

# **Burton Conservation Volunteers**

## **Task List 2014**



**Appletree meadows Etwall working with local people**

**Date** 5-1-14

**Place** Newbrough

**Task** Annual walk

**Volunteers** 13

**Results** An excellent walk, shortened by the bad weather, but we still learned a lot about the area from Lynn's local knowledge and had more time in the pub.

**Date** 12-1-14

**Place** Tatenhill Guides Camp

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 21 + 1 Guide

**Results** We completed the overhaul of the nature area and opened up the old Marl Quarry face, so that it was gleaming in the sun when we left. Large apple tree pruned.

**Date** 26-1-14

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** General maintenance

**Volunteers** 15 + 1 SDDC

**Results** Overgrown paths were cut back and defined and a long section of redundant fence was removed and stacked for recycling.

**Date** 2-2-14

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** Various maintenance

**Volunteers** 18+1 SDDC inc 2 x D of Ed

**Results** New gate post and gate re-hung, scrub cleared, paths opened up and woodland thinned.

**Date** 7-2-14

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** Install birdboxes

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** Chicken wire removed for recycling, 6 boxes installed

**Date** 15-2-14

**Place** Riverside Hotel

**Task** Christmas meal

**Volunteers** 36

**Results** A successful evening with everyone having a good meal and time

**Date** 18-2-14

**Place** Rolleston paths

**Task** Upgrade existing stiles

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** New treads fitted to eroding stiles

**Date** 22-2-14

**Place** Rolleston paths

**Task** Upgrade existing stiles

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** 4 barrows of hardcore to reset stile tread and infill bad erosion

**Date** 23-2-14

**Place** Newton Rd Winshill

**Task** Continue pollinator /wildlife area alongside the road

**Volunteers** 17 + 1 Winshill PC

**Results** Lots of dense evergreen wood cutback to revitalise woodland flora, cutback and litterpick of roadside, plant up pollinator area

**Date** 8-3-14

**Place** St Johns Ambulance

**Task** 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Course

**Volunteers** 6

**Results** All passed!

**Date** 9-3-14

**Place** Upper Mills Farm

**Task** Maintain old BCV projects

**Volunteers** 15

**Results** A few failed Black Poplars and fruit trees were replaced and damaged shelters repaired most ok despite 2 years of floods, withy coppiced.

**Date** 14-3-14

**Place** Upper Mills Farm

**Task** Recreate the old garden at the farm entrance

**Volunteers** 4

**Results** A good start made to create a different 'historical' feature on the site

**Date** 16-3-14

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** Maintain paths

**Volunteers** 17

**Results** Paths cut back and opened up on a number of areas of the site.

**Date** 30-3-14

**Place** Springfield School Swadlincote

**Task** Upgrade school nature area

**Volunteers** 17 + 9 school inc head

**Results** A busy day lots of different tasks, inc. grubbing up/cutting back badly pruned shrubs and fruit trees, revitalising, planting and seeding beds. V good school support.

**Date** 1-4-14

**Place** Rolleston paths

**Task** Repair rotten gate post

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** Cut back area, removed old post and fitted new one.

**Date** 6-4-14

**Place** Bank walk Horninglow

**Task** Open up brook and wild area.

**Volunteers** 15 BCV inc. 1 D of Ed plus 14 local

**Results** A major clear up, opening up the brook and cut back alongside the path

**Date** 4-4-14

**Place** Kingfisher Trail

**Task** Litter Pick

**Volunteers** 2 BCV plus 4 Kingfisher

**Results** 6 large bags of rubbish cleared

**Date** 13-4-14

**Place** Springfield School

**Task** Restore school pond

**Volunteers** 16 + 2 staff

**Results** Area cut back and cleared, 2 large alders felled and made into benches.

**Date** 3-5-14

**Place** Beaumont College Lancaster

**Task** Upgrade nature area at a residential college for students with disabilities

**Volunteers** 8 + 5 staff

**Results** We camped on Morecombe bay Friday night then over to the college for breakfast. One team did the full 50M<sup>2</sup> ecogrid path in the day and other cutback and upgraded the nature areas. Fish & Chips on Morecombe Bay to finish

