

YOUTH ACE VOLUNTEERING

Summer 2008 • Edition 1 •



Huntington 6th Form dig for victory

The Gardening Group from Huntington 6th Form have been getting stuck into the mud, transforming a disused allotment into a communal garden in York.

The wind, rain and freezing winter have not stopped the group from learning new skills and creating all sorts on the site.

Full story on page 2

Green teens!



Groups of young people have enjoyed volunteering with BTCV on the Youth ACE project, improving sites around York.

The Youth ACE project gives 13-18 year olds the opportunity to do conservation work and help the environment whilst learning new skills, such as willow weaving, path building and woodwork. Groups are encouraged to choose their own projects, which could involve creating a community garden, graffiti removal, making living willow sculptures – basically anything so long as it is related to the environment.

Read on for examples of some of the work that has been done so far.....

Campus capers

York St John's University have pulled out all the stops to create a nature garden on their campus. Over 70 students participated during their Student Volunteering Week and created a beautiful haven for nature and students alike.



The following groups tackled creating the footpaths, hedging, a pond creation, willow sculptures and bench making: Rowing, wildlife, cheerleading, hockey, rugby, big band, netball and aikido. All of the hard work was also video recorded by the national Student Volunteering team and is being produced as a DVD to promote the benefits of volunteering.

A huge well done to all of you who joined in and got muddy.



A Green Graduation



York St John's University students in action creating their nature garden. From left to right: the Rowing Club take ownership over the pond (left), time for a rest (middle) and the finished product (right).



JOIN YOUTH ACE VOLUNTEERING NOW

Who can do it? If you are aged between 13 and 18 and live in York area you can take part. If some of your group fall within the age range it doesn't matter if a few are younger than 13 or older than 18.

What can I do? Your project may be hands on such as transforming an unused area into a sensory garden, cleaning up graffiti and installing a graffiti board or it could be thought provoking such as creating a website to encourage local people to recycle, making a sculpture; the possibilities are endless.

Where can I do a project? Pretty much anywhere that needs improving environmentally, an allotment, a roadside verge, a local footpath, a churchyard or even an alleyway. We are always looking for sites.

Can I do courses? Your project may require you to learn new skills or attend courses appropriate to your project. Through your volunteering you will have the opportunity to complete awards, be guided all the way through the environmental project you choose and work with qualified BTCV staff.

REGISTER NOW AT www.btcv.org/yorkyouth



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SHADES OF GREEN

Huntington 6th Form go green!

Sixth form students from Huntington in York have not only transformed a disused allotment into the makings of a nature garden, and they have also involved a group of artists who created a giant tree sculpture and became Community Volunteers through the 'V' programme.

The students from Huntington have been working hard over the last 8 months creating a nature garden on an old allotment kindly donated by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Working alongside senior youth workers from the City of York Council the young people have created footpaths, a 'human nest', a fedge, a hedge and planted bulbs to brighten up the space.

The pictures on the right show the development of the site, the last picture showing what they are aiming towards.

The 'Human Nest', which is now completed, can be seen below in all its glory.



Students from Huntington 6th Form College have been converting this derelict site into a nature garden with a metal tree sculpture and "human nest", see the final design below.



Scout Hut



Scouts from the Lord Mayor's Own Unit in York have taken on the challenge to clean and improve the outdoor space around their scout hut.

The group want to make the space useable, creating a wildlife and seating area, clearing spots where they can put tents up to air and generally improving the quality of the space.

They have already started to fundraise with a sponsored bike ride and plan to start work in summer 2008.

Calling all groups & societies

If you know of any groups that are interested in the project give us a call now. Here are a few ideas of groups who could get involved:

Faith groups	Army Training corps
Sports clubs	Young Farmers groups
Housing associations	Sea Scouts
Independent youth clubs	Art societies
Wildlife clubs	Youth councils
Allotment groups	Young carers

Sites Needed

The Youth ACE project aims to work with new and existing groups of young people aged between 13 and 18 to create and develop their own projects connected to the environment.

Their projects may be hands on such as transforming an unused area into a sensory garden, cleaning up graffiti and installing a graffiti board or it could be thought provoking such as creating a leaflet to encourage local people to recycle; the possibilities are endless.



The idea is they take ownership of their project as an individual or group and enjoy learning new skills with the opportunity to attend training courses and events. Through their volunteering they will have the chance to complete awards, be guided all the way through the environmental work they choose and work with qualified BTCV staff.

The project is running across the City of York and BTCV are looking for community centres, youth clubs, churches and any other centres which would like some conservation improvement, whether it is painting, tree planting, making sculptures, landscaping and gardening, any other suggestions are welcome. The aim is to create a bank of options, which the young people can choose from if they don't already have a project in mind.

If you have a site in mind, require further information or know of a group which would like to get involved call Rachel or Naomi on 01904 644300.

Who are BTCV?

BTCV is a national conservation charity, which was set up in 1959, and has a successful history of environmental conservation volunteering throughout the UK and around the world. As a charity, BTCV is almost entirely reliant on voluntary donations. The work we do is only made possible by people like you - people who want to make a difference to their community and environment.

Get in touch on **01904 644300** or www.btcv.org/yorkyouth