

## Spring 2023: Events Programme

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
<b>February</b>				
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Gas works opposite ADSA, Woodchurch Road,	Hedge laying on the west of the gas works	Gas works, off Landican Lane	9:30am
<b>March</b>				
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Final coppicing of the season, along with turf removal to create biodiverse grasslands	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington	9:30am
<b>April</b>				
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Site tidy up road and path clearance	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington	9:30am
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tom's Paddock, Foxes Wood and Thornton Wood	Morning spring walk around the woods enjoying the spring flowers.	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Rd (GR SJ 328813)	9:30am
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Opening Day, BBQ & stalls	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington	9:30am
<b>May</b>				
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tool maintenance & tree nursery nurturing	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington	7:30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Behind Heswall Hall & Library	WCV stall at Cool Heswall, a fair raising environmental awareness	Contact Steve for details	9:30am
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup>	Thornton Common	Cutting the centre of the ride & hedge weeding, group meeting at the Seven Stars, Thornton Hough	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park	7:30pm 9.00pm
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup>	Rough Shoots Wood	Tree weeding & assisting developing hedgerow standards	Landican Road Thingwall Corner	7.30pm
<b>June</b>				
Thur 1 <sup>st</sup>	Thornton Wood	Balsam and pendulous sedge	Bridge over M53 on	7:30pm
Thur 8 <sup>th</sup>	" "	flowers removal to prevent further	Thornton Common Rd	
Thur 15 <sup>th</sup>	" "	spread. Tackling bramble at	(GR SJ 328813)	
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup>	" "	Entrance Coppice		
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup>	" "			

**Please bring: enthusiasm, friends, stout footwear, work gloves, waterproofs, hand sanitiser & 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 Events Spring 2023

There will be fifty metres of hedge to lay at the gas works opposite ASDA on Woodchurch Road. Parking will be sign posted from Landican Lane along the service road and parking will be outside the gas depo itself. The hedge consists of small diameter stems, manageable by hand tools with the odd larger field maple about 10cm diameter. Part of the hedge will be wet under foot; steel toe capped wellies may be the order of the day in some parts.

Bring along a tool to trim the vegetation as the volunteers walk around the woods to help keep the rudimentary paths open.

At the Opening Day at New Ferry Butterfly Park the Silver Jubilee Gates will be officially completed by the addition of bespoke decorative tiles to the gate posts. They will be unveiled by Caroline Lancelyn Green of Poulton Hall, Bebington who is a long-time supporter of the park. 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.



At the butterfly park there will be the final coppicing session. Also turf stripping which is a rapid way of creating a more diverse nutrient poor grassland, in particular to boost the amount of bird's-foot trefoil, the larval food plant of the common blue and dingy skipper butterflies. There will be

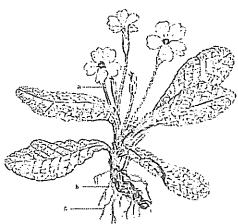
some corn cockle seeds collected by one of our volunteers to disperse into the areas cleared of turf. The corn cockle is an annual and will flourish for a few years before a more stable vegetation community develops. In April at the park primrose and cowslips seedlings the volunteers have raised can be planted out: -the cowslips in Charlie's Field and the primroses in the Embankment Coppice. There will be various other projects including repairing art works, installing a new gas cage and perhaps a new interpretative display board at the Brick Pit.

The next event is one of a series of eight evening events. The first will be tool maintenance at the butterfly park, honing scythe blades and sharpening billhooks. The herb garden and tree nursery will also receive attention.

There is a free environmental awareness event called 'Cool Heswall' - to increase community understanding of climate change. Here the volunteers will have a display and shall be sowing seeds in newspaper pots and demonstrating tool sharpening.

There will be an evening trip to Thornton Common to cut the centre of the woodland ride and weed some of the recently laid hedgerows. A group meeting at the Seven Stars, Thornton Hough will follow this event.

There will be some follow up work at Rough Shoots Wood, Thingwall Corner, knocking back the suckering blackthorn to allow the planted saplings to flourish and get the shelter bed established. Bring along a sharp spade.



There will be a spring walk in upper Dibbinsdale looking at spring flowers in Foxes and Thornton Wood, especially in the coppice areas where wood anemone and primroses are expanding under the coppicing regime. In addition, the potential coppice growth/hedge stake harvest at Quarter Bank Coppice can be assessed and the regrowth of the newly laid hedge at Heavy Oak Coppice which now allows more light to the woodland floor.

June is balsam pulling season! Cover up well or bring some insect repellent. Volunteers will also remove the flowering heads of the pendulous sedge which is becoming invasive in the wood. In addition to some bramble removal at the wood's entrance to prevent the bramble becoming too vigorous and swamping the coppice regrowth and ground flora at Entrance Coppice.

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