**Date** 4-5-14

**Place** Beaumont College Lancaster

**Task** Upgrade nature area at a residential college for students with disabilities

**Volunteers** 8 +6 staff

**Results** We continued with the nature area upgrades, opening up bluebell areas around the pond and defining future paths. All arisings were sorted for sale/craft activities, or burned, with the fire being used for an excellent barbeque to end the day

**Date** 11-5-14

**Place** Watson St Burton

**Task** RA Washlands to Walton walk for National Forest Walking Festival

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** An excellent walk, much needed as areas needed cutting back and poor stiles reporting

**Date** 17-5-14

**Place** Watson St

**Task** Lead Washlands to Walton walk

**Volunteers** 31

**Results** A super turnout, not everyone did the whole walk, but everyone enjoyed what they did.

**Date** 23-5-14

**Place** Watson St

**Task** Reap What You Sow walk

**Volunteers** 7

**Results** A short walk to show the BCV led environmental project on the Washlands

**Date** 31-5-14

**Place** Burton Caribbean Centre

**Task** Defibrillator training

**Volunteers** 8

**Results** 8 volunteers fully trained in the use of our new defibrillator

**Date** 1-6-14

**Place** Appletree Meadow Etwall

**Task** work with local people to upgrade a new wetland POS

**Volunteers** 17 inc 2 x D of Ed, 3 local, 1 SDDC

**Results** A new site for SDDC, local people mainly concerned about flooding from the Etwall Brook. A good start made cutting back hedges, clearing ditches etc. with good local support. Arisings burned on site, due to problems with flooding. The local people were so pleased they brought us homemade biscuits and ice creams.

**Date** 6 to 14-6-14

**Place** Drybrook, Forest of Dean

**Task** Walking and camping holiday

**Volunteers** Lots coming and going

**Results** An excellent break, with some good walks and even better cider

**Date** 21-6-14

**Place** Hoar Cross

**Task** Educational walk for B&DWG

**Volunteers** 2 + 5

**Results** An excellent walk led by Lynn, low turnout meant the talk could be more in depth and technical

**Date** 22-6-14

**Place** Appletree Meadow

**Task** Continue the wetland work

**Volunteers** 18 + 7 local + 1 SDDC

**Results** Another very positive day, ditches cleared, hedge opened up with good local support and a dazzling display of damselflies and dragonflies

**Date** 29-6-14

**Place** Appletree Meadow

**Task** Continue the wetland work

**Volunteers** 16 inc 2 D of Ed, 8 local, 1 SDDC

**Results** A continued positive result, hedge and ditch cleared plus other watercourses opened up. Not just homemade sausage rolls, from locals, but a thank-you card as well.

**Date** 1-7-14

**Place** Bank Walk Horninglow

**Task** Clear Himalayan Balsam

**Volunteers** 4

**Results** All balsam upstream of Tutbury rd cleared and the Horninglow side of the road was opened up for future work.

**Date** 6-7-14

**Place** River Mease SAC nr Netherseal

**Task** Clear Himalayan Balsam

**Volunteers** 14 inc. 2 D of Ed

**Results** Water levels were low, so it was safe to deploy 2 teams with waders and banks men, so 12 large patches cleared both sides in and out of the river.

**Date** 13-7-14

**Place** Beacon Hill Leics.

**Task** First section of NF Way

**Volunteers** 9

**Results** A successful 13 mile walk to Thornton Reservoir via Bradgate Park

**Date** 20-7-14

**Place** Mease SAC nr Harlaston

**Task** Clear Himalayan Balsam

**Volunteers** 14 inc. 2 D of Ed

**Results** Main target area was inaccessible due to dangerous bridge totally blocked by bramble, but a few other large sections of the river cleared of Balsam.

