



# Newsletter

## Sue`s Scribe

Well it's my turn to say a few words. It has been really good to see so many people out on task over the last few months, new members and even an original member from 1995. Good to see you back Bob! The tasks have been varied and our new set of tasks look interesting. Look out for the feature on the group in December's Essex Life magazine - we have been promised a double page spread!!! Thanks to all those who were willing to be photographed and able to talk to the reporter when she came to Lingwood and Ray Island. She was very positive about the group so hopefully the publicity (and fame) will find us a few more members or will at least enlighten the wider public as to what we do. It was good to learn that the walk at Paper Mill Lock attracted a good number, despite the rain, so look out for another walk in the spring down Southend way. We have also planned a night at Romford dogs, which should be fun for a flutter. Finally, a big thank you to Tom who has been an active member of the group for the last 7 years as well as being Chair and Tool Man. We all wish him and Paula all the best and hope that they settle well in their new abode. The Wye valley is certainly beautiful. (Thank you to Tim for taking over as Tool Man). Enough from me, hope to see lots of you out over the next few months - don't forget the thermals! Happy Christmas and New Year, when it comes.

<p><b>All the best Tom</b></p> <p>Tom is due to move to Chepstow soon and we would like to thank him for all his hard work for the group over the last 8 1/2 years which includes his stint as Chair and managing the tools. We wish him and Paula all the best for the future.</p>	<p><b>Essex Life</b></p> <p>There's a great article complete with photos featuring ENTV in the December edition of Essex Life magazine. On sale now!</p>	<p><b>Brancaster, Norfolk</b> 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> January 2009</p> <p>A painting and decorating weekend with food provided. To reserve your place please call John on 01702 527686 a.s.a.p.</p>	<p><b>Photos for Website</b></p> <p>Julia would like some new photos for the website. If anyone has any suitable photos of tasks please send them to <a href="mailto:essexntv@yahoo.co.uk">essexntv@yahoo.co.uk</a></p>
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## YOUR COMMITTEE

Joint Chair	Sue	Publicity	Sue
Joint Chair	John	Newsletter Editor	Louise
Secretary	Kim	Tools	Tim
Treasurer	Tim	Socials	Pauline & David
Membership	Gary	Midweek Task Coordinator	Peter
Task Coordinator	Sue	Committee Member	Val

Next committee meeting is Monday 9 February 2009

Visit our website at [www.essexntv.110mb.com](http://www.essexntv.110mb.com)

## PREVIOUS TASKS AND SOCIAL GOINGS ON...

### LINGWOOD COMMON SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2008

A large group arrived at Lingwood on a beautiful sunny day, ready to clear gorse and anything else that was getting in the way of the heather.

Those of us who have been around for a while had cleared some of this area in the past, but it was good to see that the heather was returning and that our work is a success.

After lunch we moved to another part of the common and continued the work. A reporter, from Essex Life Magazine, who spent a long time talking to people and taking photos, joined us. She seemed very impressed by the amount of work we did. Another good day had by all.

**Sue**

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### RAY ISLAND SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2008

I think it was in May 2000 and probably at Blakes Wood that I took part in my first task with, what was then, the Chelmsford and District National Trust Volunteers. Eight years, several months and many tasks later I've just completed my last task. I joined the group fairly soon after I moved to Essex and am



**Bridge Building on Ray Island**

now leaving ENTV (at least as an active member) as I move on from Essex. The west is beckoning and myself and my partner Paula are relocating to Chepstow to be closer to family and to escape our grind around the M25 to see each other every weekend.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with the group, made some fantastic friendships, been on many a social and completed many a task. I could try and think of examples, but that would be far too sentimental. I've got too much packing to do and this is meant to be a write up of the latest Ray Island task. So here it is.....

If you take 1 very muddy island, 7 volunteers, 1 warden, 1 dog, 26 large pieces of wood, 3 tidal creeks, 103 nails (approximately: I'm not quite

sad enough to keep track of them all), 1 spade, 1 sledge hammer, 4 claw hammers and 1 rising tide what do you get? 7 muddy volunteers, 1 muddy warden, 1 muddy dog, 1 muddy spade, 1 muddy sledge hammer, 4 muddy claw hammers, 3 brand new (but muddy) bridges over 3 tidal creeks. And an island with slightly less mud and rather better access.

So that's it from me. It's been a great time. I wish the group and everyone connected with it all the best for the future. I hope to see as many people as possible at the Christmas meal (which I'm very hopeful we'll get back for), and if you're passing Chepstow (M4, old Severn bridge, turn right!) then look us up!!

**Tom**

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**WET WEATHER WALK**  
SUNDY 26 OCTOBER 2008

Yes, it was wet, but everyone really seemed to enjoy getting out in it! We arrived at Paper Mill Lock in Little Baddow as the rain came down, and the brollies went up. Others, with proper waterproof clothing looked a lot cooler than me with my golf umbrella. It's a nice little spot on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, just a few miles from Chelmsford, making up part of the inland waterway that works its way down through Maldon to Heybridge Basin. Narrow boats, leisure craft and canoes wander up and down this stretch of water, so I thought it would make a good location for an ENTV walk along the towpath.

