



Green Angels Newsletter

Issue 1 - February 2023



Hello and welcome to our first Green Angels newsletter of 2023!

Hello and welcome! Green Angels began as a pilot project in Liverpool in 2013, and has come such a long way since then. The programme is the Land Trust's bespoke community engagement initiative where we are able to offer environmental training courses at an introductory level to everyone over the age of 18 in the local communities around our sites. We deliver Green Angels on suitable sites where we have the funding, which comes from a variety of sources from grant funds to internal site budgets. Sometimes our offer is quite small – perhaps two courses per year; in other areas we have been lucky enough to secure substantial funding to run comprehensive activities which embrace the full learning potential of our environment.

Our activities are free to join and our main aim is to help you to learn new skills, meet new people and change your future prospects – whether it be through starting a new hobby, outdoor volunteering or developing your career path. We can support you wherever you'd like to go. We wish you a very Blooming Future with Green Angels!

In the years that Green Angels has been running we have engaged with over 1,000 participants across more than 10 sites, from Kiveton in South Yorkshire to Port Sunlight on the Wirral; from Davy Down in Essex to Fort Burgoyne in Dover and Castle Hill in Salisbury. We tailor our courses to the landscapes and habitats on our sites, so that our Green Angels help to improve their surroundings whilst also learning and enriching their understanding of the world around them. Our courses cover the full range of outdoor possibilities: Countryside Management; Horticulture; Wild Wellbeing; Wildlife Identification Skills; Hedgelaying; Woodland Management; Bushcraft Skills; Hard Landscaping. Read on to hear in more detail about the work we do!

Find out what we've been doing at our different sites!



Castle Hill

At Castle Hill Country Park, Wiltshire, a Green Angels Wild Wellbeing course took place in Autumn 2022 with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), incorporating the 5 Pathways to Nature Connection and the 6 Ways to Wellbeing to include activities such as mindfulness, green woodworking and nature journaling to more physical conservation activities such as scrub clearance and tree planting. We ran a further 2-day course in Conservation and Land Management with WWT at the end of November/ beginning of December - this introductory course included species ID, basic tree science, soil science, function and roles of the woodland structure and managing habitat for conservation. Since the course, enthusiastic trainees have applied to volunteer with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and other environmental groups.



Activities in 2023:

This year we are hoping to run a course in Wildflower and Meadow Management and hold a Green Angels open day at Castle Hill Country Park. Please contact Rachel on 07468 367904 or email rachelcobb@thelandtrust.org.uk to find out more and register your interest.

Fort Burgoyne

At Fort Burgoyne, Dover, Green Angels and White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) ran a 3-week Habitat Management course in October 2022, where trainees were able to use the fantastic Fort Burgoyne facilities to take part in both classroom-based study and practical conservation. We learnt about wildlife surveying and habitat creation to complement the practical work on the site, including building a hibernaculum and scrub clearance. It proved very popular and everyone enjoyed meeting other people interested in the environment and conservation. Many trainees went on to do the next training session with Paul Holt from WCCP- a "Leading Guided Walks" training session around Fort Burgoyne in November. This involved a guided walk around the site and learning how to run a guided walk from pre-walk checks, leading the walk on the day to post-walk reflection.



Activities in 2023:

This year we are going to run an Introduction to British Bats session which will include a bat walk, presentation on bats and using bat detectors. We are also planning a 6-week Introduction to Beekeeping course, where trainees will learn about the colony, equipment, hive inspections techniques, extracting honey and much more. We are also planning for a Habitat Management course in the autumn. Please email rachelcobb@thelandtrust.org.uk or phone Rachel on 07648 367904 to find out more and register your interest.

Hassall Green

Down at Hassall Green Nature Reserve, Cheshire, we are gearing up for our final year of courses and site activities. The team are planning in a range of site activities and courses for 2023 from Wildlife gardening to Dry Stone Walling. During January and February we will be running our monthly Make A Difference Mornings and Community Drumming Circles which it would be fantastic to see you at. We are also aiming to arranging some willow workshops – if you are interested in coming along, please let Rebecca know ASAP. Additionally, on the 28th February, 1st and 2nd March we will be running a pond dipping platform course which will be ideal for anyone wanting to gain new skills in aquatic land management or further their interest in this subject. Don't forget that there are so many ways in which you can get involved with the site either through Green Angels activities, TCV's Green Gym or site management volunteering sessions. For more information please contact Rebecca at Rebeccamooney@thelandtrust.org.uk.



Activities in 2023:

We have an exciting year ahead at Hassall Green Nature Reserve. There are lots of activities and events planned including, Dry Stone Walling, Scything Workshops, Wildlife Gardening Courses, Wildlife Identification Courses, fortnightly yoga sessions and much more. If you are wanting to be kept involved with what's going on at Hassall Green Nature Reserve please ask Rebecca to add you to our trainee database for all the latest information.

Port Sunlight River Park

The Green Angels Project at Port Sunlight River Park comes to an end at the end of March, but we've had a great 18 months here!

