



# Newsletter

## John's Journal

As the other half of the Chair, it's now my turn to say a few words. Following Sue's appeal in the last Newsletter, it is very heartening to see that the last few tasks were so well supported.

It was good to see some old faces back out on task again, and even better to see some new ones. I trust everyone enjoyed their day as much as I did, and I look forward to seeing you all on the next task. Swimming qualifications are not normally required (See Copt Hall task report).

Just to re-iterate Sue's comments, we have a good selection of tasks coming up, in some of the most delightful spots in Essex. Autumn is traditionally the time for bonfires and wood smoke, so ring the Task Leader and book your place.

Our group socials are also good fun, and you get the chance to see what everyone looks like when not in wellies and waterproofs!

John

Website	River Walk	SOCIALISING	Reminder
ENTV now has its own website. You can view the pages by visiting <a href="http://www.essexntv.110mb.com">www.essexntv.110mb.com</a>	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> October is the date we've set aside for a walk on the Chelmer / Blackwater Navigation	We've also pencilled-in a few social events amongst the tasks, so feel free to come along and have a laugh and a natter without having to pick up a bow saw.	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 (shared)	Sue	Newsletter Editor	Louise
Secretary	Kim	Tools	Tom
Treasurer	Tim	Socials	Pauline & David
Membership	Gary	Midweek Task Coordinator	Peter
Task Coordinator	Sue	Chair (shared)	John
Publicity	Sue	Committee Member	Val

**Next committee meeting . . . Monday 10 November 2008**

## **PREVIOUS TASKS AND SOCIAL GOINGS ON...**

### **TASK - Danbury Common**

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

A bright and sunny morning saw a select few turn up to do some 'bashing' of gorse. After an informative talk from our Warden, Richard Wallace, as to what, and why we were to remove the gorse, as well as being shown some of the rarer flowers on the Common, we set about removing the gorse, and almost everything else, except the heather. A lot of prickly stuff was cleared, and we even managed to clear the area around 'the hole', which meant we didn't fall in it. It was good to be joined by some new members, who have since been on other tasks, so were obviously not put off by this one!

Sue

### **Task - Grange Barn Coggeshall**

**Sunday, 20 July 2008**

We were all ready and waiting, but alas, no warden yet. He showed up after some 20 minutes. After the necessary introductions, we soon got to work, with some of us clearing the weeds in front of the cottage, and others (after pumping up the tyre on the wheelbarrow) transporting the hoggin to the driveway leading to the entrance. Over time, the visitors to Grange Barn had created pot holes in the track, which needed filling and tamping down to create a smoother approach.

At lunchtime, food was consumed, and hot drinks (and choccie bickies) were provided by Stuart and his wife, and were greatly appreciated by all of us working hard on the task. We were also joined by their very friendly dog, who kept us amused. Then, Stuart took us into the barn and told our newer members a bit about the history of the site. This was followed by the introduction of some dowsing rods that Glen, the previous Warden, had left in his care. After instruction, we had fun trying to source the 'ghost of Grange Barn'. Sue, David and I all had a go. The rods moved for one or two of us. . . very creepy. Then it was back to work, to finish the driveway, tidy up the cow shed, and also cut the grass adjacent to the car park, with a lawn mower which sometimes had a mind of its own! A really enjoyable day.

Pauline

### **Social - BBQ at Tom's place**

**Saturday 2 August 2008**

The weather is the predictable topic of conversation for BBQ days, and for this day, the weather did its bit with the afternoon sun creating a great atmosphere for a garden-based 'social'. Tom and Paula had supplied some yummy food (even including Tom's 'rustic' sausage rolls), and made everyone feel welcome. Other subjects of chatting ranged from gardening, travelling, education, property prices (the old favourite), and the M25, (Paula had suffered many hours on it earlier in the day). That provided everything to make the afternoon a success, along with meeting up with other volunteers, some new and others like me who have been around for donkey's years. I was rewarded for my efforts with a special 'presentation' from a passing pigeon, which scored a direct hit on my arm and leg. That's supposed to be lucky isn't it?

We'll see.

