



newsletter

inspiring people, improving places



BTCV Merseyside Addition for November and December 2008

Welcome to the sixth addition of the sort of brand new BTCV Merseyside newsletter for all the action in our mid-week volunteer group still enjoying the new fancy title banner! There's been a fair bit going on the last couple of months so don't delay or get too desecrated by the glossiness of the new title banner and get yourself up to date with all the latest! Editor: Cheryl McCormick merseyside@btcv.org.uk or

V-inspiring at Halewood Country Park

November, saw students from Liverpool Community College and Liverpool Guild of Students as well as people from the community, put down their text books and come out the lecture halls for a day and join us for some tree planting in Halewood Country Park. The event took place over two day and in all 29 sixtee to twenty five year olds came out, silencing myths that students just stay in bed all day. So a big thanks to all who came out, great fun was had by all.



V-inspired volunteers having a tool/task talk

What we've been up to lately!!

This past November and December has been another busy month for Merseyside mid-week group and local office

We've been to Birchley St Mary's Primary School where we thinned and then chipped an over grown patch of woodland. Then we put a path through the woodland and joined it to the playground

We also went to Speke where our volunteers constructed a boardwalk and two dipping platforms, to be used by school children visiting the area.

All a special thanks must be given to all those volunteers who took the unusually challenge of getting up on a Sunday. This group of early bird volunteers carried out site Clarence along the Sefton coast railway line, owned by National Rail.

We have done some work over at St Lukes Graveyard in Farnworth were we have

Interview Neil McMahon 'Nature Saved My Sanity'

This month I caught up with our Senior Project Officer Neil McMahon, who gave me his BTCV story to share with the group.

Neil: I started with BTCV as a volunteer when I was off on the sick and the doctor had advised me to do something therapeutic. I loved it straight away as it gave me a real sense of worth and achievement.

The first project I was involved was in 1997 and it was clearing some steps at Carrside Farm in Ince Blundell. When we finish at the end of the day we were walking back across the field and I remember looking back to where we had been working. The steps had transformed from an overgrown grassy bank into lovely neat steps going up the bank. I gave me just a great feeling of satisfaction and achievement. I also enjoyed just working with people who accepted me as I was. I had been going through a really bad patch in my life and that one day help pick me up.

I did give up volunteering for a while through circumstances, but started coming out again in 2001. Three months later I became a volunteer officer and then in October 2003 the previous project officer left. I applied for the post on a temporary basis and three months later was offered the job permanently.

The only time I have looked back since is to see my own achievements, which BTCV and the many volunteers have helped me reach.

Installed some compost bins, planted trees and cleared an area of stones and weeds for grassing.

We have had Green Prints events at weekends one after the other in Clarke Gardens, Clinkham Wood and Park Havens.

Neil has worked with a school at Clarke Gardens as well as with his new NEET group at Clinkham wood

We have removed Gorse from Blundellsands Park and had a nice big fire with it.

And finally we have started the Knowsley Village woodland improvement work with Dumbrees woodlands Path and Homer woodland rhodie clearing, both with burns in them as well, nothing like a good fire to keep you warm on a cold winters day.

Up coming Projects this Month

More rhodie removal and fires, a fair bit of planting of pond plants, trees and wildflowers.



Neil McMahon Senior Project Officer

Worst Joke of the Month

Q. What do you call a pig going up a ladder?

A. Hambiguous

This one came from Neil and it's our third pig joke to date! Who new pigs where such a good oink!

If you have anything better or event better worst, please send it to merseyside@btcv.org.uk.

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 are 9.45am Washington Parade back of Bootle Strand and 10am Water Street in between the Cunard and Liver buildings, or you can join us at the office on New Hall Campus L10 1LD at the back of the Clock tower by 9.30am Tuesday-Friday (Just look out for the White BTCV van!)

Or contact BTCV Merseyside: 0151 523 9880

Website: www2.btcv.org.uk

BTCV Merseyside would like to wish everyone a really good Christmas and a fantastic New Year and we will see you again starting on the 6th January 09

Wow!!! Were did 2008 go???

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