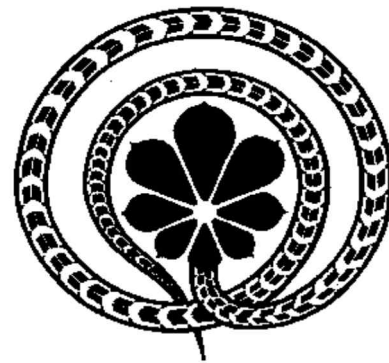


Dorset Countryside Volunteers



No 185
August - October 2018
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, National Trust, 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.) ring longer than normal
- If the phone goes to answer phone there is no signal on the work site

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



It's been hot and hard out on task this summer but great to see lots of you out there working. Thank you to everyone. Not just working but also enjoying some of the wonderful socials, either planned or pop ups. They've been many and varied and certainly made the most of not only the summer weather, but also our beautiful county, and we hope to continue to do so. Don't forget to register yourself to receive DCV emails so that you are up to date with last minute information. You can do this from the website. Any problems, just say.

On the subject of contact, have you got yourself an in case of emergency (ICE) tag (for emergency contact details) to fix to your rucksack? These are available from Richard.

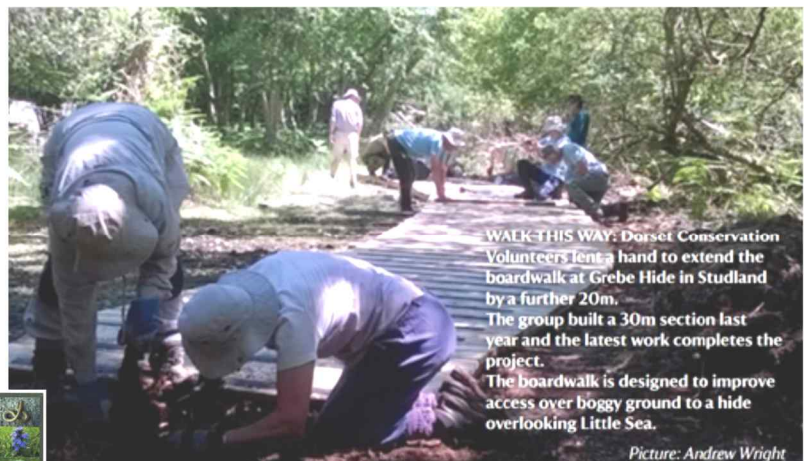
Be aware that sometimes the DCV phone has no signal in rural areas and will go to answer phone, but we may not be able to respond to you.

Don't forget that rural post codes will only take you to an approximate location - best to use the map in the DCV newsletter, always take it with you on task.

It's always nice to know how much DCV's work is appreciated and this has recently been illustrated with two articles in other organisation's newsletters, reproduced here for all to see.

National Trust in their June Purbeck Monthly newsletter for staff and volunteers acknowledged our work on the boardwalk in Twelve Acre Wood, Studland with an article and photograph.

Dorset Wildlife Trust, in their summer issue, gave an outline of the group, our activities and contact details. They want to acknowledge the great work DCV do and the partnership with DWT and would like members of DCV to know that.



WALK THIS WAY: Dorset Conservation Volunteers lent a hand to extend the boardwalk at Grebe Hide in Studland by a further 20m. The group built a 30m section last year and the latest work completes the project. The boardwalk is designed to improve access over boggy ground to a hide overlooking Little Sea.

Picture: Andrew Wright

The Dorset Countryside Volunteers

The Dorset Countryside Volunteers is a practical conservation group, which has been running since 1972. It is in its 46th year of working with a variety of groups across the county.



Many of their tasks over the years have involved conservation work on DWT nature reserves. The group isn't afraid to get their hands dirty, carrying out tasks such as coppice management, hedgelaying, heathland management and beach cleans, to name a few. Last year the group celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its twinning with Association Orchis, a French conservation group based in Normandy.

If you're interested in joining or finding out more information about this fantastic group of volunteers visit www.dcv.org.uk

Photos by Don Simcock

You will see from the programme that there are one or two cutting tasks included but there is still plenty of summer to enjoy, together with the annual visit by our Orchis friends from Normandy and of course the AGM, where the social side outweighs the short business section. Just two of the planned events, but who knows what pop ups may be suggested. . . . Lastly don't forget to change your clocks on Sunday 28th October 2018, put them back 1 hour at 2a.m.

Co-ordinator's report

Richard Meatyard

Well the heat this last quarter has been unrelenting and with virtually no rainfall, as the programme progressed the fields have turned from their usual green to a parched brown. Now even the trees are starting to show signs of distress and it's looking like this weather is with us at for at least a few more weeks.

Firstly, a quick celebration, after nearly 3 years and 10 visits, we finally completed the never-ending fence on Higher Hyde Heath as the last task of the previous programme.

The absence of any footpath work from DCC this summer has meant that fencing in various forms has been something of a feature in the last two quarters, so it will come as a relief to those of you that don't enjoy fencing to know there are only a couple of fencing tasks scheduled in this one.

We start with our first visit of the year to Swyre and our ongoing project to restore the walls around Manor Farm. It was an ideal day for walling, warm and sunny with a cooling breeze. The end section of a wall was soon stripped out, foundations laid and rebuild started. A hearty cream tea provided by the leaders was a welcome addition to the afternoon tea break. With time and suitable stone running short completion of this section had to be left until our next visit.

Then it was a return to Tyneham to continue our "spring cleaning"

activities. On Saturday the focus was on the cottages in the village and around the church. On Sunday attention moved to the area around the History Barn. As always there was a wide variety of things to do and plenty to keep everyone busy.

This year saw an earlier than usual Tool store task. This coincided with the Orchis Exchange trip to Normandy and it was a fairly select few making good the Winter season's ravages on tools and trailer. On a hot, cloudless, still day we felt the effect of the big willow behind the tool store has been cut down so there is now no shade around the tool store.

At Kingcombe the job was to erect a new roadside fence alongside the hedge laid during the winter. No not the section we laid but the next field along where DWT had laid the hedge. The task was speeded along as DWT installed the strainer posts beforehand and some of the old intermediates could be reused. Over the two days we installed the strainer struts and intermediate posts before straining up the stocknet and two strands of barbed wire, completing 150 metres of fence. An early finish allowed those who wanted to, to visit the art exhibition in the Kingcombe Centre.

The following weekend, it was a return to Twelve Acre Wood, Studland. Here we constructed a further section of board walk, part of the 3-year project to

improve access to a bird hide overlooking Littlesea. The National Trust had kindly cut the decking boards to length, sparing us this laborious job. After a bit of debate the line of the board walk was agreed and work started on laying out the substructure. By the close of play on Saturday the substructure was complete. On Sunday with a large turnout the decking boards and grip strips went down in record time. After lunch it was a quick tidy up, leaving time for a leisurely walk over Godlingston Heath to Middle Beach and a celebratory ice cream before heading homewards.

Then a single Sunday at Powerstock. With a small turnout two teams were soon at work. One working along replacing broken off fence posts. The other digging out an incorrectly placed and rotten gate post before digging in a new one in the correct location and railing up the gap to complete the fence line. With a bit of time to spare we relocated to nearer the reserve entrance to complete a section of fence repairs there. Virtually everyone collected at least one tick on this task, itchy ones too.

cont'd . . .

Our third visit of the year to Tyneham, this time a Sunday only. The extended dry period had created ideal conditions for clearing the silt trap behind the barn and de-weeding the cobbles in the ford. Plus, as

always there were plenty of other "little ad-hoc jobs" needing attention and a final push on clearing the village cottages.

A rather dismal turnout for the first of our invasive clearing sessions at Loscombe. Was it the thistles or the heat? It can't be the site as Loscombe is always enchanting. Our previous efforts seem to have had some effect, there were less thistles this year. Despite extended breaks and an early finish because of the heat good progress was made on Saturday by the 4 that attended. Sunday was a little cooler but with only 2 there was no chance of completely clearing the site of thistles.

