

Harlow Conservation Volunteers *Newsletter*



September '07 – February '08

Newsletter and task programme

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).

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. However, if you are between 16 and 18 years old your parent or guardian must sign a consent form – please contact the HCV Secretary. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult who must be responsible for them at all times. 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:

Marilyn Hart (Secretary)
70 Rivermill, Harlow, Essex
CM20 1NT. ☎01279-865239
Email: gary.dobrin@virgin.net
Web : www.harlowwildlife.org.uk

GROUP ORGANISERS

Gary Dobrin ☎01707-375216
Marilyn Hart ☎01279-865239
Andrew Tomlins ☎01279-434322
Colin Lincoln ☎01279-635547
Peter Hooper ☎01277-353412

HARLOW COUNCIL CONTACTS

Darren Fazackerley,
Landscape Officer. ☎01279-446997
Glenn Mulleady – Biodiversity Officer
☎01279-430005

News : Summer 2007

Wildlife & Country Crafts Fair 2007

In May Parndon Wood Nature Reserve hosted its annual wildlife and country crafts fair. This year's event was well attended and visitors were treated to a range of stalls and displays.



Harlow Conservation Volunteers demonstrated their skills by completing a charcoal burn using wood from the nature reserve produced during coppicing operations during the previous winter. The charcoal is then bagged up and sold, with all proceeds going to Harlow Conservation Volunteers to support ongoing projects within Harlow. The local production of charcoal using these methods is completely organic and is a valuable demonstration of historic woodland management practices.

Bags of charcoal for the barbecue cost £3 per bag and are on sale at Harlow Town Show in September and throughout the year from Parndon Wood Nature Reserve.

Harlow Marshes Local Nature Reserve Improvements

During the Summer of 2007 HCV and Harlow District Council have been undertaking a number of projects to improve the condition of Harlow Marshes LNR, led by HCV member and project coordinator Colin Lincoln. Many of the activities have taken place within Marshgate Spring, a small area of ancient bluebell woodland and marsh to the north of Edinburgh Way, adjacent to the Queensgate retail area. The area has suffered from various problems in the past, including dumped shopping trolleys, litter and trespassing motorbikes, which have all led to a decline in the condition of this



unique site in Harlow. In addition, public access has been restricted in the past during the wetter months when the tracks and paths become unpassable. The drainage ditches which feed the main marshes area to the north have also become silted and blocked. A post and rail fence and stile have been erected to protect the boundary of the site. A boardwalk has been installed to provide year round access for the public to view the important bird, plant and animal life present on the site. Funding

from the Essex Biodiversity Project has also financed a contractor to clear the ditches to ease the water flow through the site. The improvement in the quality of the site has been dramatic, with visitors now able to enjoy the site to the full. Further tasks to improve and maintain Harlow Marshes LNR are scheduled for the Autumn/Winter of 2007, including willow and hazel coppicing and reed cutting (see programme for further details).



Harlow Wildlife Projects

Harlow Wildlife Projects is a newly formed organisation with the aim of securing funding to support wildlife conservation projects within Harlow. We aim to support a range of projects, large and small, within Harlow to improve biodiversity and encourage awareness of the rich variety of wildlife within our Town.

We are currently looking for new members to join our organisation and assist with the development of the group and achievements of its aims. If you have any ideas for future wildlife projects we can support, are able to provide financial backing for such projects or if you are interested in becoming a member please contact us using the details below.

