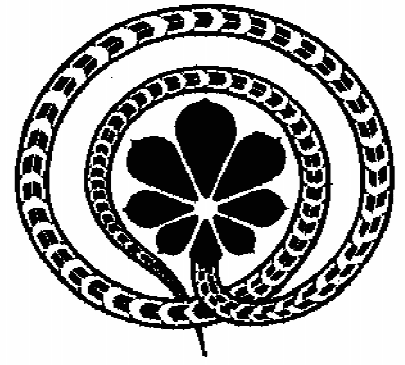


Dorset Countryside Volunteers



No 170
November 2014 - January 2015
Reg Charity No 1071723
www.dcv.org.uk



Who we are, what we do, where, why and how . . .

DCV is . . .

- A practical conservation group run by volunteers since 1972 doing practical work in the countryside that would not otherwise be done
- Volunteers are male and female, from all walks of life and from all over the county
- Work is seasonal, e.g. woodlands in winter - hedgelaying, coppicing; in summer dry stone walling, clearing ponds, footpath work
- Organisations we work for include: Dorset Wildlife Trust, Heritage Coast Project, Natural England, Amphibian Reptile Conservation Trust
- We work at weekends throughout Dorset
- No super-human strength or special skills needed, or attendance on every task or even for the whole weekend - any time is a bonus for us and for you!

DCV offers . . .

- Practical care for the environment
- Opportunity to learn new skills - training given
- Use of all necessary tools
- Beautiful countryside, social events, fun & companionship

YOU should bring . . .

- Stout footwear (steel toecaps if possible)
- Old clothes (wear layers) Long trousers and sleeves are best.
- Tough gloves (we have some to sell/lend)
- Waterproofs, sun block, sun hat, insect repellent
- Lunch and some water
- Don't forget an up to date tetanus jab

Reaching a task . . .

- If you need or can offer a lift, phone Richard Meatyard or Peter Warren 3 days before a task
- Lifts from Wool station (toolstore is nearby)
- Travel links: <http://www.morebus.co.uk/>
<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/travel-dorset/rail>

A DCV day lasts . . .

- 10.00a.m. – 5.00p.m. approximately including breaks for drinks (which are supplied) and lunch (please bring your own lunch)

FINDING DCV . . .

- Maps with the task programme (at the back of this newsletter) show the locations of task sites
- DCV website dcv.org.uk
- Facebook
- Look for DCV's yellow arrows near the worksite or the DCV information board may show an explanatory note
- If unsure of the worksite try to arrive by 10.00 to meet other volunteers. The worksite may be some way off. Lost? give us a call on **07929 961532** (after 10.00 a.m.)

FOOD & DRINK

- Please bring your own lunch
- DCV provides free hot/cold drinks and biscuits during the day - bring your own mug if you wish
- Occasionally DCV may hold a shared lunch or supper (aka bring a dish) when it is usual for people to bring some food to share around
- **Note:** If you have a medical condition or allergies of any sort, please carry a card and bring necessary medicines. If you wish, bring this to the attention of the task leader. Please complete the "in case of emergency" details at the end of the newsletter, and bring on task. "In case of emergency details" can be inserted into a small key fob which can be attached to your rucksack. Key fobs are available from Richard Meatyard.

- All youngsters are welcome, but should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the winter quarter! Roaring log fires, jacket potatoes, gossip over the glowing embers - all this can be yours . . when you come out on task this quarter. You'll see from the programme that DCV has plenty of work, there is a task every weekend - we just need YOU, the volunteer, to help us restore important habitats in Dorset. Any time you can spare - even a half day - is valuable to DCV. So come along and enjoy the benefits - keeping fit, meeting other people, time away from your usual routine. All these have positive effects on your wellbeing. And one benefit specific to this quarter - you can take home free Christmas trees, you'll see there will be a couple of opportunities.

Our publicity officer, Brian Thompson, is standing down after 25 years of spreading the word about DCV through press articles and attending countryside events. His determination and perseverance have ensured that DCV's good name and the work that we do have been put in the limelight throughout Dorset. So Brian, from all of us in DCV, a very big thank you for all your hard work.

Gareth Morgan is able to take over some of Brian's duties. These include creation and distribution of publicity material, contact for new enquiries and sale of DCV merchandise. If you would like to help Gareth with other publicity roles, please have a word with him.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, it gives us a chance to look back on our achievements. Many of these, relating to tasks and workdays, can be seen from the annual report. There are others, not shown in the report, which help to spread the name of the DCV, such as a presence on Facebook, (this has brought us new volunteers) our QR (quick response) code, Richard's A frame publicity board, our sail flag. These are all fairly new innovations and it's good to see that DCV is open to embracing change. In order to grow as a group, evolve and attract new members, we need to remain open to new ideas and ways of doing things, so if you have an idea that you think might help the group, don't be afraid to speak up.

Co-ordinator's report

Richard Meatyard

Since I have already hogged a sizeable part of this newsletter with my AGM report, my quarterly report will be fairly brief. As always I need to catch up on the two tasks that missed my last report.

Greenlands, due a change of the client's priorities this task changed both work and location. Luckily the unsettled weather bypassed us and even with a modest turnout both days, with the aid of a tractor we managed to completed the cattle corral.

Hooke, and a return to the Summer's Himalayan Balsam pulling activities. Once again progress was slow and the effect of sections having been missed out on previous years was all too apparent.

The beginning of August found us rootling around in the pond at Tyneham. Over the two days a lot of silt was extracted from the pond and with good weather a deal of muddy fun was had by all.

Then it was back to Balsam pulling on the Bere Stream. While the Balsam was sparse heavy vegetation made slow work but at least here we do seem to be making a difference unlike Hooke where this year at least it has felt like a losing battle.

Mid August and our now annual visit to the Symondsbury Sheepwash. The ravages of the winter meant this had to be a two day task rather than planned single day. By the end of the weekend the wash was looking very neat and tidy. This however, meant that we only had a single day visit to Swyre the

following weekend to continue our restoration of the walls around Manor Farm.

The last weekend in August was a return to the mire at Upton Wood where the effects of a spraying programme on the brambles and other invaders is now apparent. Leaving us the more realistic task of doing battle with the margins and stream banks, which can't be sprayed.

The first weekend in September was a visit to the Toolstore to give the trailer some TLC. This time was a strip down to bare bones to seal it against water ingress which became a problem last winter. A good turnout both days meant there were also enough spare hands to do the essential tool maintenance in preparation for the winter tasks.

The following weekend's task at Townsend the planned bat cave work had to be postponed due to unresolved heath and safety concerns so the warm sunny day was dedicated to a serious scrub bash along with the traditional large smoky fire.

A warm but windy Sunday saw us at Abbotsbury for the second beach clean of the year. We normally do the Spring beach clean but this is the first time for many years that we have participated in the late Autumn one. There was plenty of rubbish to be found, most of it fairly small, with a larger than usual turnout at the end of the day there were 24 bags awaiting collection or recycling.

The last weekend in September and it was back to scrub bashing at Birch Common. It is several years since our last visit when

the site looked like a WWI battle scene. Now the site is recovering well but along with the wanted grassland so is the invasive gorse and birch. Over the two days we made a start on clearing these from areas where it is not possible to clear them mechanically, our efforts being watched over by two friendly woolly mammoths.

The beginning of October and once again Wytch Moor attracted a near record turnout. Every available tool was deployed and soon the Western Hemlock and pines were being cut and dragged into huge piles. Due to the high fire risk there was none. If you haven't already seen it take a look at the time lapse footage from this task on the website.

At Fontmell Down it was a case of dejavue and not just the seemingly endless bank of gorse but the weather. Saturday was warm and welcoming. Sunday we finished the day battling heavy rain and gale force winds, arriving back at the cars soaked through.

Our visit to The Goathorn Peninsula was a serious baby pine pulling session to prevent these regrowing and shading out the now well established heather. Thankfully despite the forecast the weather was kind to us both days as this is a fire free site.

Our single day visit to the Quarr was to coppice a number of areas to open up some over shaded areas. With a low attendance only some of the work scheduled was completed.

The Newsletter doesn't normally include the Publicity Officer's AGM report. However, as Brian was unable to attend the AGM and it is his final report we thought it deserved a wider audience, so have included it here.

DCV AGM 2013/4 Publicity Report

Unfortunately I have not been able to give the post of DCV Publicity Officer the time I feel it requires. As I have been in post for 26 years I think it is time to retire / resign to allow a volunteer or volunteers to take it over with a fresh start.

This post has been very enjoyable over the years with a few challenges to keep me on my toes. TV, Radio and press releases as well as organising our stand at events. Writing a short article for the newspapers, magazines can be easy until you get a phone call for more information and expanding on what you have written. Fine until they then ask you to do it over the phone. TV I regard as a waste of time as they spend around 6 hours filming for a 3 minute clip. Radio is always a challenge as the producer will have done research on DCV. So be prepared for questions on DCV as well as the task you wrote in about. The interview may be going out live and can last at least 30 minutes with breaks for music and with Wessex FM adverts as well. Hard work but enjoyable.

Events are good as you can talk to the visitors about DCV and the work we do. There is always time for a walk and look around the event. More volunteers are always needed to help with the stand. It is not a recruiting drive and we are not selling any thing so there is no pressure or targets to meet. So just come along to help and enjoy the day / weekend as you get free admission.

Events booked [provisionally] for 2015 are the Dorset Knob Throwing Contest 4th May and Stock Gaylard Oak Fair 24th & 25th August. The Oak Fair has grown a lot in the 8 years I have been attending. This year it was over 2 days and a great success. If you would like to help [at these events] please let any of the committee know. Many thanks to all those who have helped at events over the years.

DCV have strong competition in recruiting new volunteers. Other organisations and charities in the conservation field have full time staff doing publicity and recruitment. So we as volunteers need to promote and keep DCV in the public eye. If you would like to help or have any ideas on promoting DCV please have a chat with any of the committee, especially if you are considering jumping out of a plane a few thousand feet up.



Our Shy (?) and Retiring Publicity Officer

- Peter Warren

"We get out into the fresh air, see places we have never seen before, meet new people and feel we are doing a useful job at the same time" says publicity officer Brian Thompson.

