered good relations with other groups and was also a most faithful supporter of RSPB on Farnham Heath where he also acted as footpath warden. Through him we did some joint work with RSPB, including building an otter holt on the river Wey.

With the benefit of hindsight we should have seen the signs in 2011 that Stan was not quite himself. In June and early July he was still working hard for us especially in the preparations for the Farnham-in-Bloom judging. His untimely death only four months later means we have lost not only an inspirational volunteer leader but also a very good friend. We consider that the achievements of our Group and its on-going work remain as a fitting memorial to him.

**Noel Moss**

### 3. BCG Milestones

In 2012 our Group will celebrate its tenth birthday. We can look back at our milestones with a modicum of satisfaction, but much still remains to be done: -

- 2002 September** The Group formed  
**2003 July** First AGM and first Bourne Show.  
**August** Great Green Bush Cricket Survey.  
**2004 February** Assisted in building an Otter holt on the Wey on RSPB land.  
**March** Footpath Survey for Surrey CC  
**May** Built steps on The Bourne Green.  
**September** A Nature Walk in Bourne Woods and informal Survey of Local Wildlife.  
**2005 April** Participated in Pilot Wildlife Warden Scheme.  
**Summer** Began clearing Himalayan balsam from The Bourne Stream  
**July** Historical Walk around The Bourne.  
**2006 February** Began Bourne Crossroads Project  
**September** Began Roadside Bulb Planting  
**2007 January** Began Middle Bourne Lane Community Garden Project.  
**2008 July** Wildlife Evening at MBL.  
**December** Started work in Old Bourne Churchyard. Launched Footpath Warden Scheme  
**2009 Summer** Entered MBL Project in various Competitions. Conducted first Wildlife survey in The Old Churchyard.  
**2010 January** Launched OCY Historical Project.  
**2011 July** Participated in Farnham-in-Bloom, Large Town Category.



The judges for Farnham-in-Bloom 2011 hosted by Richard Sandars and Abigail McKern at Middle Bourne Lane.

### 4. Our New Logo

Our new logo features at the top of this newsletter – so farewell to the fox and the badger. When Karen took over membership, her new broom swept away our staid old logo, which had originally been designed rather hurriedly to go on letterheads. This was a brave decision, because over the years my experience has been that designing new logos leads to inordinate dissention. Karen recruited the help of Hilary Dickson, who is an enthusiastic new member and something of a wizard with a computer. Together they canvassed opinions from you the members for input. Your responses were; - a) something colourful; b) something green; c) something saying conservation/biodiversity/wildlife; d) shovel and shears; e) individual creatures; and f) something reproducible.

They produced several drafts using PowerPoint and circulated their preferred option at the beginning of November - it is a Bourne-like image with hill, trees, water giving a sense of place and the idea of conserving a unique and specific area, rather than a particular insect, animal or plant. Karen wrote, *'We don't have a specific creature in the Bourne that we are conserving - as a group we are more general. We have used green and neutral colours to reflect the area, and these work well as contrasts in the black and white version. We feel it works well in different sizes, so can be used as letter heads or enlarged on posters etc. We decided not to go for the initials 'BCG' or 'TBCG' because, firstly we didn't want to be thought of as interested in the TB jab, and, despite our efforts, our local community still does not know who we are or what we do! So we felt we needed to spell it out to them! We are not yet a household name that can live on an abbreviation.'*

The resulting logo was immediately greeted with acclaim – without even a hint of dissention! It has immediately been added to the web-site and to our Facebook site – to which hopefully most of you have become followers, and so have already seen it. Personally, I feel it captures what we are about - the spirit of The Bourne – so many, many thanks to Karen and Hilary.