**Date** 26-7-14

**Place** Burton Caribbean Association

**Task** 195<sup>th</sup> Birthday party

**Volunteers** Lots & lots

**Results** 3 of us were 65 (195 total) so we had an excellent joint party to celebrate.

**Date** 3-8-14

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Clear Himalayan Balsam and tidy up brook

**Volunteers** 13 inc 2 D of Ed, + 2 locals

**Results** A good start, despite a low turnout due to holidays plenty achieved although we did not use the new Brushcutter due to the sounds of birdsong and lots of brambles in fruit.

**Date** 9-8-14

**Place** Dallow Lock T & M canal

**Task** B&DWG walk

**Volunteers** 9

**Results** A walk to look at an urban wildlife reserve, in the centre of Burton

**Date** 10-8-14

**Place** Upper Mill Farm

**Task** remove ragwort from grazing area

**Volunteers** 8

**Results** We recommended that people did not travel to site, due to Hurricane Bertha but we still cleared 2 full fields and relocated any cinnabar moth caterpillars found

**Date** 12-8-14

**Place** Bank walk

**Task** Balsam clearance

**Volunteers** 4

**Results** A focused small group completed the task and large areas hitherto not known

**Date** 17-8-14

**Place** Anglesey allotment Burton

**Task** Tidy BCV allotment and barbeque

**Volunteers** plenty

**Results** A productive day and a good social

**Date** 24-8-14

**Place** Thornton Reservoir

**Task** Second section of the National Forest Walk

**Volunteers** 11

**Results** An excellent if stretching walk to Ashby via Sence Valley Park

**Date** 28-8-14

**Place** Upper Mills Farm

**Task** Ragwort clearance

**Volunteers** 6

**Results** Complete clearing the field that we did not finish due to hurricane Bertha.

**Date** 30-8-14  
**Place** Globe Theatre, London  
**Task** Social  
**Volunteers** 12  
**Results** A good day out and an excellent performance

**Date** 2-9-14  
**Place** All Saints Church Burton  
**Task** Talk about 21 years of BCV  
**Volunteers** Over 50 at the talk  
**Results** A positive publicity event for the group

**Date** 6-9-14  
**Place** Rosliston Forestry Centre  
**Task** Attend 'Proms' concert  
**Volunteers** 7  
**Results** Zoe Sewter the SDDC Open Spaces manager had kindly given us tickets to attend the concert and a very good time was had by all that attended.

**Date** 7-9-14  
**Place** Dallow Lock T&M canal  
**Task** A 6 mile walk looking at urban wildlife areas  
**Volunteers** 7 + 1  
**Results** A successful walk with stunning views over Burton plus a few BCV sites, we may use it for the next National Forest Walking Festival

**Date** 14-9-14  
**Place** Warf Road nr. Chasewater  
**Task** Start a new site opening up a SSSI  
**Volunteers** 8 + 1 LDC  
**Results** Holiday time, so a low turnout, but gave more time to assess the site, for future work. Lots of scrub cleared and burnt, one bees nest, under a small Oak, identified and protected as well. It looks an exciting new site for us to work on as a semi-heathland management.

**Date** 28-9-14  
**Place** Ashby  
**Task** Next section of NF Way  
**Volunteers** 8  
**Results** A 12.5 mile walk to Hartshorne via Calke Abbey

**Date** 5-10-14  
**Place** Appletree Meadows  
**Task** Continue wetland maintenance  
**Volunteers** 15, inc. 1 D of Ed, 7 locals, 1 SDDC  
**Results** The basic jobs are done so we were able to take on a variety of enhancements, local children had built bridges from brash across the watercourses that we had cleared, so we need to engage with them

**Date** 11-10-14

**Place** Broome Farm

**Task** Lay hedge and drink cider

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** Sun and heavy showers, but we made a start on coppicing the Hazel section, for materials, prepping and pleaching some old Field Maple and burning brash. They have taken on the pub at the top of the lane, so drinks, food and very good music and dancing there.

**Date** 12-10-14

**Place** Broome Farm

**Task** Lay hedge and drink cider

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** A good result on the Maple, despite the previous nights hospitality some difficult pleachers laid, good logs stacked for firewood and good Hazel staked for stakes and binders.

