



BRYNGARW
HOUSE & COUNTRY PARK

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

2015

Volunteers are made up of members from the local community who donate their time and effort to help preserve the park's natural environment.

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.

THE GROUP MEET ONE SATURDAY EVERY MONTH FROM 10AM – 2PM WITH A BREAK FOR LUNCH.

Bryngarw Country Park is important because of its diversity of trees, flowers, birds, mammals and insects. Its habitats include deciduous woodlands, wetlands, wildflower meadows, the River Garw and formal gardens. These all need to be managed to ensure they can be enjoyed by visitors all year round.

Our volunteers are vital to this work and recent projects they have undertaken include the restoration of the orchard, surveying our wild flowers, coppicing the woodlands and building an Iron Age roundhouse in our educational nature garden.

JANUARY 10

RHOS PASTURE TIDY UP

Our Rhos pasture is a very important habitat for a number of insects, plants, mammals and birds, and the willow and bramble scrub is taking over once more. This should be a great calorie burning event after the Christmas and New Year feasting!

FEBRUARY 7

BLUEBELL WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

This is an iconic area of the Park with a beautiful show of bluebells in spring. But the brambles and bracken need to be controlled otherwise they smother the woodland flowers. Cutting and raking, and a big bonfire.

MARCH 7

NATURE GARDEN SPRING TIDY

Help us get the nature garden ready for summer. The kitchen garden will need to be prepared for growing vegetables.

APRIL 4

ANNUAL RIVER CLEAN UP

Join us as we wade into the River Garw and get rid of the litter and accumulated junk from winter, and make it clean and ready for wildlife.

MAY 2

MEADOW MARGIN CLEARANCE

The meadow margins need to be clear of bramble and bracken in order to get a good crop of flowers. Join the group as we knock down these two species to make way for native wild flowers.

JUNE 6

MEADOW FLOWER SURVEY

We need to monitor our habitats to ensure we are managing them correctly, and this annual flower survey enables us to do this. It is also a lovely way to spend a day in a beautiful place alive with wildlife.



ONE HISTORIC GARDEN

Y Cymoedd
Calon ac Enaid Cymru
The Valleys
Heart and Soul of Wales



One Historic Garden is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund through Visit Wales and the Welsh Government.

bryngarwhouse.co.uk



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

ALWAYS NEW DISCOVERIES TO BE MADE...



JULY 4

BALSAM BASH

A popular event in our programme, the balsam bash. This is a satisfying and therapeutic way of ridding the Park of this invader and pest.

AUGUST 1

RAKING OF THE MARSHY TRIANGLE AND ORCHARD

The summer flowers have set their seed, so it is time to cut and rake off this year's growth to ensure a good show of flowers next year. Help us to rake and remove the hay cut.

SEPTEMBER 5

AUTUMN HAY RAKE

The nature garden is a traditionally managed flower meadow, and at the end of the summer it is cut and raked to ensure next year's crop of flowers is as good. Come and help us with this traditional country task.

OCTOBER 3

ORIENTAL GARDEN POND CLEARANCE

A great excuse to get wet and covered in mud. Get the waders on and help us clear the ponds of weed.

NOVEMBER 7

COPPICING

We have a lovely bonfire in the woods, and we coppice our hazel trees in the traditional way. This provide us with a crop of useful usable timber and sheds light on the woodland floor to help wild flowers.

DECEMBER 5

NATURE GARDEN

We end the year in the nature garden, trimming the willow dome, digging the vegetable garden and lots of other jobs too.

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.

If you have a passion for conservation and the great outdoors and would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer, call the park on **01656 725155** or email: bryngarwpark@bridgend.gov.uk

The Bryngarw Volunteer Group is independently run and have set up their own social media accounts. For more information email: bryngarwparkvolunteergroup@gmail.com

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A SENSE OF PLACE... A SENSE OF NATURE...

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