

Bryngarw Country Park

Volunteer programme 2011



The volunteer programme has been going for five years and has gone from strength to strength, with members of the local community donating their time and efforts to support preserving the park's natural environment.

Recent projects undertaken by the volunteers include the management of the woodland garden, restoration of the natural habitat in the rhos pasture and the development of an educational nature garden. Volunteering can be very rewarding and is a great way to learn new skills, keep fit and socialise - while helping the environment at the same time.

So, if you have a passion for conservation and the great outdoors and would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer, call the rangers office and speak to Dan or Keith on 01656 725155 or email: bryngarwpark@bridgend.gov.uk

Saturday 15 January, 10am - 2pm

Woodland management

An enjoyable and rewarding task with a roaring fire. In the last few years we have coppiced the newly emerging woodland. This year we will get to grips with the mature woodland, doing essential thinning and coppicing that will encourage wild flowers and provide a crop of fresh timber.

Saturday 5 February, 10am - 2pm

Rhos pasture management

The Welsh black cattle are making short work of grazing the grass in the rhos pasture, but even they won't eat willow and rush. We will be cutting and removing these ourselves, creating excellent conditions for spring flowers to emerge.

Saturday 5 March, 10am - 2pm

Nature trail creation

This is a new project for the volunteers. A nature trail needs to be created in the park ready for the Easter rush. This will involve planting many nature trail posts in the ground.



Saturday 9 April, 10am - 2pm

River clean-up

Wellies are a necessity for this task. Last year we finally scheduled a river clean-up that wasn't flooded out, so we are sticking to the same date this year.

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Saturday 7 May, 10am - 2pm

Round house project

This should be a fascinating project. We are creating a round house from willow and hazel in our nature garden to be used by visiting schools.

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Saturday 11 June, 10am - 2pm

Botanical survey

Another new arrival. In order to manage the flora and fauna in the meadows, we need to carry out a survey to find out what flowers we have and how many.

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Saturday 2 July, 10am - 2pm

Balsam bashing

It's a foe that just won't lie down. We start our annual battle with this invader a bit later than usual, with the hope of cutting it down in its prime and stop it seeding.

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Saturday 6 August, 10am - 2pm

Wet triangle management

An annual tradition. Cutting, raking and removal of vegetation from this area, ensures a fresh crop of wild flowers next spring.

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Saturday 3 September, 10am - 2pm

Autumn hay rake and barbecue

Another tradition dating all the way back to 2005 is the hay rake and BBQ. The hay rake performs a vital management tool for our meadows and if you bring along food and drink we will provide the barbecue.

Saturday 1 October, 10am - 2pm

Japanese garden management

Our ponds will need their annual weeding and paths will need cutting back. This is a lovely place to work in early autumn.

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Saturday 5 November, 10am - 2pm

Sycamore wood management

To get the best crop of bluebells we need to stay on top of the bramble and bracken, so this is a day in the woods with slashers, brush cutters and rakes.

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Saturday December 3, 10am - 2pm

Woodland management

The year's programme ends as it begun, with coppicing in Coed Kensington, helping the woodland biodiversity and giving a crop of hazel and willow.

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Saturday 17 December, 10am - 2pm

Christmas at Bryngarw

Our annual thank you to our volunteers for all of their commitment and hard work throughout 2011. A bonfire and meal cooked over an open fire, plus wreath making and some woodland management.



Please note:

Tools and training are provided for all volunteer events. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.