**Date** 19-10-14

**Place** Appletree Meadow

**Task** Continue wetland site management

**Volunteers** 18 + 4 locals + I SDDC

**Results** We concentrated on clearing back the paths that in some places were less than ½ designed width, lots of other jobs as well, so the site looked great when we left. This site has a real positive ‘buzz’ every time we work

**Date** 22-10-14

**Place** Upper Mills Farm

**Task** Corporate hedge laying day for Lloyds Bank

**Volunteers** 5+24

**Results** A mixed group, with mixed enthusiasm, but a good day joining some BCV members on a large hedgelaying project. A lot of clearance and a bit of hedgelaying, as part of an HLS scheme.

**Date** 26-10-14

**Place** Warf Rd

**Task** Continue work on SSSI heathland site

**Volunteers** 14+1

**Results** 1st use of PHAB minibus to reduce our carbon footprint on travel to sites and we continued scrub clearance and burning arisings. Dieback since we were last here made it easier to spot trip hazard stumps and new shoots. A site walk showed signs of Fallow deer, Badger and Night jar.

**Date** 2-11-14

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** Scrub clear

**Volunteers** 16

**Results** Continued scrub clear and trashing previously cut stools, dead hedge with arisings, plus some taken for bean sticks etc. MAD day so we had homemade pumpkin soup and apple pie from locally resourced ingredients.



**Date** 9-11-14

**Place** Hartshorne

**Task** Next section of National Forest Way walk

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** An excellent turnout for a 9 mile section (due to shorter daylight hours) to Netherseal via Conkers

**Date** 10-11-14

**Place** Upper Mill Farm

**Task** Brushcutter training

**Volunteers** 6

**Results** All passed

**Date** 16-11-14

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Prepare to plant evergreen hedge

**Volunteers** 18 + 4 local

**Results** Good to have local support on a very busy day, a full skip load of green-waste compost had to be emptied (took till 3pm) and spread on prepared areas, that had been cut back grubbed over and covered with geotextile (the hedge whips will be planted through the geotextile) and then a mountain of brash was trampled into the skip

**Date** 23-11-14

**Place** Allotment

**Task** Tidy up plot and temporary repair to leaking roof of container

**Volunteers** 10

**Results** An ingenious temp repair to the roof and lots of other jobs done.

**Date** 30-11-14

**Place** Coton Park

**Task** Scrub management

**Volunteers** 13 + 1 SDDC

**Results** Continued to clear large areas of bramble and birch scrub from meadow area. Grazier from Washlands came to see if it would be viable to use cattle to control regrowth. Homemade soup from Lynn and mince pies from Zoe as a thanks to Volunteers

**Date** 2-12-14

**Place** Markfield

**Task** Woodland Management course

**Volunteers** 2

**Results** A very interesting course lots of knowledge to pass on to other volunteers

**Date** 7-12-14

**Place** Bank Walk

**Task** Community hedge planting

**Volunteers** 19 + 11 local

**Results** A hectic but very positive day, good local turnout inc. children, to plant the first section of the hedge, mainly wild privet, some holly, cotoneaster ivy etc., the hope is that it will eventually shade out and limit aggressive bramble regrowth

**Date** 10-12-14

**Place** Eureka Park, Swadlincote

**Task** Erect bird boxes and feeders

**Volunteers** 1 + 2 Bank House + 3 learners + 1 SDDC

**Results** 10 bird boxes and 7 feeders made by adult learners erected in their local park

**Date** 13-12-14

**Place** London

**Task** Social

**Volunteers** 12

**Results** A good day out and a chance to do some Christmas shopping with a difference.

A hedgelaying and fencing project, as part of the HLS grazing project at Upper Mills Farm, organised by BCV, but carried out by a volunteer working as a private contractor made a significant impact on the Burton Washlands, as well as allowing some of the volunteers to hone their hedgelaying and brushcutting skills.



What it's all about, a healthy and diverse pond at Coton Park

