

TCV Conservation Volunteering Activities July 2024

Mark Webster writes:

Oh, Oh July...summer days make me fine, blowing through the balsam in my mind. As well as the regular practical conservation tasks this month, we have two free courses people can attend if they wish:

- **Saturday 20th** we have local expert Adrian showing us **how to find insects and identify them**. All welcome, suitable for all ages, beginners as well as those who already know their bugs and beetles. A great opportunity to see some minibeasts up close, and hopefully find some real rarities. Whether or not you usually come out at the weekend, I hope you can join us for this – bring family and friends!
- **Tuesday 30th** we will be running a **task leader**'s course, giving you all you need to know in order to run a safe and happy conservation task day. Great for the CV, especially for those looking for a job working with wildlife.

I am also delighted that we are returning to Oulton Broad's Monckton Avenue site with a new hope, as the Parish Council have now re-committed to implementing the proposed management plan, meaning that we will be running new community engagement events on site as well as installing interpretation boards to encourage visitors. Task days here will also become part of a wider Lowestoft project that will aim to recover some of the town's Lost Gardens – exciting times ahead...

As for the rest of the month, people can enjoy a day out along the peaceful upper reaches of the Wensum pulling up Himalayan Balsam, or pulling up bracken on one of our internationally important heathlands. We are also weeding two of the lovely new wildflower meadows (and one new woodland) that we have planted, and it's also the beginning of the cutting and raking season, with two churchyards: our old favourite the splendidly isolated Barmer, and a colossal new site (as churchyards go) down at Redenhall.

Let's to enjoy, I hope you know someone who can join us at some point..

A programme of Conservation Volunteering to improve local green spaces. Join in whenever suits you.

Norfolk Environmental Action Team

July 2024

Join us whenever you can, we do not require any regular commitment to attend. **FREE** Minibus leaves at 10am from the Corner of Queens Road & Brazen Gate, by the traffic lights and glass canopy next to the big Sainsbury's near Norwich bus station [what3words: single.affair.robe]. If you would like a lift from near UEA, please ask. **Booking is NOT usually needed** - just turn up any day, but to be sure of a place on the minibus for days marked **BM** below, contact mark.webster@tcv.org.uk / 07740 899 691. See end of this document for more info, 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. If you do not need to get the minibus back, you can leave whenever you need to (just let the leader know). Minibus returns to central Norwich by 4.15pm at the latest. **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
Mon 1 st	Salle (Farm Woodland) BM	They think it's Salle over...almost the last Balsam control task of the year.	Outside the church (St Peter & St Paul), The Street, Salle, near Reepham, NR10 4SD. (OS grid ref TG 109 248) [what3words:

			solution.gathers.contemplate] Arriving at approx 10.40am.
Tues 2 nd	Coltishall Churchyard BM	Coltishall from the blue? Let's hope it's good weather for cutting and raking.	Junction of Church Loke with B1354 Wroxham Road / Church St, Coltishall, NR12 7DW [what3words: streetcar.reds.successor] WC. Arriving at approx 10.30am.
Wed 3 rd	Oulton Broad	Find the paths. Yes, it's overgrown again, but new personnel at the council means a new start for this lovely site. Clearing the paths ready for our new community project.	Near the turning for Nursery Drive on Monckton Avenue (off Normanstone Drive near roundabout with Peto Way), Oulton Broad, NR32 3EG. [what3words: brains.media.nasal] Arriving at approx 10.55am.
Thurs 4 th	Mousehold Heath	Brack-yard safari. Discovering wildlife in our own backyard as we clear bracken. *ELECTION DAY REMEMBER TO VOTE*	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm] *ELECTION DAY REMEMBER TO VOTE*
Fri 5 th	Marlpit Riverside	Balsam to the left of them, balsam to the right of them, onward into the valley of the Wensum rode the 600* volunteers (*we hope!).	Hellesdon abandoned train station, on Marriotts Way path, just west of Hellesdon Road, Norwich, nearest postcode NR5 8XN, OS grid ref TG 197 100 [what3words: plans.larger.bars]
Mon 8 th	Lingwood Millenium Green BM	Ling-weeding. Removing weeds from the new wildflower area at Lingwood.	Junction of Post Office Road and Post Office Close, Lingwood, NR13 4EW. [what3words: trials.cushy.navigate] Arriving approx 10.30am.
Tues 9 th	Coltishall Churchyard BM	The rakers gonna rake, rake, rake, rake...baby we're just gonna rake it off at Coltishall to look after the wildflower areas.	Junction of Church Loke with B1354 Wroxham Road / Church St, Coltishall, NR12 7DW [what3words: streetcar.reds.successor] WC. Arriving at approx 10.40am.
Wed 10 th	Lenwade Riverside	Way upstream...removing invasive Himalayan Balsam from this idyllic stretch of river before the seeds float downstream.	Outside Kelly's Bakery / Butchers / Fish and Chip shop, A1067 Fakenham Road, Lenwade / Great Witchingham, NR9 5AE. [what3words: flight.bonfires.ignoring] Arriving at approx 10.30am.
Thurs 11 th	Mousehold Heath	See what the boys in the Brack-room will have. We will all have the same: bracken, pulled, not stirred.	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm]
Fri 12 th	Wensum Riverside (Norwich)	Down by the riverside...removing invasive Himalayan	By the garages at the end of Sycamore Crescent (Sycamore Crescent is reached from Maple Drive, off Waterworks Road

