

## Late summer Events Programme 2021

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
<b>July</b>				
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tool maintenance & clearing back paths	Butterfly Park	7:30pm
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything pondside grassland (am) & Charlie's Field (pm)	Butterfly Park	9:30am
<b>August</b>				
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thornton Common	Cutting the woodland ride & glade.	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park	9:30am
<b>September</b>				
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bebington	Tool maintenance & group meeting	Paul's let him know you are coming on <a href="mailto:jpl@liv.ac.uk">jpl@liv.ac.uk</a>	7:30pm 8.30pm
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything BBQ grassland (am) &Charlie Field (pm) End of season party 4pm	Butterfly Park	9:30am

**Please bring: enthusiasm, friends, stout footwear, work gloves,  
waterproofs, hand santiser & lunch. *Want to know more...?*  
Visit Wirral Countryside Volunteers' website  
([www.wcv.today](http://www.wcv.today)) or Facebook page  
e: [Lindseys@gmx.co.uk](mailto:Lindseys@gmx.co.uk). Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 Steve 01928 725265**

**ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO COVID CANCELLATION**

**All Welcome**

*(newsletter overleaf)*

**No experience Necessary**



# Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



## Forthcoming Late Summer 2021

Welcome to late summer 2021 as the volunteers respond to the Covid pandemic and are looking at restarting our activities in line with covid restrictions. Please bring hand sanitiser with you to tasks and be aware of touching shared items and tools. Please use the disinfectant provided when you have finished with a tool. Try and keep the same tools throughout the event and stay socially distanced. It is quite natural with a scythe or billhook!

At our recent AGM held at New Ferry Butterfly Park the volunteers received a donation of tools from Reg Chapman a former head ranger of Wirral. He sent us a Cornelius Whitehouse billhook, an Austrian scythe, a straight edged spearwell slasher and a brushing hook. It was good of Reg to think of the volunteers. The volunteers will soon have them fit for use in the field.

The first event will be tool maintenance at the butterfly park honing scythes blades and sharpening billhooks, including some of the tools mentioned above. The herb garden and tree nursery can be attended to. Path edges will be cut back as the vegetation starts falling over as the season progresses. Following this there will be the first scything event of the season. In the morning we will be cut the pond side grassland to benefit the spring flowers next year such as cowslip and ladies smock. In the afternoon the volunteers will move to Charlie's Field again the cutting and raking this benefits spring flowers again such as cowslips. Please note park locally as there will be no car parking at the park when it is open to the public.

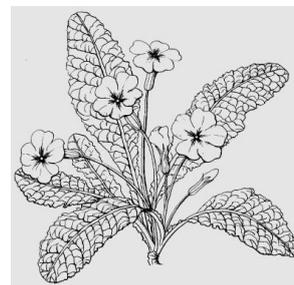


Cowslip

At Thornton Common the woodland ride and glade will be cut whilst leaving the marsh orchid flowering heads for the seeds to mature. The woodland ride is the most impressive aspect of the common with its cornucopia of wildflowers. An impressive 68 flowering spikes of march orchid were counted recently, the most to date and double the number recorded last year.

In September there will be a tool maintenance event followed by a group meeting at Philippa and Paul's. Here we hope to launch the volunteers' motorised sandstone wheel which has been out of action for two decades! Peter Martin has kindly restored this for the group. Many thanks Peter. This will speed up the volunteer ability to get tools into initial shape with the shoulders of new blades being taken back more rapidly.

The following Sunday scything continues apace at the butterfly park, scything by the BBQ stand in the morning, before the public arrive and Charlie's Field in the afternoon. Some further wildflower plugs can be added to the crescent shape pavement mound in Charlie's Field. These will include common sorrel, field scabious and marjoram. Sheep's sorrel plugs will be planted in coal scrapings in the acid grassland and primroses can be planted into the hedge bank at the upper levels. Primroses are a favourite flower with brimstone butterflies who have a long enough proboscis to reach down to the nectar in these spring flowers' with a deep corolla (flower tube).



Primrose

The event will be finished off by an end of season party at 4pm. Hopefully we will be joined by butterfly park wardens and others from Wirral Wildlife in celebrating the success of the park and the end of the opening season.

Paul Loughnane BEMHon. Secretary,  
Wirral Countryside Volunteers  
0151 645 8937 [jpl@liv.ac.uk](mailto:jpl@liv.ac.uk)