
Newsletter and task programme: January - June 2006

Harlow Conservation Volunteers (HCV) was founded in 1985 to give local people the chance to participate in nature conservation work in and around Harlow. HCV is affiliated to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and the Harlow Centre for Voluntary Support (HCVS).

BTCV

Conservation Centre, 163 Balby Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. DN4 0RH. ☎01302-572200
Email : information@btcv.org.uk
Web : www.btcv.org

TASK INFORMATION

Tasks start at 9.30am. Most end at about 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome and your help will be valued for whatever time you can spare. Volunteers under 12 should be accompanied by a responsible adult. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction in techniques and safe working practice will be given.

WHAT TO BRING

You'll need a packed lunch and a mug, strong footwear (work boots, walking boots, or wellies for wet

tasks), old warm clothes, and waterproofs. Sun protection is advisable (even in winter). We provide tools and protective gear, as well as tea and coffee.

HEALTH AND INSURANCE

Insurance cover is arranged for the group on task. An up-to-date anti-Tetanus injection is strongly advised for most outdoor activities. If you think you may not be covered on this or other health issues, you are advised to consult a health professional.

CONTACT US:

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GROUP ORGANISERS

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HARLOW COUNCIL CONTACTS

Darren Fazackerley,
Landscape Officer. ☎01279-446997
Matt Waller, Wildspace officer
☎01279-430005

News : Autumn 2005 – Spring 2006

Colin Lincoln retires as Reserves Warden, but Harlow gains a volunteer!

On Sunday 8th January 2006 Colin Lincoln will be hanging up his bowsaw and retiring as Reserves Warden for Harlow Council. After almost 40 years service to the Council we will be very sad to see him go, but he has assured us it won't be the last we see of him. Keen ornithologist Colin will no doubt be seen on Harlow Marshes Local Nature Reserve with his binoculars, keeping active and admiring his handiwork! Indeed Colin has already volunteered to lead a conservation task day with HCV March, and we look forward to seeing him out on site and continuing to benefit from

his unique knowledge of our wildlife sites in Harlow.

Matt Waller, Wildspace! Community Liaison Officer

HCV Hedge-laying Project 1990 – 2006

HCV has done a number of conservation projects over the years at Harlow Agricultural Merchant's small demonstration farm. The latest is to lay a hedge which the group planted some 10 years ago. Laying a hedge is useful for wildlife because the new growth it promotes ensures it remains thick and bushy at the base. The hedge is approximately 120m long and last winter we managed to lay about half this over 3 separate task days. In November we

completed another 20m, and with two further dates in the new programme we should be able to complete the remaining 40m comfortably.

It would be good to complete the hedge, but the emphasis has been to learn this valuable countryside skill. The hedge is the ideal height and so is excellent for learning the basics. All you need is a bit of guidance from ever willing HCV members, although there is a certain knack to wielding a billhook or axe accurately in a limited space. Everyone can gain the satisfaction of laying a pleacher and adding to the finished hedge.

Andrew Tomlins, HCV member

Wildlife Gardens for Schools

As you will see from the 2006 Task Programme below, HCV are beginning work on a number of Wildlife Gardens for Harlow schools. This is in liaison with Matt Waller, the Wildspace! Officer for Harlow, who is working closely with a number of schools to give the children of Harlow the opportunity to get involved with their natural environment. HCV are to provide the first stages of construction, with the pupils leading the development and growth for years to come. In this way such an area will provide both educational and wildlife benefits for existing and future pupils.

Jennifer Spelling, HCV member

HCV Social Events 2006

With the start of a new year comes the opportunity for every HCV members favourite activity – yes, the social event!! Our first of 2006 will be a visit to Abbott's Hall Farm, the HQ of Essex Wildlife Trust. HCV members will be given a guided walk around the reserve area, which has recently undergone a coastal realignment project to create new Salt Marsh. For more information on this project visit the Essex Wildlife Trust website at: www.essexwt.org.uk. The visit takes place on Saturday 11th February. For more details on this visit please contact HCV.



