

Mark Webster writes:

It's that time of year when I shift abruptly from "Bah Humbug" to "IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!" (Noddy Holder style) so with apologies for its last-minute nature, here is December's programme, including almost 2 weeks off to enjoy the festive season, and a special trip for some to that-there London!

Plenty of conservation tasks to be done before then though, we have been called in at short notice to save the wetland habitat at Scarning Meadows (please help if you can) and we have been asked back to Mulbarton to complete the cutting back around the trees there. There's also a pond to clear out (I love a pond!), a couple of days of planting trees (in the right place), some fencing (not the type with swords) and the next stage of our exciting project to transform a neglected space on Rouen Road. We can also have some cheering bonfires this month as we clear some superb open heathland Queen's Hills of some trees which have been planted by developers very much in the wrong place.

Our trip to London on Mon 18th is very much booking essential, please contact me for details: places will be allocated according to number of tasks completed. Should be good fun, and a chance for our regular volunteers to wear something not muddy!

I hope you know someone who can join us at some point. Seasons Greetings and Goodwill to you all!

Mark.

Join in Feel Good! A programme of Conservation Volunteering to improve local green spaces.

Norfolk Environmental Action Team

December 2023

FREE Minibus leaves at 10am from the Corner of Queens Road & Brazen Gate, by the traffic lights next to the big Sainsbury's car park, near Norwich bus station [what3words: single.affair.robe]. If you would like to get a lift from near UEA, please ask. **Booking is NOT usually needed** - just turn up on the day, unless you want to be sure of a place on the minibus for days marked **BM** below (book via mark.webster@tcv.org.uk / 07740 899 691). See last page of this document for more information about joining these activities, including details about who can attend (most people). Sessions run from arrival on site (depends on traffic and travel distance) to 3.15pm on site, returning to central Norwich by 4.15pm.

Mobile number to contact us on the day: 07740 899 691.

Date	Site	Activity	Site Meeting Point (if coming by car or bike) at 10.15am unless otherwise stated
Fri 1 st	Scarning Meadows	Rescue mission! Stepping in to save the Fen with some last-minute cutting and raking up.	Where Ted Ellis Walk comes off Allwood Avenue (near junction with Chestnut Road), Scarning, Dereham, NR19 2TF. [what3words: astounded.scary.response] Arriving at approx 10.35am.
Mon 4 th	Scarning Meadows	Rescue mission, part 2! A mercy dash to rake up this special fen before it's too late.	Where Ted Ellis Walk comes off Allwood Avenue (near junction with Chestnut Road), Scarning, Dereham, NR19 2TF. [what3words: astounded.scary.response] Arriving at approx 10.35am.
Tues 5 th	Bunkers Hill	Trees-peasy. Tree planting and looking after already-planted trees: easy	Entrance to the woodland, near the junction of Runcton Close and Earlham Green Lane, West Earlham, Norwich, NR5 8RD.

		tasks that anyone can enjoy!	[what3words: funds.cried.energetic]
Wed 6 th	Sprowston Millenium Wood	Who guards the guards? Coppicing and fitting guards to protect coppiced trees from deer.	Woodland entrance, near Cemetery Gates, Church Lane, NR7 8AU. [what3words: scores.during.gold] (OS grid ref: TG 249 126) Arriving at approx 10.20am.
Thurs 7 th	Mousehold Heath	Are we nearly there yet? Almost finished with cutting the meadows, but not quite...	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm]
Fri 8 th	Wensum Park	City Centre Regeneration – replanting trees and wildflower seeds to regenerate this wild island in the city.	Wensum Park north-west entrance, A1067 Draytron Road, Norwich, NR3 2DD. [what3words: budget.sticky.walks]
Mon 11 th	Mulbarton Meadows	Return to Beyond the World's End (pub). An epic production as we go back to outer reaches of Mulbarton.	Co-op shop car park, Cuckoofield Lane (near junction with Birchfield Lane), Mulbarton, NR14 8BA. [what3words: playful.victory.trombone]
Tues 12 th	Lakenham Way (North)	Down to the wire. Installing post and wire fencing to cordon off a hazardous area.	Far end of Brazen Gate, central Norwich, NR1 3SB – just down the road from our usual meeting point! [what3words: hotels.duck.quest] W.C.
Wed 13 th	Queen's Hills Community Park	Bonfire of the unwanted-trees. Removing inappropriately planted trees to save rare mining bees' habitats.	Near small waterworks on Alfred Munnings Road, between the Longwater Shopping Centre and Queen's Hills housing estate, Costessey, Norwich: nearest postcode NR8 5EY, [what3words: lows.science.remarking] Arriving approx 10.25am.
Thurs 14 th	Mousehold Heath	Rake, baby, rake! Yes, we are still cutting and raking (probably). Or maybe gorse cutting...	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm]
Fri 15 th	Eaton Burial Ground	Catch up day! Finishing off the hedge cutting, and probably moving on the complete one or two more niggling little jobs – a mystery tour!	Eaton Burial Ground Church Lane Eaton, NR4 6NY. The site is hard to spot, but there is a small sign above a low embankment wall. [what3words: driven.slower.apple]
Sat 16 th	Queen's Hills Community Park	Bonfire of the Saturday(s). Clearing an area of already cut willow to open out habitat for rare insects on these sandy, south-facing slopes, which wildflowers are already recolonising.	Car park by small waterworks on Alfred Munnings Road, between the Longwater Shopping Centre and Queen's Hills housing estate, Costessey, Norwich: nearest postcode NR8 5EY. [what3words: lows.science.remarking] Meet at 10am on site, sorry no minibus from central Norwich today.
Mon 18 th	* NO TASK * London Trip BM	No task today, instead there's a trip down to the big city, taking in a rooftop garden, lunch and maybe some xmas	An earlier start today for those on the trip, 9am from the usual place. *** BOOKING ESSENTIAL *** mark.webster@tcv.org.uk / 07740 899 691

