

Main Work Party Reports

Sept 02 – Jary's Meadow – East meadow - Grassy Hollow from main gate to West fire site raked and cleared to fire sites also area around the apple trees. 5 members

Sept 16 – Buckenham Woods – Cut raked and cleared to fire site/spoil heaps, the following areas: main access gate; around bike racks; a 2metre strip both sides of track to main open area; around seats in main open area; both sides of new path down and up the dip to the seat. Some tree care was carried out around trees planted on East side of main open area. 8 members.

Sept 30 – Walsham Fen – Areas D/E and boardwalks raked and cleared to spoil heaps. 6 members + 3.

Oct 14 – Howes Meadow – Area B and path network both sides of stream raked and cleared to fire sites/spoil heaps. 100+ alder saplings pulled up, whilst other thicker ones cut and treated. 8 members.

Additional Work

Aug 04 – Howes Meadow – Cleared some of path network raked up at Work Party Jul 15th.

Aug 06 – Howes Meadow – Start trim of fallen Aspen, cleared cuttings to fire site.

Aug 07 – Jary's Meadow – West meadow – Scythed bracken.

Aug 09 – Howes Meadow – Cut up remainder of Aspen using chainsaw. Cut pieces cleared to wood pile and fire site.

Aug 18 – Howes Meadow – Tended both fire sites where burning was carried out on Aug 16 and continued further burning of a good quantity of the remaining vegetation.

Aug 18 – Dyes Road- Blofield Heath – Oak trees planted by BADCOG, cleared vegetation around trees using scythe.

Aug 19 – Jary's Meadow – West meadow – Bracken area – started clearance of cut vegetation.

Aug 24 – Howes Meadow – Area A East end fire site. Attended to fire heap and re stacked.

Aug 31 – Jary's Meadow – West meadow - completed clearance of bracken area.

Aug 28/Sep 03 – Lingwood Pond - Areas around pond mown raked and cleared. 1metre wildflower strip East & South side of pond and roadside verge along Vicarage Rd. Cut vegetation raked and cleared, some into piles around pond and some removed to the PC recycling centre.

Sept 04 – Lingwood Church – Conservation area mown.

Sept 07 – Lingwood Church – Conservation area raked into rows for later removal.

Sept 09 – Howes Meadow – Area A, East end fire site burn carried out.

Sept 10 to Sept 21 – Howes Meadow – Attend to fire site twice a day. Shake out heap stoke up fire remove old and new ash to hole left when oak blew down.

Sept 12 – Jary's Meadow – Burn at the 3 fire sites.

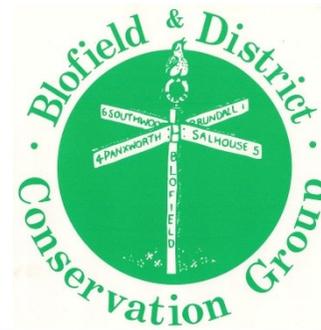
Sept 13 – Lingwood Church – Conservation area raked and cleared to pile ready for burning.

Sept 20 – Walsham Fen – Areas D/E mown. Boardwalk and a mower width on both sides mown.

Sept 28 – Howes Meadow – The removal of fire ash completed.

Oct 03 – Blofield Church – NE NW SE SW conservation areas mown. Preparation for GYGG clearance on 10th Oct.

Oct 10 – Blofield Church – NE NW SE SW conservation areas raked and cleared to spoil heaps by GYGG



BADCOG NEWS.

No 228: November 2023

President: Richard Hobbs

Chair: Tony McKie, Teal Barn,

Vicarage Road, Lingwood,

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Former chairman's final annual round up.

2023 has been another successful year. We've kept all our work parties going and membership numbers up. This is despite problems that Covid has presented to so many voluntary groups.

Looking back to our 2022 AGM in November some of the highlights since then have included Dr Mark Collins' talk on Norfolk's Northern rivers.

On November 19th I visited Jary's Meadow to check it for our next work party when a barn owl flew out of John's box and circled the fen.

Friday January 13th was our ever-popular Members' Evening, as always Hans produced amazing photos of a trip he and Sue had made to Madagascar. 40 different species of lemurs alone made it unforgettable.

On 14th January I was at the new Wyngates development in Blofield with David and members of the PC and BDC marking out with canes for the proposed planting of 100 trees and shrubs that had been heeled in in my garden.

The following Saturday we had a successful work party and planted them all, plus some additions, each site properly screeded, with guards fitted and with a good mulch of wood chips.

In February Hemblington Church had a planting session of 3 to 4m limes along the east boundary and an equally big cherry just inside the entrance gate.

The topping of leylandii along our shrub boundary at the Red House in Shack Lane, allowed by the new owner, was an important achievement in March.

In June we hosted NWT starting at Hemblington Church then walking the bridle track north to Jary's Meadow and Walsham Fen, two delightful sites at this time of year.

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A few weeks later, in July, John saw a family of barn owls in and around the box he had erected back in 2017, this showing what an ideal habitat the area is for them, undisturbed and apparently with a good supply of voles and shrews.

