

Well, that was a chilly start to the year. On some of the days we found our team confined to our workshop in Kingston. Driving through the farm yard and the roads out into Kingston was treacherous but once we were back out it was full steam ahead.



With this cold snap we had to make sure that our population of Cirl buntings were managing to find food. Changes in agriculture have resulted in a severe population decline making Cirl buntings a nationally rare species.

In these extreme cold temperatures we gave them a helping hand by spreading bird seed. The seed is supplied by the RSPB, who like us, want to ensure the birds have enough to eat. Why not take a walk along the coast path around Wembury Point and keep an eye out for these special little birds?

Along with the birds we needed to check all our herds of ponies had water available. With the help from some local volunteers , we were able to regularly go out and brake the ice in the troughs. We also found a burst pipe in the water trough \_at Wembury Point which we were able to quickly fix\_ All in all we managed to come out of the cold snap relatively unscathed.

In this coming month we are planning to undertake some swaling (controlled burns) at Wembury Point. As previously explained in last months review, this will produce a much needed flush of new richer and diverse vegetation which provide food and habitat for many animals and birds. We also have a contractor working in Wembury, who is using a tracked machine with a flail head. This machine easily climbs and descends the slopes around Wembury mulching up the scrub, to allow the regeneration of grass and flowers. So keep a look out for this amazing machine,\_but keep your distance as some of the mulched vegetation can fly a considerable distance!

If anyone is interested in learning about green woodworking then we are running a 2 day event at Noss Mayo woods on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. It is a great opportunity to have a go at working with wood; making items like hurdles and rakes; and try your hand at wood turning. Cost is £20 per person. For further information and to book please call 01752 346585.

Please stop and have a chat to the team if you see us out working or if you have any comments about the work of the National Trust. For further

information please call Lorna Sherriff on 01548 810197 or email  
[lornasherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lornasherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk)