

You can Help Middlesbrough's Parks and Wildlife Sites to Thrive

Volunteering Opportunities with Friends of Parks and Green Spaces 2026

Across Middlesbrough there are active groups of volunteers who are busy caring for our local parks and green spaces, helping wildlife to thrive.

Friends groups, working in partnership with Middlesbrough Council and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, play a vital role in ensuring that these green spaces are beautiful and exciting places for people to enjoy.



Volunteering is a great way to meet people, learn new skills and have fun whilst giving something back to your local community!

There are many ways to get involved and a variety of volunteer roles are available

Practical conservation work - tree planting, repairing paths, restoring wildlife habitats, litter picking.

Recording wildlife - carrying out surveys of plants, birds or mammals so that they can be protected.

Behind the scenes - helping groups to run smoothly with project planning, admin, fundraising, grant applications or bookkeeping.

Promotion and campaigns - using creative skills of photography, videos, graphic design or social media to raise the profile of local wildlife.

Community events - helping people of all ages to enjoy our green spaces by assisting with delivering events, school visits and guided walks.

“It's a real opportunity to meet all sorts of people, make new friends, and learn many interesting things that you might never have thought about before! Don't worry if you think you might not have the right skills, or the physical ability to do very much. Genuine interest and enthusiasm go a long way, and there really is something for everyone” *Alan Liddle, Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces*

Friends of Bluebell Beck

There are two miles of the Blue Bell Beck corridor running through Acklam, with a lovely mix of meadow, marsh land and woodland copses. The Friends work hard to enhance the area for the native flora and fauna by carefully planting additional trees and wildflowers. They ensure that the paths and surrounding areas are kept in good condition for all to enjoy. The group meets every 11 days, alternating between Saturdays and Wednesdays, to carry out practical conservation tasks.

Secretary: Yvonne Neeve

Email: friendsofbluebellbeck21@gmail.com

Social Media: [Friends of Bluebell beck | Facebook](#)



Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces

Stainton Quarry, Kell Gate Green and Maelor's Wood form a network of green spaces in Stainton and Thornton. The Friends group work throughout the Parish to keep the green spaces safe and well cared for, for local people of all ages to visit and enjoy.

The group meet on Thursday mornings to carry out practical conservation and maintenance tasks. Quarterly meetings take place to plan work programmes and activities. They are especially interested in hearing from people who are interested in Maelor's Wood, with the possibility of setting up monthly weekend wildlife and conservation activities there.



Chair: Alan Liddle

Email: Alan Liddle 49liddle@gmail.com

Social media: [Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces | Facebook](#)

Friends of Fairy Dell

Fairy Dell is a wooded beck and park on the borders of Marton and Coulby Newham on the southern edge of Middlesbrough. The 42-acre park is mixture of woodland, parkland, ornamental lakes and meadows. The Friends group volunteers undertake projects to maintain and enhance the Dell. They also arrange events for the public and schools to enjoy this little gem in the heart of the community.

Volunteers meet on Tuesday mornings to carry out wildlife and maintenance work. Regular meetings are held at Langdon Square Community Centre on the second Wednesday of every month. There are also roles for people to assist with running the group, from minute taking and project management to helping to organise community events.



Chair: David Everitt

Tel: David Everitt 01642 300355 or 07813 020953)

Email: fofd.middlesbrough@gmail.com
team.everitt@gmail.com

Website: [The Friends of Fairy Dell](http://TheFriendsofFairyDell.com)

Social media: [The Friends of Fairy Dell Park](https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendsofFairyDellPark) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Facebook)

Friends of Nature's World

Nature's World was a well-known attraction in Acklam from 1992 until its closure in 2013. Many local people have fond memories of its network of small community gardens, orchards and meadows. A school has been built on part of the original site, but the gardens remain under the care of the friends group. The emphasis is on keeping the gardens natural but accessible, as a haven of tranquillity and for plant and animal wildlife.

The wildlife gardens are no longer open to the public, but visits can be arranged whether or not there is interest in volunteering. There are still tags on many of the trees which were sponsored in memory of loved ones. The activities are very sociable and relaxed with volunteering sessions on a Thursday and Saturday mornings.

Key contact: Anne Kelly

Email: Naturesworldfriend@gmail.com

Social media: [Friends of Nature's World](#) | [Facebook](#)



Friends of the Arty, Acklam

The Arty is a historic pond, path and strip of land running from the junction of The Prospect, Thackeray Grove and Walton Avenue to the east of Mill Hill playing field. The Friends of the Arty is a community group who are caring for the Arty with its rich history and wildlife, and helping others appreciate and enjoy it.

The group have regular work mornings to improve the site on both weekdays and Saturdays to enable a variety of people to take part. Members and volunteers of all ages are very welcome, whether to join in practical work, help organise projects and activities, survey wildlife or research local history



Chair: Sue Rowney

Email: friendsofthearty@outlook.com

Social media: [Friends of the Arty, Acklam](#) | [Facebook](#)

Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve

Linthorpe Cemetery is a Local Nature Reserve and working cemetery. Mature trees and open grassland areas can be seen with wonderful displays of wildflowers in spring. Seventeen species of butterfly have been recorded, and the cemetery is a great place to see a wide range of birds. The cemetery represents a microcosm of the history of Middlesbrough. Many of the "great and good" who developed the town are buried there. The Friends group seek to preserve and enhance the cemetery and to enable people to study and enjoy its rich local history and wildlife. The group meet weekly (Wednesday 9am -2pm). There are volunteer opportunities for people interested in local history, practical conservation and in assisting with our programme of walks, talks and other community events.