This is from the Bournemouth Evening Echo of March 1997, part of a half page article, with photos, about the DCV. One of very many articles put into all the local papers by Brian over the last 25 years. Yes, that is a quarter of a century since July 1989 when his name first appeared in the

newsletter as DCV publicity officer! A job that is an important part of the team that works to keep the DCV going. Due to health and shortage of time problems, he has just stepped down from this job.

As well as newspaper articles, there were radio & TV features about the DCV, display boards to organise and get out to all sorts of places, and various events to show the flag at (literally since our recent purchase of a sail flag).

As DCV publicity officer briefly in the 1980s, I know that it can be apparently unrewarding. There is often no immediate visible response to publicity efforts, but it all helps to keep the name of the DCV out there, and does bring results in the long term. You just have to keep plugging away at it. And 25 years is quite some time to do that!

So a Very big Thank You is well deserved for Brian's work in helping to keep the DCV operating for all these years.



Wellington Boot Offer

From John Marsh, a man who knows about comfort and boots

DCV works in some of the most hostile environments in Dorset. If you work outdoors a lot you need comfort and protection at a reasonable cost.

Wellington boots – special offer

DCV members can still get excellent quality, steel-toe-capped, rubber Wellington boots at a VERY good price, if they act quickly! They are Century 4000, made in Serbia with lasts and equipment bought from the famous Hunter maker in Scotland, but now discontinued – hence the bargains. These are probably the ideal boots to wear on almost all DCV tasks, especially in the upcoming wet winter and spring months!

Richard, Doug, Gareth and others have already got some, and John can show you sample pairs.

Sizes **3 to 5 £16**; size **6 £20**; sizes **7 to 13 £24**; add just **£1.50** for boots with a digging pad, just in front of the heel, great for digging.

An extra special offer **if you're quick**: for Century 4000 Wellingtons without a steel insole, which the above have, but with the essential steel toe cap:

Sizes **5 and 6 £16**; sizes **7, 9, 12, 13 £23.50** – these boots are a little lighter and more flexible than the others.

Chainsaw Wellington boots are also available for only £28.

Order as soon as possible to John, on a task or on **01329 231961** (or at marsh368@btinternet.com or on 07710 293566)

Payment in cash to John, when you get them - on task or other DCV event.

Hazards of the Winter Work Site

The cutting season is upon us and with it, the possibility of a few accidents. Some of these incidents are genuine accidents that just happen and seem unavoidable, whilst others are just waiting to happen.

It is the responsibility of everyone out on task to think about safety - their own and that of others around them. Here are some tips and advice to help us all have an accident free winter . . .

- ◇ Wear stout boots or shoes, gloves and a protective jacket to prevent injuries to your feet, hands and body.
- ◇ Wear protective goggles (ask task leader) if you are concerned about your eyes.
- ◇ Wear non flammable clothing especially when working near to the fire. Many new volunteers are now wearing fleece jackets and leaving the site with burn holes in them.
- ◇ Wear a hat when working on or near the fire. Its quite easy for sparks to land in your hair and singe it.
- ◇ Cut stumps of gorse, young pine and scrub as low to the ground as possible. This will prevent others from tripping and doing themselves a nasty injury.
- ◇ Carry and use tools safely as instructed.
- ◇ Do not over exert yourself.
- ◇ Always be aware of what is going on around you, are trees about to come down and are others working too close to you. When felling trees, let other volunteers know before your tree is falling, then shout out "Timber"
- ◇ Be aware of the terrain, is it slippery or undulating. Never rush, you may trip.



Wellington Boot Tips on their Care

John Marsh

Many DCV members are also walkers, ramblers, hikers, or climbers, and on task wear what they are comfortable with in those pursuits. Mostly they will know the importance of their footwear being comfortable and will have their own ways of looking after it, involving polish, dubbin, ancient family concoctions, peculiar sock habits, and how and where to dry and store their boots or shoes.

But for almost all DCV tasks, Wellington boots are the best choice of footwear. Possible exceptions include Chesil beach, and very steep, dry, chalk hillsides. But I have worn well-fitting pairs comfortably, even in those severe conditions. (As an aside, I've never been for a country walk using public footpaths in west Dorset where Wellington boots were not appropriate!)

As with so many goods today, boots and shoes can be so cheap as to be considered disposable. We have all seen pictures of the aftermath of festivals, with piles of 'once-used' clothing and camping gear. Hopefully, DCV members are not like this, so here are some tips on how to conserve your Wellington boots; determined wearers of leather boots might even pick up something useful.

Storage: They may have come in a bag, in which case keep using it, ensuring it is ventilated (a hole in the bottom...); otherwise a plastic bag for each boot is not difficult to arrange. Do not fold them – cardboard tubes are ideal to keep both Wellingtons and waders straight and in shape, allowing air to circulate and preventing rot. Ideally they should be hung up, and our grandfathers' Wellingtons had small holes at the top of them, to allow pieces of stout string to facilitate this!

Cleaning - 1: At the end of each wearing, such as the end of the task, or a walk, use any water that is to hand, to remove the bulk of any mud stuck on the boots. Most of us come and go by car, so you can decide yourself how, and whether, to keep your vehicle clean...Have gloves to hand (!) to do this. Do not let the boots fold over.

Cleaning – 2: As soon as possible (within hours) – wash or wipe off all mud, from the sides and soles-and-heels; use an old-fashioned scrubbing brush - with clean water, to clean the entire boot. Indoors, this is messy.

Cleaning – 3: By accident or design, you may have filled your boots. Use any cleaner water out in the field, in large quantities, to sluice them clean – this is surprisingly effective. (You will have to take them off to do it...) Back home, clean as 2 above.

Cleaning - 4: Salt-water is particularly aggressive and should be very thoroughly washed from both the outside and inside of the boots, with copious quantities of fresh water, as soon as possible. This is important – boots (and clothing) contaminated with salt will not dry out.

Drying - 1: Once thoroughly rinsed, stuff boots with individual sheets of newspaper, rammed really hard in, and up to the tops. Leave overnight, or for 12 hours, and repeat if necessary, but that is not always needed. This also works very well with waders, but requires a lot of paper! Obviously it helps if the boots are stood somewhere dry. This produces quite a volume of soggy paper, so you can help to fill your recycling bin.

Drying -2: Standing boots in the airing cupboard overnight is effective and very nice the following morning – but they will need to be clean, of course!

Drying- myth? Oats will do what the newsprint does. Then you can make porridge with them....allegedly. It would leave the boots very uncomfortable...

Frost – Rubber will perish (like cracking) when frozen – so do not keep your boots in the garage, the loft or the car boot (I have lost several pairs this way)– keep them indoors from October to March.

Sunlight – Rubber doesn't like the direct sun either, so don't leave boots exposed to it. (Apparently indirect heat is not so much of an issue.)

Cutting, snedding, fire lighting & management

With the cutting season well and truly upon us, a few basic hints and tips for safer, more enjoyable tasks, whilst maintaining DCV's good standards. Ask for more information on task . .

..

But first - why?

Heathland - self sown pine trees, and gorse or birch, are cut to prevent heather being shaded out and to maintain the heathy habitat.

Scrub bashing - scrub is the first stage in development from open habitat to woodland. Whilst some scrub is useful, for many of our clients removing unwanted scrub is a priority to maintain open habitats such as grassland, woodland, heathland.

How?

Cut stumps as low to the ground as possible.

If the base of the trunk is more than about 5 inches, cut at waist height and leave for chainsaw operator to finish.

Snedding - removing side branches

- ◇ Use a billhook for smaller branches, a bowsaw for larger
- ◇ Cut from the butt of the tree towards the tip
- ◇ Stand on one side of the tree whilst cutting branches from the other side – keeping the tree trunk between billhook and legs
- ◇ Large branches growing up from the trunk should be felled in the same way as trees
- ◇ Always sned as close to the trunk as possible to produce “clean” logs which are easier to handle, transport and stack
- ◇ Beware of a branch taking some of the tree's weight – the tree may move as the branch breaks. Roll the tree over before snedding

Brash: (as the cut material is now called)

- ◇ Pile cut material butt ends together, ready for dragging to the fire or stacking area
- ◇ Clear away brash from a large tree as you go, you may prefer to pile up several smaller trees before dragging it away
- ◇ Either way, if you cut the tree it is up to you to clear it – don't leave brash, either tidy or in a mess, for someone else to clear away

It is particularly important around the fire site to ensure that stumps are cut to ground level.

How tidy:

- ◇ Clear the site but don't over tidy

Dead wood, fallen and standing, is an important habitat and twigs, small branches, even larger pieces of wood will add to the biodiversity

FIRE!!

Siting fires:

- ◇ Downhill of work - easier for dragging
- ◇ Where smoke won't blow across site
- ◇ Where flora is of least value; on old fire site; broad path; newly cleared area
- ◇ Watch out for overhanging trees which may get scorched
- ◇ On wet sites, choose driest place possible but be aware of dangers of peat smouldering below ground
- ◇ Try to avoid smoke blowing across roads

Advise fire control

Have beaters to hand

Fire lighting

An experienced person should be in charge of lighting and loading until fire burning well

Useful items

Dry paper or card

Firelighters

Thin, dry wood

- ◇ Air - wind or breeze - is needed to help draw the fire. Raising the fire on logs will help air get to the base.
- ◇ The closer together wood lies, the better it will burn.
- ◇ Once fire burning well, gradually increase size of dry wood to achieve a good hot ash base.

Feeding the fire

- ◇ Stack cut branches butt end towards the fire for ease of loading.
- ◇ When the fire is going, feed it with branches cut so that they lie flat on the fire.
- ◇ Make sure branches are cut up and will lay flat - the wood will only burn if in contact with other burning wood.
- ◇ A fire can burn out under a tangle of ill-cut branches. If the fire is dying, you may have to pull it apart and start again.
- ◇ Lay branches on the fire with their butt ends to the wind allowing a free flow of air into the heart of the fire and helping branches pack down better.
- ◇ Decide what size the fire should be, don't keep piling wood on so that the fire becomes too big and out of control.
- ◇ Allow plenty of time for the fire to burn down so that it is safe to leave.
- ◇ Phone fire control to tell them the fire is safe and that you are leaving the site.

The DCV wardrobe - or what the smart volunteer about task is wearing!

