

BTCV Merseyside

The Echo of Conservation

July 2008
Newsletter

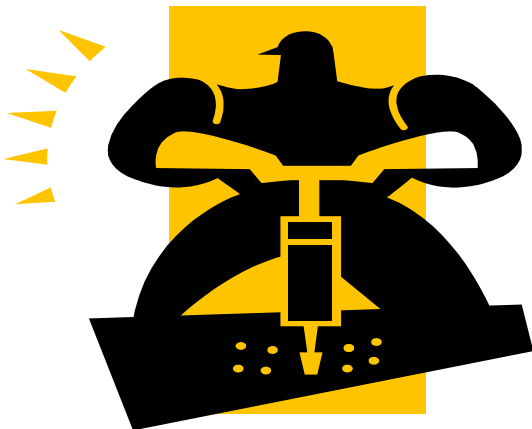
Written by Cheryl McCormick (Volunteer Officer)
Please send all comments, feedback and new ideas to
merseyside@btcv.org.uk

Welcome to the second addition of the brand new BTCV Merseyside newsletter (I still don't know if there was ever an old one!) for all the action in our mid-week volunteer group. You can catch up on all that's happened over the last month and find out what's planned for the month ahead. Plus check out, Worst Joke, inside gossip, and exclusive interviews with the volunteers themselves.

What we've been up to Last Month!

This last month we've been mostly in St Aloysius Primary School in Huyton, working on removing the old planters, made with wooden posts sunk into the ground with concrete and putting in new smaller planters about the trees and some new planters at the bottom of the playground. So that now the playground will be safer as the children will no longer be able to hide out of the view of the teachers behind the old larger planters, which were also starting to rot.

We finally got out all the old posts from the old planters all be it with a little help from a pneumatic drill in the end. Then it was just a case of transferring about 16 tonnes of soil into the skip with wheel barrows.



Likeness of Frank on the pneumatic drill

Trip out to Anglesey

On Friday 13th June (yes, we were a bit worried) Frank took 13 volunteers on a day trip to Llandwyn Island, Newborough Anglesey to say thank you for all their hard work over the past year.

It was a brilliantly sunny and warm day, so warm in fact that some of our volunteers went swimming in the beautiful blue sea. The views were stunning and the wildlife was amazing. We saw so many different types of birds; such as Skylarks, Cormorants, we even saw a young Greater Spotted Woodpecker in its nest. We also saw lots of beautiful wildflowers including a pyramid orchid.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our day out especially the fish and chips at the end. If you get the chance, Llandwyn Island is definitely worth a visit.

By Kate Mason

Up coming Projects this Month

This month we will be mostly working in Clarke Gardens (Soon to be our new home) at the beginning of the month, creating footpaths and looking after the tree nursery.

Then towards the end of the month we will be at New Hutte Neighborhood Center constructing a sensory garden, with raised beds sitting, a pergola, a brick BBQ and a wildflower area

Kate Mason (Exclusive Interview)

How long have you been coming out with BTCV for?

I have been coming out with BTCV for nearly a year now and have been a volunteer officer (VO) for about 11 months.

Why did you start coming out with BTCV?

I started volunteering with BTCV because I had just graduated and really wanted a career that includes some conservation work. A friend told me that BTCV was a brilliant place to gain lots of practical experience and some qualifications too.

What's the funniest thing that's happen to you while being out with BTCV?

So many funny things have happened during my time at BTCV that, if I wrote about them all, it would take up most of this newsletter. One of the funniest moments has to be when we played "Chubby Bunnies" at the Liverpool and Chester Christmas party, it still makes me giggle every time I think about it, hee hee!

What are the best things you've learnt since coming out with BTCV?

There are so many things from volunteering with BTCV. I have learnt so much more about different type's habitats and wildlife. I have also gained so many new skills during my time at BTCV such as construction and woodland management

What do you think you have gained from coming out with BTCV?

I have gained so much more confidence and patience since starting with BTCV. I have also learnt so many new practical skills and ways in which to talk to all the different types of volunteers that come out with us.

Worst Joke of the Month

Q. What do you call a train that eats Toffees?

A. A chew-chew train!

Spring Watch

This month also saw some publicity for the mid-week group in the Wirral. When some of us when out on a Saturday for a change to participate in the BBC sponsored SWAT team event, part of the BBC's spring watch programme.

We all had a great but busy day with the public refurbishing steps, painting rail (plus our selves), litter picking, which the local children really got into, putting in a new sign, planting wild flowers and making bird boxes. We also gave wild strawberry plants, seeds plus we also gave free t-shirts to those who could guess the names of the trees right!

Other highlights of the day included watching the Firemen and Territorial Army lift cars out of the river Mersey.

The event went live on BBC Merseyside and was also recorded for the North West Tonight News and Spring Watch.

Come out and join us!

All you need is clothes you don't mind getting dirty and a packed lunch. We provide tea/coffee, boots and gloves.

Pick up points a 9.45am Washington Parade back of Bootle Strand and 10am Water Street in between the Cunard and Liver buildings, Tuesday-Friday (Just look out for the White BTCV van!)

Editor

I would like to apologies for this issue being a little late this month I just been very busy these past few weeks.

But I would like to give special thanks to Kate Mason who has contributed massively to this week's newsletter.