

# Harlow Conservation Volunteers

# Newsletter



September 08 – March 09

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## Newsletter and task programme

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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. 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.

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### CONTACT US:

Marilyn Hart (Secretary)  
70 Rivermill, Harlow, Essex  
CM20 1NT. ☎01279-865239  
Email: [gary.dobrin@virgin.net](mailto:gary.dobrin@virgin.net)

Web : [www.harlowwildlife.org.uk](http://www.harlowwildlife.org.uk)

### GROUP ORGANISERS

Gary Dobrin ☎01707-375216  
Marilyn Hart ☎01279-865239  
Andrew Tomlins☎01279-434322  
Parndon Wood ☎01279 430005

### HARLOW COUNCIL CONTACTS

Darren Fazackerley,  
☎01279-446997  
Glenn Mulleady  
☎01279-430005

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## Ode to Glenn

### From the voice of the forest

*Who's this stranger within our ancient wood  
Here making mischief, or on the side of good  
It's Mulleady whispered one snarled old Oak  
A silence fell about at mention of this name  
One most feared in stories, told by forest folk*

*You would come upon him unexpectedly  
Stretched out below some spreading tree  
His mischievous mind forever scheming  
Snug there beneath the canopy of leaves  
He'd laze, continually daydreaming*

*The very few that came to know him well  
Became spellbound in tales he used to tell  
A creature of mystery to more simple men  
Did he come from a remote enchanted glade  
Or inhabit a distant long lost shady Glen*

*Has superstition been clouding our heads  
This person that folk law told us to dead  
Have his intentions been so misunderstood  
This rascal Mulleady with the impish grin  
Might he be guardian over our green wood?*



# Task Programme September '08 – March '09

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Maymeads Marsh Nature Reserve

Reedmace pulling

Task leader: Colin L

Management of reedmace marshland to maintain the wetland habitat. Bring shorts or waders – be prepared to get wet!

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

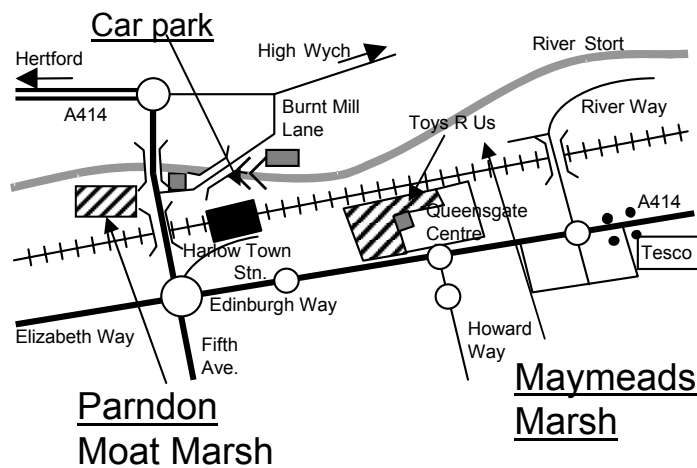
Parndon Moat Marsh

Sedge cutting

Task leader: Colin L

Annual thinning of vegetation to preserve diversity of habitat. Important site for Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Essex Biodiversity Action Plan species).

**Directions: Meet at Burnt Mill Lane car park 9.30am, off A414 between Harlow Town Station roundabout and High Wych roundabout. From Harlow turn right into Burnt Mill Lane then turn right after the Outdoor Pursuits Centre but before the bridge. Site grid ref, TL454 118**



Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

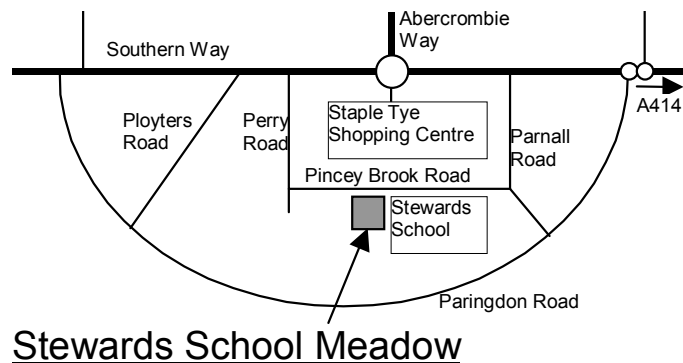
Stewards School

Meadow cutting

Task leader: Gary D

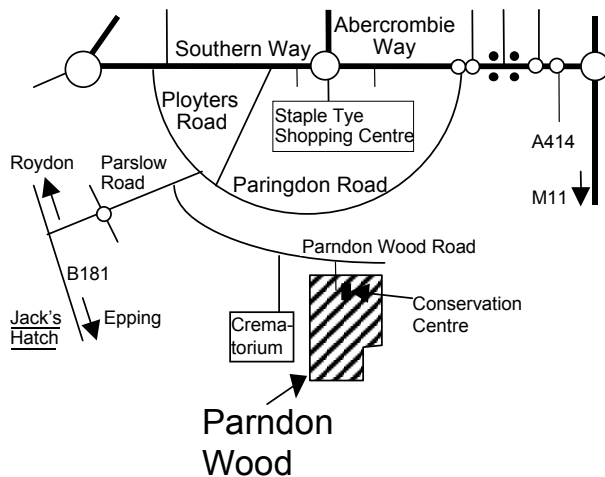
Cutting of species rich hay meadow followed by apple scrumping to reward your hard work.

Meet at 9.30am at the school entrance on Pincey Brook Road off Parnall Road off Southern way behind the Staple Tye Shopping Centre. Grid Ref. TL 445 079.



**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008: AGM + guest speaker**  
All members welcome to review the group's activities for the past year. This year's guest speaker will be Glenn Mulleady from Harlow Council on the "Veteran Trees of Harlow".  
Meet at 19.30 at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve.

# Task Programme September '08 – March '09



## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October Parndon Wood Pond clearout & BBQ

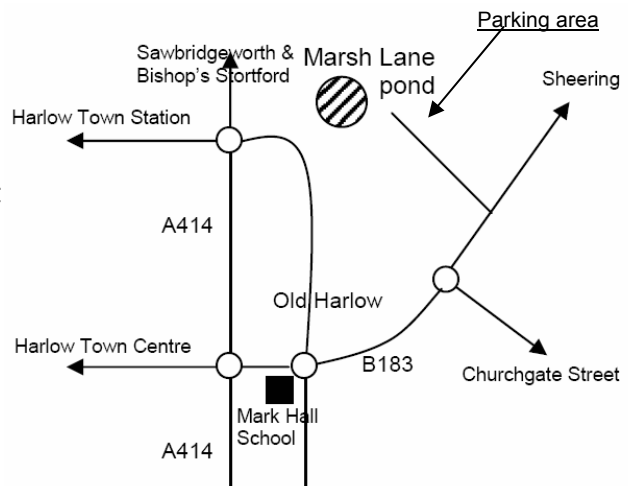
Task leader: Marilyn  
Clean out and clear up of ponds around conservation centre. Followed by autumn BBQ – bring your own bangers!!!

**Directions:** Meet at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve at 9.30am  
Parking available at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve.

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November Marsh Lane Pond

Task leader: Linda  
Management of pond and surrounding habitat to promote diversity of wildlife in and around this small but important pond.

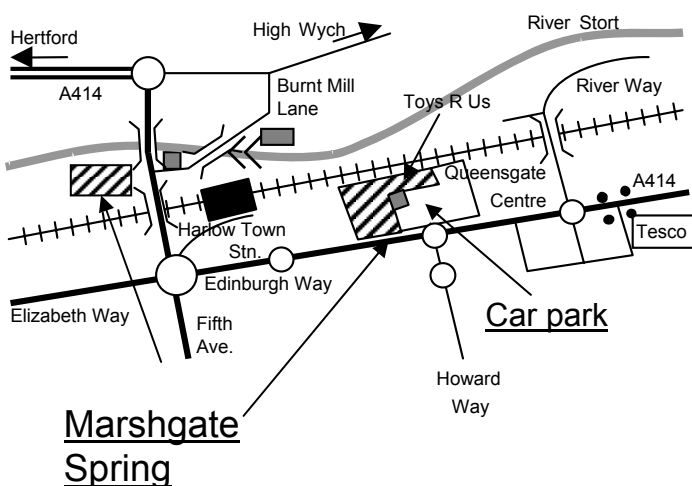
**Directions:** Meet at parking area at Gibberd Garden at 9.30am.



## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Marshgate Spring Marsh maintenance

Task leader: Colin L  
Water control repairs and reed clearance to maintain water levels within marsh.

Meet in the Toys 'R' Us car park at the shop front, Edinburgh Way at 9.30am. Grid Ref. TL 454 114.



## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December TO BE CONFIRMED Tree planting

Task leader: Andrew T

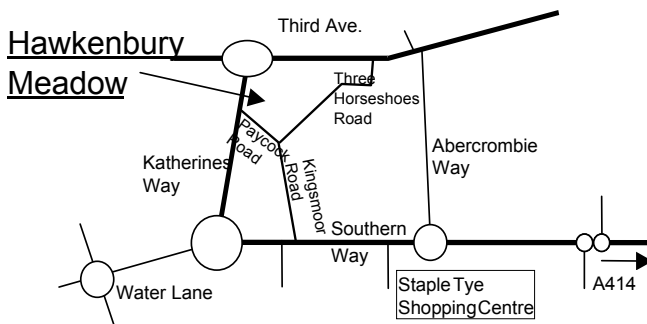
Planting of 1800 trees to celebrate National Tree Week  
LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED: Contact Parndon Wood Nature Reserve to confirm.

# Task Programme September '08 – March '09

**Pre-Christmas Social**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December:**  
**Parndon Wood Nature Reserve**  
Come along to Parndon Wood Nature Reserve for chestnuts on the BBQ and carol singing with Harlow Chorus.  
Bring your own food for the BBQ!  
**Meet at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve at 1pm**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Marshgate Spring**  
**Christmas Stodgebuster**  
Task leader: Gary D  
Removal of hazel, willow and sycamore scrub to burn off some of those Christmas calories!

Directions and times as above



**Sunday 4th January**  
**Hawkenbury Meadow**  
**Willow coppicing/scrub cutting**  
Task leader: Andrew T  
Rotational coppicing of mature willows and reduction of scrub to maintain this small local nature reserves.

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

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Maymeads Marsh**  
**Vegetation clearance**  
Task leader: Colin L  
Task to reduce amount of vegetation on island. Bring your wellies!  
Directions and times as above.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January:**  
**HCV Planning Meeting.**  
Come along and give us some ideas for the future task programme.  
**Parndon Wood Nature Reserve**  
**19.30pm**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
**Old Hall Rise pond**  
**Pond Clearance & Improvements**  
Task leader: Linda  
A task to improve the pond and surroundings for the local residents of Church Langley. Nominated for entry into the Harlow Hotspots 2008 competition.

Meet at Old Hall Rise, Church Langley, Harlow at 9.30am.  
For exact meeting point and location please contact Parndon Wood Conservation Centre on 01279 430005

# *Task Programme September '08 – March '09*

**Sunday 15th February**

**Marshgate Spring**

Scrub removal

Task leader: Colin L

Removal of hazel, willow and sycamore scrub, a continuation of the task carried out on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

Directions and times as above

**Sunday 1st March**

**Hawkenbury Meadow**

Willow coppicing/scrub cutting

Task leader: Andrew T

Rotational coppicing of mature willows and reduction of scrub to maintain this small local nature reserves. Continuation of the task carried out on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

Times and directions as above

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Parndon Moat Marsh**

Willow coppicing

Task leader: Colin L

Today's task will be the management of over-mature willow coppice clogging up a pond within Parndon Moat Marsh Nature Reserve.

Times and directions as above

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Parndon Wood Nature Reserve**

Coppice Protection

Task leader: Marilyn

Much work has been done over the last two seasons to continue the historical rotational coppice regime at Parndon Wood. Today's task will be to erect fences around the coppiced trees to protect them from damage by the resident fallow and muntjac deer of the wood.

Directions and times as above

## **PROVISIONAL HCV TASK DATES**

- 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009
- 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009

### **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.

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](mailto:harlow_wildlife@yahoo.co.uk)**

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