

## Winter 2021/22 Events Programme

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
<b>December</b>				
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thornton Common	Hedge laying, willow removal & oak pollarding	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park	9:30am
<b>January 2022</b>				
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Path, and lime siding bramble clearance	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Thornton Wood	Hazel coppicing and coppice nurturing	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Road	9:30am
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Windsor Close Community Centre	<b>36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b> AGM and annual slide show	Windsor Close, New Ferry CH62 5BZ	7:30pm
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Eastham Country Park	Sweet chestnut coppicing	Warren Lane CH62 3QQ north of Port Sunlight RUFC	9:30am
<b>February</b>				
Thur 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bebington	Tool maintenance & dressing the motorised sandstone wheel	contact Paul on <a href="mailto:jpl@liv.ac.uk">jpl@liv.ac.uk</a>	7:30pm
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tom's Paddock	Hedge laying, coppicing and bramble removal	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Road	9:30am
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Hedge laying, bramble removal Creating a coppice gate from sweet chestnut	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am
Thur 17 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry	Group meal 6.30pm, meeting 7.30pm & social 8.30pm	John Masefield	6:30pm
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Thingwall Corner	Hedge and tree planting, weeding hedgerow saplings	Landican Road	9:30am
<b>March</b>				
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Final vegetation management of the season	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am

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

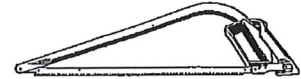
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No experience Necessary



# Billhook & Bowsaw

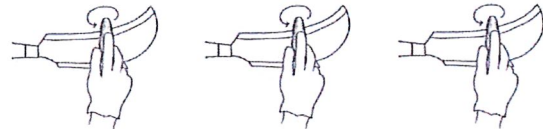
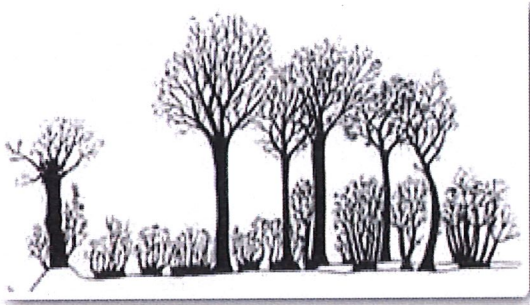
Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



## Forthcoming Events Winter 2021-2022

The traditional Christmas task is at Thornton Common, cutting willow and laying the Eastern hedge. Some oaks will be pollarded and Hawthorn whips will be transplanted into the enclosure hedge. Oak seedlings will be collected for further propagation. Some marsh cinquefoil cuttings from the common will be established in the Eastern pond. There will be a bonfire and baked potatoes both days.

In February tools can be refreshed and keener edges added with a tool maintenance evening at Philippa and Paul's. Billhooks and axes will be sharpened for the forthcoming events. Some of our billhooks still need a lot of work. The WCV motorised sandstone wheel recently restored by Peter Martin can have the final wheel dressing ie smoothed out.



In February the volunteers will be at Tom's Paddock carrying out hedgelaying on a young hedge that was laid about a decade ago. There will be hazel coppicing of half a dozen stools for hedge stakes as well as bramble removal. Tom's Paddock is a Cheshire Wildlife Trust reserve, noted for its insects and fine display of marsh orchids. Hawthorn whips will be planted on the motorway boundary fence

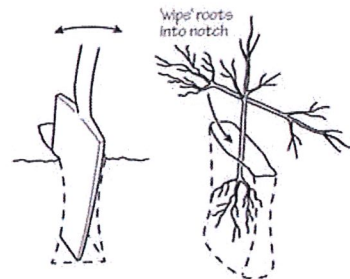
January 2022 starts at the butterfly park clearing areas of brambles and paths along the lime side hedges, so that the Old MacDonald had a Butterfly Park trail tokens can be found and re-exposing the lime siding track bed, Hedge laying, tree planting and tree pruning. will also take place. There will be cowslips to be planted in the Charlie's Field as this area is being improved for butterflies by adding more nectar sources.

At the butterfly park we will carry on hedge laying, bramble removal and step back into woodland crafts making a gate hurdle from the sweet chestnut coppiced at Eastham the month before.

Coppicing for hedging stakes continues at Heavy Oak Coppice, Thornton Wood. The coppicing will benefit ground flora which includes primroses and wood anemone. In addition, pea sticks, bean poles and other coppice products can be collected.

The group meeting and social at the John Masefield, New Ferry. The last meeting was very productive and further improvements were made to the group such as the production of group banner. Thanks to Peter for this.

The 36<sup>th</sup> AGM is a chance to reflect on the group's activities and achievements this year and this will be followed by a slide show. This will be held at Windsor Close Community Centre, Windsor Close, New Ferry, where there is plenty of space for social distancing.



At Eastham Country Park the group will continue with sweet chestnut coppicing for hedging stakes and materials for making a gate hurdle for the entrance to the Brick Pit Coppice at New Ferry Butterfly park.

In February the group return to Thingwall Corner hedge, planting in the gap in the hedge that we laid November 2020 and planting oaks and several other trees including native black poplar at Home Farm Landican.

Paul Loughnane BEM  
Hon. Secretary, Wirral  
Countryside Volunteers  
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