Then our second invasive session, this time Ragwort at Greenlands on Studland. It was a scorching weekend with record temperatures being recorded across the country.

The hard-baked ground made extricating the pesky yellow plants hard work. On Saturday working around the farm itself we filled all but two of the available dumpy bags before adjourning to the shade in a nearby field for a picnic in the cool of the evening. On Sunday the heat was if anything even more unrelenting as we scoured the field boundaries for scattered plants in the areas that the weed wiper can't reach. Fortunately, we had the shade of a nearby barn to retreat to for breaks. At one point the afternoon was enlivened by a Pheasant that took umbrage to us removing his Ragwort who aggressively attacked the legs of anyone who tried. We had to deploy distraction tactics to complete his territory.

Finally, for this report a bit of a first, fencing on Abbotsbury Beach. Thankfully the warden

provided both materials and tools, so it was only ourselves and the tea making equipment that had to make the long trek along the beach to the tank traps. The fencing was a quick task taking us to lunchtime, hopefully it will survive the winter storms. After lunch there was time for a litter pick on a section of the reserve that is out of bounds normally before heading back to the car park and a well-earned ice cream after a day out in the sun.

Richard Meatyard

DORSET COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2018
6:30pm start

WEST STAFFORD VILLAGE HALL DT2 8AG

Reports on past year
Chairman's address : Kevin Cook
Shared supper - please bring food and drink to share
Speaker: Matilda Manley, Litter Free Coast & Sea

*Any nominations for elected officers to be received by
Richard Meatyard, Co-ordinator by 15th September 2018*

Weekend in Normandy - Orchis-DCV exchange, May 2018

A wonderful, memorable weekend in a landscape with big skies and close companions. This was my personal experience of May's Orchis-DCV exchange to Normandy's coastal town of Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue.

I was childishly excited as we gathered in the Brittany Ferries terminal at 7.45 on Friday morning, 18 May. It was to be my first Orchis trip and indeed my first ever voyage to Normandy on the ferry, 'Barfleur'. The four-hour crossing was sunny and smooth, punctuated by a good lunch, a snooze (for some), and plenty of top-deck time to wave farewell to Old Harry and scan the horizon for the port of Cherbourg.

We were greeted on arrival by our hosts in the traditional manner of much cheek-kissing on their part and some grotesquely garbled 'Franglais' on ours. My host, Anne-Marie Lepetit couldn't help but grimace when I spotted her car and squealed, 'Je suis un Peugeot' (I am a Peugeot) instead of 'I have a Peugeot'. Oh dear, not an impressive start.

Jane, Mary and I clambered into Anne-Marie's ageing motor and sped off into the hills above Cherbourg to visit the Jardin Botanique de la Roche Fauconnière, better known as Favier's garden after Alfred Favier, who acquired the land in 1868. This amazing garden has had a chequered history and was

the site of an Orchis-DCV weekend in 2016. Since then, it has acquired protected status due to its rich biodiversity. Rare species of trees and plants from around the world are now being identified and catalogued, and the garden is undergoing restoration. Before our tour of the garden we were treated to afternoon tea and cakes in the car park while Christian Becot, president of the association established to protect and restore the garden, brought us up to date with its work. We also met up with Don, Val, Bob, and Terry Sweeny, who had travelled to France ahead of us. Our lovely hosts then took us home, refreshed us with more tea and coffee, and we all met up for a reception and aperitifs in Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue's community hall. I was offered a 'Kir Normand' – crème de cassis mixed with strong Normandy cider. This was amazingly delicious and tasted of syrupy sparkly fruit juice, and I drank it down accordingly. Big mistake!

The following morning, we all met at the harbour for the trip to Tatihou Island on a jolly little blue and white amphibious vehicle. The tide was out so we drove across the sand, passing thousands of oyster beds, and landed on the island (twinned with Brownsea) in brilliant sunshine. We were all assigned tasks to clear overgrowth from the paths and historic buildings. John, Bob, Jane and I began the day by clearing scrub around a German World War Two lookout bunker. As well as the 17th century Vauban Tower, built by the military engineer and architect, the Marquis of Vauban (1633-1707), the island houses the remains of many 20th century wartime fortifications. It was an interesting experience to be helping to preserve what would



have been considered a target for destruction by my father's generation.

Lunch on Tatihou was yet another delicious al fresco banquet, with more Normandy cider (alas no cassis), then it was back to work clearing the scrub. For Don and Val there was the skilled task of step-building while Bob set to work re-aligning some of the Orchis bow saws. Orchis's tools are definitely more pristine than ours, but not necessarily sharper! A number of French visitors stopped to chat, and even thanked us for helping to preserve an island they so clearly love to visit. A few of us managed to sneak off to walk around the island's botanical garden before catching the five o'clock ferry. This left early, stranding half our party on the island – not for long, however, as it was obliged to 'return and retrieve'. We just had time to return home with our hosts, clean up, and get back to the town centre for our evening meal – so much food! By the time I arrived, my colleagues had polished off the Kir Normand



Weekend in Normandy - Orchis-DCV exchange, May 2018 *cont'd . .*

although it didn't spoil a thoroughly entertaining and jolly evening. The following morning a few of us visited the famous Maison Gosselin, an Aladdin's cave of every conceivable French delicacy – think Harrod's Food Hall or Fortnum & Mason packed into a corner shop.

After lunch we drove to the resort of Fermanville for a coastal walk, and by an extraordinary coincidence I discovered that I shared a mutual acquaintance with Elisabeth, the partner of Orchis member, Pascal. Elisabeth and I chatted non-stop (in English) for the next hour or so. Those DCV members who were returning to Poole, were taken to the ferry terminal while Don, Val, Jean, Jane and I, who were staying an extra day, set off to our hotel in Cherbourg. We met up

with Terry Sweeny, wandered down to the marina, and discovered a great sea food restaurant, the Café de Paris (DCV 5-star recommended). One of the highlights of the trip was the additional day that five of us spent walking in the Cherbourg suburbs (thanks to Jean for suggesting this). There was much to see in the country around Cherbourg that reminded me of Dorset, and it was also an opportunity to spend time with people who have welcomed me, an incomer, to the county, and helped make me feel that I am making a contribution to its preservation.

We were homeward bound on the Monday evening ferry, and as the sun dipped below Ballard Down, and the lights of Poole Harbour hove into view, I realised that I

had just experienced one of life's most magical weekends.

Carole Reeves



DCV - Association Orchis Exchange - September 2018



A number of members of Orchis, our twin group in France, are coming here for the weekend of 15th and 16th September. We'll be showing them something of Dorset on the Saturday 15th. One of the evenings there will be dinner in a village hall, and all are welcome to join in with this - please do if you can. Details will be circulated by email when they have been finalised.

On the Sunday, 16th September, Orchis will be joining our beach clean task at Abbotsbury.

We don't yet know who or how many are coming, but we are keen to find sufficient of us to host one or two of them each. This will be for three nights, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, due to the ferry times between Cherbourg and Poole. If you are willing and able to do this, please let us know. The logistics of moving them around can be sorted out when we know how many of them there are and what we are doing with them!

We can assure you that they are unfailingly charming and civilised house guests!

Jane and John - contact details on the Who's Who sheet.

Currently there isn't one organisation that is responsible for keeping our beaches and seas free of litter and this is why Litter Free Coast and Sea (LFCS) was set up in 2012 with the help of the Dorset Coast Forum, they work closely with the team on shared marine projects.

Vision & aims

Communities, businesses and individuals across Dorset and East Devon, from Exmouth to Christchurch, are coming together to help achieve a Litter Free Coast and Sea.

Achieving this means no marine and beach litter on our beaches and high quality bathing water at our bathing beaches.

This helps bathers, wildlife, fishing and water sports.

