



Newsletter

Tom's Typo Some might cheer, others might cry (possibly), but this will be the last 'Typo' from me. At the AGM in May I will be standing down as Chair. Unfortunately of late, I have been struggling to find enough time to do justice to the role, along with looking after the tools, trying to get to tasks, possibly earning a living and trying to have some kind of life as well. I will still be involved with the group, and if people want me, I will take on a general role on the committee. But someone else will need to take on the role of Chair. If you'd like to take the group forward into 2008 and beyond here's your chance! Or, as all roles on the committee will be up for grabs, if you feel like helping to keep the group going in another role, then get involved with the committee in another way. Feel free to give myself or anyone else on the committee a call if you want a bit more information about what being involved on the committee means.

Some of you may be aware, but lately we've had to cancel a fair number of weekend tasks, due to a low turn out making it not worthwhile to run the tasks. The midweek side of the group is going from strength to strength with a strong, regular turn out, but we seem to be really struggling on the weekends. So please, if you can, get yourself to task! And if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the group then pass them our details (internet address below, as are all the contact numbers for the committee). We need 'new blood' to keep the group strong, so spread the word. Please help to keep the group strong!!

That's it, for the last time. Check out the task list, the socials and get yourself to some! And don't forget the AGM for your chance to have a say in how the group's run. Tom

Website	AGM	NORTHEY ISLAND	Reminder
ENTV now has its own website. You can view the pages by visiting www.essexntv.110mb.com	SATURDAY 10 MAY 2008 All are welcome to John and Val's house from 3pm for food and drink. AGM starts at 4.30pm	SAT 7 - SUN 8 JUNE Join us for one day or all weekend on this monster task. There will be a barbecue on Saturday evening and the opportunity to camp on the island.	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

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Next committee meeting . . . Monday 19 May 2008 at Tom's place.

PREVIOUS TASKS AND SOCIAL GOINGS ON...

TASK - COPT HALL

SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2007

You know how sometimes you do a task which you thoroughly enjoy, plenty of fresh air to blow the cobwebs away, clear the office dust from your lungs and generally give you that "glad to be alive" feeling which reminds you of why you joined ENTV?? Well, this wasn't one of those tasks!!

As we walked to the field where we were to remove tree guards, the wind was blowing a gale and the rain whipped against our faces. The majority of our wet gear was no match for the driving rain and we were soon soggy to the skin! After a couple of hours, we completed our mission and we squelched our way back to the relative cover of the barn for lunch.

As is typical on these kinds of days, the rain stopped once we were sheltered from the elements! Fortunately it stayed that way for the remainder of the day and we spent the afternoon clearing the courtyard of the barn, scraping up moss and cutting back brambles etc from around the outside of the building.

Once we'd finished I had to admit it was rather satisfying to see the results of our hard work. Perhaps this conservation lark isn't so bad after all!

Kim

SOCIAL - CHRISTMAS MEAL

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2007

The Christmas season was upon us once again. About 20 of us met up at the Alma, in Chelmsford for our Christmas get together.

There was lots of chat, good banter, and lots of catching up with folks we hadn't seen recently.

The meal was up to its usual good standard. We had silly crackers and some of us wore the paper hats, and were really getting into the spirit of things.

Pauline

TASK & SOCIAL - DANBURY & RICHARD'S CHRISTMAS DO

SUNDAY 16 DECEMBER 2007

The last weekend task of 2007 was the now customary task of scrub bashing and bonfire in the morning and early afternoon, then round to Richard and Jane's house just down the road for a fantastic selection of food, chat and general amusement.

We had a good selection of people out on task and we even had the guest appearance of my girl friend's dog, Jim, who had come to see what all this NTV fuss is about. As the morning went by the scrub became bashed and the bonfire grew into something well able to keep us warm.

By the end of the day, another large area of Danbury scrub was cleared, so a good job, well done by all. Well, almost by all. It had been noticed that a certain guest member, who I won't name, but did have four legs, had not been pulling his weight and had therefore got a bit cold. Left alone for a few minutes to warm up inside Richard's truck, temptation seemed to strike. And a while later Richard was getting a bit confused over where his lunch had gone. It didn't take long to put two and two together!

As it always has been, the food put on by Richard and Jane was fantastic and soon disappeared with much appreciation. And Richard managed to catch up on his calorie intake for the day! Some general banter and a few silly games later people started to head home, pleased with another year's NTVing and hopefully looking forward to more in 2008!

Tom

TASK - RAY ISLAND

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER 2007

CANCELLED

SOCIAL - NEW YEAR MEET-UP

SATURDAY 5 JANUARY 2008

Another year of 'tasking' completed, and another year older. So it was time to leave the car at home, and check out the local brew with a bunch of friends and celebrate both those big events. This year, we changed direction and went UP the hill from my place to the Bull at Great Totham, and enjoyed a couple of hours in the warm chatting about things like: what we'd accomplished for the National Trust in the previous 12 months; the holidays we'd taken - and those we had planned; the state of the nation; then letting the conversation wander into weird and wonderful areas. Just a normal night out really.

I sampled the beer, which was a real treat, then brought everyone back to 'chez duggan' for a few nibbles, tea and coffee. My niece Aleesha was over from Australia to celebrate the gap between school and Uni, as well as her 18th birthday on the same day as me. She experienced her first British winter, and also completed Louise's 8-mile Christmas walk along the riverside to Fambridge, happily striding out for that lovely hot food in the pub at the end of the route. If you haven't done that walk yet, give it a try as I guarantee you will enjoy it. Aleesha's now back in Brisbane, I'm back in the office in Shenfield (!) and we've got a new list of tasks to complete in the first few months of 2008. Get out and help out with those if you can, then when January 1st comes around again, you'll qualify for a free drink!