DCV Clothing available to order

New: We now offer hooded sweatshirts in two styles and (provided we can put together a minimum order of 4) fleece hats. The fleece hats are a ski/beanie style with a turn-up band. If you would like a hat maybe persuade a few other volunteers to place an order at the same time. A sample of the fleece hats should be available to see out on task during November/December. We have been asked if crew neck sweatshirts are available in ladies sizes, so are checking with our suppliers. More news on this in the next newsletter.

All clothing has the DCV logo embroidered on.

Adult sizes:

Sweatshirts (crew neck, unisex S to XXL) £16.50,
Hooded Sweatshirts (unisex S to XXL with kangaroo pocket) £17.95,
Zip Hooded Sweatshirt (unisex S to XXL with side pockets) £21.00, Polo Shirts (men S to XXL, ladies size 8 to 24) £12.50,
T-shirt (unisex S to XXL) £8.50,

Child sizes:

Sweatshirt (crew neck) £10.50,
Hooded Sweatshirts £13.50,
Zip Hooded Sweatshirt £15.50,
Polo Shirt £9.50,
T-shirt £6.50,
Child sizes are by age: 2yrs, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9,10, 11/12, 13.

Hats and caps:

Baseball caps £7.50 (adult or child, minimum of 4).
Fleece hat (with turn-up band) £7.50 (adult or child, minimum of 4),

If you are interested in ordering hats/caps let Gareth know, but you may have to wait a while for him to receive sufficient interest to place an order for 4.

Typical examples of colours are: Black, Navy Blue, Bottle Green, Burgundy, Royal Blue, Light Grey, Purple, and Red although hats have a more limited colour range.

Orders take up to 30 days to complete.

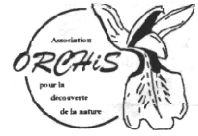
Payment in advance is by cheque payable to Dorset Countryside Volunteers.

Either collect the clothing on task, or contact Gareth for alternative arrangements.

Gareth Morgan
DCV publicity
07923 498760 (text or voicemail)



ASSOCIATION ORCHIS



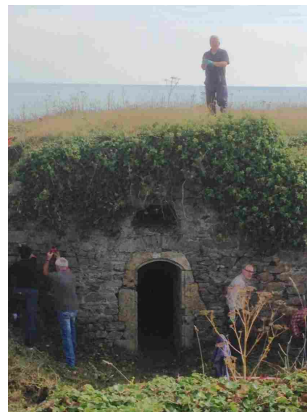
Friday morning and seven DCV members left Poole by ferry for a weekend with Orchis, the conservation group in Normandy with whom we are twinned. Three further members were to meet us later in the day. This was to be a special trip which incorporated the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Orchis with the usual conservation activities.

Following a very calm crossing we were met by our hosts who took us to St-Vaast-la-Hougue where we were based and from there by boat to L'Isle of Tatihou, situated in the bay. A distinctive feature of the area are the two large towers, one on Tatihou and one on the mainland that were built to a design by Vauban at the end of the 17th century, following skirmishes between the French and a fleet of joint Dutch and English forces. A number of French ships were burnt and sank and in the 1980s the remains of these were discovered and later excavated. Many of the artefacts discovered are now in a museum on the island which was very interesting to visit. There was an opportunity to explore the island which in addition to the museum has some gardens growing an interesting range of plants and is also a wild life area. The return trip to St Vaast was by amphibious craft along a track between the oyster beds. The bay has a large tidal range

making it an ideal area to grow a number of shellfish which makes an important contribution to the economy of the area. We were then entertained by sea shanties sung by some local singers before having dinner at the homes of our hosts.

The following day we met at La Hougue Fort, the tower on the mainland, for the main task of the weekend. This was to clear the ever

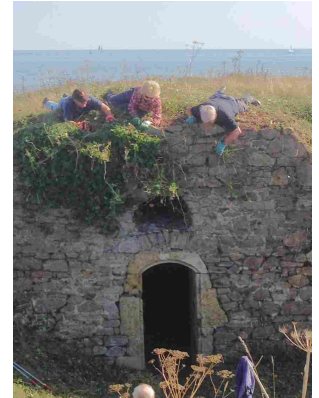
encroaching ivy and bramble from the part of the fort called The Chapel which had originally been built in the 18th century as an arsenal. Alongside this was a



concrete building used as an arsenal and accommodation by the Germans in WW2. Machine gun emplacements were also built here and were part of the area cleared. Highly acrobatic clearance from some members of DCV was observed – the refreshing French approach to

Health and Safety allowed this!!

Some of the group enjoyed a swim whilst others appreciated the French hospitality which provided a delicious aperitif before a superb picnic.



Clearance continued after lunch but unsurprisingly at a much slower rate, giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy the amazing vista of the spectacular bay.



The evening began with the formalities of the weekend, speeches of congratulation for the 20th anniversary from members of Orchis and DCV, made in the company of local dignitaries (in both French and English). This was followed by another tasty meal, the evening ending with music and dancing.

There had been a remarkable atmosphere of enjoyment throughout the weekend, promoted partly by the amazing weather and the readiness of everyone to enjoy themselves (DVC made their contribution providing balloons and party poppers for the evening meal). However the next day the whole atmosphere changed with a visit to a small town called St-Mere-Eglise which was the first town to be liberated following the D-Day landings in 1944. The fame of the town has been ensured following an incident when one of the American parachutists landed on the church steeple and dangled there for some hours, feigning dead. He survived the incident, was captured, but escaped and made more, less dramatic parachute

drops. The group then visited the Airborne Museum in the town which commemorates the American paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne division. The museum contains the only existing example of a WACO glider which was used to ferry men and equipment on D Day. There were more examples of planes alongside relevant artefacts donated by many American servicemen and their families. There was also a reconstruction of a parachute drop - as one exited a C-47 aeroplane one could see the town below, hear the sound of gunfire and see other parachutists nearby. One of the Orchis members remembered hearing the sound of all the planes flying over on D Day. Another thanked us as British

people for helping to liberate France, despite the fact that during the D Day barrage her home, the local boulangerie received a direct hit, killing her mother and sisters leaving her and her father as the only survivors. To this day local towns and villages celebrate the date of their liberation in 1944.

The trip continued on a much lighter note with a visit to a local shop which sold a range of speciality biscuits, confectionery and ice creams. It was then time to return to the ferry, make our farewells after a wonderful weekend and return to Poole. Please note the weekend of Saturday 16th May 2015 when the members of Orchis pay their next visit.

Helen Gorman

DCV SOCIALS

The AGM held on 13th September was very well attended by 25 members. The business of the AGM was followed by a talk by Kevin Cook, President who focussed on the need for man to remain in touch with nature. A delicious meal followed and the evening ended with a talk from Sally Wright, Great Heath Project Community Conservation Officer for DWT who outlined the progress of the Project.

The fundraising evening at Helen's was well supported and raised an incredible £155 which

has now been spent on resources to support the education of some children in Addis Ababa. A huge thank you to all those who provided support.

The next social event will be on Thursday, 20th November at Helen's. This will be a follow up to the above event. I will describe my most recent visit to Ethiopia hoping to show how resources have been used. The evening will include food, all are welcome but please let me know if you would like to come, phone number 01202399938.

Saturday 13th December will be the Christmas meal at Church Knowle village hall. This will start at 7.00 but please come earlier to help with the preparations. If you are interested please bring a bottle, £5, Secret Santa gift (costing no more than £2) and suggestions for games. Please contact Helen 01202399938 if you would like to come.

Saturday 17th January, there will be a cookout following the task at Powerstock. Please contact Viv if you are interested.

DCV DIARY Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

DATE	TASK SITE	CLIENT	WORK
8 & 9 November	Kingcombe Meadows West Dorset	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Hedgelaying / Scrub cutting
Sunday 16 November	Wytch Moor Purbeck	Private	Cutting pine & gorse
<i>Thursday 20 November</i>	<i>Evening at Helen's - follow up on visit to Ethiopia</i>		<i>Booking with Helen essential</i>
22 & 23 November	Parley Common (West) East Dorset	Amphibian Reptile Conservation	Pine cutting
29 & 30 November	Loscombe West Dorset	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Gorse cutting
Sunday 7 December	Birch Common (North), West Dorset	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Birch & scrub cutting
13 & 14 December	Newton Gulley, Purbeck	Amphibian Reptile Conservation	Pine cutting
<i>Saturday 13 December</i>	<i>DCV Christmas Dinner Church Knowle village hall Cost £5.00</i>	<i>bring a bottle & Secret Santa gift (max £2)</i>	<i>booking with Helen essential</i>
20 & 21 December	Cloud's Hill, Purbeck	Amphibian Reptile Conservation	Pine cutting
Sunday 28 December	Townsend, Purbeck	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Scrub cutting
3 & 4 January 2015	Stonebarrow Hill, West Dorset	National Trust	Gorse & scrub cutting
<i>Thursday 8 January</i>	<i>DCV Planning meeting</i>	<i>@ Viv's - 7.45 p.m.</i>	
10 & 11 January	Ferndown Common (East) East Dorset	Amphibian Reptile Conservation	Gorse cutting
17 & 18 January	Powerstock Common, West Dorset	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Scrub cutting
Sunday 25 January	Pine Clump, Upton Heath, East Dorset	Dorset Countryside	Scrub cutting
31 January & 1 February	Kingcombe Meadows, West Dorset	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Hedgelaying

DCV mobile: 07929 961532 (task hours)

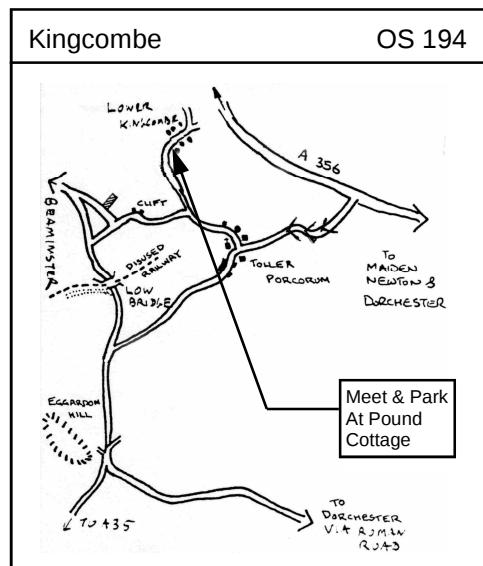
Keep a note of the DCV mobile phone number - a task may have to be cancelled at the last minute, or may have to finish early, e.g. in adverse weather conditions. If coming out later in the day, phone to check the task is still running.