Funding comes from Dorset County Council, Wessex Water, Jurassic Coast Trust and National Trust. With a base in County Hall, Dorchester, they have one part time Project Coordinator, one part time Project Officer and one part time Project Assistant who are supported by volunteers with a wide range of skills across Dorset.

Somerset.

LFCS Somerset began in 2016 when Burnham's popular beach suffered a 'Poor' rating under the tougher classification of the revised bathing water directive. Together with its partners, Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and Sedgemoor District Council, LFCS Somerset recognised that a campaign was needed to help engage the local community about what they can do to help improve Burnham's bathing water.

Projects:

2 minute beach clean

Great Dorset beach clean

Only rain down the drain

#THELASTSTRAW

The #2minutebeachclean project,

created by Martin Dorey, encourages everyone to join the growing movement of people, reducing marine litter 2 minutes at a time. We are thrilled to be part of this inspiring initiative and we have installed 8 beach clean stations across Dorset, making it easier and more accessible for anyone to help keep beaches litter free.

Next time you visit the beach,



whether you are going for a swim or walking the dog, it's easy to make time for a short beach clean. Using one of the

#2minutebeachclean stations, you can borrow litter pickers, grab a bag and pick up a few bits of marine litter. Then, when you are done, take a picture of your marine litter haul on your phone (or make something crafty with it) and post it to Twitter or Instagram using the #2minutebeachclean #dorset hashtags together. Then put it in a bin at the beach or take home to recycle.

Plastic straws are

everywhere, we have come to expect them in drinks and have become common place in almost every restaurant and bar in the UK for decades. But these short lived tools are usually thrown away without further thought, instantly becoming a source of plastic pollution.

Most straws are made from plastics such as polypropylene and polystyrene, which unless recycled take hundreds of years to break down into tiny pieces of micro plastic that do not disappear. This means small plastic items like straws are finding their way into our oceans and landfills sites, even though the majority of the time they would have only been used for the time it takes to finish a drink.

Plastics surgery

Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soft drinks and water bottles and most food packaging.

Currently LFCS organise the Great Dorset Beach Clean which DCV is a part of. Twice a year litter is collected from beaches, bagged and disposed off safely. DCV organises the beach clean at Abbotsbury, borrowing litter pickers and bags. The Ilchester estate then arranges disposal of the rubbish.

DCV are at Abbotsbury for a beach



clean Sunday 16th September.

The Correct Use of Tools

Mattocks

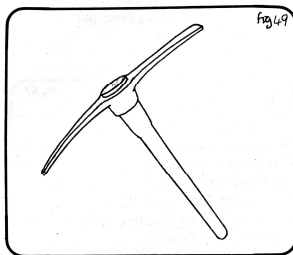


The grubbing mattock can be used to dig out compacted soil using the broad flat blade and cutting roots with the blade set at 90 degrees to the digging blade.

The pick ended mattock is also used for digging and the pick end can be used to dig out stones and dig into stony ground.

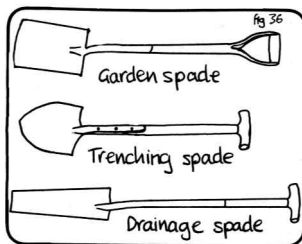
The English clay mattock is designed to be used when digging out heavy clay.

Pick axe



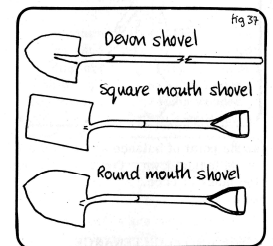
It has a pick end plus a chisel end and is used for digging on very stony ground or tarmac and even concrete. The pick end is for breaking and the chisel end for prising or lifting. Only experts use the swing over head method, occasional users will probably lose control and hurt someone or themselves. Just lift to head height and without any force use the weight of the tool to dig.

Spades & Shovels



Spades are for digging and have a strong narrow blade with a sharpened edge. Most have very little lift angle between the blade and the handle. Some spades have a rolled top for easy use when wearing Wellingtons.

DCV Shovels are used for moving stuff, soil, gravel etc, but there are shovels used for digging especially in soft or wet soil.



Be safe when working



Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI) involving arms, elbows and wrists can make life painful for some. Cases of RSI are on the increase with some taking pain killers and others even having an operation. All of us in DCV need to be on our guard against it, for ourselves and others we are working with. There is something we can do and that is to make sure we don't do a repetitive action continuously all day. We can swap jobs with other volunteers or just find something else to do.

Many volunteers might make work light however on a task with just 4 or 5 volunteers with the pressure mounting and much work to do, we might be able to pick up the pace a little but if we start rushing we make mistakes such as the post in the wrong place or twisting one's back trying to keep the wheel barrows filled up. Find your own enjoyable pace.

Are you one of those volunteers who doesn't stop for a loo break or a drink of water? Uncomfortable isn't fun, take time to go, find a secluded spot and time to take a drink, dehydration doesn't take long and then we make mistakes. We need to drink more than we think.

Do you remember when the grass was green? We have become accustomed to seeing the green stuff and it doesn't catch fire when one is boiling up the DCV kettle. Now it's a straw colour just be aware and find a grass free kettle site.



Donation to Butterfly Conservation 2017

Last year, following discussion and our practice of recent years, it was decided that as DCV's finances were in good shape, we could afford to make a donation to a worthy, local charity.

Butterfly Conservation was chosen. It's a National charity based in Dorset with 31 UK local branches, one of them Dorset, and local reserves that they manage. DCV have worked on some of them, Lankham Bottom, near Dorchester and Broadcroft Quarry on Portland.

We asked the Dorset Reserves Officer Nigel Spring to tell us where some of our money has been spent.

The Dorset branch of Butterfly Conservation is extremely grateful to the DCV for all the hard work you have put into our Dorset reserves over the years and especially this year for the very generous £500 donation which we received in the spring. The infrastructure of the reserves as well as the routine habitat management cost the branch a lot of money. Some of this is paid for from the environmental subsidies we receive but we rely heavily on the goodwill and energy of volunteers and on donations to maintain the reserves in the best condition possible.

So far we have repaired two gateways at Alners Gorse where the posts put in in 2005 had rotted,

we have enlarged the pedestrian access gate to the reserve and put hardcore down to improve the surface, we have bought a tub of wood preserver and rubber gloves for volunteers to re-treat the wooden hut and toilets we built on the reserve and we have begun to repair the wooden nest boxes that have been damaged by squirrels and woodpeckers, using metal plates made specially for us by a local blacksmith.

We also plan to purchase more electric fencing equipment to enable us to use our five ponies to graze our neighbours' land at Rooksmoor adjacent to Alners Gorse, where the pony grazing over the last few years has considerably

improved the grassland habitat there.

It will be very useful to have the residue of the £500 (approx £200) to enable us to deal with contingencies.

We look forward to seeing teams from the DCV on our reserves this coming season!

*Nigel Spring
Butterfly Conservation*

Big Butterfly Count 2018 20th July to 12th August

With a lot of "fanfare" Sir David Attenborough launched the National 2018 Big Butterfly Count, the world's largest. First launched in 2010 it has gone from strength to strength with 60,000 people taking part last year.

Why do we need to count Butterflies?

Well they react very quickly to change in their environment which makes them excellent biodiversity indicators, and their decline is an early warning for other potential wildlife losses.

That's why counting butterflies can be described as taking the pulse of nature. The count also helps in identifying trends in species that will help plan how to protect butterflies from extinction, as well as understand the effect of climate change on wildlife.

How to take part?

Simply count butterflies for 15 minutes during bright (preferably sunny) weather during the count. We have chosen this time of year because most butterflies are at the adult stage of their lifecycle, so more likely to be seen. Records are welcome from anywhere: from parks, school grounds and gardens, to fields and forests.

<https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>



DCV Clothing available to order

Clothing has the DCV logo and "Dorset Countryside Volunteers" embroidered on.

Hats have "DORSET COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS" in gold but not the logo.

Typical examples of colours are: Black, Navy Blue, Bottle Green, Burgundy, Royal Blue, Light Grey, Purple, and Red. Some items are available in other colours so ask if you have a specific requirement.

Adult sizes:

Sweatshirt (crew neck, unisex S to XXL) £16.50,

Sweatshirt (crew neck, ladies, slightly lighter weight material, sizes 8 to 18) £16.50,

Hooded Sweatshirt (unisex S to XXL with kangaroo pocket) £17.95,

Zip Hooded Sweatshirt (unisex S to XXL with side pockets) £21.00,

Polo Shirt - our traditional poly-cotton type (men S to XXL, ladies size 8 to 24) £12.50,

Polo Shirt - a lighter all cotton shirt with an additional colour - sand (unisex S to XXL) £11.60,

T-shirt (unisex S to XXL) £8.50, Soft-shell jacket (unisex S to XXL) £45,

Sleeveless soft-shell jacket (unisex S to XXL) £36.

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:

All hats are single size. Baseball caps £6.50.

Fleece ski hat (with turn-up band) £6.95. Note that these are polyester so care should be taken near fire.

Outback Hat (wide brim sun hat, cotton, chin strap) £10. Available in pebble (light fawn), navy, or olive.

NB: may be slight variations in details dependant on stock supplier can obtain at the time.

Orders take up to 30 days to complete. Payment in advance by cheque payable to Dorset Countryside Volunteers.

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

Gareth Morgan

DCVpublicity@gmail.com

07923 498760 (text or voicemail)



Another hat for DCV!

I've recently added the BeechField Bucket Hat to our range. The features are:

Double layer cotton

Small stitched vents

Two sizes: S/M or L/XL (try samples when on task to see which fits)

Colours: black outer/light grey inner, navy outer/white inner, olive outer/stone inner. Or, choose to reverse the hat and our stitched name can be on the inner colour (e.g. a white outer/navy inner).

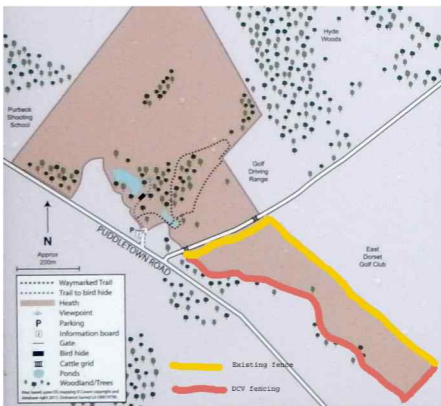
As the hat is double layer it takes a waterproofing treatment well. I treated one with Nikwax cotton proof and have successfully worn it in moderate rain, but not in a downpour yet! I can provide a small container of sufficient cotton proof to treat a hat for 50 pence. Provide your own small bottle for me to fill with cotton proof on task, or I have suitable bottles for a deposit.

The Bucket Hat is available for £8 or, with the DCV member discount, just £3.

Gareth

Higher Hyde Heath Fencing April 2016 - April 2018

In April 2016 DCV had its first fencing task at the Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve at Higher Hyde Heath. Our job was to fence the heath extension on the South East side of the road to allow grazing cattle to manage the grasses and scrub. A fence had already been installed on the golf course boundary and when complete the existing fence along the road would be dismantled to allow cattle to roam both parts of the reserve. Our first task was a bit of a shock to us, bumpy and boggy ground



combined with a high water table so the holes we were digging for the strainer posts were filling with muddy water.

Thankfully we brought along the long handled post hole digger.



The straining post usually goes in where there is a change in direction



of the fence or in the middle of a long straight section. The post is supported by a strut each side to give added strength. The strut has a point on and this goes into a hole we have chiselled out of the strainer.

The other end is buried into the soil and a fence post is banged in to



give it tension. The strut is also nailed to the strainer and post to stop any side way movement. A rope is placed between strainers to ensure the fence posts go in a



straight line.

The fence posts are banged in using a "drivall".

Fencing wire is strung between the



straining posts and tightened using fencing strainers, wound around the

Well done DCV and to all the volunteers who took part in the project.

post and stapled 3 times.

The work was slow going at times especially over boggy ground but with 10 tasks over 3 years the final



staple was hammered into place in April 2018.

Materials used:

28 strainers

54 strainer struts

367 fencing posts

1353 staples

Approx length 1200m

The last wire tensioned.

The last staple hammered in...





Chesil Bank & Fleet Nature Reserve

Charles Wheeler, Warden

The Chesil Bank and the Fleet Nature Reserve is a beautiful part of the Dorset coastline and I am lucky enough to call it 'my office'. I have worked on the Reserve for the last thirteen years and have been the Warden for the past three of them.

When people ask what I do on a day to day basis, it is very hard to give them a short, simple answer. The truth is that most days are somewhat different and my daily tasks change almost weekly with every season. There are of course lots of office hours involved, as with any management role, but we won't go into that. The interesting jobs are the ones out on the Reserve.

As I also manage the Swannery, the season really begins in March, with the preparation of opening and preparing the rest of the Reserve, heading into the full swing of Spring! Then it becomes very hands on and busy throughout the summer months, with an increase in visitor numbers and of course the breeding season of our fascinating wildlife. Heading in to the autumn visitor numbers start to fall but the workload continues well into the winter, as the days become shorter and much colder. The number of wintering waterfowl on the Reserve however booms, with lots of migrating birds spending the winter on the lagoon. It is the numerous features of the Reserve, its fauna, flora, fossils and much more, that drives us to do what we do . . . to protect and conserve.

It might be easier here to bullet point some of the jobs that I, and most importantly the team, get up to throughout the year. This list is just a drop in the ocean :

- Protecting the Reserve's fauna, flora and numerous other features by patrolling and wardening this 8 miles of coastline.
- Actively monitor and manage activities, both existing and new, along the Reserve, including those that are potentially damaging to its features.
- Provide guided walks and talks to create awareness and appreciation of the site.
- Assist in the management of the Little Tern, Common Tern and Mute Swan colonies and all other breeding birds along the Reserve.
- Carry out management projects that benefit and protect the Reserve such as; litter picks, clearance work and boundary repair - with the help of our incredible volunteers.
- Carry out our own monitoring and research on a broad range of fields of study.
- Ensure the shorelines are safe and all appropriate interpretation is in place.
- Engage with visitors and users of the Fleet.
- Permit, assist and carry out research work along the length of the Reserve, helping research projects, PhD students and other research organisations.
- Assist in all environmental management including emergency situations.



Charles talks about fencing



Charles rowing across the Fleet

West Fleet Walk with a Warden

Tuesday 25 September 2018 13:00 - 14:30

Join the Warden for a guided walk along the Fleet Lagoon shore. Discover the wildlife and history of this internationally important site. Meet at Abbotsbury Swannery car park. Adults £3; Children £2, must be accompanied.

Suitable footwear required, no booking necessary.

<https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/iqs/dbitemid.8013/sfa.view/eventsatchesil.html>



The formation of Chesil Bank

Chesil Beach initially formed from predominantly sandy deposits in Lyme Bay as water levels rose rapidly at the end of the last ice age 20,000-14,000 years ago. These deposits were eroded and the sand and gravel driven onshore as a barrier beach. As the barrier beach was driven further east by rising sea levels it overrode existing sediments and the Fleet was formed starting about 7000 years ago. The formation of the Fleet was virtually complete by 5000 years ago.

Sea levels stabilised 4000-5000 years ago and at that time Chesil Beach stood close to its present position. It was predominantly sandy with layers of shell and coarser material indicating over-washing by the sea.

At this time relict cliffs in East Devon, left stranded by falling sea levels during the ice age, were re-activated and erosion yielded large quantities of gravel. Estimates suggest that as much as 60 million cubic metres of gravel could have been supplied. This material was transported to Chesil Beach by longshore drift.

Coastal recession and human intervention have now depleted the beaches to the west of West Bay, resulting in increased prominence of the headlands. This has cut off the supply of material to Chesil Beach.

