

# Environmental Volunteer Network Newsletter

Autumn 2018

## The Volunteer Network

**South Lanarkshire Council's Countryside and Greenspace Service work with environmental volunteers across the county in a number of ways. We continue to work closely with a number of groups to help improve sites and engage with local communities.**

We are able to facilitate training for our volunteers and we are always interested in suggestions for potential courses that would help fulfil your objectives and build capacity within your group!

In the last few years our network has got much more diverse and extensive, with social media proving to be an amazing tool for bringing like-minded people together to share ideas. Surely this is what it was originally intended for... Get in touch with us if you want to be part of it.

In this newsletter we have updates from the Friends of Langlands Moss and Cadzow Glen, news from Bothwell Road Action Group and information about the opportunities available through Buglife, a national charity.

We also have a focus on the Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership, plus an introduction to Hallside Heritage Park.

A wealth of volunteering and training opportunities are available via Clydesdale Community Initiatives and Community Action Lanarkshire, so please take a look at their information!

We are very excited about our Volunteer Networking event on Saturday the 20th of October, so please keep your eyes peeled for details!





Donated Fruit and Veg

## Local Groups donate fruit and veg to Carluke Food Bank

**Excess strawberries, cauliflowers, potatoes, cucumbers along with other varieties of fruit and vegetables grown through community projects are now being donated to Carluke Food Bank, thanks to Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI).**

This is part of a food growing programme which runs in partnership with Castlebank Park – Lanark, Forth & District Initiative Eco Project, Larkhall Community Growers, Lesmahagow Allotments and Clyde Valley Orchard Co-operative. CCI thanked groups involved for their donations which will make a difference to this local charity.

Catherine McCluskey, Clydesdale Community Initiatives Group worker said, "Growing for the food bank is a great focus not only are we growing for our stunning new kitchen to provide a cooked lunch for our volunteers we are also part of a food growing consortium of local food growers that supply the Carluke food bank with fresh produce. This is doubly rewarding for our volunteers to help out."

Environmental volunteering opportunities continue to grow within local community groups - See full list of dates and opportunities at [www.clydeandavonvalley.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.clydeandavonvalley.org/get-involved/volunteer).

Nancy Barr, Larkhall Community Growers Project Manager said, "We feel privileged to be part of the network of community organisations that make up the Food Co-operative and the volunteers at Hareleeshill Community Garden are pleased to be able to share some of their produce with Carluke Foodbank."

This programme is part of a new environmental volunteering Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership legacy project. This project will compliment and work closely with the new Lanarkshire LEADER Community Action Lanarkshire (CAL) Project being delivered by Rural Development Trust (RDT).



## Focus on:

# Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership

The newly formed Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership is helping to improve health and reduce health inequalities by making more use of Scotland's outdoors as Our Natural Health Service. It is a national programme of work, growing connections between health and social care services and nature, and using cross-sector collaboration.

It is supported by: Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, NHS Health Scotland, Transport Scotland, Paths For All, and local partners; North and South Lanarkshire local authorities, leisure providers, and voluntary sector organisations.

We're often happier when we're outdoors; just think back to your childhood when you climbed trees, built dens in the woods, went fishing in the local river and ran wild in open spaces! It doesn't need to end now that we are adults; there is a strong evidence base for the health and wellbeing benefits of "green exercise". Green exercise is a term that encompasses activities that facilitate better health and well-being which take place in outdoor settings, in the natural environment or with elements

of nature. It includes walking, cycling, gardening, volunteering, outdoor learning and play. It can even include more passive engagement like photography and contemplation.

Working together as the Green Health Partnership is helping to develop closer working relationships, connecting the health sector with the health-promoting potential of the outdoors, and increasing the public's use of greenspace for positive health gain through promoting opportunities for people to get outside and developing new ways for them to get involved.

To find out more about green health across Lanarkshire, visit the greenspace portal, where you can find information on places to go and ways to get involved.

