

## Spring 2024 Programme

Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
<b>February</b>			
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tree work, hazel planting, turf removal	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gas works opposite ASDA, Woodchurch Road	19 <sup>th</sup> WCV Cheshire Style hedge laying training day Book on Eventbrite or via Paul	Gas works off Landican Lane. CH49 5PD
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Port Sunlight	Group Meal Group meeting	The Bridge Public House, Port Sunlight
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Wood Park Farm, Leahurst	Hedge laying	Chester High Rd, Neston, CH64 7TB
<b>March</b>			
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Beeston/Malpas	Hedge laying	Register on Eventbrite or with Paul for further details
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Turf stripping and last vegetation management of the season.	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington
<b>April</b>			
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Site tidy up road and path clearance	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tool store sort out and re organisation	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington
<b>May</b>			
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Opening Day, BBQ & stalls	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington
Thur 9 <sup>th</sup>	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tool maintenance & tree nursery nurturing	New Ferry Butterfly Park, Bebington
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup>	Thornton Common	Cutting the centre of the ride & hedge weeding,	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park

**Please bring: enthusiasm, friends, stout footwear, work gloves, waterproofs, & lunch.**

***Want to know more...?* Visit Wirral Countryside Volunteers' website ([www.wcv.today](http://www.wcv.today)) or Facebook page, email: [lindseyemail@yahoo.com](mailto:lindseyemail@yahoo.com)**

**Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 or Steve 01928 725265**

**All Welcome**

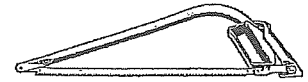
*(newsletter overleaf)*

**No experience Necessary**



# Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



## Forthcoming Events Spring 2024

At New Ferry Butterfly Park there will be further coppicing to sustain the supply of hedge laying stakes for hedge laying projects for this season and the start of the next. There will be hazel saplings to plant in the embankment area to extend the coppice resource at the park. There will also be turf stripping, 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. The volunteers now have a small woodchipper so chipping can occur as brash is created.

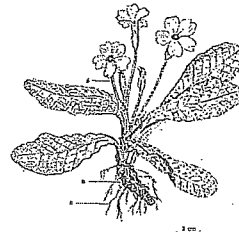
The 19<sup>th</sup> WCV free hedgelaying training day will be at the gas works opposite ASDA on Woodchurch Road. Parking will be sign posted from Landican Lane along the service road and parking will be outside the gas depo itself. The hedge consists of small diameter stems, manageable by hand tools with the odd larger field maple about 10cm diameter.

There will be a group meal at 6.30pm followed by a group meeting at 7.30pm at a new venue the Bridge Inn, Port Sunlight. It is a chance to socialise with fellow volunteers and contribute to the group and make our activities even better.

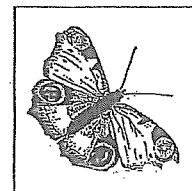
With hedgelaying skills honed the volunteers return to Wood Park, Farm Leahurst to complete the hedge laid on the 18<sup>th</sup> hedge laying training day. The final hedge laying of the season, when cutters have reached their seasonal peak, will be with Helen Arthan in the Beeston/Malpas area. Please book on Eventbrite or with Paul so that a car share can be organised. Final details will be sent out to those registered.

In March, at New Ferry Butterfly Park, there is the final large-scale vegetation management of the year. This makes space for the opening day. We shall be scything, strimming, removing bramble and completing the final tree works.

In April at the New Ferry Butterfly Park there are two events. The first is the unusual 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month to tidy up the site in preparation for the opening day while the second Sunday is for tool sharpening and tool store sort out to improve the lay-out of the tool store.



There will be a spring walk in upper Dibbinsdale looking at spring flowers in Foxes and Thornton Wood, focusing on 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. Also, the recently cut Entrance Coppice can be enjoyed. 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 six bespoke decorative tiles to the brick pillars. They will be unveiled by Nigel Lanceley, Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside. One of the tiles is dedicated to Wirral Countryside Volunteers in appreciation of the volunteers' long involvement and essential support given to 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 here and elsewhere.

The next event is one of a series of 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.

The next evening event will be cutting the centre of the woodland ride at Thornton Common with freshly honed scythe blades and weeding the recently laid hedges and the hedge on the Eastern side of the common.

Paul Loughnane BEM  
Hon. Secretary,

Wirral Countryside Volunteers  
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