D C V TASK PROGRAMME : Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

8 & 9 November: Kingcombe Meadows, West Dorset

One of the most striking features of this nature reserve is its network of tall, thick hedges. There are nearly 200 in total, measuring about 11 miles in length. They are mostly made up of hazels and thorns with also many fine oaks and curious old 'mocks' of ash – their gnarled and twisted trunks covered with lichen and moss. The hedgerows are maintained by the occasional and seemingly rather destructive practice of hedge laying. This encourages a thick regrowth of the hedgerow shrubs and for a few years allows light into the hedge bank which benefits the wild flowers. We shall be cleaning out unwanted bramble and thorn from a section of overstood hedge somewhere on the reserve. Once cleaned out the straighter stems of hazel, thorn and so forth can then be laid with careful use of billhook and bowsaw to re-form a low and dense hedge. There will be volunteers with hedge laying experience. So come along and learn or polish up on this traditional countryside skill in one of the finest settings in Dorset.

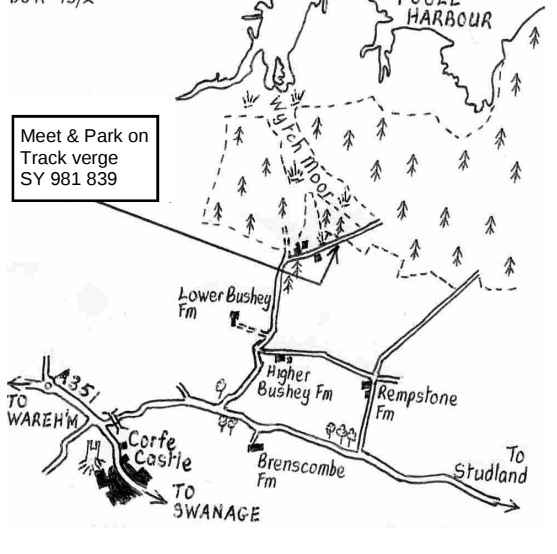
NB: Meet at Pound Cottage. If late look out for our white notice board and distinctive yellow arrows for the way to the task site.



Wytch Moor

OS 195

DJK '13/2



Sunday 16 November: Wytch Moor, Purbeck

Over the last year or so this site has proved to be one of the most popular in our task programme. That is no surprise as the task takes us to a wonderfully secluded valley that winds around low heathy hills crowned by tall pines before opening out onto Poole Harbour. Our task site overlooks the open 'moor' in the valley bottom, a peaty wetland of heath and moor-grass vegetation. Behind lies a plantation of tall pines. We have been asked to remove a belt of dense pine and conifer that has colonised drier ground immediately alongside the moor. Last month we took out another huge chunk of this tree invasion and the end is now well in sight. So with another big task this could be our last visit. There is however an awful lot of cut brash to burn up from the previous task. And for those wishing to escape a smokey bonfire there is yet more practice to be had with bowsaw and lopper on the remaining conifers. With all the burning there should be no shortage of hot flames for keeping warm while enjoying breaks with our fire brewed teas and coffees, and an abundance of biscuits and chat.

NB: Bring wellies, but a good pair of water resistant working boots should keep your feet warm and dry if you are careful in dodging the boggy bits.

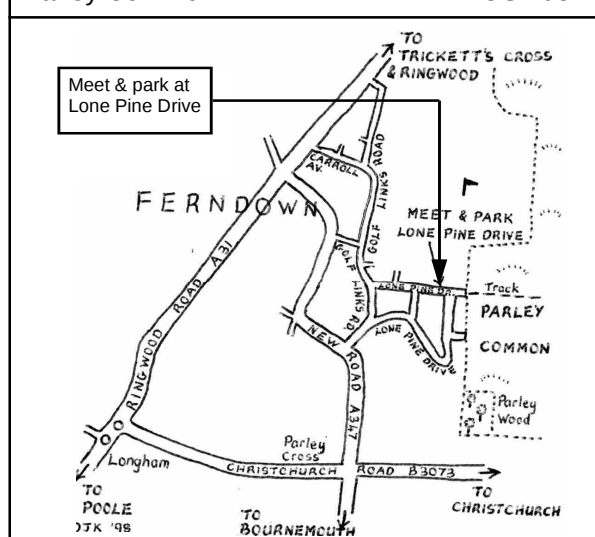
22 & 23 November: Parley Common (west), East Dorset

This large heathland area has retained a feel of natural wildness that belies its urban location. In winter the area has a dark, brooding presence, but in summer it becomes a sheet of purple flowering heathers dotted with the yellows of late flowering gorse. Many of the specialist heathland animals are present like sand lizard, and in summer the strange dusk time calls of nightjar permeate the air. The higher ground on the west side is less open having become invaded by pine. We shall be taking on small pines that have invaded an area of dry heath with our usual devastating use of loppers, bowsaws and bonfire. Their burning remains will boil our kettles and give warming breaks for chat while enjoying hot teas and coffees, biscuits and lunch. Come along for all or part of the day.

NB: Please be sensitive to parking and don't block driveways, spread out.

Parley Common

OS 195



D C V TASK PROGRAMME : Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

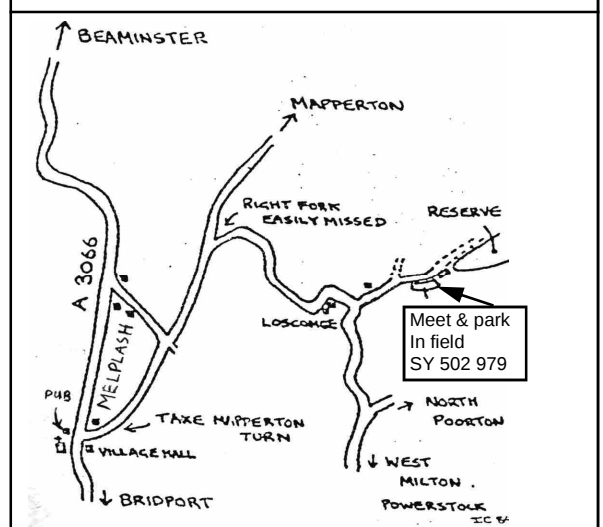
29 & 30 November: Loscombe, West Dorset

This reserve is aptly named, being tucked away in a deep valley that is perhaps largely unchanged since the days of Thomas Hardy. Even getting there is an adventure through winding, hedge-lined lanes and then down a steep sunken lane designed for the horse and cart to the streamside hamlet in the valley bottom. At the reserve there are precipitously sloping pastures full of anthills, a hay meadow and marshy grassland, all bounded by hedgerows. A wooded stream along the bottom completes a valley of great scenic beauty and tranquillity. The task will be familiar - cutting gorse - but rather than heathland, here it is grassland that is threatened with a gorsey take over. The bonfire could be quite a challenge on the steep slopes as will keeping upright if you failed to put on boots with a good grip for the slippery grass.

NB: Please car share if you can as parking at the reserve entrance is rather limited. And do bring your good gripping footwear.

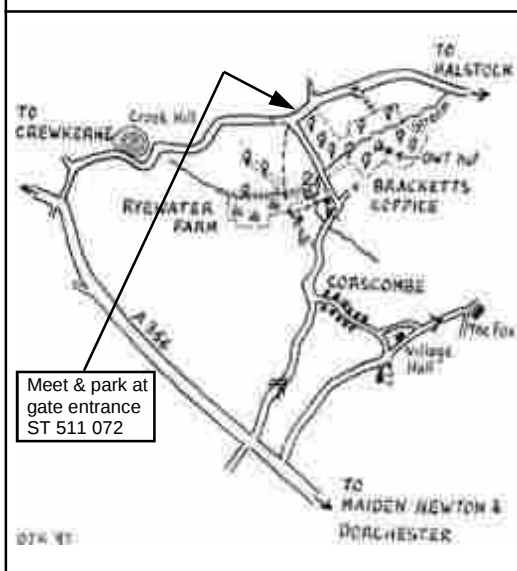
Loscombe

OS 194



Birch Common

OS 194



Sunday 7 December: Birch Common, West Dorset

Our first task at this site was nearly 20 years ago. At the time it looked like a battle ground from clearing what was a dense plantation of tall conifers. There were felled trunks and brash all over the place and lots of churned up ground. To complete the picture of devastation, scattered across this scene were wispy trees of oak and ash which, exposed from the conifers, swayed and bent in the slightest wind. Today the site looks very different. The wispy trees have strengthened (those that survived) and dot an open landscape that has recovered to a grassy heath, rich in wild flowers and grazed by hardy cattle. A deep valley runs through the site and here woodland and scrub has recolonized. Not all the scrub is welcome, especially areas of dense birch and bramble marching into the grassland. We have been asked to clear back some of this scrub over the winter. The task continues from our visit back in the autumn when we enjoyed the really warm weather. This time we will tackle a new area on the north side of the valley. The weather is unlikely to treat us so kindly but there is lots to cut and turn into a big and warming bonfire. As usual there will be kettle brewed mugs of steaming hot tea and coffee, all with biscuits, chat and banter.

NB: In places the ground can be wet and squidgy - wellies are best. Stout boots will be fine provided you are careful where you tread.

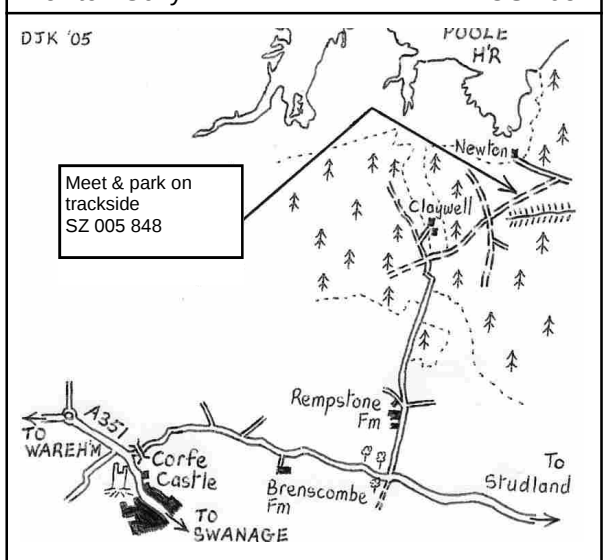
13 & 14 December: Newton Gully, Purbeck

This is DCV's big weekend of the season. On Saturday evening we have our Christmas meal and festivities at a local village hall. And for a task we have possibly the biggest choice of waiting-to-be-cut Christmas trees in the county. Here deep within conifer plantations on the south side of Poole Harbour lies an area of heathland restoration. The plantation pines were cleared some years ago. The heathers came back but so too did uncountable numbers of seedling Scots pine. They have grown to a green rash poking high above heather almost as far as the eye can see. We have been steadily clearing them back from around a deep gully that runs through the site. Unlike the more popular Norway spruce which seem to drop needles everywhere as soon as they are brought indoors, these pines stay green with their needles on for weeks. One large pine will be selected to decorate the village hall. And there are as many as you wish of all sizes to carry home. Apart from selecting some prized Christmas trees, we will be cutting lots more to burn and enjoy their warmth around a huge bonfire (but do keep your prized trees safe from the same fate). Our trusty kettles will be working hard boiling water in the flames to give us fresh charcoal brewed drinks, all to be taken with seasonal fayre and plenty of chat.