Finally, in August, Coral and I were happy to invite BADCOG members to our garden at Sunny Cottage to mark the 40th anniversary of the group with tea and cakes on the lawn. What a memorable event that was after so many years. Let's hope BADCOG continues to go from strength to strength.
Ernest

An introduction from the new BADCOG Chair Tony McKie

At the BADCOG AGM held on the 8th September, I was delighted to be nominated and voted in as the Chair, replacing Ernest who has stepped aside after successfully leading the group for the past 35 years.

My connection with BADCOG can be traced back as far as 1993, when I learnt about the group on a local walk around Lingwood with Tony Bowyer who was already a member. It was very soon after this that I became a member, but as I was still in the Air Force at the time and not stationed locally, my involvement was at first very limited. Circumstances changed in 1999 when I was posted back to Norfolk and I was now able to dedicate much more of my time to BADCOG. This included being able to attend the regular Saturday morning work parties and taking on other roles, such as becoming a committee member.

It was around this time that I tried to publicise the good work carried out by BADCOG by putting together a stand/display. This stand/display was to have a number of outings and was a regular at the 'Wild About Norwich' and the Fairhaven Water Garden Environmental & Wildlife Fairs. Sadly, both of these events have run their course and no longer take place.

In my time as a BADCOG member, volunteer numbers have always fluctuated, but at the moment numbers are very healthy with a core of keen, hard working volunteers, all dedicated in the conservation of the local environment. I'm sure with the on-going support BADCOG gets from its volunteers, the group will continue to thrive and as the new Chair I'm looking forward to celebrating the next major milestone.

BADCOG Main Committee members

as of 8th September 2023

Chair—Tony McKie

Vice-Chair & Sub editor of Newsletter—David Pilch

Secretary—Beryl Ogden

Treasury & Talks co-ordinator—John Laycock

Record keeper —Tony Bowyer

Newsletter distributor and Membership Secretary —Frances Milliken

Sub editor of Newsletter—Barbara Pilch

Ernest Hoyos

Hans Watson

David Newton

BADCOG Sub Committee members

As of 8th September 2023

Tony McKie, Ernest Hoyos, Tony Bowyer & Hans Watson.

BADCOG Talks

10th November –North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust

12th January—Members evening.

9th February—Garth Copeland—Slugs & Snails.

**All BADCOG Talks take place in the
Strumpshaw Community Hall starting at 7.30pm**

BADCOG WORK PARTY DATES

Work parties start at 10.30am and finish at about 1pm.

All welcome!

4th November—Limpenhoe Church (additional work party)

11th November—Snowdrop acre

25th November—Howe's Meadow

9th December—Jary's Meadow

23rd December—Railway Wood (Followed by a warming drink in the Shoulder after the work party if interested).

6th January 2024—Lingwood Village Pond



BADCOG at the Broadland 'Community at heart' Awards—2023

On Friday the 20th October, myself as the newly elected Chair, Ernest, the previous Chair for 35 years and David Pilch, a founding member of BADCOG, attended the '*Community at heart*' awards ceremony on behalf of the whole Group.

BADCOG had been invited to this event as we had been shortlisted in the '*Green at Heart Award*' category. This category, just one of 10 categories, is awarded to an individual, school, business or community group (which we fall into) who made an extra effort to make a positive impact on the environment.

Unfortunately we didn't win the category which went to Sprowston Community Garden and well done to them. The other shortlisted group in our category was the Broadland Country Park Volunteers, who are also doing a great job and a BADCOG member is heavily involved with this project.

Despite the fact we didn't win, many within the auditorium will now know about the work we do to enhance our local community which can only be a good and positive outcome of this event. TM

Membership renewal!

BADCOG Membership subscriptions are now due.

The cost for a annual membership remains the same as last year:

£5 per single membership or £10 per family membership

You can pay by Bank transfer to:

Lloyds Bank. Sort Code: 30 99 97. Account No: 00642538.

Name: Blofield and District Conservation Group.

Or forward any cheques made payable to BADCOG to:

**Frances Milliken, 45 Heathway, Blofield Corner Road,
Norwich NR13 4RS**

Looking back 40 years BADCOG President Richard Hobbs

Richard started his talk by reminding us that when BADCOG was formed in 1983 seatbelts became legal, the pound coin was introduced, Mrs Thatcher was re-elected, and AI stood for Artificial Insemination. Since then, there have many changes and Richard mentioned a few of these to do with conservation issues in Norfolk.

In 1983 NWT conducted a survey which led to the establishment of County Wildlife Sites. BADCOG manages two of these – Walsham Fen and Howes Meadow. Also, in 1983 a conference of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature split the development plan for the UK into smaller units of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland thus diluting government funding.