### 5. The Draft National Planning Framework

The Bourne Conservation Group is an apolitical body. Its principle focus is to maintain and conserve the environment of The Bourne for all its inhabitants, both wild and human. 'Our patch' is a currently pleasant place to live and some of its essential attributes include its diversity and

greenness, and we are unapologetic about our role in the conservation of these attributes. We are convinced that if our patch stays a healthy place for wildlife, it will also remain a healthy place for us and our children. However, even though our focus is essentially local, we have to be aware of regional, national and international issues. For example, the Earth has finite resources, and with the global population now standing at 7 billion people, there is much less than 1 hectare of natural habitat left to provide each one of us with our essential 'ecological services'. There is need to balance desires for material wealth with altruism and common sense, as continuous economic growth can not be sustained for much longer. We need to become environmental 'Micawbers' and live within our resources or run the unpredictable dangers of hitting the environmental buffers.

Undoubtedly the present planning procedures are far from perfect and need simplifying. But this must be achieved in a manner that retains the good parts and does not arbitrarily open the floodgates to extensive developments that threaten irreversibly to erode our local environmental health. We are so concerned by the proposal to move 'economic gain' to become the prime reason for approving applications in the revision of the planning procedures, that we ask the question 'gain for whom?' In The Bourne we are already suffering from congested roads, over-subscribed schools, and mendacious developers



**Traffic congestion in School Lane at the end of the school day. Is it set to get worse?**

seeking to profit at the expense of OUR environment. Unusually, we have not only contributed to the national consultation, but also expressed our concerns to Jeremy Hunt, who has passed on our comments to Greg Clarke, the Minister responsible. Our views are very much in line with those of major institutions like the National Trust, The RSPB and the CPRE, whom to our surprise have been thoroughly slated by some Cabinet Ministers. The current position is



**The old garage site – a thorny planning problem. What would happen to it under the new guidelines?**

that Government is considering all the comments made during the consultation. There are hints that there will be changes made to the proposals. Even so we still have concerns. For example, although the policy is for Green Belt to remain protected, nothing has been said about stretches of land categorised as 'Countryside beyond the Green Belt', which include many significant conservation areas, including some in The Bourne.



**One of the most attractive and biodiverse places in The Bourne and one of our best kept secrets – the unimproved meadow at the end of the path between Redhill House and the B3001. It is categorised as 'Countryside beyond the green belt' and as such is vulnerable to being sacrificed to development.**

There are hopeful signs; even the current proposals introduce the novel concept of green infrastructure, whereby open spaces in and around The Bourne may be protected. To this end we have contributed to the new document being prepared by the Farnham Town Council. The draft framework also proposes there will be greater control of development by local communities through the development of local plans, but the draft framework is not very clear and we will have to make sure that our local plan is fair, balanced and reflects what we consider to be important. We can not be complacent and hope it will all turn out

right in the end. Already we have seen many large houses being replaced by blocks of multiple flats.

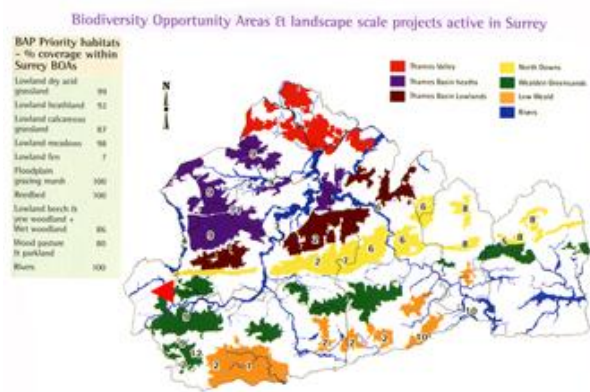
If this Framework comes into effect there has to be informed debate about how we, the community, in The Bourne, envisage our local plan should be structured. It is our intention to continue to discuss these issues with our local councillors and support them in what they are already doing along these lines. We would also like to collaborate more with The Bourne Residents Association in getting our message across. Our aim is to keep 'Our Patch' a green, pleasant and healthy place both for us and for our wild neighbours to live in. If you have views, please let us know.