Telephone: Andrew Tomlins (Chairman) 01279 434322

Email: harlow_wildlife@yahoo.co.uk

**Harlow Wildlife Projects, c/o Parndon Wood Nature Reserve,
Parndon Wood Road, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4SF.**

Task Programme September '07 – February '08

September

Sunday 16th September

Parndon Moat Marsh

Cutting and clearing of marsh

Task leader: Linda

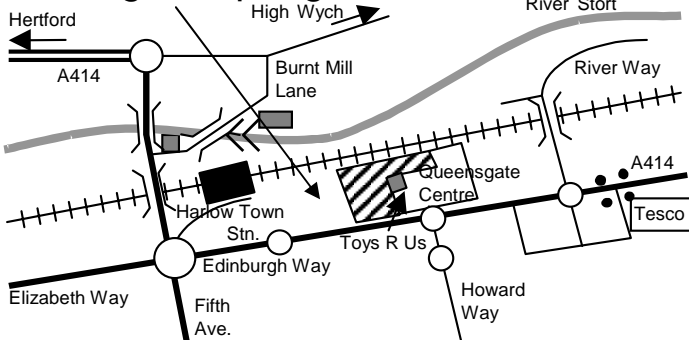
The task will involve the cutting of reeds and other vegetation to encourage diversity on the site and to prepare the site in anticipation of work to be carried out by Harlow Council to create more marshy conditions.

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



Parndon Moat Marsh Local Nature Reserve

Marshgate Spring



Sunday 30th September: Marshgate Spring

Reed cutting & sycamore removal

Task leader: Colin

Cutting of reeds along ditch banks to allow water flow to improve. Removal of sycamore to allow more light to penetrate to the wood.

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

October

Sunday 14th October

Parndon Moat Marsh

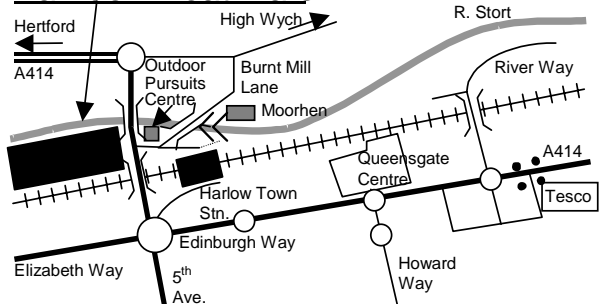
Cutting embankment

Task leader: Colin

The task will involve the cutting of the flower-rich grass embankment next to the A414 to maintain and improve diversity on the site.

Directions and meeting times as above.

Parndon Moat Marsh



Task Programme September '07 – February '08

October

Sunday 28th October

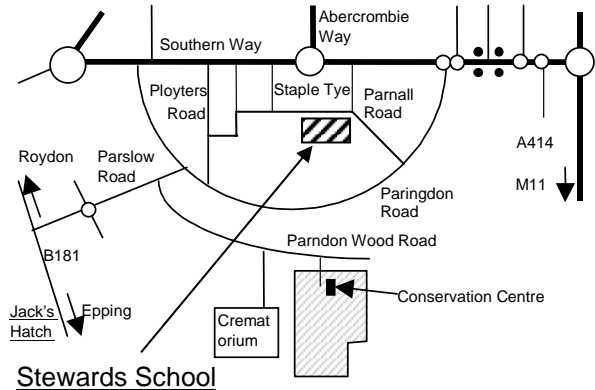
Stewards School, Harlow

Meadow cutting and scrumping

Task Leader: Gary D

The annual cutting of one of Harlow's designated Wildlife Sites will help to maintain the correct conditions for the meadow flora to thrive.

Meet at the school entrance on Pincey Brook Road off Parnall Road behind the Staple Tye Shopping Centre. Grid Ref. TL 445 079.



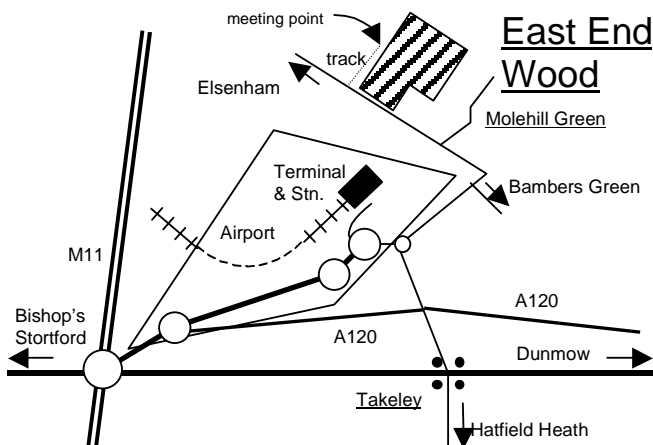
November

Sunday 11th November: East End Wood
Coppicing

Task leader: Peter

Learn the theory and methods that are used in the traditional management technique of coppicing at East End wood.