(Mirage on Chesil Bank)



Chesil Beach must now be regarded as a closed shingle system with no replenishment from outside sources. It is therefore sensitive to environmental changes such as rising sea levels. It has been suggested that Chesil Beach at Portland is moving eastward at around 15cm per year, with a much slower rate further north towards Abbotsbury.

Pebbles

Chesil Beach is made up almost entirely of pebbles of various rock types. The only exception is in the north-west section of the beach from West Bexington to West Bay where there is some fine gravel and coarse sand overlaying the lower levels of the beach near the tide line. The pebbles are graded in size from fist-sized near Portland to pea-sized at West Bay.

Some of the types of pebble that can be found are:

Flint

Flint originates from the chalk beds. They include the slightly brownish pebbles, most of the medium grey pebbles and also the less well- rounded pebbles. They are extremely hard, harder than most steels.

Chert

Chert pebbles are also extremely hard and originate from the upper greensand beds. They are often fairly clear and translucent with a pink or bluish tinge.

Quartzite

These pebbles originate from around Buddleigh Salterton and are coloured red, purple or white.

Granite

Granite is occasionally found on Chesil Beach. These pebbles probably originated from further west on the south-west peninsula or may have come from the ballast of ships wrecked on the beach..

Tourmalised rock

Pebbles of hard black, finely granular material are common. The pebbles are usually irregular in shape.

Portland stone

At Chiswell there are some limestone pebbles originating from the local Portland and Purbeck stone formations.

Fossils

These are mostly found around Burton Bradstock and originate from the local cliffs.

Magnetite

This is believed to originate from the cargos of ships wrecked on Chesil Beach. The major concentration is near Abbotsbury and is believed to come from the SS Dorothea.

Peat

Pieces of peat can be found on Chesil Beach, particularly after storms. It comes from outcrops below the low tide level. It is mostly found at Chiswell and in an area around the tank defences at Abbotsbury

Pumice stone

Pieces of pumice stone are sometimes found washed up on the beach. Pumice is lava foam from volcanoes and contains sufficient air pockets to float. The stones on Chesil almost certainly came from volcanoes in the Caribbean Sea or central America. They can be recognised by the large number of air pockets and that they are very light.

Others

Also found on Chesil Beach are Jasper, Agate, and Madreporas, but these are all very rare.

Removal of pebbles.

Pebbles have been removed from Chesil for commercial purposes for much of the last century. A small amount was removed from near Chiswell, possibly amounting to 10,000 tonnes. A much larger amount was removed from the area between Abbotsbury and West Bay, possibly as much as 1.1 million tonnes.

This commercial extraction has now ceased and even casual removal of pebbles is discouraged to assist the long term survival of the beach.





Socials *Helen Gorman*

The pub meal at the Halfway House was well attended and we all enjoyed the usual good food and conversation.

The new social event, the Garden Party at Carole's was outstanding. It was very well attended, Carole provided an amazing spread and in typical DCV fashion the evening ended in a group hug of a nearby 500 year old oak tree. Following the evening a donation of £140 was made to Julia's House.



The glow worm walk at Hambledon Hill was successful the group sighted about a dozen of the insects, the highlight of the evening (for me) was actually being on top of the hill, watching the sun set and the changes as night fell. Many thanks to Clive for providing the experience.



Following a scorching day's ragwort pulling at Greenlands, Studland, a calming and relaxing picnic was enjoyed in a shady spot with beautiful views of Poole Harbour and delicious food.

There was another lovely experience at Martin Green's farm at Wimborne St Giles. We ate our picnic next to a pond which had dragonflies flying and swallows swooping. This was followed by a visit to Martin's museum where he had artefacts from excavations in the area. Later we walked around the farm and were shown some of the sites where artefacts in the museum were found. The evening culminated in being shown part of the Dorset Cursus where a section is being excavated.



Socials for the new quarter will begin with the visit from Orchis on 15/16th September. Whilst the programme for the weekend has yet to be finalised, there will be the usual shared meal in a village hall where DCV and Orchis members can get together socially. Details of this, i.e. date and venue, will be circulated shortly. Please inform Helen if you would like to attend. The cost is £5, please bring a drink of your choice.



The AGM will be on Saturday September 22nd at West Stafford village hall at 6:30pm. Please bring a dish and drink of your choice. The speaker will be Matilda Manley - Litter Free Coast and Sea. Last year it was agreed that as the DCV funds are in good shape, the group can make an annual donation to a local conservation charity. Please think of bodies that would qualify for this.

Thursday 18th October bring a dish at Helen's. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

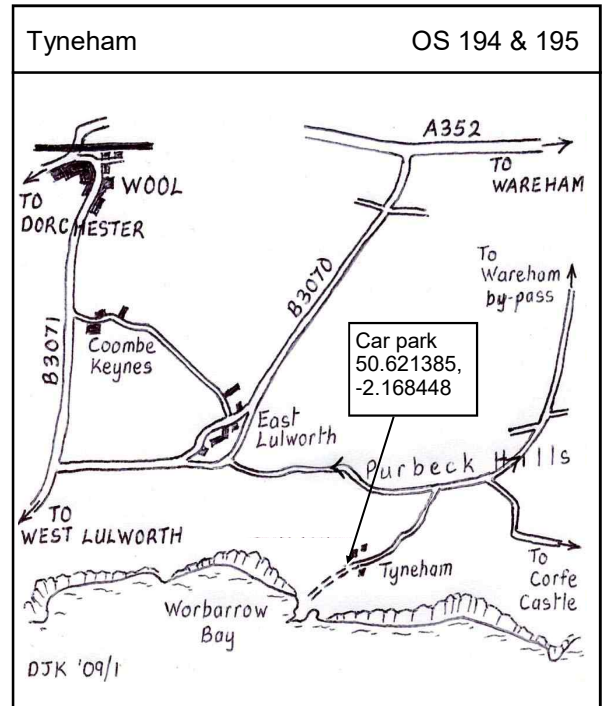
It's been suggested to take a boat trip on a glass bottomed boat on the Fleet. It would be useful to have an idea of numbers of people who might be interested. The cost is £8 or £70 if the boat is chartered for 12 people. We've been advised to avoid school holidays and that May is the best time to see wildlife, particularly terns and hares. If you are interested please let me know and I will book in the new year.

D C V TASK PROGRAMME : August - October 2018

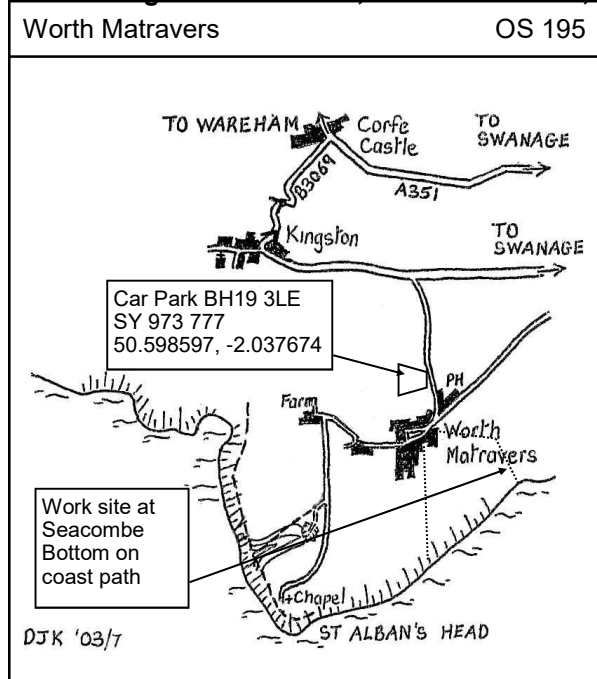
4 & 5 August: Tyneham, Purbeck

This weekend we have our annual summer visit to this fascinating location, an old and partly ruined village set deep within the coastal hills on the Isle of Purbeck. The village and surrounding land was requisitioned by the wartime government in 1943 for training use by British forces. Peace came but the army stayed. The village is now a time capsule, a glimpse into everyday rural life before the changes brought by the second half of the 20th century. This year we are giving the village pond a rest from our usual desilt to allow more growth of the fringing vegetation. So our jobs will have a dry-side focus: keeping the wildlife areas in order around the old barn at the Tyneham Farm end of the village and perhaps clearing back vegetation and improving paths in and around the village buildings. But for those that like working in the wet there is likely to be more mud to clear from the farmyard ford. There will be the usual breaks for refreshments and whatever treats are brought along for us to try. And there are picnic tables at which to enjoy a long and lazy lunch with plenty of chat.