## 6. Living Landscapes

This is a programme being developed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust. On 18<sup>th</sup> November, Noel, Martin, Geoff Hooker and Paul Wheeler attended a seminar about it arranged for representatives of local authorities. Noel and Martin gave a short presentation on the work of BCG. Generally conservation tends to be focused on quite small scale projects – as ours are. What is needed is a vision whereby all these small areas are linked up at the landscape scale, thereby providing stepping stones for species to move freely between sites. As we have seen locally, catastrophic events can conspire to exterminate species in the areas in which they are hanging on. The recent big fires on Thursley and Hankley Commons have reduced our precious local populations of sand lizards, smooth snakes and Dartford warblers. Furthermore the populations of Dartford warblers have been hit by the ravages of the last two cold winters. There is also evidence that some of our commoner species are in strong decline - often for reasons that are not fully understood (see the 'save our toad' article, and the rationale behind projects like the big Garden Bird Watch). Linking the present strongholds of species with green corridors along which they can move will help them not only to re-occupy their former habitats if disaster strikes, but also establish new populations. These are not entirely esoteric ambitions: there is more and more evidence that human health and well-being are also linked to the health of our environment. Hence, if you live in a 'nice' place, your quality of life is improved and you have a better chance of staying healthy. This is recognised in the draft planning policy framework with the introduction of the concept of green infrastructure – maybe there are some green shoots of joined up thinking!

At the seminar, SWT presented maps of Surrey identifying those areas, which are protected together with surrounding regions that have a high

biodiversity potential. However, The Bourne and the rest of Farnham and other towns are portrayed as 'grey' areas – urban areas of relatively low potential. However, Sarah Jane Chimbwandira the SWT Director of Biodiversity, Evidence and Policy gave a presentation in which she emphasised the



**SWT map showing the areas of biodiversity potential. The Bourne, indicated by the red arrow in the bottom left-hand corner, is shown as an 'urban' area of low biodiversity potential. However, our recording shows that it has high diverse and is a wildlife corridor linking areas of high diversity.**

importance of conservation at all scales ranging from back-gardens to large reserves. Inevitably, at the seminar the more spectacular large-scale projects were the main focus of the presentations, and our presentation was the only one that dealt with a 'grey' area. Nevertheless the audience, which was predominantly made up of representatives of local councils of other 'grey' areas were most receptive to our achievements. They were impressed to learn just how rich is our biodiversity, and with the importance of recognising and recording this richness. If you do not know what you have, then you will lose it. I am reminded of the rugby referee's call 'use it or lose it!'

The river Wey corridor is of immense value to wildlife and has rightly been identified as one of Surrey's areas of Biodiversity Opportunity. Identifying it is one thing, doing something about it another. For some time the Trust has made unsuccessful attempts to raise the funds to realise the opportunities in not just the Wey corridor, but the whole catchment, which would include The Bourne. We have signified our willingness to be partners in any scheme once the project takes off. Things are beginning to happen. A small sum of money has been obtained to start to tackle the Himalayan Balsam, which is now rife throughout the Wey valley, including through Central Farnham. The Wey is also to be the subject of an Environmental Agency project, which should help to get things moving. We will be attending a meeting on this shortly.

## 7. A villain in your honeysuckle?



**A twenty-plume moth *Alucita hexadactyla* taken at night in the Old Churchyard**

This tiny moth, which has a wing-span of just 13-17mm, is unmistakable because each of its wings is split into six fringed plumes. It is often found indoors during the winter, and it is the adults that successfully overwinter that lay their eggs in Spring on the developing buds of honeysuckle. The eggs are initially white, but turn yellow and finally orange making them relatively easy to spot amidst the buds. The newly hatched larva burrows into the bud just above the sepals and lives inside the bud eating the internal parts of the flower. Each larva will eat several buds in the month it takes to develop, leaving each one full of black frass. They pupate and the adults hatch in July and August and start to hibernate in October, but will break their hibernation and wander around during mid winter days. These little moths can be disturbed by day in amongst the brambles below the pond in the Old Churchyard where the hedge contains wild honeysuckle.

## 8. Save our Toads:

### Mr Toad and the car – not best of friends

In the 1987 adaptation of *Wind in the Willows* Mr Toad sang “*I’ll be happy - ho-ho! Messing around in cars!*” Sadly, the reality is that the toad and the car are not a happy combination.