		shopping. *** BOOKING ESSENTIAL ***	
Tues 19 th	Bramerton Pond	Where did you dredge that up from? Removing dead leaves and overhanging branches to bring life back to the pond.	The Street, Bramerton (off Kirby or Loddon Roads about 5 miles south-east of Norwich), NR14 7DW. The pond is around 150 yards south of the church. [what3words: broom.reconnect.slowness]
Wed 20 th	Queen's Hills Community Park	Bonfire of the gorse-bushes. Removing encroaching scrub from this nationally rare habitat for bees and other invertebrates.	Near small waterworks on Alfred Munnings Road, between the Longwater Shopping Centre and Queen's Hills housing estate, Costessey, Norwich: nearest postcode NR8 5EY, [what3words: lows.science.remarking] Arriving approx 10.25am.
Thurs 21 st	Rouen Road	Rouen, Rouen, Rouen...ah, you will have a day clearing an area for a spectacular new wildflower area.	Rouen Road at junction with Argyle Street, central Norwich, NR1 1QS. [what3words: union.builds.detail]
Fri 22 nd	* NO TASK *	Sorry, no task today.	*** NO TASK TODAY *** So do that last-minute Xmas shopping!
Mon 25 th to Fri 29 th	*** NO TASKS ***	Merry Xmas everyone!	*** NO TASKS THIS WEEK *** Eat, drink and be merry!
Mon 1 st Jan	* NO TASK *	Sorry, no task today. Happy New Year!	*** NO TASK TODAY *** Recovery day!
Tues 2 nd Jan	* NO TASK *	Sorry, no task today.	*** NO TASK TODAY *** Extra recovery day! Well, it's a bank holiday in Scotland...
Wed 3 rd Jan	Task TBC	Tasks will resume from today, activities and locations will be published before Xmas.	Welcome back! Time to burn off those calories...
Thurs 4 th Jan	Task TBC	Task will be running, activity and location will be published before Xmas.	Location to be confirmed.
Fri 5 th Jan	Task TBC	Task will be running, activity and location will be published before Xmas.	Location to be confirmed.

BOOKING There is usually enough space for everyone on the minibus if we are working in or near Norwich, but for some longer trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays the minibus might get full, please email or text Mark (details below) to be sure of a place on the bus. If you would find it helpful to ask us anything before coming on a project for the first time, please do contact us - see below. Otherwise, if you are over 18 and don't have any unspent convictions for serious crimes, you can just turn up and join in. **If you are 16 or 17** you will need a parent or guardian to sign our permission form before you can get started - please contact us if you need one. **If you have unspent convictions** for sexual or violent offences, you will not be able to volunteer with TCV (please contact us for a confidential chat if you need to check if this applies to you).

MEETING POINTS If you would like a map, or directions to the site, please contact us. FREE Minibus transport is available from outside stated pick-up points only, returning to the same place at the end of the session. We do our best to keep to time, but due to traffic etc, all timings are approximate.

WE PROVIDE All tools and protective equipment are provided, please bring your own refreshments (drinks and a packed lunch) for the day. If a site has toilets this is indicated on the programme by 'WC' in the 'Site Meeting Point' column.

PLEASE WEAR Old work clothes, suitable for the weather. If you have them, please bring reasonably sturdy shoes or boots, and rainwear. We provide work gloves and everything else necessary for the task. You are advised to check if your tetanus inoculation is up to date.