

Summer/Autumn 2023 Programme

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
July				
Sat 1 st	Poulton Hall Bebington	WCV stall, hedge laying, tool sharpening demo & plant propagation by cuttings	Wildflower Grassland Poulton Hall	2.00pm
Thu 6 th	Wood Park Farm, opposite Leahurst Campus	Weeding recently laid hedges	Wood Park Farm, Neston CH647TB	7.30pm
Sat 8 th	Cycle trip	35 miles leisurely cycle ride, over the river Dee to Wales taking in several points of interest	Hooton Station entrance	9.30am
Thu 20 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Tool & tree nursery maintenance followed by a group meeting@8.45pm	Butterfly Park, beside Bebington Station car park	7.30pm
Sun 23 rd	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything the grassland by BBQ, pond and paths (AM) and Charlie's field (PM)	Butterfly Park, beside Bebington Station car park	9.30am
August				
Sat 26 th	Thornton Common	Scything the ride and glade, and hedge weeding, Willow removal	Wirral Rugby Club car park	9.30am
September				
Sun 10 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything BBQ grassland & creating access to sanctuary coppices. 4pm BBQ bring a contribution to share.	Butterfly Park beside Bebington Station car park	9.30am
Sat 16 th	Gas works opposite ADSA, Woodchurch Road	Hedge laying on the Lane to the gas works	Gas works, off Landican Lane	9.30am
October				
Sun 8 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything calcareous grassland, coppicing, apple pressing & hedge laying	Butterfly Park beside Bebington Station car park	9.30 am
Sat 21 st	Thornton Wood	Hazel Coppicing @ Entrance Coppice and transplanting Hawthorn into the boundary hedgerows	by the bridge Over the M53. Thornton Common Rd	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) or Facebook page

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All Welcome

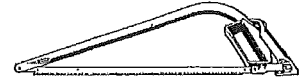
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No experience Necessary



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



Forthcoming Events Summer/Autumn 2023

At the Poulton Hall event, the volunteers will have a stall in the wildflower grassland in front of the hall. Here the volunteers will have a tool sharpening demonstration, a Wirral Countryside Volunteers display, a mocked-up hedge to lay and plant cuttings to make and take away in a newspaper pot and plant propagator. This event is a great fundraiser for New Ferry Butterfly Park and Wirral Wildlife.

The hedge at Wood Park Farm laid in the winter needs a follow up attention as it smothered by weeds. Clearing around the face of the hedge will give chance for the re-growth to get going. The final evening event of the season will be tool maintenance at New Ferry Butterfly Park, where scythe blades and billhooks will be readied for the forthcoming season. There is also a second sandstone wheel that the volunteers can look to renovate. Tool maintenance will be followed by a group meeting.

The annual mowing regime at New Ferry Butterfly Park starts in July when it is hoped to mow the BBQ/pond area and some of the overgrown path edges before noon, to avoid visitors and in the afternoon venture into Charlie's Field for further mowing. The BBQ meadow has responded well to scything with an increase in red clover. Charlie's Field has responded well also being surprisingly colonised by 200 or so Cowslips. By Charlie's gate, which is the most mown area in the field is the most diverse. This area with the reduced sward height has been colonised by yellow rattle and bird's-foot trefoil. Please Park locally, as there is only blue badge parking at the park that day.

At Thornton Common both the ride and glade will be scythed to benefit the march orchids and bee orchids which flowered earlier in the season. Recently laid hedges on the eastern boundary can be weeded too.

In September, at the butterfly park, the rest of BBQ grassland will be mown, and brambles removed along the base of the Sanctuary Area to create easier access for coppicing later in the season. This will be followed by an end of season BBQ party at 4pm with NFBP and Wirral Wildlife volunteers joining.

Miles Duncan, Home Farm Landican, is delighted to host our first hedge laying event of the season. This will be at the lane to the gas works off Landican Lane, opposite the ASDA supermarket. It is a young hedge so an easy start to the season. Miles must be the Wirral Farmer with the most laid hedges on a farm.

In October, the aromatic calcareous grassland at the butterfly park will be scythed to benefit cowslips, marsh orchids and marjoram. The coppicing season starts here on the Embankment Coppice in the sanctuary area. Carrying on from last year's coppicing when 400 hedge stakes were harvested. This will sustain our hedge laying activities throughout the season. There will be a large wooden wheelbarrow so that materials from both the mowing and coppicing can be collected as they are created. John Bateman will be apple pressing too, so we will be collecting the apples from around the park.



There will be hazel coppicing at Entrance Coppice, Thornton Wood as well as transplanting self-sown hawthorn into the woodland boundary extending the hedges. In the long term the coppicing will benefit the ancient woodland flora.

Paul Loughnane BEM
Hon. Secretary,
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