

Autumn 2020: Events Programme

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
September				
Thur 3 rd	Bebington	Tool Sharpening	at Paul's	7.00pm
Sun 13 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything the BBQ grassland (am) & Charlie's Field(pm) End of season bring your own meal event NFBP AGM at 6pm	At Park, adjacent to Bebington Station car park (GR SJ 333852)	9.30am
Sat 19 th	Thornton Wood	Coppice nurturing & assisting oak regeneration	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Rd (GR SJ 328813)	9:30am
October				
Sun 11 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything the calcareous grassland & cutting Brick Pit hazel coppice	At Park, adjacent to Bebington Station Car Park (GR SJ 333852)	9.30am
Sat 17 th Sun 18 th	Mickle Trafford	Hedge laying, ideal beginners hedge	Contact Steve for details (Numbers limited)	9.30am
November				
Sun 8 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything acid grassland cutting brick pit hazel coppice	At Park, adjacent to Bebington Station car park (GR SJ 333852)	9.30am
Thurs 12 th	Group meeting, please check web page for details		venue tbc	7.00pm
Sat 14 th Sun 15 th	Thingwall Corner"	Hedge laying & planting	Landican Lane, Thingwall corner end	9.30am
December				
Sun 6 th	Sand hole Waverton	Hedge laying challenge	Layby just south of St Peter's Church, Waverton	9.30 am
Sun 13 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything the acid grassland hedge laying / trimming	At Park, adjacent to Bebington Station car park (GR SJ 333852)	9.30am
Sun 27 th Mon 28 th	Thornton Common	Willow removal, hedge laying & bonfire	Wirral Rugby Club car park (GR SJ 323812)	9.30am

**Please bring: your enthusiasm, your 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: Lindsey.Jones@unilever.com Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 Steve 01928 725265**

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO COVID CANCELLATION

All Welcome

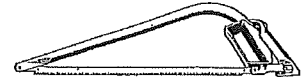
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No experience Necessary



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



Forthcoming Events Autumn 2020

Welcome back as the group takes it's first steps back in a covid world. Please bring hand sanitiser with you to tasks and be aware of touching shared items and tools. Please use disinfectant provided when you have finished with a tool. Try and keep the same tools all day and stay socially distanced.

The first event will be tool sharpening at Paul. Let him know if you can make it so plans can be made for socially distancing everybody. There is space in the garage, a shed and out in the garden. Scythe blades will be sharpened for the next mowing event and billhooks for the forthcoming coppicing and hedge laying season.



Sunday 13th September is the final day of public opening of the butterfly park for the season and as such there will be no parking at the park that day. Plenty of free parking nearby. Here, with freshly sharpened scythe blades and BBQ stand, grassland will be mown in the morning before the public come at 1pm and Charlie's Field mown in the afternoon so working volunteers are out of the way of the public for safety purposes. There will be an end of season event at the end of the task: bring your own refreshment. This will have finished by 6pm, when NFBP will hold its AGM, to which you are welcome to stay as you contribute so much to the success of the park.

Sat 19th September we will be at Thornton Wood nurturing the coppices. This will be done by cutting access to them, allowing more light to the coppice floor, by some crown lifting and removing some shading vegetation, and layering some hazel further up the bank where they will receive more light. There will also be some path clearance/defining of paths for the spring tours in 2021 as well as enhancing Oak regeneration within the wood.

In October at NFBP, the herb-rich calcareous meadow will be scythed and a start made on coppicing Brick Pit hazel coppice; and we shall plant more hazels along the southern edge of the coppice to extend the future crop.

Mickle Trafford, near Chester, is a new site for the group and has a perfect beginner's hedge. Contact Steve for details and arrangements.

There is a weekend of hedgerow restoration with hedge laying and hedge planting in November. It is a small hedge, with two different lengths. Length one was planted 12 years ago and the other length has been coppiced resulting in thinnish regrowth. In the middle section there is a gap, the site of a former marl pit. This was under water in the spring. The farmer will create a hedge bank and the volunteers will plant up the bank with mainly hawthorn whips and surround the new plantings with cardboard mulch mats.

In December, the group makes a return visit to the Sand hole hedge, Waverton, near Chester to finish off the last few lengths of a challenging hedge. Let Paul know if you are coming. Hawthorn whips will be planted into the hedgerow to supplement the hedge laying.

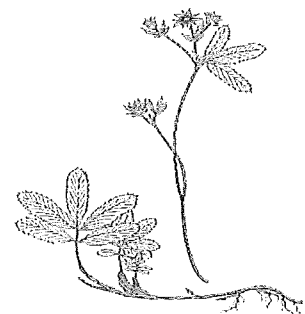
At the butterfly park we will be scything the acid grassland then plug planting of sheep's sorrel to boost the small copper butterfly populations at the park, as well as carrying on with hedge laying / hedge trimming.

The Thornton Common two-day Christmas event will be hedgelaying the enclosure hedge, further opening up of the pond, carrying out some bramble removal to stop it encroaching on the marsh-orchid-rich woodland ride.

One plant which recently has increased in number at the common is Marsh cinquefoil.

The only known location where it is found in Wirral is Thornton Common.

An alternative name is the bog strawberry reflecting its deep magenta colour flower which comes out in June.



Paul Loughnane BEM
Hon. Secretary, Wirral Countryside Volunteers
0151 645 8937 jpl@liv.ac.uk