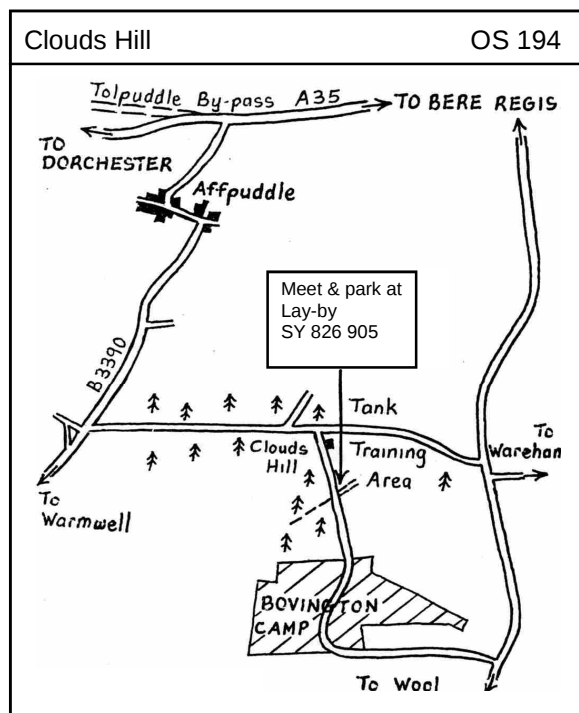
NB: Our Christmas festivities on Saturday evening take place nearby at Church Knowle village hall. Do remember to book with Helen and also let her know if you would like the free lunch on the Sunday task

Newton Gully

OS 195



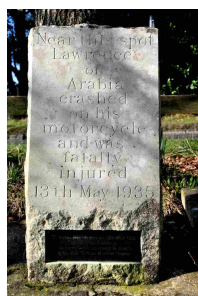
D C V TASK PROGRAMME : Nov 2014 - Jan 2015



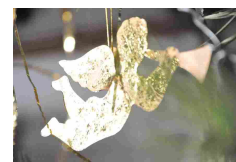
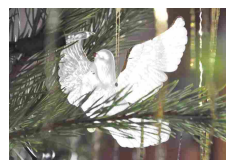
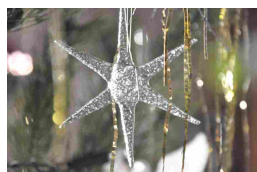
20 & 21 December: Clouds Hill, Purbeck

With Christmas fast approaching here's an opportunity to get away from the hassle and enjoy some time in the bracing fresh air of rural Dorset. Once again we are helping to conserve Dorset's fantastic heathland and once again invasion by pines and other scrub is the problem. In the distant past the heaths were immense, an open landscape almost devoid of trees. Heath fires, grazing animals and cutting kept the trees at bay, and gorse was prized for fuel and for animal fodder in winter. Today the heaths are different in character - smaller, fragmented and surrounded by plantations, farmland and modern development. They are more vulnerable to invasion from beyond their borders but the special wildlife can survive if the heath vegetation is maintained. At this task location there are rare reptiles such as sand lizard and also a rather showy type of spider found only in Dorset. We shall be cutting small pines to keep the heath in good condition for these and many other special beasts of the heathers and gorse. As usual there will be a warming bonfire and no doubt lots of seasonal food. Come and enjoy, for all or maybe just part of a day.

NB: Park at the lay-by overlooking the tank range a little further along the road toward Bovington from the National Trust Clouds Hill cottage. Look out for the white information board and then follow our distinctive yellow arrows to the task site within the forestry plantation.



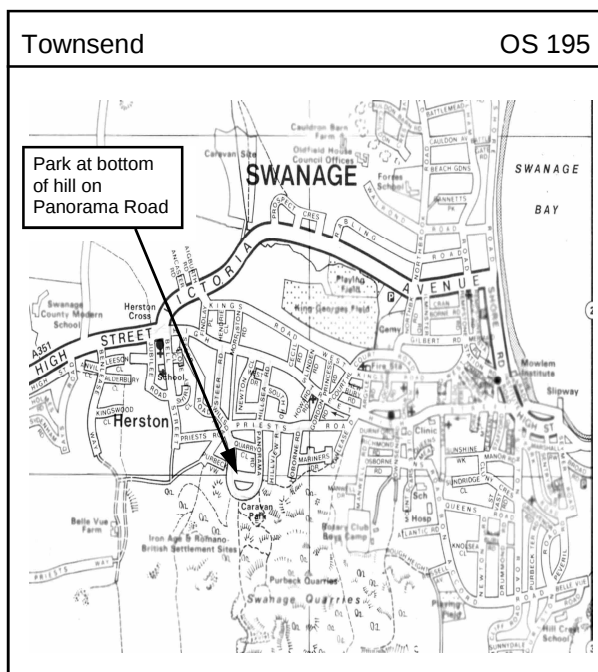
Happy Christmas
to all our
volunteers.



Sunday 28 December: Townsend, Purbeck

This winter we are running tasks each weekend right through the holiday season. On this run up Sunday to the New Year we are returning to a popular nature reserve high on the limestone ridge above Swanage. The grassland is valuable for its wildflowers, including a Dorset speciality the early spider orchid. Over the years and despite nibbling by grazing livestock there are areas where thorny scrub has steadily encroached and squeezed the grassland into narrow rides and openings. A big effort is taking place to push the scrub back into thickets within a grassland setting. We shall be continuing from our task in the autumn, cutting back scrub along a wide front with a surviving grassy ride. Its remains we shall use to enjoy on a warming bonfire. Come for all or part of the day and catch up on the holiday chat.

NB: Park on Panorama Road near the bottom of the hill as we shall probably use the bottom reserve entrance nearby.



DCV TASK PROGRAMME : Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

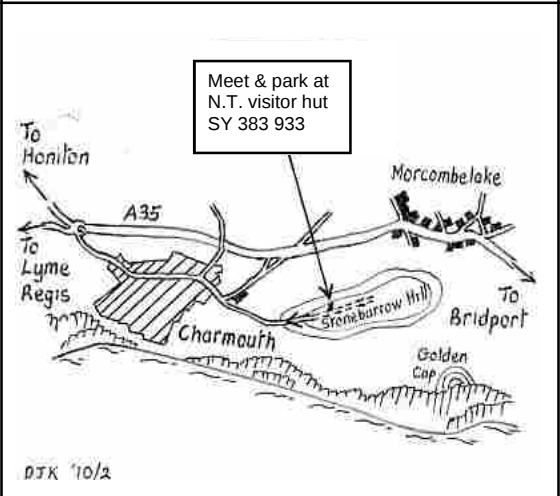
3 & 4 January: Stonebarrow Hill, West Dorset

A New Year and now a regular mid-winter appointment to this task site high above the cliffs overlooking Lyme Bay. On a clear day the view stretches across the bay to Lyme Regis and to Start Point in the far distance. Most years we have been lucky and the weather has been good but this is an exposed coast open to the Atlantic Ocean. As on previous tasks we shall be cutting into an area of mixed gorse, bramble and other thorns to restore more of the coastal grassland for its wild flowers and butterflies. With our incredibly sharp bowsaws and loppers the scrub stands no chance. What we cut will feed a bonfire to keep us warm and for brewing steaming hot mugs of tea and coffee.

NB: The narrow lane up to the NT car park is easily missed. Look out for the entrance just beyond the motel/holiday park as the road bends right to Charmouth. The weather can be barmy but just in case it's not, do come prepared with warm, windproof and waterproof layers.

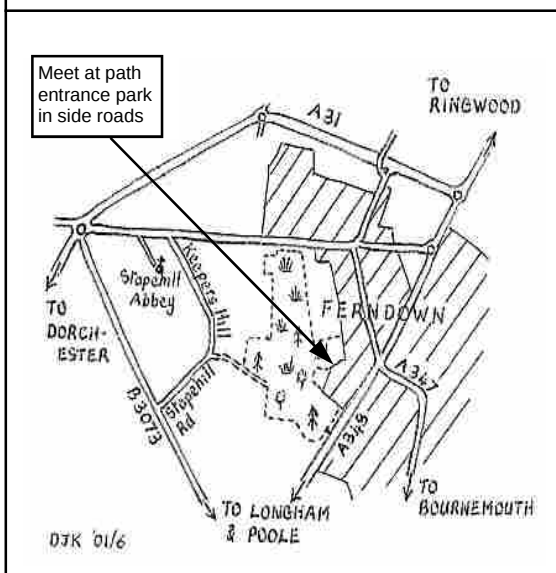
Stonebarrow Hill

OS 193



Ferndown Common

OS 195



10 & 11 January: Ferndown Common (east), East Dorset

In the past we had regular tasks at this site from its early establishment as a heathland nature reserve. Our task here last year was the first for some years. On this return visit we are visiting the east side of the reserve where it abuts the edge of Ferndown. Although housing lies nearby, once on the heath the experience is of stepping back into time, to a more natural world of heathland sounds, scents and views. We have been asked to clear gorse scrub from near a badger sett. A light footed touch is required but our ruthless ways with scrub and bowsaw in hand need not be compromised. Cutting gorse encourages its regrowth, mixed with heather – ideal for Dartford warblers. A sensibly sited bonfire will deal with the cut remains and provide a warming focal point for chat and for enjoying our breaks with hot mugs of tea or coffee.