Abbott's Hall Farm coastal realignment project.
www.essexwt.org.uk/Sites/Abbotts%20Hall%20Farm.htm

Task Programme January - June 2006

January

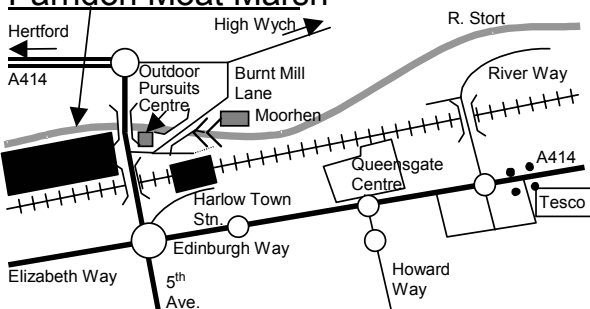
Sunday 22nd January: Parndon Moat Marsh
Cutting and clearing of marsh and planting of Black Poplar seedlings to promote diversity.

Task leader: Marilyn

Directions: Meet at the entrance to Burnt Mill Lane, off A414 between Harlow Town Station roundabout and High Wych roundabout. Parking available in the car park at the rear of the station.

Site grid ref, TL 443 113

Parndon Moat Marsh



Work completed in September.

Task Programme January - June 2006

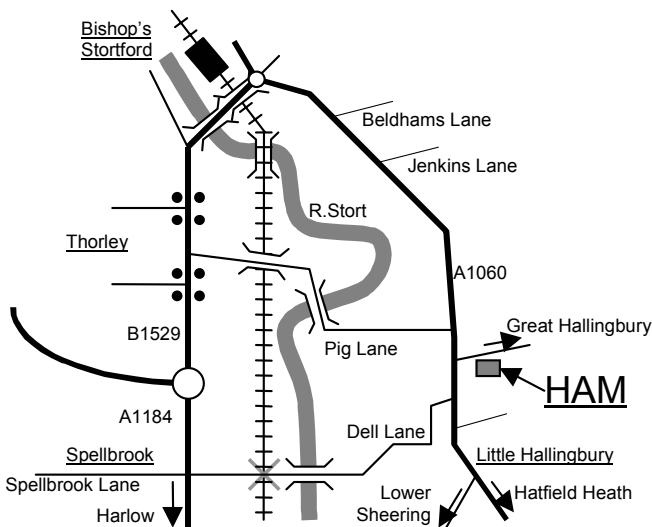
February

Sunday 5th February: Harlow Agricultural Merchants (HAM)

Hedge laying, working towards completing the length of hedge started last year.

Task leader: Peter Hooper

Meet at Harlow Agricultural Merchants. From the A1060 through Little Hallingbury, take the turn for Great Hallingbury and the yard is first on the right. Grid Ref. TL 500 188.

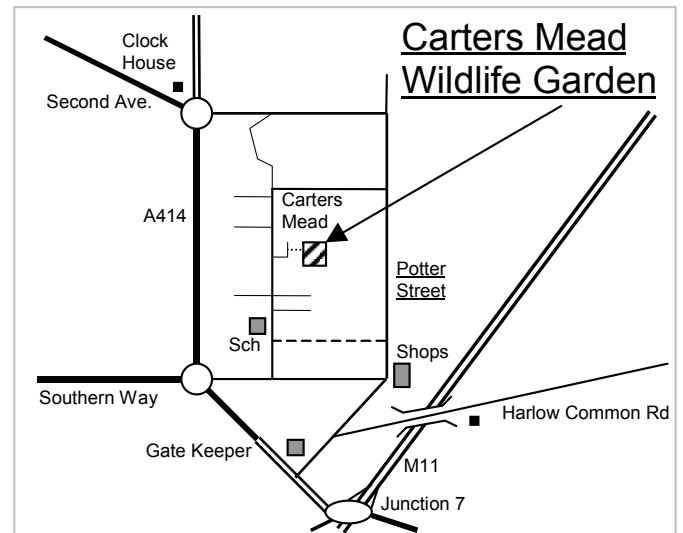


Sunday 19th February: Carter's Mead Wildlife Area

Work continuing from December 2004: previous allotment site converted to community wildlife area.

