

Hi everyone!

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Bradford Urban Discovery Project – a lottery funded partnership project run by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Bradford Council’s Countryside and Rights of Way team. We are launching our Spring Summer 2019 programme of free activities and events and hope that you will be able to attend some of our sessions. Please get in touch with us to give us some feedback about what we can improve on so that it meets the needs of you or your family.

You can contact Sarah - BUD project Officer: [sarah.goldsmith@ywt.org.uk](mailto:sarah.goldsmith@ywt.org.uk) 077557001271 or Peter – Community Nature Reserves Assistant: [Peter.Gurney@ywt.org.uk](mailto:Peter.Gurney@ywt.org.uk) 07741662663

### Nature Play

Our nature play sessions will be a mix of natural crafts, nature exploring and traditional wild play e.g. den building. Our sessions are suitable for children from 6 - 12 years old, we are not currently really strict about this age range but any children under 6 must be supervised by a parent or guardian and if you have children over 12 who want to join in then please get in touch as we have the scope to train up some young leaders. Outdoor footwear is important, please get in touch with us if we can help by lending out wellies so children can get involved. Please also be aware that there are often no toilets or indoor areas on most of our sites.

### Volunteering days for Adults

Our volunteering sessions are open to all adults and we will have a range of activities to suit peoples’ abilities and needs. During the volunteering sessions we will also run some nature walks and teach people some outdoor skills to help make natural greenspaces a more enjoyable experience. All sessions run from 10:00am to 2pm but please feel free to stay for as long as you want or join in on site if you can’t make the meeting place for 10:00am. Please bring some lunch if you are staying for the whole session. Outdoor footwear is important but please get in touch with us if this is preventing you from joining in as we have some spare boots we can lend out. There are toilets within a short walking distance of all our sites and we can show you where these are during the lunch break.

We have three BUD project areas : Gt Horton, Wibsey and Oakenshaw/Low Moor and are running activities on our greenspaces in these areas. We have scope to set up extra sessions so please contact us if you:

- want to get involved but none of the dates, times or age ranges work for you
- are interested in a daytime parent and toddler nature group for preschoolers
- are involved with a local school, play group, nursery, scouting or youth group who would like to find out more about how we could help you to use the greenspaces
- are part of a community organisation or workplace and want us to run a volunteering session or a team-building activity day on one of our sites.

### Great Horton

We have three greenspaces in the Great Horton Area

**Brackenhill Meadows** : A tucked away wild greenspace and a perfect spot to play and explore while also visiting the park and doing the shopping. This greenspace has meadows, a small wood and a stream and it connects Brackenhill Park with Tesco on Gt Horton Rd. You can access the space from Brackenhill school, from Brackenhill Park and from Westcroft Rd.

**Our volunteering days here run once a month (the third Wednesday of every month).** The tasks for summer will be litter picking, clearing the stream area and balsam bashing (pulling up an invasive plant called himalayan balsam) and cutting and raking the meadow. We are also improving the footpaths and entrance ways and working with the Friends of Brackenhill Park group to improve the access from the park. We have plans to create a nature play area in the woods and create signs to welcome people and give the greenspace an identity and we would appreciate any input from our volunteers and local residents to help with this.

#### Volunteering day dates:

**Wednesday's 10:00 – 2pm:**

15<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 21<sup>st</sup> August, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October

#### Nature play dates:

**Wednesday's after school 3:30-5:30pm** 10<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> July

**Summer holidays 12-4pm** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August

**Meeting place for all sessions:** At the entrance to St John C of E Church, on Westcroft Road (near Tesco Extra) <https://goo.gl/maps/fWXiw6yhwcqSjqAn9>

**Community day event: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 12-4pm** meet on site

### **Black Mountain and Poplar Grove – Great Horton**

These two greenspaces are adjacent to each other, a short walk from Great Horton Village Hall and Library and from Southmere Academy and Southfield Grange schools. Poplar Grove (we are open to suggestions for a better name for this site!) is a hillside, a mix of grassland and woodland with spectacular views over Bradford. Black Mountain has lots of play potential and a variety of wildlife habitats to explore.

**Our volunteering days here run once a month (the first Tuesday of every month) from 10:00am-2pm.** This summer, as well as tackling the litter and fly-tipping on both the spaces we want to maintain some short grass on a flat bit of land on Black Mountain for ball games, look into restoring the natural spring fed pond, cut and rake some meadows, and restore some of the hidden features, benches, woodland paths that have become overgrown. Later in the project we would like to set up two community herb gardens and seating areas and would love to hear what people would like to plant for cooking, medicine or a sensory experience.