Serious declines in “*many populations across large areas of South, East and Central England*” of the common toad (*Bufo bufo*) have resulted in its conservation being designated a priority for the UK

Biodiversity Action Plan priority species. Whilst the Action Plan states that further research is needed to identify specific conservation measures, it does note that “*there are several possible causal factors (changes in habitat management, mortalities on roads, climate change)*”.

Toads are largely nocturnal, spending most of the year out of water in rough grassland, woodland, gardens or hedgerows. They are very beneficial in the garden, because they eat many pest species. In summer you may find them sulking under stones or in log piles. During the winter, they hibernate in frost-free undergrowth or holes. In early spring (usually starting on a mild night after rain in late February/early March), they emerge and migrate from their hibernation sites to their breeding ponds, sometimes as far as 2 km. However, when migrating toads have to cross roads they are vulnerable to being run over by cars. Males are particularly prone to becoming road casualties, because they wait around on the roads to jump passing females.



**A female toad was photographed at night near Great Frensham Pond. Toads occur in the Old Churchyard, where they were amongst the first animals to breed in the new pond in 2011.**

### So how can you help?

There are three breeding ponds off Boundary Road to the south of Rowledge. One is in Reeds Hatch Farm, and the other are near to Alice Holt. Lisa (in conjunction with SARG – see below) is looking for volunteers to rescue the toads (together with other passing amphibians such as newts and frogs) and carry them across the road where they can continue their journey in safety. As well as moving the toads, we will also be recording their numbers and sexes. This will help with the research of the Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) who are leading on this scheme. Whilst it is not a busy road, we obviously will be

considering our own health and safety. Large torches, warm clothing and waterproofs will be needed. We also recommend a hot flask of tea. Buckets and high-visibility jackets will be provided. If you are interesting in helping conserve the toad, and provide useful survey data for SARG, please contact Lisa Malcolm from the Bourne Conservation Group at:-

[lisa@strongnet.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:lisa@strongnet.freeserve.co.uk)

For more details about the toad crossing scheme – see the Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group's website:

[www.surrey-arg.org.uk/SARG/02000-Activities/ToadCrossings/SARG2toadCrossings.shtml](http://www.surrey-arg.org.uk/SARG/02000-Activities/ToadCrossings/SARG2toadCrossings.shtml)

## 9. Renovation of Taylor's Steps

Taylor's Path is a little known right-of-way that runs from Gravel Hill across to the bottom of Old Church Lane. Access from the A287 is difficult, even hazardous, which means it is not well used



**At the start**

**Job well done**

but, nevertheless, it is an attractive path. We have diligently maintained it over the years and have been frustrated by the flight of steps at the west end forever being hidden by earth and debris. Therefore, in August 2011 we resolved to make a big effort to prevent this happening in future. In two hard, mid-week sessions we dug out the steps and, with the help of Nicky Scott of Surrey County Council, removed the equivalent of two skip loads of earth.



**Paul Wheeler and Brian Snashall fixing the retaining woodwork**

We then began the tricky task of erecting a wooden retaining wall down one side to keep the soil from spilling back on to the path. Drawing heavily on the expertise and guidance of Bryan Snashall, the main work was completed on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November while a second team under Lisa Malcolm tackled pruning work on paths in the Greenhill Road area. The woodwork on the steps was completed a few days later and Taylor's steps are at last in good shape again. Job well done! But why are they called Taylor's Steps? They commemorate a former resident with the wonderful name of Montague Brook Wilbraham Taylor (1844 – 1897). After retiring from the Army in India he lived in Aveley House the rather grand house, which is near the Old Churchyard and has recently been converted into flats, and whose land extends down to the path. He became concerned about the time the youth of the village was spending drinking in the pubs, notably the Fox and the Happy Home just across the road. He, therefore, commissioned the building of a 'mission hall' to provide more wholesome fare including evening classes, coffee and, for the girls, sewing classes.