For more information on green health opportunities please contact the Green Health Partnership Manager: [vicki.trim@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:vicki.trim@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk)

If your organisation involves volunteers in outdoor roles, or would like to, then please contact the Green Health Volunteering Development Officer: [sarah.burgess@vaslan.org.uk](mailto:sarah.burgess@vaslan.org.uk)



# *CAVLP – a lasting legacy but new beginnings for Community Action Lanarkshire*



The six year, 68 project, £4.8 million Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) has officially drawn to a close, with a newly published film and report highlighting the programme's achievements. The programme's lasting legacy is not just in the restored landscapes, the improved footpaths and the Clyde and Avon Valley Virtual Museum, but also with everyone who took part, the new community connections made and the knowledge and skills people gained. From managing orchards, to reading a landscape to reveal its secrets or finding new confidence to get more children playing outdoors, local people will continue to enjoy and enhance the Clyde and Avon Valley.

So, from all of the team at CAVLP, we'd like to thank all of you for taking part and giving your time and enthusiasm for this unique landscape and community.

Watch the film, find out more information on the legacy projects and read the report by visiting [www.clydeandavonvalley.org/news](http://www.clydeandavonvalley.org/news)

**But it doesn't stop here – the CAVLP team are now looking forward to a new project, Community Action Lanarkshire.** Led by the Rural Development Trust, this exciting new project aims to link up with rural communities, in North and South Lanarkshire, focussing on building the capacity of local communities, supporting them to develop their ideas and kick-start new projects and activities. Developing plans, sourcing and applying for funding, procuring contracts and managing projects can all be daunting tasks, and we aim to support communities no matter what stage they're at. Stay tuned to [www.clydeandavonvalley.org](http://www.clydeandavonvalley.org), and search 'Community Action Lanarkshire' on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more details

# Go green for volunteering at Castlebank Park



The Castlebank Horticultural Centre first opened in 2014 and is currently undergoing an exciting phase of further development with a renovated Community Hub building set to open this summer – thanks to funding from LEADER and the Renewable Energy Fund. A fantastic resource for the local community, facilities in the new building will include a Classroom for delivering workshops and horticultural courses, a Bistro area for informal meetings, a kitchen, office and storage space.

The Centre is managed by Lanark Community Development Trust and it also acts as the base for Lanark in Bloom.

The facility, and much of Castlebank Park, is maintained by a hard-working group of volunteers and they are always looking for an extra pair of hands to help out.

New Community Gardening Volunteers are welcome to come along on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 3pm. No specific gardening skills are required, all training, equipment and tools will be provided.

Volunteers are welcome to come along for a couple of hours or the full day, time commitments can be very flexible depending on the volunteer's availability. Come along to meet new people, learn new skills and enjoy some fresh air with a cuppa and a chat!

Castlebank Horticultural Centre is located within historic Castlebank Park at the bottom of Lanark.



Castlebank Agricultural Centre



Green Flag Award!

Castlebank Park recently retained its Green Flag Award status, making it 1 of 71 Green Flag Parks in Scotland. Lanark in Bloom are also hoping to take home Gold at this year's Beautiful Scotland awards!

## Quotes from current volunteers:

*"I love it here at Castlebank Horticultural Centre. The best thing about volunteering is being out in the fresh air, meeting new people and learning new skills"*

*"It's great to learn about gardening machinery and new gardening skills. I've been volunteering for just over a year and I really enjoy the company. New volunteers are always made welcome. It's great fun and there's always lots to learn!"*

*"I've been volunteering for almost 6 years now. I love all of the different projects we get to work on at Castlebank Park, from the Wallace Rose Garden to the new pond area"*

*"Volunteering at Castlebank gives me a fantastic sense of purpose and feeling of pride when you see the results of all your hard work"*

To find out more please visit:

[www.lanarktrust.co.uk](http://www.lanarktrust.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/CastlebankPark](https://www.facebook.com/CastlebankPark)

Email: [info@lanarktrust.co.uk](mailto:info@lanarktrust.co.uk)

Phone: 07538 387 378

# Great funding news for Friends of Cadzow Glen!

Thanks to National Lottery "Awards for All" funding and a donation from Clyde Valley Housing Association, Cadzow Glen has been improved further with various new metal benches and seats, a brand new noticeboard and some feeders and homes for some of our wildlife! A big thanks also goes to SLC Land Services team for installing all our new furniture, and for their ongoing support.

The group, with support from the Community Payback team have also been sprucing up the glen just in time for the summer / autumn season with refurbishment and repairs undertaken.