Task leader: Linda and Matt

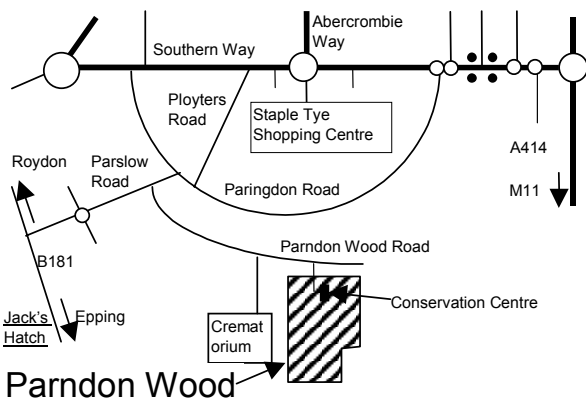
Directions: From Clockhouse roundabout (junction A414 with Second Ave.) turn into Potter Street. Take second right, Carters Mead. Turn left and then left again into cul- de-sac just past some bungalows in the middle of a 'square'. The site is accessed through a gate and short path between houses and gardens (nos. 264 & 265). Grid Ref. TL 471 089.



Tuesday 21st February 2006:

HCV Planning Meeting 19.30

Parndon Wood Conservation Centre.



Task Programme January - June 2006

March

Sunday 5th March: Harlow Agricultural Merchants

Completion of hedge-laying task.

This hedge was planted by HCV in 1990 and shows the commitment by the group to the task.

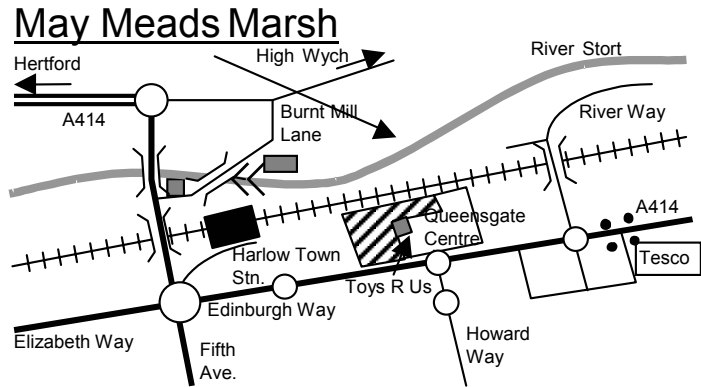
Task leader: Peter Hooper

Location as above.

Sunday 19th March: May Meads Marsh Clearance of vegetation on islands.

Task leader: Colin

Meet in the Toys 'R' Us car park at the shop front, Edinburgh Way. Grid Ref. TL 454 114.