Meet by the gate into the wood at the end of the access lane. From the A120 at Takeley take the Molehill Green Road, go right at the roundabout, past the turn to Molehill Green, then half a mile further to the wood on the right. Grid Ref. TL 559 254.



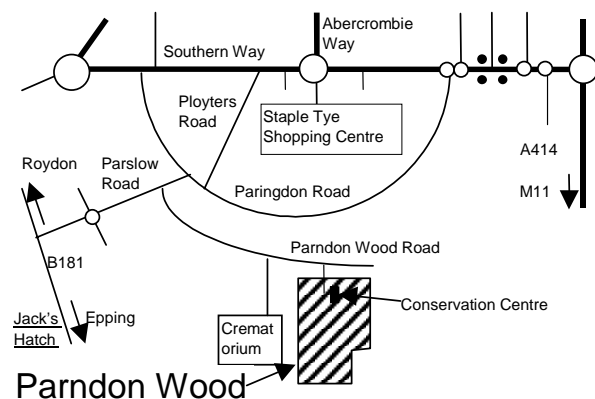
Sunday 25th November:

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

Tree Planting

Task leader: Jenny

Planting of trees to create the 'Harlow 60 Years Wood' to celebrate Harlow's 60th Anniversary. These trees will create a link between Hospital & Risdens wood and Parndon Wood.



Meet at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve at 9.30am or make your way up to the tree planting site later on (for directions see Conservation Centre).

Parking available at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve.

Task Programme September '07 – February '08

December

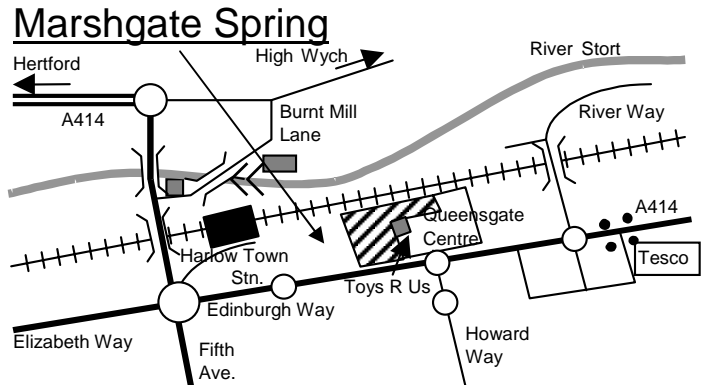
Sunday 9th December:

Marshgate Spring

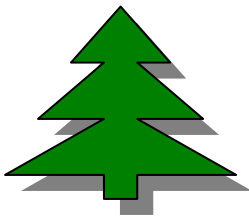
Sycamore removal

Task leader: Sean

This is a piece of traditional woodland of hazel coppice under oak standards. Come and help remove invasive sycamore which casts dense shade over the hazel and bluebells.



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



Sunday 30th December
Marshgate Spring
CHRISTMAS STODGEBUSTER!
Willow & hazel coppicing

Task leader: Gary



Come along to Marshgate Spring to escape the relatives, burn off a few hundred calories and enjoy the crisp winter air as we coppice some of the willow and hazel along the woodland/marshland boundary.

Directions and meeting times as above.