Not to forget Cadzow Nursery who have been using the site for Forest School, and have planted an abundance of wildflowers in the play area!

**For more information on the Big Lottery Fund please visit:**

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-scotland)

Find Friends of Cadzow Glen on facebook: [@FriendsofCadzowGlen](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofCadzowGlen)



## Get Walking Lanarkshire



Get Walking Lanarkshire organises free health walks across Lanarkshire. The walks are short and easy and make the most of local greenspaces. They are a great way to meet new people and discover your local area.



In South Lanarkshire there are walks in Rutherglen, Cambuslang, East Kilbride, Blantyre, Hamilton, Larkhall, Stonehouse, Lesmahagow, Lanark, Rigside, Forth and Biggar.

Everybody is welcome!

For days, times and meeting points have a look at the walks programme on [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/getwalking](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/getwalking)

There are also opportunities to volunteer as a health walk leader on any of the above walks, or on new walks in your own community. For example, we would be keen to set up a health walk in Carluke.

If you'd like to volunteer, then please get in touch. No previous experience is required and free training will be provided.

**Contact details:**

01698 402077

[getwalkinglanarkshire@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:getwalkinglanarkshire@northlan.gov.uk)

[www.facebook.com/getwalkinglanarkshire](https://www.facebook.com/getwalkinglanarkshire)



# Buglife



It has been a busy summer for the Buglife Scotland team who have been out across Scotland searching for rare invertebrates with the help of volunteers. It has been a very successful season with the Bordered brown lacewing being rediscovered at Arthur's Seat and a wildlife recorder finding a specimen near Muchalls where it hasn't been recorded from the area since 1916. We have been in Perthshire looking for the Ten spotted pot beetle where we found seven individuals and have been mapping the suitable habitat in the area to provide advice to landowners.

With the survey period coming to an end we are now busy writing up reports and developing projects. However, we are still running workshops throughout the autumn. As the weather starts turning cold we start focusing on freshwater habitats and we currently have two projects people can get involved with, our Heritage Lottery Funded Marvellous Mud Snails project and our Scottish Natural Heritage funded Fantastic Freshwaters.



Pond dipping event

## Marvellous Mud Snails

Our Marvellous Mud Snails project is working to conserve the rare Pond mud snail (*Omphiscola glabra*). This freshwater snail has a UK distribution but is only currently known from seven sites in Scotland, two of these sites are within neighbouring council areas of North Lanarkshire and West Lothian. A key component of the project is a captive breeding programme where volunteers and schools are taking care of small populations of Pond mud snails. Any offspring that are born will be released into new sites throughout the snails current range. We will be running a freshwater snail identification workshop during autumn with the hope that attendees will feel confident to go out and record freshwater snails in their area.



↑ Mud snail (*Omphiscola glabra*) (c) Paul Baker

## Fantastic Freshwater

People often over look freshwater habitats when it comes to looking for wildlife but just beneath the surface of these habitats is an amazing diversity of species. Our Fantastic Freshwater project aims to showcase how amazing your local pond or river can be for a variety of invertebrates. We are doing this through a school engagement programme which has now come to an end and by running a series of workshops showing people how to survey freshwater habitats and identify what they find. These workshops are all aimed at an introductory level so no prior knowledge is needed to attend.

Keep an eye on the events section of the Buglife website to see when these workshops are being held or sign up to our monthly Newsletter to hear about what the team have been getting up to and how to get involved. To sign up drop us an email at [scotland@buglife.org.uk](mailto:scotland@buglife.org.uk).



# Hallside: Steelworks to Community Greenspace



Hallside Heritage Group

**A community team has come together to transform the site of the former Hallside Steelworks beside Newton railway station into use as a community greenspace.**

A community team has come together to transform the site of the former Hallside Steelworks beside Newton railway station into use as a community greenspace.

Our aim is to convert this neglected and overgrown space into an amazing asset. We want to provide outdoor and environmental educational resources for local schools & nurseries and to offer opportunities for recreation, events, physical health and wellbeing activities and spaces for quiet reflection for all, whilst recognising the steelworks heritage of the site. It's very important to us to maintain significant wild areas across the park to encourage wildlife to thrive.

