

# Newsletter

June – September 2006

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## Newsletter and task programme: June - September 2006

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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](mailto:information@btcv.org.uk)  
Web : [www.btcv.org](http://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 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Between the ages of 16-18 volunteers will need written consent from a parent/guardian. 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.

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### CONTACT US:

Marilyn Hart (Secretary)  
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Web : [www.harlowcvcs.org.uk/hcv/hcvindex.htm](http://www.harlowcvcs.org.uk/hcv/hcvindex.htm)

### GROUP ORGANISERS

Gary Dobrin ☎01707-375216  
Marilyn Hart ☎01279-865239  
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Peter Hooper ☎01277-353412

### HARLOW COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

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## News : Spring 2006

### Harlow Marshes

On a sunny day in March HCV took to the water at Maymeads Marsh. Islands were created here a number of years ago and provide excellent habitat for wildlife but are impossible to reach without a boat! HCV took up the challenge and with a suitable vessel and a little



man-power our team of willing workers donned their life-jackets and were

transported to the islands to cut back much of the overgrown vegetation to make it a little more hospitable for wildlife and wildlife-watchers alike. At Marshgate Spring this April HCV built a set of steps up to Edinburgh Way, having last summer constructed a boardwalk to allow ease of access. Despite rather boggy conditions HCV did a fantastic job and the site is now much more visitor-friendly!!



## Hedge-laying at Harlow Agricultural Merchants

Harlow Conservation Volunteers have now completed the last in a series of hedge-laying tasks at Harlow Agricultural Merchants in Little Hallingbury. The task really began back in 1990 and now with the hedge having grown to an ideal height, using traditional hedge-laying techniques and tools HCV have created a beautiful and ancient feature of the English Countryside. The group are to be congratulated on a job

## Creating wildlife gardens

Over the years HCV have contributed to a number of wildlife gardens in the Harlow area. The most recent addition is the wildlife area at Holy Cross primary school. HCV were joined by many willing volunteers from the school to tackle a rather vicious patch of bramble and a very heavy clay soil to create a wildlife walk and a new pond for children to learn about and enjoy for years to come.

June

## Task Programme June – September 2006

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June: Harlow Marshes

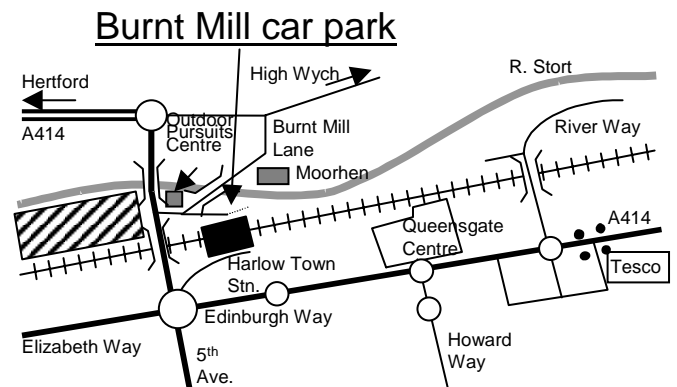
### Remove trollies from pond beneath Zig-Zag bridge

Task leader: Colin L

This task has been arranged to coincide with celebrations for World Environment Day 2006. Harlow Council have commissioned a town-wide survey of ponds for Great Crested Newts, with this pond a candidate. To make it more hospitable for this protected species, HCV are aiming to break last year's record and will be returning them to their rightful owners!

Meet at Burnt Mill car park at 9.30am.

Meet at the Burnt Mill car park behind Harlow Town Station. From the station roundabout, leave Harlow on the A414 towards Hertford, then take the first right. Take the first right again into the car park. The site is a short walk along the towpath – look for the zig-zag bridge crossing the railway on the right. Grid ref. TL 446 113.



