

West Berkshire Countryside Society

Event Diary January – March 2017

The events below give you the opportunity to come out on practical tasks, learn new skills, meet new people and, above all, enjoy yourself. The tasks usually begin around 10am and finish by 3pm but you are very welcome to come for as much time as you wish to give during these hours. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing, and bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the full day. Hot drinks are usually provided, as are the necessary tools.

January

Tue-03-Jan 10.00 am Holt Lodge Farm, Kintbury SU387 648. Coppicing to refresh the hazel stools and open up the woodland canopy. Meet at Holt Lodge Farm House near Kintbury.

Sun-08-Jan 10.30 am - 1.00 pm Meet at Angels Corner, Bucklebury Common, SU550 688. Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat.

Tue-10-Jan 10.00 am Grove Pit Common, Leckhampstead, SU440 777. Coppicing, felling and scrub clearance on this parish wildlife site. Access the common via the track which leaves the B4494 west at Cotswold Farm. Please leave your vehicles at the bottom of the track and walk up to the common. Vehicles carrying tools and refreshments please drive directly to the task site.

Tue-17-Jan 10.00 am Bucklebury Meadows off Morton's Lane, Upper Bucklebury SU545 687. Hedge maintenance and scrub clearance. Parking in Mortons Lane.

Tue-24-Jan 10.00 am Elm Farm. Organic Research Centre, Kintbury. SU414 654. Maintenance work on the farm trail and nature reserve. Parking on opposite side of the road from the main building in track leading to barns.

Tue-31-Jan 10.00 am Jewells Farm, Stanford Dingley, RG7 6LX, SU573 711. A variety of tasks at this site on the banks of the Pang. Parking off road on site.

February

Tue-07-Feb 10.00 am Sulham Water Meadows, Home Farm, Sulham. SU642 759. Coppicing and other woodland management. Parking at Sulham Home Farm SU643 758

Sat-11-Feb 10.30 am - 1.00 pm Meet at Angels Corner, Bucklebury Common, SU550 688. Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat.

Tue-14-Feb 10.00 am Furze Hill, Hermitage SU512 740. Woodland and butterfly habitat management on this parish wildlife site. Parking at new village hall - through double gates off Pinewood Crescent

Tue-21-Feb 10.00 am Boxford Water Meadow. (Site #2 CEH) Westbrook SU427 716. Scrub clearance and other water meadow management tasks on this SSSI research site. Park in the access strip to the main field. This lies on Westbrook, Boxford about 150 yards on the right between 2 houses.

Tue-28-Feb 10.00 am Ashampstead Common. SU5765 7512. Veteran Tree Halo Polishing. Help us maintain the glades that help our veterans prosper. We will be cutting back bracken, bramble and

small saplings. Meet at the parking area 100 yards past The Cottage, Ashampstead Common. SU5765 7512

March

Tue-07-Mar 10.00 am The Malt House, West Woodhay. SU395 637. Hedge laying on the site we have worked on for several years. If you wish to enjoy the delicious lunch provided by The Malt House then please confirm your attendance to tonyjmcDonald@btinternet.com by lunchtime Friday 10th Mar.

Sun-12-Mar 10.30 am - 1.00 pm Bucklebury Common, heathland management SU550 688. Join the Bucklebury Heathland Group to help maintain this important heathland habitat. Meet at Angels Corner SU 550 688

Tue-14-Mar 10.00 am The Malt House, West Woodhay. SU395 637. Hedge laying on the site we have worked on for several years. If you wish to enjoy the delicious lunch provided by The Malt House then please confirm your attendance to tonyjmcDonald@btinternet.com by lunchtime Friday 17th Mar.

Tue-21-Mar 10.00 am Masons Farm, Hampstead Marshall, SU403 657. Woodland classroom creation coppicing, dead fence creation, tree felling. Parking in the Farm yard.

Tue-28-Mar 10.00 am Rushall Manor Farm, off Back Lane, Bradfield SU584 723. Woodland management, coppicing and ride widening. Meet at the Black Barn off Back Lane between Stanford Dingley and Bradfield.

Wed-29-Mar 7.45 - 9.00 pm AN ANCIENT TRACK - THE MIDDLE RIDGEWAY Oak Room, Memorial Hall, Broad Lane, Upper Bucklebury, RG7 6QH. Join us for a fascinating evening exploring the Middle Ridgeway with Patrick Dillon who takes us on a journey on this ancient track through the iconic chalk landscape between Goring Gap and Avebury. His talk will include illustrations from his book co-authored by Eric Jones and beautifully illustrated with new paintings by his daughter, well known artist Anna Dillon. Please note there is no entry charge for this talk.