



# COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING



## Welcome to the 2016 Summer issue

A warm welcome to the Summer issue of the volunteering newsletter.

As this is my first contact with many of you, I thought it would be nice to recap on all of the inspiring projects and welcoming groups available to willing volunteers across the beautiful Bedford countryside.

First things first, a little introduction from me. I have recently been appointed to oversee the Community Volunteering Projects and Parks Events for Bedford Borough Council. Previously I worked as a Sports Development Officer, running events and programmes to keep our community thriving and healthy, so this is a slight change for me and I am looking forward to meeting and learning from all of you.

I have listed my contact details below so that you can keep in touch with any issues, success stories or requests for help that you may wish to share. Thank you again for all that you do to keep our neighbourhoods and green spaces, clean, safe and green.

I wish you all a great summer and hope to meet many of you in the near future.

### **Katie Percival**

Events & Community Engagement Officer

[volunteering@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@bedford.gov.uk)

01234 228759

Register online at

[www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering)

## **NEW Restore a Bench Event - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September we are requesting support from our volunteers to help with the restoration of the memorial benches along our beautiful embankment.

If you are a dab-hand at sanding, painting or generally enthusiastic about maintaining our embankment area, or if you have a bench that you would particularly like to restore for a friend or loved one, then please support us on the day.

We will meet at 11am at the Memorial Statue (opposite The Embankment Hotel). All equipment will be supplied, we just need the help of our volunteers.

If you would like to get involved please contact Katie, Bedford Borough Council Events and Community Engagement Officer ([katie.percival@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:katie.percival@bedford.gov.uk)) and detail your name, contact number and times that you are able to offer help so that we can make sure that we supply enough equipment for everyone.



## Regular Community Volunteer Groups

If you are a new volunteer and looking to support the development and maintenance of your local parks and green spaces we have all the details you need. Find your most suitable park or open space and get in touch with the friendly and supportive contacts listed below.

### Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park

**Contact:**

Park Rangers

**Phone:** 01234 720016

The Friends of HOCP have been working with the managers of the Park, Bedford Borough Council for over ten years. In that time they have helped to maintain and improve the site for both visitors and wildlife.



The Friends of HOCP fall into two broad groups, active volunteers and interested supporters. The active volunteers work with staff on a wide range of practical activities, some routine work and some taking the form of special projects. Routine work carried out by the volunteers includes ground clearance, hedge maintenance, woodland coppicing, path clearance, equipment maintenance.

This friendly, supportive group welcome new members to join them in retaining the beauty of the HOCP.

### Friends of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort

**Contact:** [www.putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk](http://www.putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk)

**Email:** [contact@putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk](mailto:contact@putnoemowsburyfriends.org.uk)



The Friends of Putnoe Wood & Mowsbury Hillfort are a local voluntary conservation group based in Bedford.

The Friends are an integral partner in helping safeguard the future of Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort. Membership is free.

The group work with Bedford Borough Council to manage, promote and enhance both sites. Informal meetings are held every two months with Borough representatives to discuss and arrange weekly tasks and special events.

The Friends meet every Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm to 4.00pm for their weekly tasks. Come along and enjoy Putnoe Wood and Mowsbury Hillfort and help keep them in good heart for the enjoyment of all.

### Friends of Priory Country Park



**Contact:**

Jon, Danny and Nicky

**Phone:** 01234 718012

(please leave a message on their answerphone)

**Email:**

[prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:prioryrangers@bedford.gov.uk)

The Priory Country Park Volunteer Group Programme operates on the first Sunday of each month (unless otherwise advised by the Park Rangers). Weekend volunteers are set group tasks but Priory also welcome volunteers every Monday and Thursday to join in with whatever Priory Rangers happen to be doing.

If you cannot join them for the whole day feel free to come along when you can, all help is appreciated.

Meet at the back of the Visitors Centre (9.00am to 9:30am) unless otherwise specified. Tasks will vary depending on the time of the year but all hands, skills and abilities are welcomed.

### Bromham Conservation Group



**Contact:** Philip Grabham on 01234 825953 or Peter Argyle on 01234 822698

**Email:**

[bcg@peterargyle.plus.com](mailto:bcg@peterargyle.plus.com)

Bromham Conservation Group generally organise 3 sessions a month from 10.00am to 12.30pm. Any time that you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Their emphasis is on undertaking work that is not routine maintenance e.g. developing a linking path around the lake at the Nature Reserve with steps, bridge and second bird hide and developing the entrance area at Bromham Mill. Other work undertaken includes clearing paths, coppicing e.g. wild flower meadow and the rides at Salem Thrift.

They try to incorporate litter picking in all of their sessions and will undertake specialist sessions when required.

## Local Litter Picking Programme

Are you part of a local community group, Parish Council or work at a school and think that your local area would benefit from a litter pick?

Would you like to be a Community Champion of your local area and can spare a hour or so a week picking litter and reporting issues/concerns?

Bedford Borough Council have the equipment and would love to hear from you.



We already have a good number of Parishes holding litter picks through-out the year and there are still some Street Champions out there, but despite this excellent coverage there are a number of areas that are missing out. To find out how to host a litter pick or to book a slot to use our equipment, contact [katie.percival@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:katie.percival@bedford.gov.uk)

### Already a Street Champion?

If you are already a Street Champion, I would love to hear from you. As you know I am new in post so please do get in touch with your name, email address and/or address and details what you have been doing to support your local community.

## Area's Seeking Support

### Green Man Garden - Addison Park, Kempston

The Green Man Community Garden was a project created to enhance a plot of disused land in Addison Howard Park in Kempston.

The garden is tucked away from the busier aspects of the park offers the perfect setting for a peaceful space which can be used as an outdoor class-room for groups, a venue for small activities and events, a haven for wildlife and a respite from busy daily life.

Due to the conclusion of funding for this project, Bedford Borough Council are seeking committed volunteers to help us to revive, maintain & enhance the space which has become a little overgrown and in need for some TLC on a weekly/monthly basis.



If you would like to set up a volunteer group to work in the Green Man Garden and bring it back to life by working with Bedford Borough Council then please contact [volunteering@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@bedford.gov.uk)

### Biddenham Loop Wild Flower Meadow

We have had a request from a cluster of volunteers in Biddenham, who are looking into the potential of becoming a friends of Biddenham Loop group.

They would like to find out what interest there is from community volunteers to become members of this group in order to maintain and enhance the wild flower meadow area.

If you would like to find out about what events are planned in Biddenham then keep an eye out for emails updates from the Events and Community Engagement Officer.

In the mean-time, feel free to register your support by emailing [volunteering@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@bedford.gov.uk) or by completing a volunteer registration form at: [www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering)



For more information on Community Volunteering, contact us:

@ [volunteering@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@bedford.gov.uk)

📞 01234 228759



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