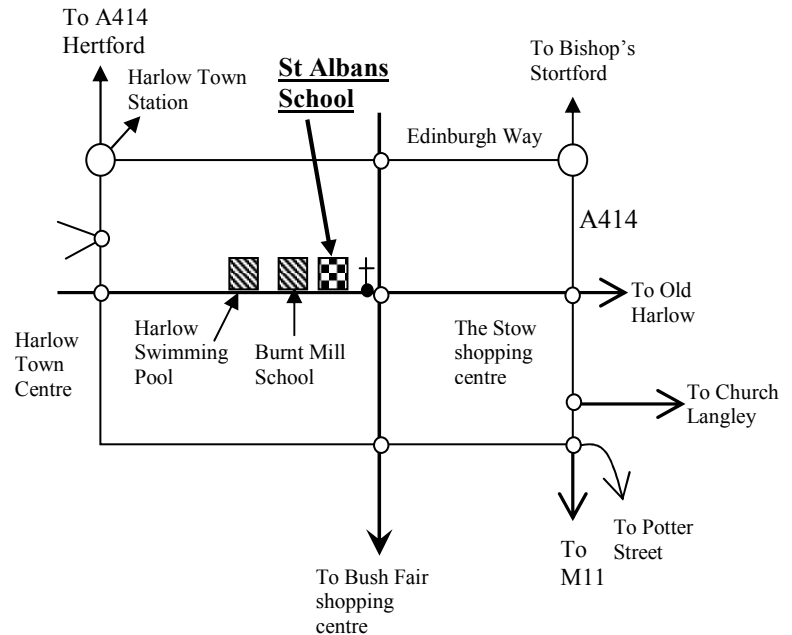
April

Sunday 2nd April: St. Albans Primary school

Creation of wildlife garden.

Task leader: Matt

From M11 roundabout, head towards Harlow to Moat House Hotel roundabout. Continue straight over this and the next two roundabouts, taking the first exit at the third. Continue along this road going straight over the next roundabout and you will see St Albans school on your right after the church.

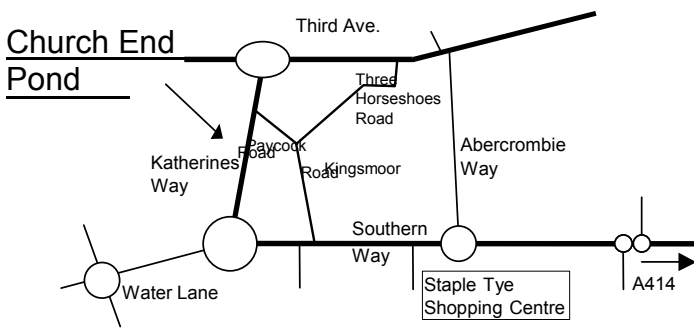


Sunday 16th April: Church End pond

Construction of steps

Task leader: Andrew T.

Continuation of work begun by the Scouts at Eurojam during summer 2005.



Tuesday 25th April 2006

HCV Planning Meeting, 19.30

Parndon Wood Conservation Centre

Task Programme January - June 2006

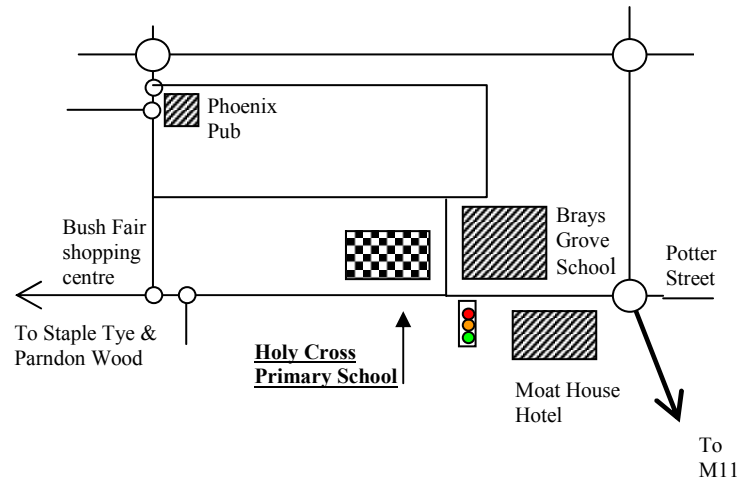
April continued...

Sunday 30th April: Holy Cross Primary school.

Creation of wildlife garden.

Task leader: Matt

From M11 roundabout head to Harlow taking first exit at Moat House roundabout. Take the first right and you will see Holy Cross on the left.



May and June

Sunday 14th May: Parndon Wood

Tool maintenance and wood collection.

Task leader: Andrew T.

Meet at Parndon Wood Conservation Centre at 09.30.

28th & 29th May:

Spring Craft Fair at Parndon Wood, where HCV will have a stall.

Special Announcements:

Queens Award announcement:
4th June 2006

Provisional task dates:

11/06/2006
25/06/2006
09/07/2006
23/07/2006

} Surveying