A feasibility study into possible future uses of the 82 acre site has been carried out by a landscape design consultancy and this has been

shared with the local community over a series of consultations, which generated lots of really positive feedback and some fantastic ideas!

Next steps are to formulate design plans for phase 1 of the project and identify potential funding sources and we welcome all ideas and input. This is an exciting and ambitious project with huge potential benefits to the local community and far beyond. We are still at a very early stage of our journey, so now is the perfect time to get involved!

Email us at  
[halfwaycc@gmail.com](mailto:halfwaycc@gmail.com)

or join us on FaceBook at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/hallsideheritagepark/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hallsideheritagepark/)

Further info is available at  
[www.drumsagardvillage.co.uk/community/hallside-heritage-park](http://www.drumsagardvillage.co.uk/community/hallside-heritage-park)







# Busy times at Langlands Moss

Following on from the disheartening vandalism of the boardwalk at Langlands Moss LNR last year, the group has worked hard with a various partners to move forward and further improve the site for everyone. A new route has been improved and bridges built with thanks to Community Payback and LAMH, with new signage made by Gordon Smith and funded by Beechwood Cattery.

The group have also had assistance from East Kilbride Young Farmers and 2nd East Kilbride Boys Brigade who are doing their Duke of Edinburgh award, removing trees from the moss and sprucing up the wildflower area among other tasks!

We are excited to welcome back the brilliant 'Bog Squad' from Butterfly Conservation.

We are always interested in welcoming new members and would love to see some new faces.



Langlands Moss



EK Young Farmers

Anyone interested in getting involved can email the group: [maureenpotter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:maureenpotter@blueyonder.co.uk)

Or find us on Facebook [@FriendsofLanglandsMoss](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLanglandsMoss)

# Bothwell Road Action Group

BRAG (Bothwell Road Action Group) is a community organisation set up to promote and enhance Bothwell Road Public Park in Hamilton, and is a sub group of the Whitehill Neighbourhood Board.

The aims of the group are to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the park and help improve the existing facilities and resources.

To promote the park among the wider community by encouraging people to visit and enjoy its facilities.

To undertake and support a range of activities and events.

To help promote local understanding and knowledge of the rich heritage of the park and so protect it for future generations...



Bothwell Road Park



## Bothwell Road Action Group

HEALTH | HERITAGE | ENVIRONMENT | SOCIETY | TRADING

Popular events this year have included a Community spring clean and a den building day, which were a fantastic way to promote this amazing space!

We are hoping for a big turnout at our next Spring Clean on the 6th of October, so get in touch if you are keen!

Come along to our AGM on the 24th of October if you would like to get involved,

Email us: [bothwellroadag@outlook.com](mailto:bothwellroadag@outlook.com)

or find us on Facebook: [@bothwellroad](https://www.facebook.com/bothwellroad)



BRAG Big Cleanup

# Clydesdale Community Initiatives

## Volunteering and Training opportunities

### Stonehouse Park environmental volunteering

Last Wednesday in the month

10.15am - 2.30pm.

Join CCI and Friends of Stonehouse Park to take part in environmental volunteering including improving the woodland area, clearing pathways and making new benches. All are welcome, please wear weather appropriate clothing and footwear. All tools will be provided. Meeting place is the Pavilion in Stonehouse Park at 10.15am.

Please contact CCI to book a place or for further details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### Chatelherault Country Park environmental volunteering

Every Thursday:

23 August, 20 September, 18 October,  
29 November, December TBC

10.15am - 2.30pm.

Join CCI in some improvement work - help to construct and install benches, clear debris and non-native species.

For further information, and booking, please call CCI on 01555 664 211 or email [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### Volunteer with Larkhall Community Growers, Harleeshill Community Garden

Meet on the following Tuesdays:

7 August (pm), 4 September (am),  
2 October (pm), 6 November (pm) and  
4 December (pm)

Morning sessions 10.15am - 12pm and  
afternoon sessions 1 - 2.30pm.

Interested in gardening? Then why don't you come along and take part in some fun gardening sessions with Larkhall Community Growers and Clydesdale Community Initiatives to help maintain this area. All tools will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothing.