Our destination was Hoe Mill Lock, about an hour away, walking through really nice countryside, a tiny little canal side church at Ulting, and pathways wide enough to walk in small groups, so we could catch up on the latest gossip, and our thoughts on the upcoming Christmas period. We stopped for a chat at Hoe Mill Lock, which is another nice area (even better in the warm sunshine, no doubt), then made our way back to Paper Mill Lock, checking out the scenery from the opposite direction.

We decided we were a bit too wet and muddy to wander into one of the local pubs for lunch, so used the outside seating in the cafe by the water instead. And that was a good decision. Hot tea and coffee, good lunches, and homemade cakes that everyone will recommend. It's not far from Danbury, so future tasks on the common

could easily end with a return visit, just to check out those cakes again.

Thanks to everyone who came out to play, and made that Sunday morning a bit different. We'll try to organise another walk in the coming quarter, so if you fancy checking out the local footpaths, you're more than welcome.

Gary

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**DANBURY COMMON**  
SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2008

Good ol' Mother Nature must've been in a very good mood on this day because she provided a lovely sunny day for us, sandwiched between two very grey drizzly days

The task was scrub bashing on an area just behind the main car park and when we arrived Richard was as good as his word and had a baby bonfire on the go. It didn't take long to build to the mother of all bonfires once we'd started piling on the blackthorn etc.

Among the usual passing 'traffic' of cyclists, dog walkers and horse riders we were dismayed to spot what looked like a man carrying a baby in a bag! Two dogs and a young lady closely followed him. Obviously used to receiving strange looks he stopped to explain that the 'baby' was in fact a dummy which he was using to train search and rescue dogs! Once he'd put our minds at rest his group carried on along the path, returning a few hours later with the dogs proudly carrying doggy toy rewards so we assume it was a successful training session!

With the usual good-natured banter we worked on until we'd cleared a very respectable area of the common, which will allow the lower growing plants to thrive and provide the ideal habitat for the wildlife including the large number of nightingales who reside on the common.

Kim

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Coppicing on Danbury Common

## UP AND COMING TASKS AND SOCIAL GOINGS ON . . .

### TASK PROCEDURE:

All members wishing to join a task must contact the task leader as soon as possible, preferably by the Wednesday before. Prior notification is necessary as the task leader will need to liaise with the task coordinator/wardens to ensure that the tasks are suitable, the correct numbers of tools are taken and to arrange any lifts needed. If you need to cancel, let them know as soon as you can. Weekend tasks may have a separate procedure - please contact the task leader for details.

### MIDWEEK TASKS

In June and July the midweek team were tidying up Thorington Hall for the National Open Day in September.

September and October we were coppicing Danbury Common, we had a very welcome bonfire in October and beer in the Cricketers for Bob's birthday in September. November we were in Blakes Wood.

If you are free midweek here are some dates for your diary.

First Monday of each month unless it's a bank holiday, then it's the second Monday  
Melford Hall - Usually gardening and general tidy up around the estate.

Wednesday 17 December  
Wednesday 14 January  
Wednesday 18 February  
Wednesday 18 March

The venues and tasks are still to be determined.

Please call Peter on  
01245 262888

### WEEKEND TASKS

SAT 10 - SUN 11 JANUARY 2009  
Brancaster, Norfolk - Painting and decorating weekend with food provided.  
Task Leader - John

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 2009  
Danbury - Pond Clearance  
Task Leader - Sue

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 2009  
Danbury or Ray Island (depending on tides) - Scrub Clearance  
Task Leader - Kim

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2009  
Danbury - Pond Clearance  
Task Leaders - John and Val

SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2009  
Danbury or Ray Island (depending on tides) - Scrub Clearance  
Task Leader - Gary

SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2009  
Danbury or Ray Island (depending on tides) - Scrub Clearance  
Task Leader - Sue

SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2009  
Grange Barn - Tidy Up  
Task Leader - Pauline

SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2009  
Grange Barn - Concreting the Byre  
Task Leader - Sue

SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2009  
Copt Hall - Fencing  
Task Leader - Pauline

### SOCIALS

SATURDAY 3 JANUARY 2008  
It's the New Year and to celebrate we're having a drink at the Woolpack in Chelmsford



SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2009  
If you would like an evening with a difference and are partial to a flutter then join us at Romford Greyhound Track.

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2009  
If you do like to be beside the seaside then you'll enjoy our walk along Southend Seafront. The fish and chips are good!

If you would like to come along to any of our socials, then please give Pauline or David a call on 01621 853749 to let them know you're coming.

If you would like to attend a task or social, please could you make sure you contact the task leader or social coordinators in advance, to let them know you're coming. Thank you.

Because of Tom's move to Chepstow, Tim has kindly agreed to store the tools at his hours



Coppicing on Danbury Common