Interest in ecology was not so widespread as it is now. Climate change was only just being talked about, but acid rain was. Many tree planting schemes were initiated but not always in the right places, such the vast conifer planting in the Flow Country. Marsh harriers, buzzards and kites were just not seen, but have now made a recovery. The purple emperor butterfly is also making a comeback. The rare Hoary Mullein is spreading, as is Marsh Sowthistle. Otter hounds still existed but only for the hunting of coypu. But, on the whole, the bulk of our wildlife isn't there anymore.

Richard mentioned three people who have all made a huge impact on conservation in Norfolk: Ted Ellis who advised of the importance of monitoring and letting nature take its course, Philip Ware for his work on the re-introduction of otters and Lord Melchett who helped move the NWT into the 20th century.

However, some Norfolk reserves have got bigger and better such as Hickling, Upton and Royden and the Broads Authority has done good work. Recycling has improved, we now have 4 local Green Parish councils and 40% of our electricity comes from renewable sources. So, over 40 years, some good things, some, alas, bad. Richard reminded us of the adage 'Think globally, act locally' and thanked BADCOG and in particular, Ernest, for acting locally during all these years.

Extracts from a 1984 Diary
Ernest Hoyos

6th Jan '84 – Dr David Pilch appeared in a Range Rover at 1pm with a printed note inviting me to a coffee morning at his house next Thurs to launch the Blofield and District Conservation Group. I showed him my tree nursery and also the pond in the field and discussed the woods.

12th Jan – Just before 10am I went off to the White House, North Str, Blofield to the Blofield and District Conservation Groups coffee morning. I took the before and after pictures of our pond in the field. About 30 people were there, the majority women. There were photos of a pond clearing effort the group were doing. Dr Pilch came at 10.30am he introduced me to Peter Heward who'd been involved in many reclamation schemes of waterways etc in the country. He also showed me around the garden.

11th Feb – Drove to Burlingham House where BADCOG were inspecting Mike Filgate's pond. There's plan to do some clearing to let more light in. Later we drove to the 'Goat' and cleared the public FP leading to Pack Lane.

During this time I was replanting the little wood behind Hassingham Church. The first wood I'd been asked to plant.

25th Feb – I went to Burlingham House to help clear the pond there with BADCOG. More hard, cold work but fun.

3rd March – I went to help clear brambles at Strumpshaw poor lands. Peter Heward and his son and Richard Rose were there. The Children explored. Other expected volunteers put off by the weather but we made a good clearance to what could and should be a lovely amenity. Peter thanked all for helping to acquire the entire tip as a public open space when it closes. David Fagg also came to help and we discussed aspects of the tip.

17th March – David Fagg rang me, Strumpshaw have a Parish Council meeting next Tues and he's going to bring up the future of the Rubbish tip again.

7th April – Burlingham House again to have another go at the pond. We spent 2 ½ hrs chroming and I planted shrubs, guelder rose, hazel and dog wood. Careful felling has been done to let more light in.

5th May – 2pm drove down to Buckenham marsh with my trailer where Richard Rose and his boy and Bob Lerner and Angie, all of BADCOG were collecting weed from a dyke for the N Burlingham pond. Lovely despite the cold grey weather. Swans, curlews, swifts. Ewes and lambs. I put some of the water plants in our pond in the evening. Bob was in Nick's class at Grammar school in 'Lynn in 1950s.

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27th May – Richard Rose rang to say BADCOG would be down at a little two acre water meadow in Shack Lane, Blofield in the evening. Mike Blackburn was to mow some areas of reed and wanted volunteer rakers and forkers. Rob and I drove down there and did our bit. Lovely spot just North of the new bypass.

9th June – I was hoping for a BADCOG work party at the Hassingham wood to help me clear the nettles etc from around the new trees I'd planted. No one came to start with but David Fagg appeared followed by the Larners and David Pilch. We all worked hard hooking and hoeing and pretty well did the whole wood by lunch time.

November 17th 1984 – Planting of Moulton Pit Wood. (called Beighton Pit we got the wrong Parish). A dull damp morning. I hooked the caravan up, took my spade and fork and drove to Beighton by 9.40am. Anne Cryer already there with half a dozen helpers. Dr Martin George had delivered the trees and it was all systems go. Soon more people arrived, BADCOG and Friends of the earth. Anne gave me a bevvvy of females, and we got straight on planting the outside double row of shrubs right around the plot. I didn't count but think there were 30 or 40 people there. The rain held off and all went well with pretty well the entire plot planted by lunch time 1pm. Beccy ran her 3miles to the caravan. Coral accompanied her by car and made everyone who wanted it tea and coffee. McLoed, BDC Forestry officer came and was very pleased with our efforts.

Sat 1st Dec and Sun 2nd – we built the dam in Howes Meadow. Job overseen by Mike Blackburn.

BADCOG Website.

Sadly, Tony Grosvenor, who maintained and updated the BADCOG website for a number of years has died. Tony was a great friend of the group and took a keen interest in all of our activities. For a short period after Tonys' passing the website was down, but as a result of the excellent work carried out by Andrew Pinder, it's back and looking better than ever. Thank you Andrew for the outstanding work on the website, it's greatly appreciated.