Please contact CCI for full details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### Lend a hand with Forth Eco Project Growers

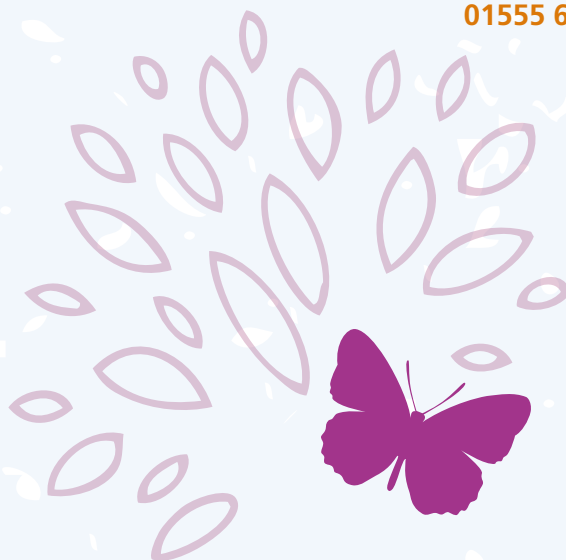
Meet on the following Tuesdays:

14 August, 11 September, 9 October,  
13 November, 11 December

10.15am - 2.30pm.

Come along and take part in fun and therapeutic gardening sessions with Forth Eco Project and Clydesdale Community Initiatives to help maintain this area. All tools will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothing.

Please contact CCI for full details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)





### **Mauldslie Woods Volunteering Team Days**

Meet on the following Thursdays:  
9 August, 6 September, 4 October,  
1 November, 13 December

10.15am – 3pm.

Love being outdoors? Love your local woodland? Join the new Mauldslie Woods Volunteering Team! Working in Mauldslie Woods in all seasons. Come along, learn new skills, make friends and have fun whilst carrying out a programme of practical woodland conservation and management tasks.

Please contact CCI to book a place or for further details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### **Lend a hand at Lesmahagow Allotments**

Meet on the following Tuesdays:  
21 August, 18 September, 16 October,  
20 November, 18 December

10.15am - 2.30pm.

Come along and take part in fun and therapeutic gardening sessions with Lesmahagow Development Trust and Clydesdale Community Initiatives to help maintain this area. All tools will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothing.

Please contact CCI for full details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### **Volunteer at South Haugh Conservation Days, Smithycroft, Hamilton**

Meet fortnightly from 13 September

10.30am - 2.30pm.

Interested in gardening? Come along and take part in fun and therapeutic gardening sessions. All tools will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothing.

Please contact CCI for full details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### **Excavation Volunteering Opportunities at Draffan Farm**

Thursday 2 August

10am - 2.30pm.

Join Clydesdale Community Initiatives and Northlight Heritage on Thursday 2 August, which is part of a dig 29 July - 11 August. Help clean out the site and possibly find artefacts or alternatively help with soil sample processing and finds washing.

Please contact CCI for full details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk).

### **Environmental Volunteering at Loudon Pond, Douglas Water**

Thursday 16 August

10am - 2.30pm.

Join Clydesdale Community Initiatives and local volunteers to help clear paths to get access to Loudon Pond nature reserve. Meeting point at the entrance to Loudon Pond. All tools will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothing.

Please contact CCI to book a place or for further details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk)

### **Volunteer at Blackhill Archaeology Site**

Wednesday 5 September

10am - 2.30pm.

Join Clydesdale Community Initiatives and Northlight Heritage at the Blackhill archaeology site cutting back vegetation that is putting the excavation site at risk. The meeting place is at the layby nearest to Blackhill.

Please contact CCI for full details on 01555 664 211 or [enquiries@cciweb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cciweb.org.uk).



## Get in touch!

To see previous copies of this newsletter visit [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) and search for "Volunteer Newsletter".

If you would like to join the volunteer network, suggest courses/events, or would like any more information, please get in touch with us using the details below.

## Contact us

We have a Facebook page! This shows events and lots of information on local wildlife and activities.



Like us at "South Lanarkshire Countryside Rangers"  
[www.facebook.com/CountrysideRangers](http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideRangers)

Email: [cag@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:cag@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 0303 123 1015

Write to: Countryside Ranger Service, Calderglen Country Park, East Kilbride G75 0QZ

If you need this information in another format or language, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.  
Phone: 0303 123 1015 Email: [equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

