

## Winter 2023 Programme

Where	Event	Meeting point	Time
<b>November</b>			
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Wood Park Farm Opposite Leahurst Campus	18 <sup>th</sup> WCV Cheshire Style hedge laying training day Book on Eventbrite on WCV web page or via Paul	Chester High Rd, Neston, CH64 7TB	9:30am
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bramble removal and blackthorn clearance, embankment coppicing, scything and hedge laying	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup> Spital	Group meal Group meeting	Three Stags Public House, Spital	6:30pm 7:30pm
<b>December</b>			
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thornton Wood Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Coppicing weekend Entrance Coppice	Bridge over M53 on Thornton Common Road	9:30am
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Bebington	Potluck Christmas gathering, Please bring along a contribution	Book with Paul at <a href="mailto:jpl@liv.ac.uk">jpl@liv.ac.uk</a>	7:30pm
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bramble removal blackthorn clearance, embankment coppicing, turf removal and hedge laying	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30 am
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Thornton Common Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	Hedge laying, willow removal, oak crown lifting, oak pollarding & installing a new lectern.	Wirral Rugby Club Car Park	9:30am
<b>January 2024</b>			
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Eastham Country Park	Sweet chestnut coppicing	Warren Lane CH62 3QQ Car Park north of Port Sunlight RUFC	9:30am
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> New Ferry Butterfly Park	Bramble removal and blackthorn clearance, embankment coppicing, turf removal and hedge laying	New Ferry Butterfly Park	9:30am
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> New Ferry	37 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting & slide Show	Windsor Close Community Centre, Windsor Close, CH62 5BZ	7.45pm

**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**

**e: [Lindseys@gmx.co.uk](mailto:Lindseys@gmx.co.uk). Phone: Lindsey 07872 953653 or Steve 01928 725265**

**All Welcome**

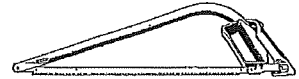
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**No experience Necessary**



# Billhook & Bowsaw

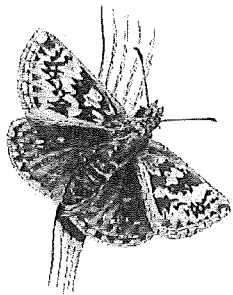
Newsletter of Wirral Countryside Volunteers



## Forthcoming Events Winter 2023

The 18<sup>th</sup> Cheshire style free hedge laying training event will be held at Liverpool University's Farm, Park 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 at a local hostelry at 4.30pm. It is an ideal beginners hedge. Last time there was much interest, as well as compliments, from the public as a footpath runs alongside the laid hedge.

At the butterfly park efforts will continue in removing the encroaching bramble crowns, blackthorn and snowberry from around the park with our new root slayer spades. The embankment coppicing will also continue. 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 the removal of materials. There will be some hedge laying and further turf removal overlying the railway ballast area which will benefit the bird's-foot trefoil and in turn benefit the Common Blue butterfly and local biodiversity action plan species, the Dingy Skipper butterfly, recorded at the park for a second successive year after two decades of absence. They were observed using the bird's foot-trefoil in areas stripped of turf. The park has been designated a Dingy Skipper butterfly site by Butterfly Conservation. A result!



The group meal followed by a meeting will be held at the Three Stags, Spital Crossroads, a new venue for the group. Feel free to join for a meal or group meeting, or both.

In December at Thornton Wood, we will host a coppicing weekend at Entrance Coppice and hopefully complete the coppicing there so we can look forward to the spring flowers. It 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 undertakes. In the long term this will assist in the retention and possible expansion of the ancient woodland flora in the woods as nutrients in the soil are reduced.

There is a Volunteers' Christmas Party in Bebington. Let Paul know if you want to come along. Bring a contribution to share. The following day projects continue at New Ferry Butterfly Park.

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. A new interpretative lectern will be installed. This has been sponsored as from a legacy from the late Eric Jackson a member for nearly 30 years & donations from the Poulton Hall Walled Garden Trust



January sees the volunteers back at Eastham Country Park coppicing sweet chestnut. Sweet chestnut gives straight, knot free and durable hedge stakes. The opening up of the coppice floor will allow bluebells a boost in the early years of the coppice cycle.

New Ferry Butterfly Park continues 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.

The 37<sup>th</sup> AGM is at Windsor Close Community Centre; it 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.

Paul Loughnane BEM  
Hon. Secretary,  
Wirral Countryside Volunteers  
07527570471  
[jpl@liv.ac.uk](mailto:jpl@liv.ac.uk)