

Who are BTCV?



The charity was set up in 1959, and has a successful history of environmental conservation volunteering throughout the UK and around the world. Our Annual Report and Facts and Figures provide essential information about BTCV.

Working with and supporting BTCV can be a rewarding experience for corporate partners, the Government, Big Lottery Fund, local authorities, government agencies such as English Nature and individual donors. Get in touch on **01904 644300** or **www.btcv.org/yorkyouth**

BTCV Youth ACE have worked with

193

young people to date

BTCV Youth ACE have completed

1144

activity days with young people to date

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.



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Big Lottery Fund



YOUTH ACE VOLUNTEERING



Autumn 2008 • Edition 2 •

The Lighthouse

The staff of York BTCV worked closely with the York Young People's Service and local charity York Cares to design and construct the garden of their new youth centre, The Lighthouse. A group of young people designed their site including ideas to cheer up the site which was completed over the October half term break.



BTCV were heavily involved over the week and ran the Eco Team, who made hedgehog and bird boxes, planted bulbs, cut back overgrown hedges and constructed sandcastle planters.

The BTCV adult group made a fantastic gravel path running through this new and exciting site. Other activities happening included art work with help from a local artist and willow weaving. Well done everyone.



Fulford in flight

Well done to the students of Fulford School. After working with BTCV York for a term, they designed, sourced the materials and created a bird box and planter for their school garden. They learnt how to use new tools, think about working safely and what sort of plants they should buy to attract butterflies into their school garden.

After keeping a diary of what they did the group all achieved their John Muir Discovery Award. An environmental award scheme focused around people gaining an awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. The students enjoyed doing the award so much that the school is looking to repeat it.



Wild Places
discover - explore
conserve - share

Boots, Bowsaws and Bandages

Young people from across York, over two days in August descended upon Sleeper Path, a small conservation allotment in New Earswick. They spent two fun filled days working on conservation activities and completing a basic first aid course run by St John Ambulance.

Day one consisted of the group building a recycled planter made from wood and plastic bottles. They also constructed and sited a bench which is now in regular use by all the site's visitors. Environmental art was another feature of the fun packed day. Collection of resources from around the site such as leaves, twigs and pebbles made for some great artwork.

The second day made way for a basic first aid course, held at New Earswick Folk Hall, which we are glad to say all young people who attended passed with flying colors.





River Ouse-ing with Rubbish

Students from St. John's University got stuck in only days after returning back from their summer holidays. Students signed themselves up to help the BTCV clean up the rubbish along the banks of the Ouse – in canoes!

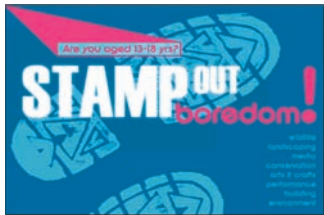
The group bagged over 16 sacks of rubbish and to celebrate were treated to a barbeque afterwards. "I've had so much fun and just laughed all day" said Shita. The

project was linked to the Youth ACE Volunteering scheme which doesn't just have to be about gardening or building bird boxes. Get creative and think of some original ideas which we can help you with, anything from training to funding can be part of your project.

It just goes to show how much can be done to improve a habitat with lots of fun and enthusiasm.

The rubbish was collected along the 4km stretch of river, with both a water based and bank collection team working together. The teams found some interesting items including a supermarket trolley, a dinghy, a rusty bike, two mopeds and a safe!

"I've had so much fun and just laughed all day"



Youth Achievement Awards

Youth Achievement Awards are a means of promoting personal and social development through non formal education and gaining accredited achievement awards. The BTCV now incorporates these awards into its ACE projects, so all young people regardless of ability complete one level of the award.

Levels of awards vary greatly, from the Youth Challenge

where you do 30 hours of activity or involvement, to your Gold Youth Achievement Award where you plan and lead your own activities.

Many levels of Youth Achievement exist so it has never been easier to get involved and do something which will be great fun but also look brilliant on your CV.

If you are interested in getting involved in a Youth ACE

project and work towards your Youth Achievement Award do not hesitate to contact our friendly staff on 01904 644300 or york@btcv.org.uk.



Huntington 6th Form



Since the last edition Huntington school 6th formers have returned to their Sleeper Path site in New Earswick to keep working on the transformation of this allotment. The site has been broken into many different areas including art, health, wildlife and social zones.

Since the start of term, one raised bed has been constructed, lined and filled; a compost bin has

been made and sited; extensive weeding and clearance has been done and digging of the new pond is now in progress.

Alongside the manual tasks an art team has been planning the layout for the site, they have been designing mosaics and sculptures which will be an integral part of the art zone alongside the central focus of the metal

tree. On October 15th the whole group funded by the ACE project travelled to Burton Agnes to look at the extensive grounds for inspiration to use on their own site. The day was enjoyed by all and they went home with ideas such as coloured gardens, life size chess, woodland walks and a maze in which many of the group got lost.

Joseph Rowntree School

A dedicated group of Yr 10 students led the exploration into New Earswick nature reserve. They moved through the undergrowth under BTCV supervision clearing the bird glade of brambles and saplings.

Brian Jardine, a Development Manager

for the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, met the group and gave a guided walk through the nature reserve and told of its origin. The nature reserve used to be an old brick works and many of the houses of New Earswick were made from these bricks, when the land was excavated the

puddled clay formed a natural pond and so it was decided to create a nature reserve on the site.

The group have progressed to planting bulbs in the school grounds and making bird boxes for the different bird species.

The next project is to plant butterfly friendly

species through New Earswick village to create a butterfly corridor.



Future Projects

The BTCV has many projects planned for the near future though it is always on the look out for new people and projects to get involved in. Here are a few groups and sites the BTCV shall be working on soon:

Acomb garden will be changed into a rainbow themed garden for residents and a fantastic habitat for butterfly and birds.

Also to commence shortly is the BTCV's work with Archbishop Holgate School who

will be creating bird boxes for the local community.

Burnholme Community College will be taking part in a school-wide competition to transform each of their outdoor spaces.

Easingwold Scouts are another group we shall be working with to improve their grounds. The scouts are now at the design stage and so far they have lots of exciting ideas.