NB: Park in the visitors car park (SY 882 802) at the end of the lane. For those that like working in the wet, bring wellies and wear suitable old clothes for the mud. If you fancy a sea dip after the task then don't forget your swim wear – a lovely bay is only a 10 minute walk away.



11 & 12 August: Seacombe, Worth Matravers, Purbeck



High on the Purbeck limestone a plateau of hard rock pushes out to sea. St Alban's headland is an exposed landscape, a place of open fields and drystone walls. A few valleys cut deeply down to the sea. From Worth Matravers, situated high on the plateau, they provide routes to the coast and today are popular links to the coast path. But on the steep slopes the paths are easily eroded, pounded by passing feet, the soil washed away by run-off when it rains. Our task is on the eastern side of the headland, on the coast path that descends into Seacombe Bottom. Last year we repaired erosion to the long flight of steps that wind down from the plateau into the valley. The steps are steep and require a firm hand rail to help those less able at being a mountain goat. That's where we come in. To be mountain goats and install the hand rail. There will be holes to make for the posts and lots of woodwork and nailing to connect it all up. Some heavy work is needed but not all, with lots of opportunity to share the jobs and admire the scenery. This will be a sociable task to be taken with plenty of breaks and fresh brewed drinks from our trusty stove.

NB: Rendezvous at Worth Matravers car park - the task leader will refund any parking charge. There is a long and scenic walk to the task site from the village and down along the valley. If late look out for the DCV sign board and our

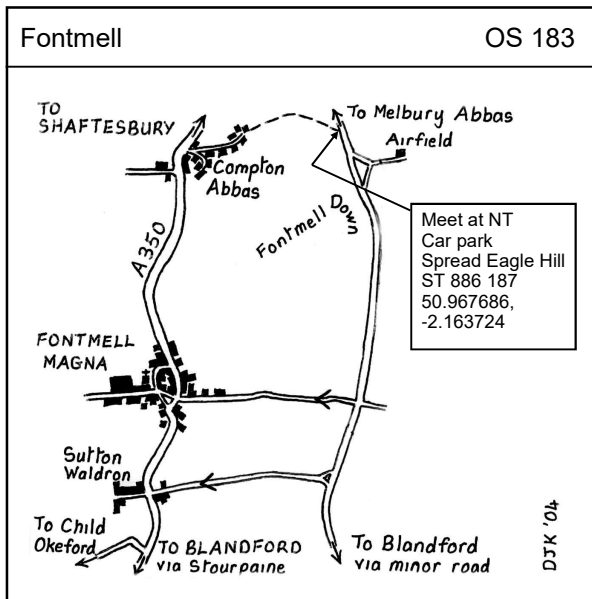
distinctive yellow arrows showing the way. Do bring your stout footwear for scrambling around the steps, a hat and sunscreen too. But weather conditions here can change, so come prepared for all weathers. If it's hot there is a cooling bathing pool nearby, sheltered among big rocks at the foot of the sea cliffs. Something for the adventurous to try.

Footnote: *Worth Matravers was a secret RAF "Radar" development site from May 1940.*

There is a memorial on the coast near the chapel. Swanage museum has a section on "Radar development. Read all about it at: <http://www.purbeckradar.org.uk/memorial/>



D C V TASK PROGRAMME : August - October 2018



18 & 19 August: Fontmell Down, North Dorset

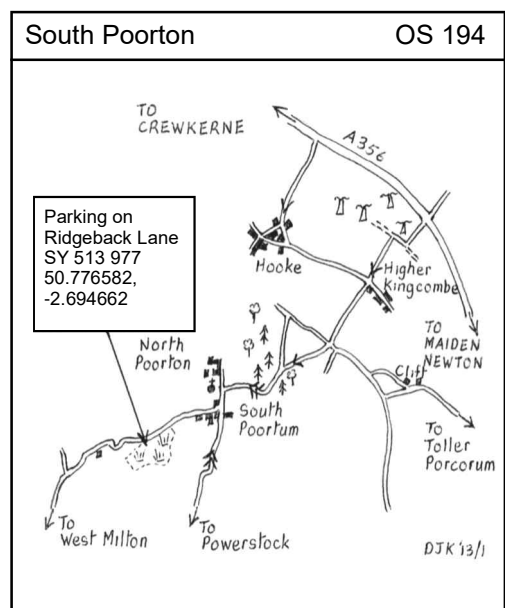
This task is on the high scarp of the Wessex Downs in the north of the county. Here the chalkland drops abruptly to the Blackmore Vale along a north curving arc dissected by deep dry valleys and rising to the high promontory of Melbury Hill. On a clear day the view west goes on forever. The incredibly steep slopes defied attempts at agricultural improvement and they have retained some of the finest chalk grasslands in Dorset. These support a great diversity of flowering plants and many species of butterfly. On this visit our services are required to rescue chalk grassland that is under attack from numerous small thorn bushes and other baby scrubs. In winter we tackle the big stuff, but cutting thorns at their baby stage can be done in summer and is much more effective in maintaining open grassland. So we shall be lopping off the offending bushes and testing our skill at gathering them up in a big net for rolling downhill and then burning if weather conditions allow. Between cutting the scrubs there are fine views to enjoy and of course our usual breaks to down teas and coffees provided by our trusty stove.

NB: Meet at the National Trust car park. Bring your stout footwear for scrabbling over the steep slopes and keeping upright while cutting the scrubs. The sheltered slopes can get very hot in sunny conditions – bring your hat and sun cream too. We will provide lots of drink.

Sunday 26 August: South Poorton, West Dorset (subject to confirmation)

This task takes us well away from the Bank Holiday crowds and into little visited countryside in the west of the county. We return to this nature reserve in an area of rolling hills and steep sided valleys. Small villages lie tucked away among the hills, linked by narrow winding lanes. The nature reserve lies near the head of one of the valleys. Here small fields fall sharply down to a stream in the valley bottom. They support a variety of grassland types and wild flowers, drier on the high ground and wet and boggy in the valley bottom. Earlier in the summer we scoured the slopes pulling up ragwort in glorious sunshine (actually boiling hot - lots of breaks under a big shady tree). There will be lots of breaks for this task too, hopefully in warm but not so hot sunshine. For we have been asked to replace a field gate and repair a section of fence. This is 'bitty' work - there will be jobs digging holes, filling holes (having first put in a gate post), hanging a gate, taking wire and staples from broken posts, collecting new posts from a storage pile, banging in new posts and banging staples and wire onto new posts. All this and great views to enjoy, and also our stove boiled teas and coffees.

NB: Look out for an email closer to the date confirming this task (or an alternative) or, before setting out, phone Richard, Doug or Peter for details. Bring stout footwear for the steep terrain to the task site in the valley bottom. There are lots of possible routes to this site along the network of country lanes. That shown on the map is the most straightforward, but others are via West Milton or Toller Porcorum.

