

Autumn 2025

When	Where	Event	Meeting Point	Time
August				
Sat 16 th	Thornton Common	Scything the woodland ride and glade unveiling the new lectern display made possible by the late Eric Jackson	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park	9:30am 3.00pm
September				
Sat 13 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything course Members, £11 Non-members £21 Booking Essential	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am for 10am start
Sun 14 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything by BBQ stand Start of the winter season management BBQ 4pm	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9.30am
Sat 27 th	Chorlton, Malpas	Hedge laying competition followed by hogget stew 4pm	Chorlton Lane Farm	9.30am
October				
Sat 12 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything, coppicing hedge laying and preparations for the apple day in the afternoon.	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9.30am
Mon 20 th	New Ferry	Group meeting	New Ferry Village Hall	7.30pm
Sat 25 th Sun 26 th	Thornton Wood	Woodland management weekend	Thornton Common Road bridge crossing over the M53	9.30am
November				
Sat 1 st	Landican Lane	21 st hedge laying training day Booking Essential	Landican Lane , Woodchurch Lane end.	9.30am
Sunday 9 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything, hedge laying and turf removal	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9.30am
Friday 14 th	Thornton Hough Women Institute	Wirral Countryside Volunteers 40 years of achievement	Thornton Hough WI £5 entrance	7.30pm
December				
Sat 13 th	Bebington	Christmas party	Paul and Philippa's	7.30pm
Sun 14 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Hedge laying and coppicing	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9.30am

Please bring enthusiasm, friends, stout footwear, work gloves, waterproofs & lunch.

Want to know more...? Visit Wirral Countryside Volunteers' website.

(www.wcv.today) or the Wirral Countryside Volunteer's Facebook page

e: admin@wcv.today

or . Phone: Philippa 01516458937 or email lindseyemail@yahoo.com.

All Welcome

(newsletter overleaf)

No experience necessary



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers

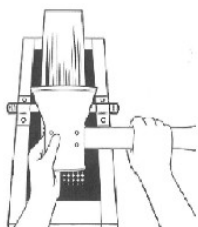


Forthcoming Events Autumn 2025

In August at Thornton Common volunteers will cut the woodland ride and glade to benefit wildflowers, especially the marsh orchids which are in bloom in June. The enclosure hedges can be weeded too. A wooden sign will be fixed to the Thornton Common gate, at 3pm there will be the unveiling of a new display about Thornton Common enabled by a legacy from the late Eric Jackson, a WCV of 30 years standing. Eric's family will unveil the new display. This will be followed by tea and cake at the common. Do come along at 3pm, if not for the task.

Steve Tomlison, a leading light of scything will run a scything course at New Ferry Butterfly Park (NFBP) to improve the volunteers scything skills and to make scything more effective and enjoyable. Note: course strictly limited to 6-8 volunteers, and this course cost is heavily subsidised by the group. You will leave the course enthused and confident to scythe efficiently and safely. Book and pay for your place using the link on the WCV Events page.

The next day put these new skills into practice at the park. Access to the calcareous hedge will be created in preparation for hedge laying the following month. These projects will be followed by a BBQ at 4pm to mark the end of the open season and start of the practical management season. Only blue badge parking that day as the park is open to the public and heritage tours. The Sandstone wheel, generously gifted by Peter and Hazyl Martin, and beautifully restored by Peter Martin can be used to sharpen hedge laying tools for the forthcoming hedge laying season. The wheel really is treat to use.



At Helen Arthen's (Malpas) the volunteers will have a WCV hedgelaying competition to help raise hedge laying standards and give some judging experience to Peter Martin and Ann Shaw who are becoming hedgelaying judges.

Following the hedge laying and prize giving volunteers will return to Helen's farmhouse for

delicious hogget stew. Please book on for catering purposes, and so there are sufficient hedging stakes provided.

In October at NFBP, enthused by the scythe course scything will continue unabated. The coppice will be cut, and hedge laying will start on the last of the hedge on the upper level and then start on the multi species calcareous meadow hedge. Preparation will also be made for the apple afternoon, with the gathering of apples and setting up the apple press.

There will be a group meeting in the upstairs room of New Ferry Village Hall when plans for the winter 2025 events programme and other group activities can be developed. All welcome.

There will be a woodland management weekend in Thornton Wood coppicing hazel stools between Lamperloons and Quarter Bank Coppices and hedge planting at the back of Lamperloons Coppice. There will be a general lifting of shade from coppice areas to aid the regrowth. Access between these two coppices will be improved. It is a great chance to make progress in the coppice areas in Thornton Wood.

Coming of age with our 21st hedge laying training event, this will be at Home Farm, Landican. Please book on as it is the most popular event of the year.

November at NFBP sees the completion of the scything regime, continued hedge laying and turf removal. Areas where turf removal was carried out last year the local biodiversity action plan species the Dingy skipper butterfly was recorded.

On Friday 14th November at the Wirral Wildlife monthly meeting there will be a talk "Wirral Countryside Volunteers 40 years of achievement" A £5 entrance fee (including tea and homemade cake.)

The Volunteers' Christmas party is in Bebington. Let Paul know if you want to come along. Bring a contribution to share.

The following day at NFBP there will be hedgelaying, bramble removal and eating party leftovers!

Paul Loughnane BEM
Hon. Secretary,
Wirral Countryside Volunteers
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