**Postcard picture of the bottom of Gravel Hill circa 1900.**

The building (shown in the postcard photographed in about 1900) opposite the Fox is Taylor's Hall, which is now used by the Scouts. It is eminently appropriate that this local benefactor is commemorated by both the names of the hall and the footpath.

## 10. Moth records in 2011

When preparing my annual return of the results of my year's moth trapping for the Surrey Recorder, I thought a summary would be of interest to the readers of the newsletter. I have run the trap on 59 nights, mostly in my garden on Vicarage Hill, but on 9 nights in the Old Churchyard (much to the initial consternation of some of the newly arrived residents in Aveley House), on 4 nights at Frensham Great Pond (with thanks to the warden), on two nights in the Bourne Valley (with thanks to Greg Sadler) and one in the West Street cemetery (with thanks to Shirley Constable).



**A common quaker moth (*Orthosia cerasi*)**

The total catch amounted to 4357 specimens belonging to 347 species – four of which could not

be identified accurately to species. Numerically the three top species were the common quaker (699), the small quaker (463) and the heart and dart (210).

The first two species are very abundant in early spring when they dominated the catches; the third is the commonest moth during the summer months. 108 of the species were caught only once. Only three species were caught at all five sites (one of the yellow underwings, a dun-bar and a garden grass veneer). 207 species were caught only at one site - mostly in my garden - which is not surprising since that is where I did most of the trapping. However, several of the heathland species were only caught at Frensham Pond and the West Street Cemetery yielded several grassland species. This year there seemed to have been fewer hawkmoths about; numbers for this year with last year's in parentheses were lime hawkmoths 1 (3), poplar hawkmoths 0 (4), elephant hawks 4 (22) and pine hawks 8 (4). Much to my disappointment, I saw none of the big immigrations of moths that occurred along the south coast in early October when many death'shead hawk-moths were reported. This is a moth I have only ever seen once; one landed on the *Discovery* off Spain as we were returning from a research cruise. It is a remarkable moth in that it squeaks like mouse when handled. May be the lack of hawkmoths was something to do with the large number of queen hornets that came to my trap this year. The highest number 13 was on 9<sup>th</sup> September – the following night I trapped in the Old Churchyard and only got one. This suggests



**A toadflax brocade moth (*Calophasia lunula*) – the catch of the year.**

that the hornets were not flying the hundred yards between my garden and the Old Churchyard - something I find hard to believe. In previous years the hornets have come to feed on the inedible

pears that fall from our tree, but this year they turned up a couple of weeks before the pear fall. Other unwelcome visitors in the trap included 18 maybugs on 23rd April along with 23 hawthorn shieldbugs. Otherwise there were remarkably few shieldbugs compared with previous years. Perhaps THE catch of the year was also the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April when a toadflax brocade turned up in the trap. According to the books this species is restricted to the South Coast, but last year some turned up in London; this was the first record in the Surrey countryside; another example of our changing environment.

I have done a compilation of all the moths I have recorded over the last three years – the total now stands at 432 species – not bad for an area that lies outside the 'Biodiversity Opportunity Areas' identified by the Surrey Wildlife Trust – possibly this demonstrates how effective 'Our Patch' is as a wildlife corridor – long may it remain so!

## 12. RSPB Big Garden Watch

Why not participate in this national event, which is to be held on 28-29<sup>th</sup> January. It will only take an hour of your time doing a garden watch. If you have missed the TV ads you will find details of how to participate are to be found at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/takepart.aspx>

## 13. Innovations in OCY

For those of you who are not regular visitors to the Old Churchyard, the group has introduced a couple of innovations. Firstly, by kind permission of David Burkin, a 750 litre water butt has been placed along side 1 Old Church Lane to collect rain water from the roof. Successful planting in the Old Churchyard during the last two dry years has been a problem because of the lack of water. We have had to rely on mains water that Mary and John Egan of Acorn Cottage have generously allowed us to use. The new butt makes us less dependent on their supply, and will give us 'brownie' points from the judges of future 'Farnham in Bloom' events. It will be recalled that Mary and John already provide us with rain water from their roof to help keep the pond topped up. We are so lucky with our OCY neighbours! The second innovation is the transformation of the dilapidated Sexton's hut into a bug wall mainly using recycled timber. Thanks to Noel's creativity combined with Bryan Snashall's technical know-how it now offers 'affordable homes' for a diversity of bugs. We will await with keen anticipation to see who moves in.