January 2008

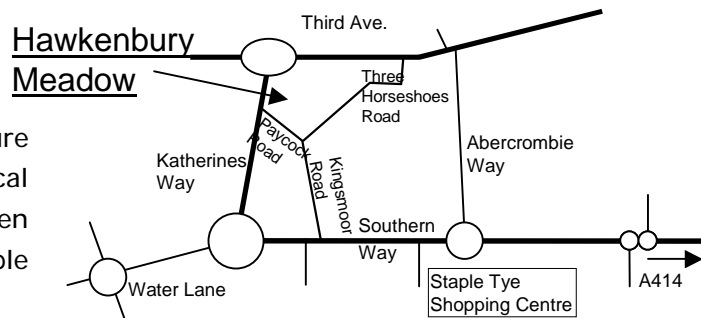
Sunday 13th January:

Hawkenbury Meadow

Willow coppicing and bramble bashing

Task leader: Andrew T.

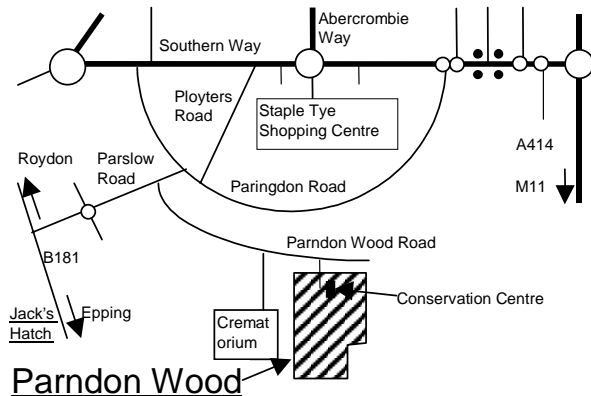
Continuing management of the mature Willows at Hawkenbury Meadow Local Nature Reserve to maintain the open meadow habitat, with some bramble bashing for good measure!



Meet at road-side on Paycock Road, just off Katherine's Way. Grid Ref. TL 434 088

Task Programme September '07 – February '08

January



Tuesday 22nd January 2008
AGM & Slides from the Parndon Wood archive
followed by
Programme planning meeting
7.30pm Parndon Wood Conservation Centre

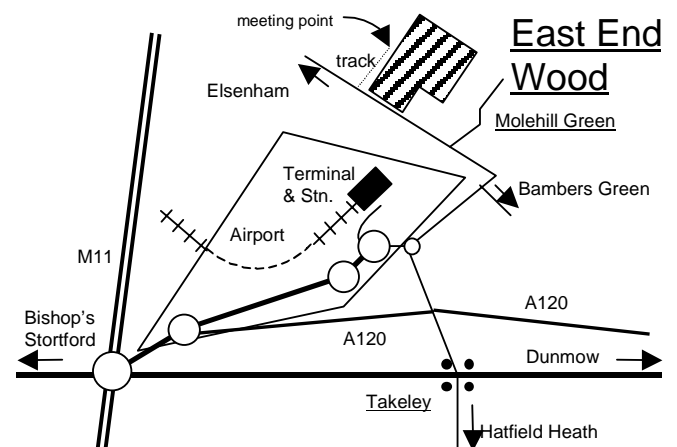
Sunday 27th January: East End Wood

Coppicing

Task leader: Peter

If you've missed any of the other coppicing tasks, come along to East End Wood to learn the theory and methods or maybe just brush up on your technique!

Meet by the gate into the wood at the end of the access lane. From the A120 at Takeley take the Molehill Green Road, go right at the roundabout, past the turn to Molehill Green, then half a mile further to the wood on the right. Grid Ref. TL 559 254.



February

Sunday 10th February:

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

Woodland coppice protection

Task leader: Marilyn

The continuation of the rotational regime of coppicing last autumn at Parndon Wood means that fencing needs to be constructed to ensure the new shoots are protected from damage by foraging Fallow deer.

Meet at Parndon Wood Conservation Centre at 9.30am (directions as above).



Protected Hornbeam stools at Parndon Wood with Stella and Bruno at work.

Sunday 24th February: East End Wood

A second coppicing task at East End Wood.

Meet at East End Wood (directions as above).