Secretary: Dorothy Humphreys

Email: [**dvjhumphreys656@gmail.com**](mailto:dvjhumphreys656@gmail.com)

Website: [**Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve**](#)

Social media: [**Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve | Facebook**](#)

Friends of Middle Marsh and North Ormesby Nature Spaces

A group for people who are interested in Middle Marsh Nature Reserve and the other places where nature finds a home in North Ormesby. They have occasional volunteer days to create wildlife habitats and share wildlife sightings on Facebook.

Key contact: Colin Conroy

Email: colintheconroy@yahoo.co.uk

Social media: [Friends of Middle Marsh & North Ormesby Nature Spaces](#) | [Facebook](#)



Middlesbrough Community Champions

A borough wide group of energetic volunteers who help revitalise open spaces. They carry out regular community litter picks for people of all ages and organise fun community events and environmental projects. Great for family groups to join in with.

Key contact: Jackie Young

Email: ccboro@outlook.com

Social media: [Community Champions Middlesbrough | Facebook](#) or [BoroChamps | Instagram](#)



Our Greenways (Nunthorpe)

A voluntary group who are committed to green and healthy living issues in and around Nunthorpe. In 2023, they restored a small woodland, called Triangle Wood, as a community woodland with paths and benches. New volunteers are welcome.

Key Contact: Wade Tovey

Website: [OurGreenWays](https://www.ourgreenways.org)

Email: info@ourgreenways.org

Social media: [OurGreenWays](https://www.ourgreenways.org) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ourgreenways)



Friends of Linthorpe

Friends of Linthorpe (FOL) is a community group, constituted in August 2024 with the aim of making Linthorpe a safer, cleaner, and greener place to live.

They co-ordinate 2 main activities:

- Bi-Monthly Litter Picks: FOL organises bi-monthly litter picks every across six key areas in Linthorpe: Roman Road Shops, Acklam Road Shops, Middlesbrough Little Theatre, Albert Park, Linthorpe Village, and Linthorpe Cemetery.
- Road Advocate Programme (RAP): A new initiative where self-nominated residents take responsibility for the cleanliness and safety of their individual street. Road Advocates act as local points of contact for issues like litter, fly-tipping, and anti-social behaviour.

As a group in its early stages, FOL has big plans to grow and expand its activities over time. They are always looking for more volunteers to get involved with their work and projects.

Key Contact: Secretary: **Joely Clark**

Email: friendsoflinthorpe@gmail.com

Social Media: [Friends of Linthorpe](#) (link to facebook group)



All Year Round Flower Patch

There are plenty of volunteering opportunities at The Flower Patch. They are a thriving small social enterprise based on a beautiful tranquil site off Sandy Flatts Lane, Acklam, TS5 7YN. They grow seasonal cut flowers using social and therapeutic practice along with delivering well-being activities.

Join them each Tuesday between March - September for some horticultural therapy (weeding, planting, cutting flowers along with other seasonal tasks and activities).

Contact: Nicky Morgan

Website: <https://allyearroundtheflowerpatchcic.co.uk/>

Email: theflowerpatch-cic@outlook.com

Social media: Facebook [@AllYearRoundTheFlowerPatchCIC](#)

Instagram [@AYRflowerpatchcic](#)



Boro Doughnut -Edible Forest Garden and Allotment

Come and help build community spirit in Berwick Hills
We follow permaculture principles, rooted in Doughnut Economics – an approach that's kind to both nature and people. Boro Doughnut is a friendly, collaborative group where people of all ages and backgrounds come together, so everyone is welcome. Whatever your interests or skills, they're appreciated here.

As well as gardening activities, we offer social sessions including arts and wellbeing activities. We hope to bring people together in this wonderful green space, where everyone can learn from one another.

Join us: Mondays, 11am–1pm and Thursdays, 10am–1pm
(Please check for the latest session times on website).



Contact: Emi Imai Mob: 07565909980

Website: www.borodoughnut.org

Email: borodoughnut@gmail.com

Social media: FB/Insta: **Boro Doughnut**

[**What'sApp Group**](#)

... or you could start your own green space project...

If you have an idea for a wildlife/community project for a green space in Middlesbrough which is not covered by an existing volunteer group, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is on hand to help you turn your ideas into action.

The Middlesbrough Parks and Green Spaces Forum

brings together volunteers from different “Friends Of” groups and Middlesbrough Council to pool ideas, expertise and resources to help make Middlesbrough a better place, for people and for wildlife.

For more information on the forum or volunteer opportunities contact Susan Antrobus, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust on

santrobus@teeswildlife.org or [01287 636382](tel:01287636382)





Wilder Community Green Spaces - A Practical Toolbox for Volunteer Groups

The toolbox is **free** to community groups and volunteers in the Tees Valley!

Find all of the guidance you need for making our green spaces into vibrant places where wildlife and people can thrive, in our 88 page, full colour guide.

Includes invaluable guidance on how to:

- Get started
- Create and care for wildlife
- Work safely
- Organise community events
- Engage young people
- Fundraise effectively
- Maintain momentum
- Harness social media

Please contact Susan Antrobus for more information

santrobus@teeswildlife.org or [01287 636382](tel:01287636382)



Want to get involved?

If you fancy helping one of the groups listed above, why not contact them to find out more? You can arrange to pop along to one of their sessions to meet other volunteers and see first hand what they get up to and how you can get involved! We hope you have a lot of fun on your volunteering journey, and want to thank you for helping nature and our communities to thrive!



Volunteers of the groups are registered with Middlesbrough Council. Middlesbrough Council recognise that volunteers are an important part of our communities and are committed to supporting them. More information is available on their

[website](https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/volunteering) or by emailing
volunteering@middlesbrough.gov.uk