Gary

## **Task - Danbury Common Sunday 3 August 2008**

Bracken Bending . . . or Find the Heather. The task sounded simple: Remove the invasive species, in order to give the heather a chance to regenerate, and / or continue the heather monitoring programme. And it was a nice morning, with a beautiful setting at Danbury. So we started gently, pulling out the brambles and finding lots of hidden heather patches. But then we hit the bracken. Not just ordinary bracken, but giant bracken, taller than any of us! The way to deal with it most effectively, we had learned from Richard's pre-task talk, was to bend it over, as it took longer to regenerate when you did this, than it did when you snapped it. Bet you didn't know that! So we ended up ploughing through jungle-like vegetation. I just hope that the heather appreciated it. However, we all had a good time, and it was satisfying to see the difference we had made by the end of the day. We even managed to avoid the showers, by having our tea and lunch breaks at strategic times, on a bench under a handy oak tree.

Val

## **TASK - Copt Hall Sunday 17 August 2008**

Willow coppicing . . . Having awoken to the sound of torrential rain, at Copt Hall we had only one swift shower and glorious sunshine! (Thanks Dawn, for bringing the sun cream). It was lovely to see so many old faces back out on task, and several delightful new members, who we hope will come again; thirteen of us, a really good turnout. The only problem was, due to the aforementioned rain, the willows were now right in the middle of the pond and not at the edge as we had anticipated. Fortunately, our new young Warden, Dave, proved to be game for a laugh, and in he waded with his chainsaw. With the help of a rope, we pulled the branches out and processed them: firewood into one pile, the rest to make a brash hedge along the field edge. At lunchtime, Richard arrived with several pairs of waders, so a few of us got to play in the pond. Some of us continued as before, while others attacked the reed mace to thin it out. As usual, it proved to be a very enjoyable day, with a variety of things to do and good company to chat to while we were working. Come on out and join us - it's fun!

John

## **SMILES ALL ROUND**

Friday 15th was one of the few bright and sunny days during the month of August, for Louise and Adrian's wedding. Louise dispensed with the usual 'task attire' for something a lot more suitable, and looked stunning. Adrian looked damn smart too! The marriage took place at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Louise's home town of Burnham-on-Crouch, with the reception being held in the glorious grounds of Creeksea Place, and was enjoyed by some of their ENTV friends. A honeymoon in Italy followed for the newlyweds . . . a TASK at Copt Hall followed for the volunteers!

## **WHAT TO DO WITH A COURGETTE**

For those who were present at the recent Copt Hall task, the following will probably make sense. And for any others who may be interested, here's a recipe for Courgette Cake!

60g raisins, 250g courgette, 2 large eggs, 125ml vegetable oil, 150g caster sugar, 225g self-raising flour, half a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda, half a teaspoon of baking powder, cream cheese icing if wanted, with lime juice.

Remove excess water from grated courgettes. Put eggs, flour and sugar in the bowl, and beat until creamy. Sieve in flour, bicarb, and baking powder. Add courgettes and raisins. Bake for 30 mins at 180 degrees C / gas mark 4. And enjoy!

Sue

## 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@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:essexntv@yahoo.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 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 13 SEPTEMBER 2008**  
Stewarding at Bourne Mill  
Task Leader - Pauline

**SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2008**  
Lingwood Common, Danbury  
Task Leader - Sue

**SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2008**  
Ray Island  
Task Leader - Tom

**SUNDAY 2 November 2008**  
Danbury Common - Scrub bashing  
Task Leader - Kim

**SUNDAY 16 November 2008**  
Blakes Wood - Ride Clearing  
Task Leaders - Val and John

**SATURDAY 30 November 2008**  
Danbury - Coppicing  
Task Leader - Gary

**SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2008**  
Flatford, Essex / Suffolk border  
Coppicing  
Task Leader - Pauline

**SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2008**  
Blakes Wood - Coppicing  
Task Leader - Sue

### SOCIALS

**SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2008**  
Maldon Firework Display

**SATURDAY 3 JANUARY 2009**  
New Year drinks - The Woolpack,  
Chelmsford

**SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2009**  
Romford Dogs

If you would like to come along to any of our socials, then please contact Pauline or David to let them know you're coming - [essexntv@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:essexntv@yahoo.co.uk)



A couple of shots from the archives:  
Opening up a view at Danbury