**Volunteering day dates:** 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October

**Meeting Place:** Great Horton Library entrance, Beldon Road  
<https://goo.gl/maps/WvwZWkLUKwgosNUo9>

If you live close to the site please just come and find us on site from 10:30am onwards

### **Nature play dates:**

#### **Black Mountain – meet at the greenspace entrance on Withins Close**

**After school 3:30-5:30pm Wednesday's:** 8<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> September

**School Holidays 12-4pm Wednesday's:** 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> August

#### **Poplar Grove – meet at Gt Horton Village Hall and Library**

**After School 3.30-5.30pm Wednesday's:** 12<sup>th</sup> June, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> October 16<sup>th</sup> October

**School Holidays 12-4pm Wednesday** 14<sup>th</sup> August

**Community Day: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 12-4pm meet on site**

### Wibsey

**Reevy Mill Dam** is an old mill pond in the corner of Wibsey Park opposite Buttershaw High School, great for anyone wanting to see a wilder side to the park – keep an eye out for dragonflies flitting about in summer and if you're lucky you might catch the swans just as they land in the water.

**Our volunteering days here run once a month (the last Wednesday of every month) from 10:00am-2pm.** As well as keeping the area free of litter and taking out the thorny blackthorn saplings from the grass we will be surveying the pond over the summer to discover what life lurks beneath the surface and how this changes over the years as we manage the pond. Later in the year we will be dipping into the edges of the pond to control the large bulrushes and cutting back the willow that is moving further and further into the pond to create some more space and a chance for some different plants to flourish.

**Volunteering day dates: Wednesday's 10:00 – 2pm:** 29<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 28<sup>th</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> September

#### **Nature play dates:**

**After School Thursday's 3:30-5:30pm:** 13<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October

**School Holidays Thursday's 3.30-5.30pm:** 30<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 29<sup>th</sup> August

**Meeting place for all sessions:** Wibsey Community Gardens entrance, Wibsey Park

<https://goo.gl/maps/9CQrAPqvUESJPv5q7>

**Community day event : Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 12-4pm**

We are also working in partnership with **Wibsey Community Gardens** who not only have a great range of opportunities and training for volunteers but you can also buy fresh organic vegetables and enjoy a cup of tea in the café on a Wednesday or a Friday 10:00am -3:30pm.

### Oakenshaw and Low Moor

We are currently working on two greenspaces in Oakenshaw and Low Moor but hope to also start activities on an amazing, huge woodland and meadow that connects the area to Wyke as the project develops.

**Raw Nook**, also known as Railway Terrace, is the only area officially classed as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in South Bradford. The old Low Moor station has been replaced by a patchwork of birch woodland and heather, along with a large wildflower meadow and pond. We are working closely with Low Moor and Oakenshaw Conservation Group to restore the meadow to its former glory, as well as enhancing the state of the woodland and heathland for wildlife. We are also helping the group to look after the middle pond of **Toad Holes Beck**, the priority task is to try and remove the invasive plant, Himalayan balsam, which is growing so densely on the site that it shades out native British plants, reducing the variety of native plants and the wildlife that depends on them. Other tasks will be to improve the pond and footpaths on site and we will also put some welcome and information signs on both greenspaces this year.

**Our volunteering days here run once a month (the second Tuesday of every month) from 10:00am-2pm**

#### Volunteering day dates

**Tuesday's 10:00 – 2pm:** 14<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October

#### Nature play dates:

**After school Tuesday's 4pm -5:30pm:** 7<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> June 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> September, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> October

**Summer Holidays Tuesday's 12-4pm:** 6<sup>th</sup> August, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup> August

**Meeting place for all sessions : By the gate, at the end of Lockwood Street, just after the cobblestones** <https://goo.gl/maps/CzHutYeeW2ecPd3Z6>

**Community day event: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 12-4pm**

#### Also...

- Oakenshaw and Low Moor Conservation Group also meet and volunteer monthly on the third Saturday of each month at Albert Terrace at 10:00am – if you would like us to pass your details on to the group and join in with them then please get in touch.
- We have a fantastic **24 hour Bioblitz** event on the 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June, with all kinds of wildlife activities for all ages. Starting at 11:00 on the 29<sup>th</sup> and finishing at 11:00 am on the 30<sup>th</sup>!!

### Lastly...

We also have an exciting competition for children and young people running all summer:

**‘design a poster to try to stop people littering our community greenspaces’**

We have prizes to award for the best pictures and we will also turn the best pictures into real signs to put up on the BUD greenspaces, so get your pens and paper out and get designing! We welcome adults helping their children with the competition so feel free to collaborate.

Please bring entries to one of our volunteering or play sessions, scan and email them to me, drop them into Wibsey Community Gardens in an envelope labelled BUD or post them to Stirley Community Farm, Hall Bower Lane, Huddersfield, HD4 6RP

Thanks for reading 😊