		Balsam from the Wensum riverside.	near the junction with Dereham Road) NR2 4HD [what3words: passes.thus.retire]
Mon 15 th	Redenhall Churchyard BM	Rake, rattle and roll (mainly the first one). Managing the churchyard for wildflowers.	Junction of High Road and Church Close, Redenhall, IP20 9QS. (OS Grid Ref TM 264 844) [what3words: straw.expansion.fame] Arriving approx 10.45am.
Tues 16 th	Blue Boar Lane	I guess that's why they call it the Blue Boars. Cutting back along the banks of this watercourse.	Junction of Hall Wood Lane (off A11551 Wroxham Road) and Jobie Wood Close, Sprowston, NR7 8UL. [what3words: lake.erase.link] Arriving approx 10.20am. WC at nearby shop.
Wed 17 th	Queen's Hills Community Park	Getting into a scrape. Scraping back areas for rarer insects to burrow into.	Where a surfaced footpath comes off Alfred Munnings Road, between the Longwater Shopping Centre and Queen's Hills housing estate, Costessey, Norwich: nearest postcode NR8 5EY. (OS grid reference TG 153 117) [what3words: lows.science.remarking] Arriving approx 10.25am.
Thurs 18 th	Mousehold Heath	I'll be Brack. You don't need muscles like Arnie, anyone can help pull invasive bracken here.	Car park in front of Zak's Mousehold Diner halfway up Gurney Road opposite the bandstand, Norwich, NR1 4HW. [what3words: sobs.deeply.charm]
Fri 19 th	Rouen Road	The road to Rouen. Weeding the new wildflower meadows.	Rouen Road at junction with Argyle Street, central Norwich, NR1 1QS. [what3words: union.builds.detail]
Sat 20 th	Queen's Hills Community Park	We're all going on a bug hunt! Insect ID session, led by a local expert who will show us how to identify common insects, and hopefully discover some real rarities.	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 22 nd	Lyng Riverside BM	They Lyng it's all over...it is now! Last balsam pulling task of the season* (*probably).	Car park by Sparham Pools nature reserve (marked only by footpath fingerpost), Lyng Road, near Lyng Village, NR9 5QY (OS grid ref TG 073 179). [what3 words: hood.relegate.renewals] Arriving at approx 10.35am.
Tues 23 rd	Redenhall Churchyard BM	I'm in love with the rake of you. The Sheer delight of cutting and raking up to look after the churchyard.	Junction of High Road and Church Close, Redenhall, IP20 9QS. (OS Grid Ref TM 264 844) [what3words: straw.expansion.fame] Arriving approx 10.45am.
Wed 24 th	Diss Mini Forest	If you go down to the woods today, you will see that this new forest in the making needs weeding.	Fieldhouse Gardens (adjacent to No 70), Diss, IP22 4PH. [what3words: poses.minerals.bedrooms] Arriving approx 10.45am.

Thurs 25 th	Barmer Churchyard BM	It's enough to drive you Barmer - our minibus that is, as we take one of our longest trips to one of our most peaceful locations high on the hill.	All Saints Church, take unhedged field track off the B1454 Fakenham Road north-west of Syderstone, between Barmer Hall Caravan site and Burham Road. Nearest postcode PE31 8SP. OS grid reference TF 808 336. [what3words: flamenco.lime.shudders] Arriving at approx 10.55am.
Fri 26 th	Bluebell Woods	I guess that's why they call it the Bluebells: cutting back bramble to allow bluebells to thrive here.	Junction of Bluebell Road and North Park Avenue, Eaton Park, Norwich, nearest postcode NR4 7ED. [what3words: bill.walks.amount]
Mon 29 th	Longham Claypits BM	Something to ponder. Clearing reed-mace from the ponds, plus path work.	Longham Village Hall car park, Chapel Road, Longham, NR19 2AJ. (OS Grid Ref TF 942 160) [what3words: chapels.litigate.send] Arriving at approx 10.40am.
Tues 30 th	TASK LEADERS' COURSE (NO TASK)	Task Leaders' Course. Sorry, no actual task today , but if you might be interested in helping to run future sessions, please join us if you can.	*** NO TASK TODAY *** Please do not come to Sainsburys. For Task Leaders' Course, meet at 9.45am at Bramerton Village Hall, Easthill Lane, Bramerton, NR14 7EQ (OS grid ref TG 294 054) [what3words: weeks.everyone.wiggling]
Wed 31 st	Redenhall Churchyard	He was a raker boy, she said see you later boy...all welcome to help look after the wildflower meadow areas – see you there!	Junction of High Road and Church Close, Redenhall, IP20 9QS. (OS Grid Ref TM 264 844) [what3words: straw.expansion.fame] Arriving approx 10.45am.

Please see below for useful information...

BOOKING There is usually enough space for everyone on the minibus if we are working in or near Norwich, but for some longer trips 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.

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