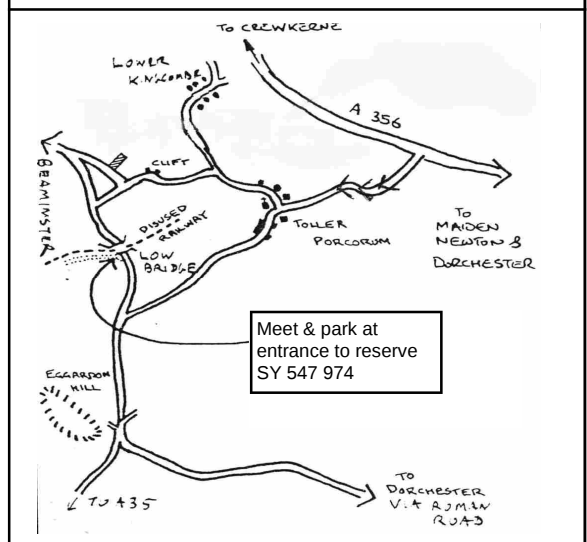
NB: We may use the reserve entrance in Mountbatten Drive rather than that further along the road in Brabourne Avenue. When parking look out for our trailer or our white board with directions, then follow our distinctive yellow arrows to the task site.

17 & 18 January: Powerstock Common, West Dorset

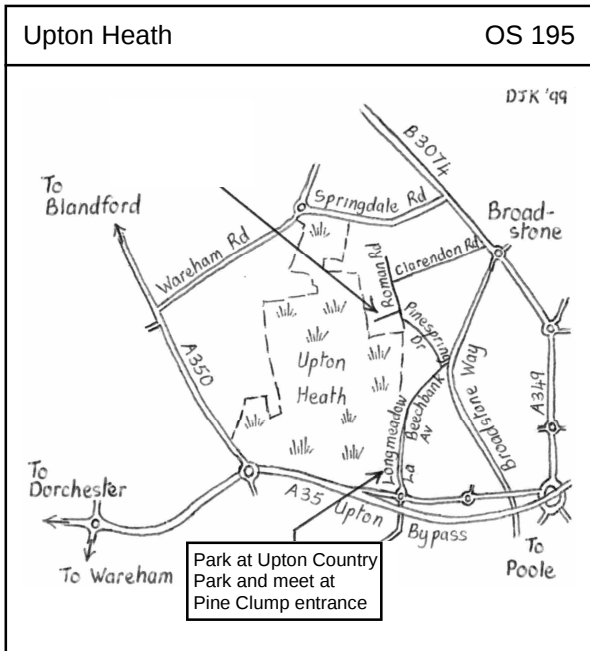
Several tasks in this programme take us back to familiar sites where we have worked in decades. This weekend is no exception – we have held tasks at this reserve going back for almost as long as DCV has been in existence. During this time big changes have occurred on the reserve, the changes reflecting better understanding on the priorities in conserving threatened habitats and species. Its history extends back centuries to an old Royal Forest and then unenclosed common land where local villagers had rights to graze stock and gather wood. In more recent times these uses fell into abeyance and large parts were converted to conifer plantation. Now with the land secured as a nature reserve it is being returned to its historic state as unenclosed rough pasture where cattle roam among scattered trees and native woods. The conifers have nearly all gone, felled and the land returned to grassy habitats or recolonizing native woodland. But the time when local villagers gathered brushwood for their home fires has long gone too. The scrub, however, keeps on growing back. And so the need for a modern replacement – DCV. We shall be cutting an area and creating one very large 'away-from-home' fire. It will brew great teas and coffees and warm us up on a cold winter's day.

Powerstock

OS 194



D C V TASK PROGRAMME : Nov 2014 - Jan 2015



Sunday 25 January: Pine Clump, Upton Heath, Purbeck-Poole border

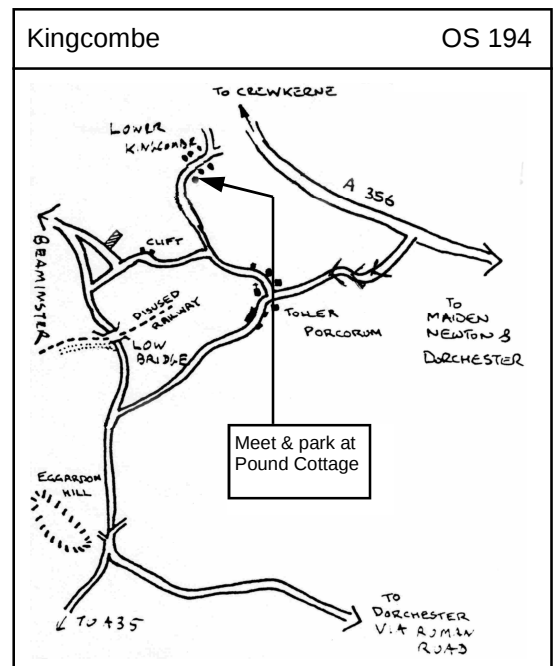
For many the tall pines at this site are now a distant memory but the name lingers on. Most were cleared to restore the original heath vegetation and join it with the wider heathland beyond that is managed as a nature reserve. The whole area supports many of the special plants and animals that make the Dorset heaths so important, from rare flowers such as marsh gentian to rare birds and reptiles like Dartford warbler and smooth snake. In this part the returning heathers are threatened by an assortment of re-invading pine, birch and bramble scrub. We shall be cutting this out in our usual ruthless ways so as to provide heathy homes for the special plants and beasties.

NB: There is very little parking at the reserve entrance off Longmeadow Lane. Use the car park just inside the entrance to Upton Country Park and follow the track back under the duel carriageway to the reserve.

31 Jan & 1 Feb: Kingcombe Meadows, West Dorset

Our winter task programme ends as it started with a visit to this fascinating area of Dorset countryside. Here an old patchwork of unimproved fields, thick hedgerows, ancient trees and small woods provide a glimpse back to an agricultural landscape of the past. The farm was saved in its historic state through a national appeal back in the 1980s. Now it's a nature reserve. In past centuries manual labour was abundant. Today managing the land to retain the diversity of habitats provided by past practice is a big demand. We have been involved with conservation tasks almost from the beginning: hedge laying, scrub cutting, fencing, path laying, ragwort pulling and more. We are likely to continue hedge laying and experienced volunteers will be on hand to show how it's done. We usually work in pairs with plenty of time for friendly chat, and some rivalry on who can lay the best bit of hedge. Any unwanted brushwood is cut out and this we use on a bonfire to warm ourselves against the winter cold.

NB: Rendezvous at Pound Cottage. We may move from here to park at the farmyard at Clift if working on the southern fields. See task map for locations, and look out for our white instruction board at Pound Cottage and yellow arrows to the task site.



DCV ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 1 APRIL 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Tasks		Tasks	
Workdays	1266.00	Food	209.46
Mileage	482.24	Mileage	400.60
Chainsaw	176.00	Chainsaw	60.00
Food & Accommodation	65.00		-----
	-----	Subtotal	670.06
Subtotal	1989.24		-----
	-----	Hall Hire	110.00
Membership		Tools & Trailer	463.88
Subscriptions	187.00	Training Courses	300.00
Donations	180.60	Newsletter	372.75
	-----	Publicity	129.92
Subtotal	367.60	BTCV Membership/Insurance	416.97
	-----	Tools Insurance	62.54
Orchis Fund	227.00	Orchis Fund (see separate table)	224.88
Sales	52.00	Donation to Urban Wildlink Project	200.00
Sundries	111.31	Sundries	171.35
	-----		-----
TOTAL INCOME	2747.15	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3122.35
	-----		-----

BALANCE	£
Opening Balance	6563.91
Total Income less Total Expenditure	(375.20)

Closing Balance	6188.71

DCV holds non-monetary assets valued at a total of £5000. Of these, £1925 is made up of one trailer, chainsaw bib and braces, hand winch and backpack fire extinguisher. The remainder consists of hand tools, mobile phone, first aid and other equipment, display boards, a gazebo and a sail flag.

Income and expenditure for most items remains at much the same level as last year. The apparent slight drop in task income, compared to last year, can be explained by an unusually large amount that was outstanding as at 31 March this year – over £300, which was credited to us shortly afterwards. We have now raised the charge to clients from £3, which had remained unchanged for many years, to £4 per volunteer per day. All clients seem to agree that this is still very good value, so they will continue to provide us with regular work.

DCV FUNDS 1 APRIL 2013 TO 31 MARCH 2014

Equipment Fund

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Miles	482.24	Miles	400.60
Chainsaw	176.00	Chainsaw	60.00
Transfer	500.00	Tools & Trailer	463.88
	-----		-----
Total	1158.24	Total	924.48
	-----		-----
Opening Balance	339.50		
Income less Expenditure	233.76		

Closing Balance	573.26		

Orchis Fund

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Work	90.00	Food	127.21
Food	70.00	Drinks	87.67
Donations	67.00	Sundries	10.00
	-----		-----
Total	227.00	Total	224.88
	-----		-----
Opening Balance	190.32		
Income less Expenditure	2.12		

Closing Balance	192.44		

Both these funds are held as part of DCV's Current Bank Account. The internal auditors have agreed that £500 be transferred each year to the Equipment Fund to make sure it is kept in credit.

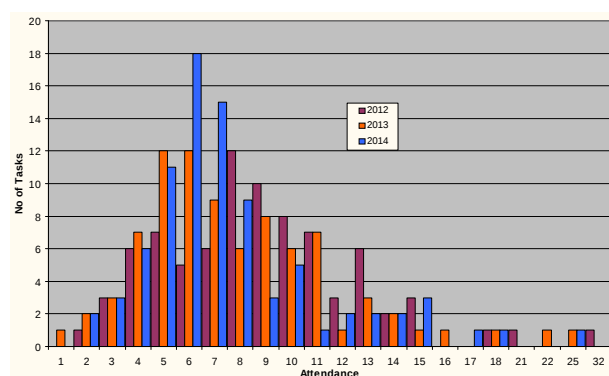
Introduction

This has been a busy year for DCV with the highest number of days worked for a good many years with a corresponding increase in work days. Also this year we escaped without having to cancel any task days although a couple finished early due to inclement weather and a couple of task days changed site at short notice.