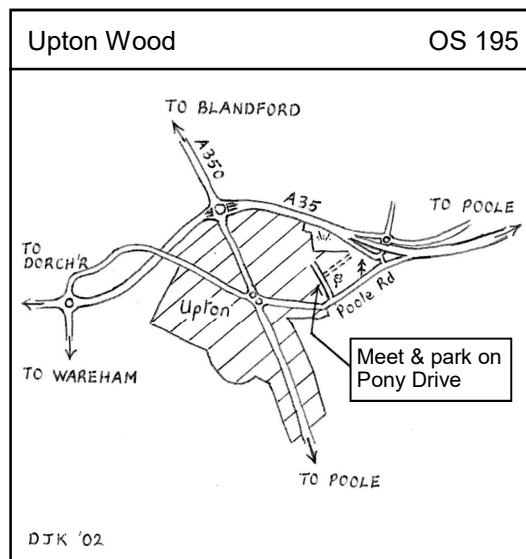


DCV TASK PROGRAMME : August - October 2018

Saturday 1 September: Upton Wood, Purbeck/Poole border

In recent years this urban fringe site has almost become a permanent fixture in our quarterly task programmes. This is no bad thing if we are to judge the worth of our tasks to local people. Because of its closeness to where people live there are probably more visits to enjoy this small area of natural greenspace than at many of our task sites out in the rural countryside. And this small site has lots to offer: a mix of woodland, some grassland and scrub, streams, and even some heath and a heathland mire. On this visit we shall get to know the ditches and streams that run through the mire and into the woodland. We shall be clearing out fallen tree brash, rubbish and any other obstructions that may cause them to overflow in wet weather. So for the adventurous there's the challenge of navigating, wellie footed into the hard to get to places. The rest of us will work from the banks, cutting back some of the dense bankside vegetation too. As usual our task will be punctuated by breaks to enjoy stove brewed teas and coffees, an assortment of biscuits and plenty of chat.

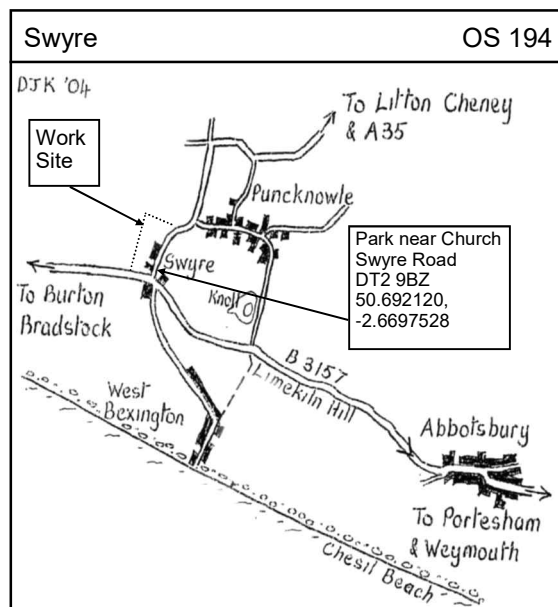
NB: Bring wellies if you have them and come prepared in old clothes for getting splashed with muddy water.



Sunday 2 September: Swyre, West Dorset

We are making visits to this village location on two consecutive Sundays to carry on from tasks earlier in the year re-building a length of dry stone wall. The landscape is distinctive, characterised by dry stone walls, and the village by limestone buildings. The walls are strong and can last for centuries. But over time parts crumble and collapse as the weather and livestock rubbing up against the stone take their toll. We have been visiting this site for over a decade, rebuilding collapsed and collapsing sections of wall in the valley behind the village. Now we have a new location – a long, field boundary wall a little further along the valley. Several sections are in a poor state, partly collapsed or leaning at precarious angles. Here they require clearing out and rebuilding, often right from the foundation stones. The art of dry stone walling is easily picked up and there will be some experienced DCV wallers on hand to show how it's done. Even on a busy weekend the fields have an air of quite tranquillity. Hopefully the lovely summer weather of earlier months will still be with us and we can bask in the warmth and sun. Come along, enjoy the setting and help restore a landscape that will last for centuries.

NB: Park in Swyre village centre near the church (SY 528 883) just off the main road and look out for our distinctive DCV signs taking you through the farmyard to the task site.



Sunday 9 September: Swyre, West Dorset

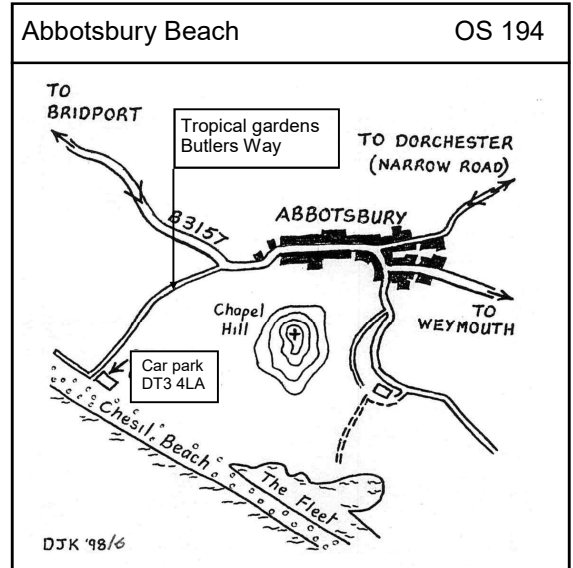
We continue with the dry stone walling at the pretty village of Swyre in West Dorset. For map and details see above Sunday 2nd September

D C V TASK PROGRAMME : August - October 2018

Sunday 16 September: Abbotsbury Beach, West Dorset

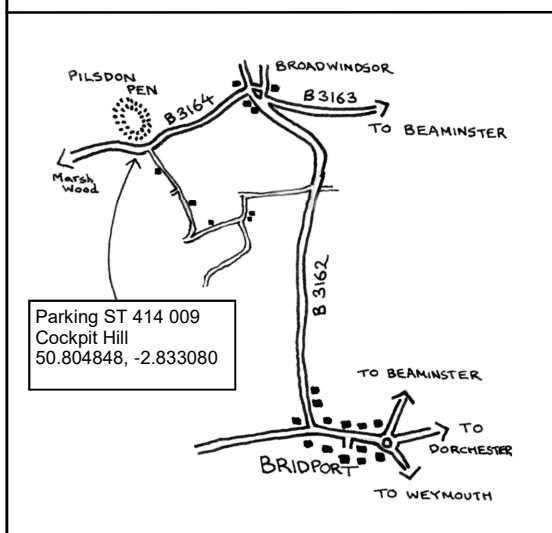
This Sunday we are again joining the Great Autumn Beach Clean, a massive volunteering event all along the county's coastline. And once again we will be tackling our traditional stretch from the far end of the Fleet lagoon back to the car park, and then west toward West Bexington. The spring beach clean attracted an amazing number of volunteers: DCV members and others that turned up during the day to help out. We collected and sorted a small mountain of litter. There was notably less on the beach than in previous years, perhaps because the local café has been offering a free drink to those handing in a bag of rubbish. With less rubbish to find and lots of volunteers we were able to leave the beach east of the car park pretty well litter free and also the beach far to the west. Hopefully we can match this once again. And this time we have our friends from Orchis to help too. Despite the publicity there is likely to all sorts of discarded plastic and lots of it, along with bits of fishing gear, lost clothing and footwear, and more unusual items to ponder. Come for all or just part of the day. There will be breaks for hot teas and coffees and a choice of biscuits. And to impress our Orchis friends there could be lots of home-made cake too, for sharing around while enjoying a mix of French and English chatter.

NB: Gloves provided for the day if you forget. Meet at Abbotsbury Beach car park – bring your newsletter and tell the attendant you are doing the beach clean for free parking.



Pilsdon Pen

OS 193



Sunday 23 September: Pilsdon Pen, West Dorset

We end the month with a task starting on the Sunday and continuing over the following weekend. The task takes us to the roof of Dorset - almost. At 277m (or, for the traditionalists, 908 ft) this had, until quite recently, the accolade of being the highest point in the county. Then a survey found nearby Leweston Hill to be higher, by 2 metres. Its crown was lost but the hill still has the finer views compared with its loftier, wooded neighbour. The highest part of the hill is open - a grassy heath encircled by the steep ramparts of an Iron Age hillfort. On a clear day there are extensive views in all directions: across Somerset, into Devon and south over the Marshwood Vale to Lyme Bay. We have been asked to help with fencing work on the hillside. The details have yet to be worked out but there will be our trusty stove to boil freshly made teas and coffees and a big tin of desirable biscuits, all to enjoy in a fantastic setting.

