

Winter 2022 Programme

Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
December			
Sat 3 rd Thornton Wood	Bridge removal, tidy up of Heavy Oak Coppice and extending into a new coppice area	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Road	9:30am
Sat 10 th Bebington	Pot Luck Christmas Buffet, Please bring along a contribution	Please book with Paul on jpl@liv.ac.uk	7:30pm
Sun 11 th New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bramble removal and blackthorn clearance, embankment coppicing turf removal and hedge laying	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30 am
Tue 27 th Thornton Common	Hedge laying, willow removal, oak crown lifting and oak pollarding	Wirral Ruby Club Car Park	9:30am
Wed 28 th			
January 2023			
Sun 8 th New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bramble removal and blackthorn clearance, embankment coppicing, turf removal and hedge laying	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am
Sat 21 st Thornton Wood	starting a Hazel coppice, new coupe "Entrance Coppice"	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Road	9:30am
Mon 23 rd Windsor Close Community Centre	37th Annual General Meeting & slide show	Windsor Close New Ferry CH62 5BZ	7:30pm
February			
Sat 4 th Wood Farm Opposite Leahurst Campus	17 th WCV Cheshire Style free hedge laying training day Please book on with Eventbrite on the WCV web page or with Paul	Chester High Rd, Neston CH64 7TB	9:30am
Thu 9 th New Ferry	Group meal Group meeting	John Masefield Public House, New Ferry	7:00pm 8:00pm
Sun 12 th New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bramble removal, blackthorn clearance, embankment coppicing, turf removal and hedge laying	New Ferry 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) or Facebook page

e: Lindseys@gmx.co.uk. Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 or Steve 01928 725265

All Welcome

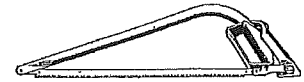
(newsletter overleaf)

No experience Necessary



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



Forthcoming Events Winter 2022

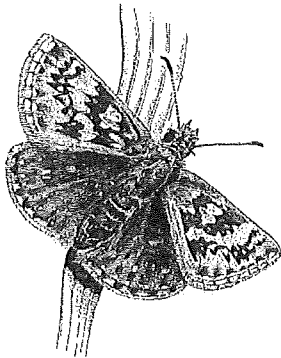
In December, the Volunteers will go to Thornton Wood first to dismantle the unsafe bridge across Clatter Brook. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, on our request, have installed a new bridge on the condition the volunteers remove the old one. Heavy Oak Coppice will be tidied up from last season's hedging brush to benefit the ancient woodland ground flora underneath. A start will be made on cutting a new coppice coupe near the entrance to the wood. Starting "entrance coppice" is an involved project as the coppice stools are large, but will re-sprout a treat if given enough light. This will be an on going winter project with considerable input from the mid-weekers. This will be the fourth coppice coupe in Thornton Wood and will give the volunteers more flexibility in cropping hedging stakes for the increasing hedgerow restoration projects the group undertake.

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

At the butterfly park efforts will continue in removing the encroaching bramble, blackthorn and snowberry from around the park. The embankment coppicing will continue, primroses have done well under the coppicing regime. This is the third cut of the coppice area and will provide a large number of hedging stakes. Being on a south western facing slope there is more light getting to each stool than if the area was flat. Trolley/wheelbarrow access to the base of coppice areas can be improved by removing turf and exposing the railway ballast track bed. This will help tremendously in extracting materials. Further primroses can be plug planted into the coppice area once the

coppice season has finished. The seeds have been sown. There will be some hedge laying and further turf removal overlying the railway ballast area will occur. This will benefit the bird's-foot trefoil which in turn

benefits the Common Blue butterfly and the local diversity species, the Dingy Skipper butterfly, recorded at the park this May, after two decades of absence. A result!



At Thornton Common betwixt Christmas and New Year there will be hedge laying along the eastern enclosure hedge, willow removal oaks south of the ponds can be re-pollarded and some of the oaks in the centre can have their crowns lifted or thinned to help with the spread of heather in the strip between the main western and eastern ponds. If you cannot make it to the tasks feel free to pop by and say hello and grab some tea and cake.



January sees the volunteers back at New Ferry Butterfly Park continuing with coppicing on the embankment cutting the hazel to benefit primroses which in turn benefits early flying bumble bee queens and brimstone butterflies.

Turf striping over the railway ballast beds will continue as it is one of the best ways to create a wildflower grassland rapidly.

Later in January the "Entrance Coppice" at Thornton Wood will be developed further.

The 37th AGM is at Windsor Close Community Centre and will be followed by a slide show of activities over the year. It is a chance to improve and develop the group further and for members to contribute more to the group as the group expands its activities.

The 17th Cheshire style free hedge laying training event will be held at Liverpool University's Farm, Wood Farm, Neston. Please book on the Eventbrite link on the volunteers' web page or with Paul. The event will be followed by a meal in the Seven Stars, Thornton Hough @ 4.30pm. Last time there was much interest and compliments from the public as a footpath runs alongside the laid hedge.

A group meal followed by meeting will be held at the John Masefield. The venue is up for sale at the moment, so please let Paul know that you are coming a few days before just in case of issues with the venue.

Paul Loughnane BEM
Hon. Secretary, Wirral Countryside Volunteers
07527570471 jpl@liv.ac.uk