Year	Work days	Tasks	Days worked	Sites	Att'nd (avg)	Paid up
13/14	573	53	86	32	8	44
12/13	561	52*	84	31	8	46
11/12	621	51	82	31	9	57
10/11	622	50	82	31	9	69
09/10	555	49	72	34	9	80
08/9	602	48	76	34	9	82
95/6	684	55	86	39	8	**

Annual summary compared to previous years

Attendance figures have shifted up very slightly compared to last



compared with 5/6 last year. The peak attendance figures, with one exception, occurred on task days that included a social activity, e.g. ORCHIS visit.

The vital statistics - What we did and who for?

This year Rubbish clearing (Abbotsbury Beach Clean) retained 1st place again as once more the Orchis visit was a scrub bash, diluting the effect of the largest turn out (25) for the year.

What things we did

Task type	Days worked	Avg. Daily Attendance
Rubbish clearing	2	12
Pond / Ditching	2	10
Woodland/ Coppicing	7	9
Construction / Walling	6	9
Scrub Bashing	39	8
Invasive species	8	7
Dry Stone Walling	7	7
Footpath furniture	7	6
Tool store & repairs	4	6
Fencing	2	6
Hedge laying	2	6

Who led them

Although our pool of leaders remained the same as last year the load has been rather more evenly divided. So special thanks are due to Chris, Don and Val who have lead significantly more tasks this year, reducing the load on Peter and myself significantly.

Task Leaders	Tasks Led
Richard Meatyard	27
Peter Warren	13
Chris Huggill	12
Val Simcock	8
Doug Kite	6
Gareth Morgan	6
Don Simcock	5
Terry Gilliott	4
John Marsh	3
Dave Wyborn	2

Who we did them for

The top 4 places in the league table of who we did work for contains the same clients as the past few years, although ARC pipped DCC-Coast to 2nd place this year. The client list shrank a little this year with the loss of one regular client and one occasional client. However, as in previous years we still had to turn down a considerable quantity of work through the Winter months.

User Body	Days worked	Work days	Avg. Daily Attendance
DWT	24	167	8
ARC/HCT	12	87	8
DCC - Coast	11	64	7
Tyneham Trust	4	45	12
NT West Dorset	6	38	8
NT Studland	5	34	7
Rempstone Estate	2	28	16
Purbeck DC	5	27	8
Swyre, Peter Yates	5	20	7
DCC- Countryside	2	9	6
Friends of Quarr	2	9	5
Symondsbury Estate	2	8	5
Butterfly Cons	2	7	6

Highlights & low-lights of the Year

There were a number of memorable tasks this year including several with successful social events either during or following the task. The pond clearing weekend at Tyneham proved popular again as did the other two days there. The Saturday of the ORCHIS visit proved very popular as it has done virtually every year since we twinned with ORCHIS.

Thankfully the low lights of the year were few and far between. The two lowest turnouts, 2, were visits to Powerstock. This previously popular site failed to attract much of a turnout on any of the days there, possibly due to them coinciding with the rather lack lustre period of weather and forecasts full or foreboding.

Interestingly, a dire forecast and heavy rain on the morning of the January visit to East Gore didn't manage to deter people or dampen spirits of those who braved the initial soaking and were subsequently rewarded with a sunny afternoon that combined with the roaring fire soon had everyone dried out.

Younger members

Our efforts to recruit younger members still seems not to be producing results. Although we have had slightly more success with very young members having gained a father and son team who have been attending on an occasional basis having seen us in action at Tyneham.

Website

The website has now firmly established its format and has proved its value in making it possible to revise changes to tasks and cancellations, etc. at short notice. We also now have a presence on Facebook, thanks to Tony, which seems to have a good following although as yet only one or two of the followers have become active volunteers.

Tools Officer

We continue to manage without a tools officer with tools maintenance falling to Peter, Dave and myself. The good news was that with the signalling work on the railway at Wool finished, access to the toolstore has been regained. This resulted in us having to schedule a second toolstore task this year as a considerable amount of remedial work was required to make good the access.

Thanks

The work DCV does each year takes a good deal of organisation and preparation, this involves some members in a considerable amount of work each year in addition to the time they spend out on task and I am, as are we all, indebted to them for this effort, for which I thank them and without which DCV would cease to function.

Brian Thompson	Our publicity officer who actively promotes the work of DCV both in the press and at many local events around the county.
Tess Green	Younger members recruitment and publicity.
Chris Huggill	Treasurer, publicity officer and trailer towing.
Don & Val Simcock	Who create the interesting and informative quarterly newsletter.
Doug Kite	Who seeks out and puts together our programme of tasks for a wide range of clients.
Helen Gorman	Who arranges and interesting selection of social events, also our secretary.
Peter Warren	Technical advisor, chainsaw operator and trailer towing.
Terry Gillott	Orchis exchange trips organiser.

And the leaders, who have lead task this year and without whom tasks would have been a chaotic free for all, not to mention lacking biscuits and hot drinks:

Terry Gilliott, Chris Huggill, Doug Kite, Gareth Morgan, John Marsh, Peter Warren, Don Simcock, Val Simcock, Dave Wyborn.

Special thanks go to Brian who after many years of being our publicity officer is standing down this year. Gareth Morgan has kindly offered to take over the role.

When it comes to task leading it is very much a case of many hands make light work, so if you can please join our pool of task leaders, just leading a couple of tasks each year would lighten the load of the other leaders.

Conclusion

Attendance, work days and paid-up members seems to have stabilised and with a new DCV leaflet now making its appearance in libraries and other key locations we are hoping to see an up turn in recruitment.

A year without a single task cancellation, even throughout the Winter, is somewhat unusual and a very welcome compensation for the disruption the weather caused to our activities last year and the year before.

With the occasional exception the weather has been remarkably kind to us this year, even the weather forecasters have been threatening the worst.

Richard Meatyard
Coordinator
8 September 2014

Explanation of figures

Year	The DCV year runs from 1 st April to 31 st March.
Tasks	Is the number of single and double day tasks worked during the year.
Days worked	Is the number of days on task during the year.
Sites	The number of different sites on which we work.
Attendance	Our attendance figure records the number of individuals on each day. This figure includes DCV volunteers, anyone from the user body any other volunteers working with us.
Work days	The work day figure includes only DCV volunteers and includes part days where appropriate (this is the figure that of client charges are based on).

Co-ordinator's report for AGM 13/9/14

Task	Date	Site	Client	Days	Task
13-01	6&7/4/13	Houns Tout	DCC-Coast	13	Step building
One and a bit days of resetting stone steps and back filling with soil dug from local area as no limestone available. Also installed two posts for handrail at lower end of the steps. Two dry days with a cold wind and occasional sunny spells. Early finish with a chance of a walk.					
13-02	13&14/4/13	Clouds Hill	National Trust - West	19	Rhody clearance
Cut and burnt a whole lot of dense, tall rhododendron on slope above Wareham Road. Rained a lot soaking every one lots of steaming bodies drying out around a hot fire. Sunday a big turnout and cleared down to road.					
13-03	21/04/13	Abbotsbury	DCC-Coast	14	Beach clean
Usual section of beach from tank traps to boardwalk plenty of bags filled and stacked for collection. Various unusual items found including mobile phone, folding chairs and an umbrella.					
13-04	28/04/13	Tyneham	Tyneham Trust	15	Various
Barrowed lots of stuff from one place to another. Silt from cobbles to hard standing, cobbles from hard standing to old hen house and buckets of stone to yet other places. Also constructed gabion bench with stones, pipes and pig. Weeded various parts around old farm. Good day, lots to do and lots of people to do it.					
13-05	4&5/5/13	St Alban's Head	DCC-Coast	14	Hand rail & walling
Saturday: Winspit, so a delayed start as had to move cars to alternative parking then long trek to site. Dug in various posts and started erecting handrails. Late finish but rails incomplete. Sunday: St Alban's head, found section of wall to work on. Stripped out about 10m to ground, laid foundations for following weekend.					
13-06	11&12/05/13	St Alban' Head	DCC-Coast	13	Walling
Saturday: Continuation from previous weekend. Original section of wall rebuilt 50%. Very windy and cold. Sunday: Completed first section of wall and partially rebuilt a further 10m. Weather foul, strong cold wind, driving light rain and thick fog.					
13-07	18&19/5/13	Upton Wood	Purbeck District	10	Brambles
Two days of uprooting or cutting brambles at the west end of the mire and from around the margins.					
13-08	26/05/13	Swyre	Swyre - Peter Yates	8	Walling
Stripped out 2m section, new foundations on one side rebuilt to full height. Two further small sections partly stripped and rebuilt to full height. Wall running at right angles across field. Incessant turkey gobbling and intermittent visits from curious sheep.					
13-09	1&2/6/13	Osmington	DCC-Coast	13	Footpath surfacing and steps
Saturday: Path levelling and surfacing. Removed stile and made good. Sunday: More path levelling and surfacing. Then repaired and resurfaced existing steps. Created a new flight of steps further up path.					
13-10	9/6/13	River Hooke	Dorset Wildlife Trust	10	Himalayan Balsam
Pulling Himalayan Balsam from tributary of River Hooke near Mount Pleasant. Work to be done was very under-estimated. Was supposed to be a short session before moving on to work on river proper but spent whole day there and still didn't complete clearance.					
13-11	15&16/6/13	The Quarr	Friends of Quarr	9	Various
Saturday: Rebuilt steps with one extra. Repaired kissing gate and removed part of fence. Fixed extra plank on bench installed last year. Sunday: Pulled, slashed, cut then raked up areas of stinging nettles on slope in front of quarry face. Created 4 huge compost mounds. In afternoon lopped out hogweed from new hay meadow created another even larger compost heap. Nuisance rain until mid afternoon.					
13-12	23/6/13	Upton Wood	Purbeck District	10	Stream clearing
Cleared scrub, logs and lots of rubbish from full length of stream in wood. Section of stream through mire not cleared because of breeding newts.					
13-13	29&30/6/13	Greenlands	National Trust - Studland	10	Ragwort
Ragwort, sweltering as usual. Cattle very nosy at end of day. 3 dumpy bags filled on Saturday. Sunday a further 3 bags filled. Helen brought Tom and Ollie who lowered our average age hugely.					
13-14	6&7/7/13	Bere Stream	Dorset Wildlife Trust	15	Himalayan Balsam
Pulled Himalayan Balsam from the Bere Stream. Starting in the village and working south downstream. Huge quantity found in most locations. Completed a long section but still plenty left.					
13-16	14/7/13	South Poorton	Dorset Wildlife Trust	8	Ragwort
Supposed to be Ragwort pulling but fields had previously been grazed by sheep so no ragwort in sight. Rest of day spent pulling and cutting creeping and spear thistle. Very hot, dry and sunny.					
13-17	20&21/7/13	Osmington	DCC-Coast	13	Boardwalk building
Saturday: Cleared site and dug in most of the H frame posts. Sunday: put in the last 2 H frame posts. Built and decked 3 sections of boardwalk. Very hot and sunny all weekend.					
13-18	27&28/7/13	Swyre	Swyre - Peter Yates	13	Walling
Saturday: Clear out section of wall, stripped wall to ground, built foundations and started rebuild. Sunday: Re-built about 4m length to capping stones. Difficult stone and very difficult to tie in with slumped wall at one end. Cleared another 10m of fallen wall of scrub and tumbled stone ready for next visit.					
13-19	3/8/13	River Hooke	Dorset Wildlife Trust	6	Himalayan Balsam
Two days pulling balsam from fields along the river near the Fish Farm.					