At the end of 2022, we held a Fencing Course with TCV teaching trainees about different boundaries in nature. The group had a go at hedge-laying, constructing post and wire fencing and making hazel hurdles. We also held a Winter Wildlife Day, working with local organisations Welly Road Art Studios, Rise and Wild and the Friends of Port Sunlight River Park. Visitors created their own Willow Wreaths, explored the park, made their own lanterns and enjoyed some festive refreshments.



This year we have held a Winter Play Day with Wildair Adventure and a Guided Bird Walk with Cheshire Wildlife Trust. On the Play Day we created a nature orchestra, made pizzas on the camp fire, bracelets from wool and stars from wooden sticks!

Over the past few months, we have worked in partnership with TCV and the Friends of Port Sunlight River Park to develop The Oasis (area next to the Heritage Centre) into a wellbeing area that can be used by all visitors. We have removed the old fencing, which will be replaced with a wooden post and rail fence and the next steps are to install some raised beds for the new Friends Gardening Club.

Activities in 2023:

We have already run a Bird Identification course and a Reedbed Management course at the start of 2023 and we are running an ongoing project 'Development of the Oasis' with TCV and the Friends of Port Sunlight River Park group to develop a wellbeing area next to the Heritage Centre.

South Yorkshire

In June 22 we ran a very successful Wellbeing in Nature course at Kiveton Community Woodlands. Our participants took part in sessions including willow weaving, nature journaling and foraging, where we cooked some delicious foraged food with our trainer Hannah from TCV. The course proved so popular that TCV have continued to run monthly Wellbeing in Nature Sessions based at Kiveton. Later in the year, in November and December, we ran another very successful Hedge-Laying and Countryside Skills course at Bentley Community Woodlands with champion hedge-layer Jasper Prachek and TCV. Trainees learnt about tool maintenance and how to make stakes as well as having a tour of the woods, taking part in tree ID and then on to the strenuous task of hedge-laying. They all did a brilliant job and some are hoping to take part in the hedge-laying championships next year in the novice category!

Activities in 2023:

Following the success of our 2022 courses, we are hoping to run another Hedge-laying course at Bentley Woodlands this year and also a Bird Identification course at Kiveton Community Woodlands. The popular monthly Wellbeing in Nature sessions with TCV are still running at Kiveton Community Woodlands, with sessions such as willow weaving and foraging. Please contact Rachel on 07468 367904 or email rachel-cobb@thelandtrust.org.uk to find out more and register your interest.



Warrington

Our Monthly Volunteering Group have been very busy, helping to litter pick, coppice trees, sharpen tools and undertake ivy maintenance at Lingley Woods. The group have worked hard in snow, rain and sunny skies! We have held three Wellbeing Workshops and courses with Rise and Wild, giving trainees the chance to explore nature using their senses, taking time for themselves, learning mindfulness practices, and getting creative with natural materials

Activities in 2023:

We are currently planning for Green Angels activities in 2023, so keep an eye out on our social media pages and your emails for more information. You can also contact Mary on 07392 260215 or marybreeze@thelandtrust.org.uk.



Wellesley Woodlands

Our very first course at Wellesley Woodlands was a 3-day Heritage Restoration Course which saw Green Angels/ The Land Trust work with Bosence Associates assisted by Brimstones to put on the course which involved repairs and cleaning to a WWII Pill Box, improvements to the guttering/drainage and installation of a green roof. Having been hastily built for the single purpose of defence, these structures have lasted incredibly well. But this one was starting to become vulnerable to weathering and rambling vegetation. Trainees learnt about the installation of a green roof, laying a membrane to form a barrier, and planting low light grass seeds and wildflower seeds below the turf. Sedum plugs were inserted with the hope that in the spring it will bring a beautiful display for the adjacent canal path users.

Several of the enthused trainees went on to do the next Green Angels course at Wellesley Woodlands in Habitat Management with Clare at Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP), where they have already gained their very valuable NPTC Woodchipper training certificate, met new people and learnt lots of new skills, including tree ID and tool maintenance, site clearance and woodland management. Several trainees have already signed up to volunteer with BVCP at the Woodlands.

Activities in 2023:

Our 2022 courses were very popular and we are hoping to run a Pond Creation course in 2023 that will further enhance these lovely woodlands as well as other exciting, environment courses. Please contact Rachel on 07468 367904 or email rachelcobb@thelandtrust.org.uk to find out more and register your interest.



News - Courses at Beam Parklands and Davy Down

This year we will be running courses at a new site for Green Angels- Beam Parklands in Dagenham. We will also be restarting courses at Davy Down in Essex. We are hoping to run courses in scything, environmental education and reptile and bird identification. We are very excited to be expanding our Green Angels provision to these sites. Please contact greenangels@thelandtrust.org.uk to register your interest and for more information.



Thank you from the Green Angels!

Carolyn, Mary, Becci and Rachel would like to thank you all for your interest in our courses and the continued hard work and dedication you have shown in taking part in a very wide variety of activities. We hope you will continue to make new friends, engage with nature and learn new skills with us in 2023.

We would love to hear from you....

We will be issuing our Green Angels newsletter quarterly. Please let us know what content and features you would like to see in the newsletter, such as a photo gallery (with photos sent in by trainees) , case studies, quizzes and more by emailing us at greenangels@thelandtrust.org.uk. we would really appreciate your suggestions!