The new rain water butt – already part full.



The great bug wall of OCY



Crocuses photographed in OCY on 2<sup>nd</sup> January

If Winter is here can Spring be far behind? – well this year a couple of crocuses have jumped the gun even on the snowdrops.

### 13. Membership Update

A big welcome to our 3 new volunteers – they are Hilary Dickson, Julia Aliseyko and Charles Fearnley. Also, thank you to Barbera Couvela for becoming a new Friend of the BCG.

If you are not already a member and would like to become one as an active volunteer or a Friend of the Bourne Conservation Group, or if you can inveigle your neighbour into joining, then please contact Karen Redman on 01252 723408 or email [info@bourneconservation.org.uk](mailto:info@bourneconservation.org.uk).

### 14. Communication & Publicity

Our objective has been to achieve coverage of our activities in the local press frequently enough to keep us in the public eye, in a period in which we have not started any major new initiatives. In this we have been reasonably successful, particularly in the monthly Farnham Diary, which carried a long piece based on our Annual Report and an item on our new logo. The Farnham Herald had an article we submitted in the summer headed 'Pterodactyls over The Bourne' about a species of moth of that name. Coverage of 'Farnham in Bloom' gained us several favourable mentions. The Parish magazine had an article about progress in the Old Churchyard and we are now planning wider coverage of this project as it reaches the end of its funding and we look to the next stage, for which some continued funding will be necessary.

BCG now has its own Facebook page, which we encourage our members and others to use to record your wildlife observations. It already carries some wonderful pictures and we hope that over time it will be a useful record. It is intended to complement our website that is regularly updated with information about our activities.

Another item to look out for is an article we have been to prepare by the Surrey Wildlife Trust for their magazine *Surrey Nature* about the Middle Bourne Lane Community Garden.

### 15. Our Programme for 2012 – final thoughts

On the front page of this Newsletter we outline the programme for the coming year. We need to plan ahead for several reasons. For example, we need to coordinate our activities with those of the rangers with whom we work on council tasks. We also want to give you, our members, an early warning of all our events so that whenever

possible you can keep these dates free from other commitments.

The programme is flexible and we are always prepared to make changes in the dates or tasks in response to prevailing weather or unforeseen events and crises. In parallel with our main Sunday dates, there is a programme of mid-week sessions which enables us to keep abreast of our extensive range of tasks.

Details of all work sessions will be circulated as usual in the Calling Notices issued by e-mail about a week ahead. Each session will normally be from 1000 to 1300h. Please try to keep to these hours – it helps us compile a full record of the hours we work, which are a strong bargaining tool when comes to raising funds.

This provisional programme follows our well established pattern of work. But we will need to be mindful of getting our sites in good order for Farnham-in-Bloom judging in July. A new item added this year is the clearance of The Bourne Stream of litter and other debris dumped there, which are probably contributing to environmental problems downstream. In the mid-week sessions we are returning to the Underdown Nature Reserve where we did good work with the Surrey Wildlife Trust last autumn. We are also planning to undertake further Himalayan balsam clearance and bulb planting later in the year. We may also help out with the renovation of Battings Garden on the Ridgeway.

**This is an extremely demanding programme. If we are to complete it, we are going to need lots of help from everyone!**

### BCG Committee

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Noel Moss</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Richard Sandars</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Fiona Walburton</b>
<b>Footpath co-ord</b>	<b>Lisa Malcolm</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Karen Redman</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>David Todd</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Martin Angel</b> <a href="mailto:mvangel37@googlemail.com">mvangel37@googlemail.com</a>
<b>Contact us at</b>	<b><a href="mailto:info@bourneconservation.org.uk">info@bourneconservation.org.uk</a></b>