Gary

TASK - BRANCASTER
SAT 12 - SUN 13 JANUARY 2008

This year we got to start the decorating which made a change. For those who know Brancaster we were decorating the upstairs activity room, which being so light and airy was a real pleasure.

Kim, Val and I got there in time to have dinner in the local pub and the food was as good as ever. Tom and Mike got there in time for supper.

Despite only being seven in number, we painted the ceiling (twice), painted the walls and even painted on the dreaded varnish to stop the little darlings making a mess of all our hard work.

The food provided was great, as Amanda was there in person and the whole weekend was most enjoyable.

If you haven't done a weekend before, think about giving it a try next year, the place is great, the food good, the work and company fun. Maybe you will join the few and experience a different kind of task.

John

TASK - FLATFORD
SUNDAY 13 JANUARY 2008
CANCELLED

TASK - LINGWOOD COMMON
SUNDAY 27 JANUARY 2008

A keen group - well three of us, greeted Richard at the car park on a bright and sunny January morning.

The first part of the task was to clear any scrub surrounding heather to allow this native plant to flourish.

After lunch taken in the sun, we moved on to clear scrub and silver birch from the site of the bridleway. Richard did

have some trouble negotiating the mud in his land rover, but nothing that three strong volunteers could not solve with a push.

A good day with a fair bit achieved.

Sue

SOCIAL - MEGABOWL
SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2008

National Trust volunteers wouldn't necessarily be renowned for their bowling skills, so it was with a certain amount of trepidation that I arrived at the Megabowl in Chelmsford.

Personally, I find that if I actually *think* about what I'm doing then it all goes to pot. So, I headed straight to the bar with Tom and decided to help my natural "skill" along with a large glass of Chardonnay.

After a few light stretches and words of encouragement all round we were off. David immediately raced into the lead with strike after strike, Kim was indeed a "killer" bowler, while Tom and John limped along in last place.

I discovered that my master plan of just hurling the bowling ball in the general direction of the skittles produced quite spectacular results and one or two strikes! Val was consistently good putting her husband to shame.

Unfortunately John had a minor argument with a bowling ball resulting in a nasty finger injury. An emergency ice pack was immediately applied to the damaged digit and John recovered in time to start playing with his uninjured *left* hand in the next round. This change to left-handed play produced impressive results and dignity was maintained.

All things considered, I think that more practice or more alcohol will be required next time!

Paula

TASK - RAY ISLAND
SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2008
CANCELLED

TASK - DANBURY
SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2008
CANCELLED

TASK - BOURNE MILL
SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2008

After some early concerns about yet another task being cancelled because of lack of numbers, 5 of us headed off to Bourne Mill to negotiate the road diversions and meet up with Dave the warden.

The task was advertised as a general tidy up and that's exactly what we did! Ann and Pauline cleared the weeds, moss etc from the bottom of the fence along the border opposite the lovely old mill. Gary risked life and limb by swinging from branches to cut back the buddleia which was growing on the bank of the stream. By the time he'd finished it was Buddleia 0 - Gary 1. Val and I set to work barrowing compost from the heap to the bottom of a row of trees, which was next to a well worn badger track.

By the time we'd all finished the ol' place was looking smart again, ready to welcome visitors when it opens again on Easter Sunday.

For those of you who may not have worked at Bourne Mill, I recommend you give it a try next time. It's a surprising oasis amongst the urban sprawl, enjoyed by both wildlife and humans alike!

Kim

UP AND COMING TASKS AND SOCIAL GOINGS ON . . .

TASK PROCEDURE:

All members wishing to join a task must contact the Gary on 01621 890919 or e-mail essexntv@tiscali.co.uk 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

If you would like to come out on task midweek, please contact Peter Hughes to find out the date and venue. The midweek group meet on a Wednesday once a month. On the first Monday of each month (unless it's a bank holiday, then it's the second Monday), there is a task at Melford Hall - usually gardening and general tidy up around the estate.

Please call Peter on 01245 262888

WEEKEND TASKS

SUNDAY 6 APRIL 2008

Hatfield Forest - Ride Clearing
Task Leader - Tom

SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2008

Danbury - Conservation game creation and other tasks
Task Leader - Louise

SUNDAY 18 MAY 2008

Chelmsford - Young Farmers Show
Task Leader - Sue

SAT 7 - SUN 8 JUNE 2008

Northey Island - Causeway work, repairs and other tasks. There will be the opportunity to camp on the island, with a barbecue on Saturday night.
Task leaders - John and Val

SUNDAY 29 JUNE 2008

Danbury - Heather monitoring and other tasks
Task leader - Kim

SUNDAY 20 JULY 2008

Grange Barn - Tidy up
Task leader - Gary

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 2008

Danbury - Heather monitoring and other tasks
Task leader - TBA

SOCIALS

SUNDAY 20 APRIL 2008

Walk and a pub lunch at the Viper, Fryerning



SATURDAY 10 MAY 2008

AGM at John and Val's house.
All welcome for food and drink from 3pm.
AGM at 4.30pm

MONDAY 19 MAY 2008

Committee meeting at Tom's house. 8pm

SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2008

Barbecue at Northey Island



If you would like to come along to any of our socials, then please give Gary a call on 01621 890919 or e-mail essexntv@tiscali.co.uk to let them know you're coming.

Cancelled Tasks

Unfortunately of late we have had to cancel a few tasks, as we have not had enough people wanting to go to make them worthwhile. It is disappointing all-round when we have to do this, but it does occasionally happen. But let us try not to make it a regular occurrence! **Please!** If you can come on task please do, even if it is only for a few hours or half a day, the group needs your support.