Task	Date	Site	Client	Days	Task
13-20	10&11/8/13	Tyneham	Tyneham Trust	21	Pond clearance
Main task to dig slit out of a section of the village pond under the direction of Sarah Williams. Several dry tasks for those averse to getting wet and muddy down at the history barn. Good turnout on Saturday due to after task activities.					
13-21	17&18/8/13	Slop Bog	DCC-Countryside	12	Fencing
Saturday: Fencing among the trees. Put up intermediates and strung up stock net. Wet day. Afternoon fencing alongside boardwalk. Sunday: Continued fencing amongst the trees then afternoon continued fencing alongside boardwalk. Bright sunny day.					
13-22	25/08/13	Swyre	Swyre - Peter Yates	6	Walling
Continued working on wall started previously.					
13-23	30/8&1/9/13	Toolstore	Dorset Countryside	12	Toolstore
Removed part of fallen willow. Dug and cleared area in front of toolstore. Cleared access to rear of toolstore. Repaired trailer lid. Sharpened tools, bowsaws, loppers, billhooks, etc. Painted remaining section of tool store roof.					
13-24	7&8/9/13	Symondsbury	Symondsbury Estate	9	Sheepwash
General clear out and then relay and repoint flooring flags in entrance ramp.					
13-25	15/09/13	Swyre	Swyre - Peter Yates	6	Walling
Completed section of wall started at last visit. stripped and rebuilt further section of wall.					
13-26	21&22/9/13	Toolstore	Dorset Countryside	12	Toolstore
Finished clearing access. Filled resulting trench with ballast and concrete. Painted trailer and lid. Sign wrote boxes. Cleared sofa from behind toolstore. Cleared out toolstore. Turned scrap wood and old ladder into kindling.					
13-27	28&29/9/13	Townsend	Dorset Wildlife Trust	31	Scrub
ORCHIS Weekend, so big turn out on Saturday when ORCHIS members and hosts joined us for the day. Sunday quiet as DCV only. Three sections of scrub tackled in amongst the festivities.					
13-28	5&6/10/13	Fontmell Down	Dorset Wildlife Trust	15	Scrub
A busy two days clearing mostly gorse from a section of the top of the slope at Fontmell. Continuation of work from previous year.					
13-29	13/10/13	Upton Wood	Purbeck District	7	Various
Transplanting saplings from mire to woodland then bramble clearing in the mire.					
13-30	19&20/10/13	Lankham Bottom	Dorset Wildlife Trust	11	Scrub
Saturday: Small turnout but good area of gorse cleared. Sunday: Better turnout but work abandoned at lunchtime due to torrential rain.					
13-31	26&27/10/13	Townsend	Dorset Wildlife Trust	16	Scrub
Continued clearing areas of scrub started on the ORCHIS weekend. Sunday the weather was very wild and windy in the afternoon limiting the safe size of the bonfire.					
13-32	3/11/13	Wytch Moor	Rempstone Estate	17	Scrub
Clearing gorse, pine and western hemlock from margin of plantation. Tremendous turnout, rate of cutting exceeded rate of burning so backlog stacked to be cleared at next visit. Size of bonfire limited by windy conditions and proximity to large quantities of Molina grass.					
13-33	9&10/11/13	West Bexington	National Trust - West	13	Scrub
Cutting and burning thorny scrub from along south facing bank to create open grassy areas for the butterflies, sheltered from the wind by leaving a band of scrub on southern side to protect from the prevailing wind.					
13-34	16&17/11/13	Ferndown Common	ARC/HCT	15	Scrub
Clearing area of birch and gorse on western boundary of reserve in preparation for scraping to reveal sand for reptiles. Finished whole area by the end of Sunday.					
13-35	23&24/11/13	Kingcombe Meadows	Dorset Wildlife Trust	20	Coppicing
Saturday: Clearing south facing bank of invading trees. Coppicing hazel, hawthorn and the odd willow and ash. Excellent turnout as task was followed by Viv's cookout afterwards, enjoyed by all who attended, late finish in the dark. Sunday: Small turn out but plenty of work completed working in to a more scrubby area of blackthorn and bramble. Rescued various items of cutlery that had been dropped around the fire in the dark on Saturday night.					
13-36	1/12/13	Wytch Moor	Rempstone Estate	14	Scrub
Cut a 5 m swathe through gorse from track to link to grassland for cattle to move through. Also continued work cutting gorse, pine and western hemlock from southern bank of the moor fen.					
13-37	7&8/12/13	Newton Gully	ARC/HCT	17	Scrub
Two days of cutting small pine, extending area that we have been working on for several years now. Both days bright and chilly with a brisk wind that kept blowing smoke into the work site. As always a very smoky fire which provoked a visit from the Rempstone Estate Manager.					
13-38	14&15/12/13	Tadnoll	Dorset Wildlife Trust	13	Scrub
Cutting and burning scrub, mainly birch, to open up heath on either side of one of the rides. Attendance on Saturday boosted by DCV XMAS dinner that followed the task. Poor turn out on Sunday as weather was forecast bad although not that bad in reality. Heavy use of chainsaws both days as many of the trees were fairly large.					
13-39	22/12/13	Haydon Hill	Dorset Wildlife Trust	7	Scrub
Bright cold windy day. Steep climb to site on North face of hill, so out of the sun. Old fire site nearby so got fire going quickly. Worked clearing a horrible mix of bramble and leggy gorse on a steep slope.					

Co-ordinator's report for AGM 13/9/14

Task	Date	Site	Client	Days	Task
13-40	29/12/13	East Gore	ARC/HCT	9	Scrub
Clearing small pine, birch, gorse and some rhody from gently sloping site of good quality heather. Blue sky and sunshine all day but chilly.					
13-41	4&5/1/14	Powerstock	Dorset Wildlife Trust	6	Scrub
Two rather soggy days clearing alder carr, brambles, etc. to open up scallops alongside old railway track. Only 2 on Saturday and an amazing 4 on Sunday.					
13-42	11&12/1/14	Stonebarrow	National Trust - West	15	Scrub
A weekend of two halves. Saturday, spring like warm sunny day. Sunday, wild, windy and overcast ending in heavy rain. Worked clearing gorse and bramble to link areas of heather heathland together.					
13-43	18&19/1/14	Studland	National Trust - Studland	9	Coppicing
Coppicing overstood hazel in the rather neglected 12 Acre Wood near Little Sea. Cut stools were fenced against the deer. Saturday a bit damp at times, Sunday only 3 out despite a bright sunny spring like day!					
13-44	26/1/14	East Gore	ARC/HCT	8	Scrub
Cutting and burning small pine from area of good heather, linking with area cleared in December. Very wet morning, Terry did excellent job of getting a fire going in the conditions. Weather cleared around lunchtime to dry with occasional sunny spells, very muddy under foot.					
13-45	1&2/2/14	Powerstock	Dorset Wildlife Trust	11	Scrub
Continued scrub clearing in the scallops alongside the old railway line, started last time. Completed a further two scallops, making 3 in total. One small one left, mostly bramble. Good weather both days.					
13-46	8&9/2/14	Parley Common	ARC/HCT	12	Scrub
Cut, pull and burnt thousands of small pines.					
13-47	15&16/2/14	Kingcombe Meadows	Dorset Wildlife Trust	12	Hedgelaying
Hurrah 50m of decent hedge with most of the clearing out already done. Good session both days with only the odd shower and plenty of sun on Sunday. Made good progress with modest turnout. Section completed and tied in. All brash burnt and larger wood left as cord wood for client as requested.					
13-48	23/2/14	Studland	National Trust - Studland	18	Coppicing
Hazel coppicing, continuation of previous task on this site in lovely wood alongside Little Sea. Stool protection cut hazel posts and double height stock net. Very good turnout, lots cut and fencing didn't keep pace so lots of fencing to do at next visit.					
13-49	1&2/3/14	Fontmell Down	Dorset Wildlife Trust	10	Scrub
Saturday: Sunny spring like day, very warm. Cutting gorse, dogwood and bramble, etc. alongside ridge fence above valley. Sunday: Continued same, heavy showers in morning degenerated in to heavy rain in afternoon so and early					
13-50	8&8/3/14	Clouds Hill	ARC/HCT	17	Scrub
Pulled small pine from designated conservation area next to tank training ground. Most burnt but on Sunday towards end of task some left in scrubby area so fire could burn down.					
13-51	15&16/3/14	Newton Gully	ARC/HCT	17	Scrub
Pine cutting and burning right next to gully. Working on an area that we haven't worked on for many years.					
13-52	23/3/14	Upton Wood	Purbeck District	12	Various
Planted some 150 primroses next to bridleway. Cleared brambles and other invasive from wildlife hedge alongside bridleway. Transplanted beech saplings from alongside bridleway into cleared areas of woodland.					
13-53	30/3/14	Tyneham	Tyneham Trust	13	Various
Remove soil and turf to revealing paving slabs in front of cottages. Dig out and remove several tons of earth from wall above cottages to same level as road. Dig out and reveal kerb and gutter alongside pavement. Remove and stack pile of building stone. Clean up paths leading to cottages. Lift and re-lay miss aligned slabs in critical areas.					