



Spring 2025

When	Where	Event	Meeting Point	Time
May				
Sun 4 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	NFBP Opening Day, BBQ & stalls	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am
Thur 8 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tool maintenance	Tool store at New Ferry Butterfly Park	7:30pm
Thur 15 th	Thornton Common	Cutting the centre of the ride & hedge weeding, group social at the Seven Stars, Thornton Hough	Thornton Common	7:30pm
Sat 17 th	Cool Heswall Fair, Behind Heswall Hall & Library	WCV stall at Cool Heswall (a fair raising environmental awareness)	Contact Steve for details On Email steve@wcv.today	9pm 9:30am
Mon 19 th	The Three Stags Spital Crossroads	Group meal Group meeting	The Three Stags	6.30pm 7.30pm
June				
Thur 5 th Thur 12 th Thur 19 th Thur 26 th	Thornton Wood	Balsam removal & removal of bramble from Entrance Coppice	Thornton Common Rd bridge over the M53	7:30pm
July				
Sat 5 th	Poulton Hall, Poulton cum spital	Garden Party and hedge laying & tool sharpening demo & plant propagation	Poulton Hall, wildflower grassland	12 noon
Sat 12 th	All day Cycle trip Taking it easy	Heading down to Cheshire at a leisurely pace taking in interesting sites and tea shops	Hooton Railway station	9.30am
Thurs 17 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scythe maintenance	New Ferry Butterfly Park	7.30pm
Sun 20 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Am Scything and pm 40 th WCV Birthday Party, bring along a contribution BBQ, open to public, WCV stall/display	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9.30am 2pm-5pm
August				
Sat 2 nd	Windsor Close Community Centre, New Ferry	30 th NFBP Birthday Party Bring along a contribution to share.	Windsor Close Community Centre	2pm-5pm

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 0151 645 8937 or email lindseyemail@yahoo.com.

All Welcome - No experience necessary
(newsletter overleaf)



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



Forthcoming Events Summer 2025

On the Opening Day of the New Ferry Butterfly Park season Justin Madders MP will come and celebrate 30 years of the park being open to the public. There will be a broad range of roles to get involved in e.g. sowing seeds, BBQ, tea making, tombola, cake sales, etc. Contact Paul for details. It is a great chance to highlight this reserve and the work of the volunteers.

The next event is the first of the summer's evening events. Tool maintenance at the butterfly park, honing scythe blades and sharpening billhooks. The herb garden and tree nursery will also receive attention. Thoughts can be given to installing the treadle operated sandstone wheel the volunteers acquired last year.

There will be an evening trip to Thornton Common to cut the centre of the woodland ride to benefit marsh orchids later in the season. Volunteers will remove competing vegetation from the recently laid hedgerows allowing the regrowth to come through. A social will be held at the Seven Stars, Thornton Hough, following this event.

The Cool Heswall Fair is to increase community understanding of climate change. Here the volunteers will have a WCV stall and display and will be sowing seeds in newspaper pots.

There will be a group meal and meeting in the Three Stags, Spital when plans for the autumn events programme and other improvements to the group's activities can be developed.

June is balsam pulling season! Cover up well and bring some insect repellent. We will also remove the flowering heads of the pendulous sedge which is becoming invasive in Thornton Wood. At Entrance Coppice the bramble can be removed to enhance the hazel regrowth from the coppice stools. Thornton Wood is classed as being in an unfavourable condition and declining as defined by Natural England. The extensive presence of the balsam and other invasive non-native species contribute to this disappointing assessment, though the coppicing was mentioned in a favourable light.

At Poulton Hall there is a charity event. The quirky gardens will be open for viewing and cream teas served. The Volunteers will carry out a hedge laying demonstration with a mocked-up willow hedge. Plenty of other roles are required to make the event happen, contact Paul for details.

The next event is the annual circular cycle ride. This event is a 35 miles cycle trip starting at Hooton Station going further into Cheshire. There will be plenty of stops along the way at various points of interest. Bring some refreshments along. We are taking in a tea shop too!

In preparation for the forthcoming scything season there will be an evening sharpening scythes to get the season off to a good start. Path edges around the park can be cut back too.

The scything regime starts at New Ferry Butterfly Park mowing pondside and half the BBQ grassland. This will be followed at 2pm by Wirral Countryside Volunteers 40th Birthday Party. a great chance to celebrate the success of the volunteers and how they have grown over the years. It would be great to see new, current and former volunteers. There will be a bring along a contribution BBQ and a rolling PowerPoint presentation of the WCV over the years. Please send any photographs you want included to Paul. The Mayor of Wirral has been invited to slice a ceremonial cake, in WCV style, with a billhook. Remember there is only disabled parking at the park that day.



It is a year of parties, NFBP celebrates 30 years of being open to the public with a party at Windsor Close Community Centre, New Ferry starting at 2pm. There will be a rolling slide show of the park over the years bring along a contribution to share.

Paul Loughnane BEM
Hon. Secretary,
Wirral Countryside Volunteers
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