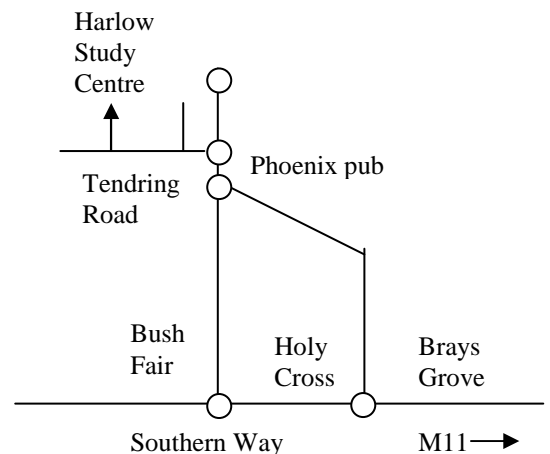
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June: Todd Brook LNR (TBA)

### Path cutting and general clear up of site

Task leader: Andrew T/Colin L

In preparation for the launch of this newly declared Local Nature Reserve on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July HCV will be carrying out conservation work to improve the site.

Meet at Harlow Study Centre at 9.30am.



From the M11 roundabout enter Harlow on the A414. Turn left onto Southern Way and continue over 3 mini-roundabouts. At the 4<sup>th</sup> turn right, continue along through traffic lights then turn left at the 2<sup>nd</sup> mini-roundabout, near the Phoenix pub. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right and follow signs for the Study Centre.

# Task Programme June – September 2006

## July

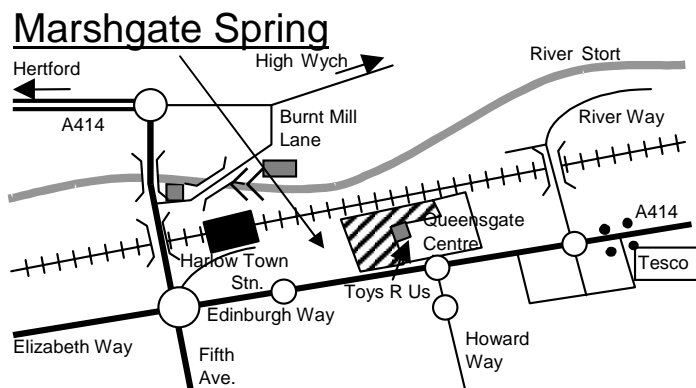
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Marshgate Spring

### Construction of a bridge and stile

Task leader: Colin L

With the Road Safety Centre now in relatively safe hands HCV will be constructing a bridge and stile at Marshgate Spring in order to allow ease of access for the public.

Meet at the Toys 'R' Us car park at 9.30am.



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

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August

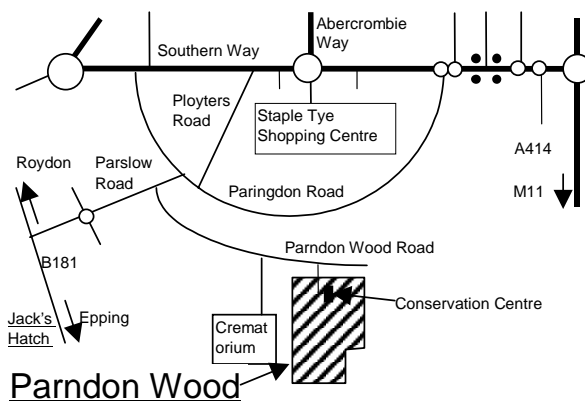
Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

### Construction of a boardwalk

Task leader: Jenny/Matt

Some of the nature trail at Parndon Wood has developed a reputation for being a bit of a quagmire at times. HCV will be constructing a boardwalk of approximately 100m in length over two days to remedy this situation.

Meet at Parndon Wood Conservation Centre at 9.30am.



Follow signs to Parndon Wood Cemetery and Crematorium onto Parndon Wood Road. Instead of turning into the Cemetery continue along the road until you reach a dead end and you will see the Reserve on the right. Parking is available.