NB: At the time of writing the task had not been finalised, so closer to the time look out for an email up-date or phone Richard or Peter before setting out. If the task changes it is likely to be at another nearby locality. The hill is very exposed to whatever the weather may bring from the distant sea. Hopefully the days will be calm and

sunny but come prepared for changeable conditions: sun, wind and rain. And don't forget our annual AGM and big get together is on Saturday 22nd – see elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

29 & 30 September : Pilsdon Pen, West Dorset

For map and details see above 23rd September

D C V TASK PROGRAMME : August - October 2018

Sunday 7 October: Tyneham, Purbeck

Although we are nearing the seasonal change to tasks of the cutting and burning type, there remains time to make a return visit to this very popular task site. On this visit we shall be putting the wildlife areas and grounds around the farmstead 'to bed' for the winter. There will be summer growth vegetation to cut back, picnic tables to pack away and paths to clear. We also need to complete any remaining work on jobs we started earlier in the year. As usual, lots of choice. And before the picnic tables are stored away we shall make good use of them, coming together from our various tasks for tea breaks, lunch and plenty of chat.

NB: Park at the far end of the visitors car park (SY 882 802) at the end of the lane – the old farm lies beyond over the bridge and up valley to left. **NBB:** For map see task August 4th & 5th.

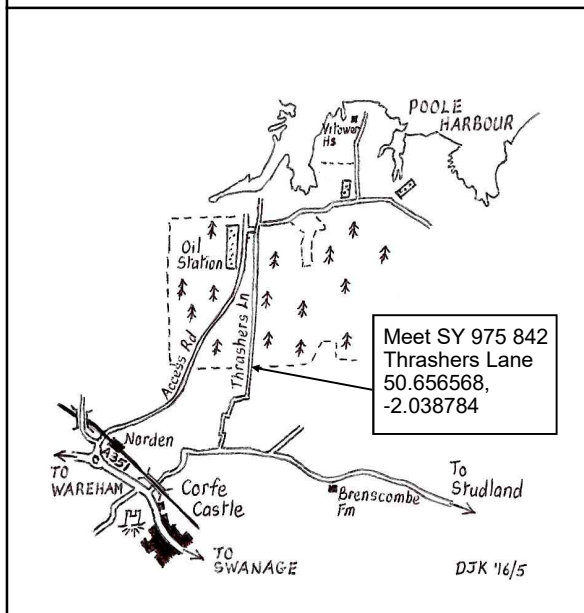
Sunday 14 October: Upton Wood, Purbeck-Poole border

We return to this area of natural wildspace sandwiched between urban fringe housing and the Upton by-pass. Despite this context and its small size the area packs in a whole variety of wildlife habitats: a mix of woodland, some grassland and scrub, streams, and even some heath and a heathland mire. It's the mire that gets our attention on this visit. Invading birch, bramble and other scrub are an ever present threat. If left unmanaged the heathy mire would be overwhelmed. After lots of cutting the scrub is much reduced but there are still some patches of bramble that need our attention with loppers and slashers. We will also dig or carefully pull out some young sapling birch and relocate them to the woodland where they will hopefully grow to fill gaps among the big trees. There is also some unusual coppicing to do, not the hazel that we typically cut as coppice but dense, multiple stem patches of bog myrtle. This aromatic plant is a distinctive low shrub in Dorset's heathland mires. But it can grow to become dense and leggy, shading out mire vegetation below. So as in woodland coppicing, cutting it low down to encourage re-growth should encourage a more diverse vegetation. This will be a bonfire free task but we will still enjoy hot drinks brewed by our trusty stove and plenty of chat. Come along for all or part of the day.

NB: The mire is likely to be wet in places and could be distinctly muddy and very wet. Bring wellies if you have them, otherwise walking boot type footwear is fine on the damp parts and for the birch planting.

Wytch Heath

OS 195



20 & 21 October: Wytch Heath, Purbeck

This is the first in a new series of tasks, continuing over the winter period, which take us into the conifer plantations on the south side of Poole Harbour. Hidden among these plantations is Britain's largest on-shore oil field. 'Nodding donkeys' pump slowly day and night bringing oil from wells drilled out to sea, deep underground. Also hidden among the plantations are areas of heathland, remnants of a vast heath that once stretched across this part of Purbeck from Studland Bay in the east to Wareham and beyond in the west. Previously we cleared pines from the edge of a small valley at Wytch Moor. This task takes us to an area higher up the same valley system. Here plantation conifers have been cleared back to link up areas of heath. But young pines have invaded, along with birch and much gorse. If left the heathy vegetation along with its charismatic reptiles, birds and insect life would be lost. So we shall be cutting out the pines and birch, and reducing the abundance of gorse to bushy clumps. The task site is close to the main oil gathering station, so no bonfire. Think about it – we don't want the biggest ever bonfire! Instead we will need to drag the cut brash under nearby plantation pines. There will be hot drinks provided by our stove and plenty of time to enjoy the quiet remoteness of the task site and catch up on gossip.

NB: The task site is just within the pine plantation on the east side when heading along Thrashers Lane (at SY 975 842). Look out for DCVs yellow arrows pointing the way to a parking area on a track verge and the task site nearby.

27 & 28 October:

The task this weekend has yet to be arranged. With the shortening and cooler days it is likely to be our first big bonfire of the changing season. So look out for an email closer to the date or phone Richard, Doug or Peter for details.

Clocks go back one hour at
2:00am on Sunday 28th
October



DCV DIARY August–October 2018

Date	Task Site	Client	Work
4 & 5 August	Tyneham, Purbeck	MOD / Tyneham Farm Project	Various
11 & 12 August	Seacombe, Worth Matravers, Purbeck	National Trust	Handrail installation
18 & 19 August	Fontmell Down, North Dorset	National Trust	Scrub cutting
26 August Sunday	South Poorton West Dorset	Check web site nearer the time	for confirmation
1 September, Saturday	Upton Wood, Purbeck/ Poole border	Purbeck District Council	Bramble bashing
2 September, Sunday	Swyre, West Dorset	Private	Dry stone walling
9 September, Sunday	Swyre, West Dorset	Private	Dry stone walling
16 September, Sunday	Abbotsbury Beach, West Dorset	Litter Free Coast & Sea	Beach clean
	<i>Our Normandy friends from Orchis visit this weekend</i>	<i>Watch out for details of social event</i>	
22 September, Saturday	<i>DCV - AGM Bring food and drink</i>	<i>West Stafford Village Hall DT2 8AG</i>	<i>6.30 p.m. start</i>
23 September, Sunday	Pilsdon Pen, West Dorset	National Trust	Fencing
29 & 30 September	Pilsdon Pen, West Dorset	National Trust	Fencing
4 October, Thursday	<i>DCV planning meeting</i>	<i>At Rosie's - 7.45 p.m.</i>	
7 October, Sunday	Tyneham, Purbeck	MOD / Tyneham Farm Project	Various
14 October, Sunday	Upton Wood Purbeck/Poole border	Purbeck District Council	Bramble bashing
18 October, Thursday	<i>Bring a dish at Helen's</i>		<i>Booking essential with Helen</i>
20 & 21 October	Wytch Heath, Purbeck	Rempstone Estate	Pine bashing
27 & 28 October	Task to be arranged	Check website, look out for	email or phone Richard, Doug or Peter
3 & 4 November Advance notice	Ware Cliffs, Lyme Regis	National Trust	Willow cutting

**DCV mobile: 07929 961532 (task hours) ring longer than normal
Please check DCV web site.**

Keep a note of the DCV mobile phone number - a task may have to be cancelled last minute or finish early.

If coming out later in the day, phone to check task still running