

Summer/Autumn 2022 Programme

	Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
July				
Sun 24 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything the grassland by BBQ, pond (AM) and Charlie's field (PM)	Butterfly Park, beside Bebington Station Car Park	9.30am
Thur 28 th	Brimstage Hall Orchard	Hedge weeding along the recently laid hedge.	Hedge side, gate will be opened for us	7.30pm
August				
Sat 27 th	Thornton Common	Scything the ride and glade, hedge weeding, sanding and oiling the entrance gate	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park	9.30am
September				
Sun 11 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything BBQ grassland & creating access to sanctuary coppices. 4pm BBQ bring along a contribution to share.	Butterfly Park beside Bebington Station Car Park	9.30am
Sat 17 th	Eastham County Park	Hedge laying just south of Eastham Ferry Hotel	Ferry Road, Entrance to Eastham Gardens, site of the Jubilee arch	9.30am
October				
Thu 6 th	New Ferry	Group Meal Group Meeting Group Social	John Masefield, Public House, New Ferry	7.00pm 8.00pm 9.00pm
Sun 9 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything acid grassland, coppicing & hedge laying	Butterfly Park beside Bebington Station Car Park	9.30 am
Sat 22 nd	Eastham Country Park	Sweet Chestnut Coppicing	Port Sunlight RUFC, Warren Road, CH62 JQT	9.30am
November				
Sat 5 th	Venue to be confirmed	16 th WCV Cheshire style free hedgelaying Training Day. When confirmed, please book Eventbrite or with Paul on jpl@liv.ac.uk	Meeting point to be confirmed	9.30am
Sun 13 th	New Ferry Butterfly Park	Scything Charlie's Field, coppicing & hedge laying	Butterfly Park beside Bebington Station Car Park	9.30 am

Please bring: your enthusiasm, your friends, stout footwear, work gloves, waterproofs & lunch.
Want to know more..? What to offer/share a lift?
 Visit: Wirral Countryside Volunteers' Facebook page
 Or our web page www.wcv.today
 email: Lindsey.Jones@unilever.com Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 /Steve 01928 725265

All welcome!

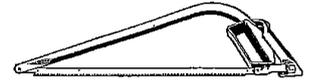
(newsletter overleaf)

No experience necessary



Billhook & Bowsaw

Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



Forthcoming Events Summer/Autumn 2022

The annual mowing regime at New Ferry Butterfly Park starts in July when it is hoped to mow the BBQ area and some of the over grown path edges before noon, before visitors arrive 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 160 or so Cowslips. Please park locally as there is only blue badge parking at the park that day.

Our last evening event will be at Brimstage Hall Orchard working with Wirral Tree Wardens, weeding the layered hedge which is now smothered with cleavers. Clearing the hedge should allow another six weeks for regrowth to come through.

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. The wooden entrance gate will be oiled to preserve it and the eastern hedge weeded.

In September, at the butterfly park, there will be scything of the BBQ grassland. Bramble will be 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 volunteers in join in.

The first hedgelaying event of the season will be at Eastham Country Park on a hedge near the Eastham Ferry Hotel, just south of the entrance to Eastham gardens where the triumphal arch used to be.

There will be a group meal and meeting at the John Masefield Public House. This is a chance to socialise and contribute to future projects and the direction of the group as well as a catch up with other members.

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. Further hazel stools will be established by laying and planting to extend the coppice further up the slope. Primroses have been flourishing under this coppice regime. We will establish some Violets in the embankment coppice area too. Hedge laying will continue on the upper level.



There will be a coppicing event at Eastham Country Park under the pylons. Meet at Warren Lane Car Park CH62 3QQ by Port Sunlight RUF. The sweet chestnut was last coppiced six years ago so should be an ideal hedge stake size.

The 16th WCV Cheshire Style hedge laying training day will be on venue and hedge to be confirmed, save the date.

Mid-November at the butterfly park sees the second cut of Charlie's Field to crop nutrients further. Bramble will be removed from the corner by the height barrier. Charlie's Field is becoming a good area for butterflies with Small Coppers, Common Blues, Skippers and Meadow Brown butterflies frequently recorded there. Coppicing the embankment will carry on too, as well as improving access to the coppices in the sanctuary area. Hedge laying continues on the upper level and one or two oaks will be pollarded.

Paul Loughnane BEM

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