## August

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August: Harlow Agricultural Merchants

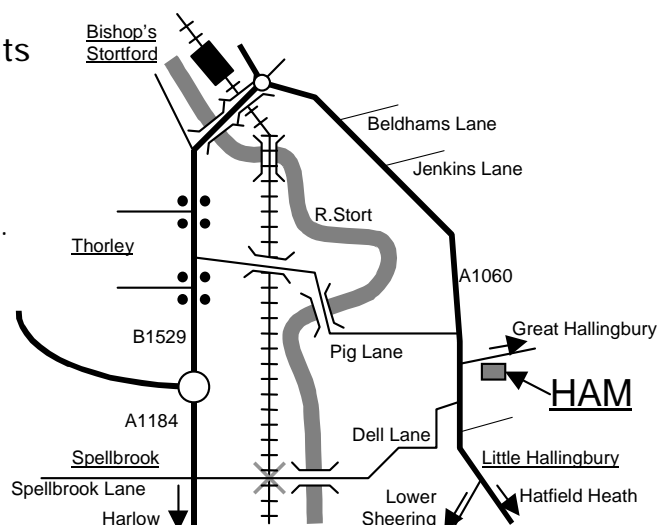
### Willow coppicing

Task leader: Peter

HCV will be carrying out some willow coppicing for HAM as this has now become overgrown and is shading out a pond.

Meet at the HAM car park at 9.30am.

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.



Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August: HCV Planning Meeting

### Programme planning and preparations for Town Show 2006

Meet at Parndon Wood Conservation Centre at 7.30pm. (Directions as above)

# Task Programme June – September 2006

## September

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Harlow Town Show 2006

### HCV Stall and volunteer recruitment!

HCV will be attending the annual Town Show to promote the excellent work of the group and to raise awareness of wildlife and nature conservation in Harlow. This is the best opportunity for the group to recruit new volunteers!!

To help out on the stand please contact Marilyn Hart (group secretary) on 01279 865239.

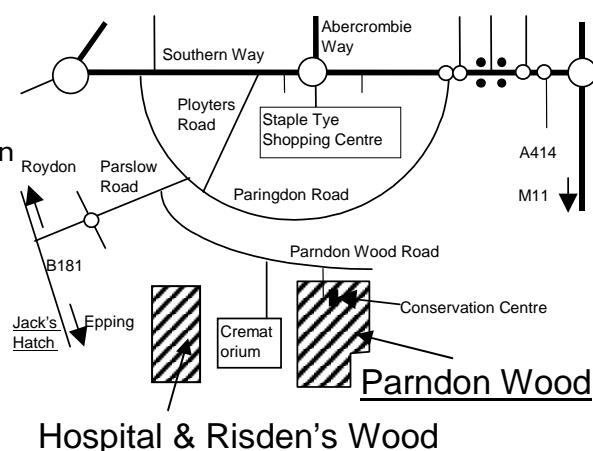
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September: Hospital & Ridsen's Woods

### Vegetation and pond clearance

This task will involve the coppicing of surrounding vegetation and clearance of the pond.

Task leader: To be decided

Meet at Parndon Wood Conservation Centre at 9.30am.



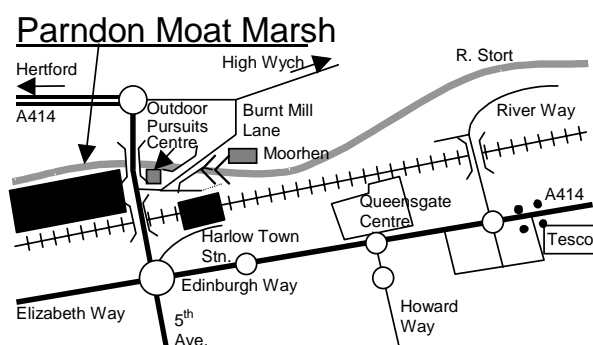
## October

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Parndon Moat Marsh

### Cutting and clearing of marsh

Task leader: To be decided

The task will involve the cutting of reeds and other vegetation to encourage diversity on the site and to prepare the site in anticipation of work to be carried out by Harlow Council to create more marshy conditions.



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