



The European Year of Volunteering 2011



The CHWB Team at Groundwork West Midlands were successful in securing £37,000 from the Office of Civil Society to lead a national programme of environmental volunteer activity and best practice sharing as part of the European Year of Volunteering. This Activity took place during May and June.

We worked in partnership with the Wildlife Trust, Sandwell Valley, housing associations including Midland Heart and Coventry City Council to provide a calendar of environmental volunteering events across the West Midlands during May and June.

GROUNDWORK



European Year of Volunteering 2011



European Year of Volunteering – May 2011

DATE & TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT	FUTHER INFORMATION
Sunday 1 st May	Green Mayday	Priory Park, Dudley	Contact: Chris Rich Email: chris.rich@fopp.com	Various activities including planting
Monday 2 nd May				
	LAUNCH EVENTS: Birmingham Waterworks 60 minute makeover Coventry Growing Paradise Roadshow Stoke Hanley Forest Park Fun day Hawbush alleyway and park makeover	Waterworks Estate Birmingham St Barnables, Oliver Street, Paradise, Coventry, CV6 5EZ Cleveland Road Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4DX Hawbush Road, Dudley, DY5 3PN	Contact: Amit Dattani Email: amit.dattani@groundwork.org.uk Tel: 0121 530 5500 Contact: Judith Harris Email: Judith.harris@groundwork.org.uk Tel: 024 7658 2258 Contact Jennifer McIntosh Email: Jennifer.mcintosh@groundwork.org.uk Tel: 0121 530 5500 Contact: Henrik Krumesz Email: henrik.krumesz@groundwork.org.uk Tel: 0121 530 5500	60 minute makeover of abandoned area of land (10am – 1:30pm) Creating flower/herb pots with residents Grounds clearance and community games Volunteering with residents from the Hawbush community
Tuesday 3 rd May	Moseley Bog Volunteer Days Radway Meadows Fencing	Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve, Moseley, Birmingham Radway Meadows near the village of Radway, south of Kington. Entrance SP 366475. 9.4 ha (23 acres). Open access. Postcode: CV35 0.	Contact: Francesca Jarvis-Rouse Email: francesca.j@bbcwildlife.org.uk Tel: 0121 454 1199 Contact - Michael Drummond – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust 024 7630 8998	Come and volunteer: a hands-on experience for hands-on people! Please book in advance. 10:30am-3pm Transport is provided from Brandon Marsh Nature Centre at 9.00am with another pick-up on the way to the day's task, returning to Brandon for 3.30-4.00pm, weather permitting. Volunteers are advised to bring wet weather gear and a

In total during May and June, Groundwork West Midlands delivered **47 volunteer events**, providing **357 volunteer opportunities** equating to **157 hours of volunteer time**

Additionally partners helped to deliver a further **139 volunteering opportunities** during this period. We also teamed up with Groundwork Leeds who produced their own regional volunteering calendar working in partnership with the Wildlife Trust, BTCV and British Waterways



Activities ranged from creating raised beds, green space clearance, litter picks, planting, creating compost bins, painting fences to creating balcony flower boxes and food growing

A key part of the project was working with RSL's, helping them provide opportunities for residents to volunteer on local projects.

Throughout the project, we were able to see how important it was that the sites or areas where we held volunteer events were highly **visible** within the community, and that the activities **addressed local need**.

We therefore worked with housing officers and residents to help identify sites where we could help deliver a day of action, with initial volunteering activity from residents providing a catalyst for further community involvement.

We will build on case studies and examples of good practice in developing and delivering volunteer opportunities with RSL's by developing a webpage with the Neighbourhoods Green Project (as part of the National Housing Federation), enabling RSL's across England to access an informative online toolkit with hints and tips to help get residents involved in local social action projects.

Organisational links:

Groundwork West Midlands provided environmental volunteering opportunities for staff from Marks and Spencer, Sanctuary Housing, Volunteer England and Severn Trent Water as part of this project

With strong links made with Defra, the National Housing Federation and Volunteer England to help with project learning and dissemination, the legacy of the volunteering activity delivered will have a further reach

I was surprised at the level of community cohesion at today's event, was great fun!

Sam Mars – Senior Information and Policy Officer (Volunteer)

It's been fantastic to be part of this, I've had lots of fun, worked hard, got the kids involved and now we have some beautiful raised beds!

Resident at an event

There was a real sense of local action created here today, great to see so many residents out volunteering

Housing officer at Midland Heart

A fun community based event. It's great to get involved with other M & S colleagues, would love to come and help again!

Heather Yates – Marks and Spencer Plan A Team Leader

Bags of help from children

Pupils from Hawbush Primary School, Brierley Hill, ready to tackle the alley

Bin bags are at the ready at the alley, between Hawbush Road and Moor Street

Pupils clean up alley

Report by Louise Jew
Louise.jew@expressandstar.co.uk

Pupils from a Brierley Hill school got stuck into some litter picking to clean up a local "grot spot".

More than 20 children from Hawbush Primary stayed on after lessons to give their make-over to an alleyway next to the school, between Hawbush Road and Moor Street on Tuesday.

The pupils are also members of the Hawbush Project, helping the local community. The session was organised by Groundwork, the environmental charity, as part of the European Year of Volunteering, which aims to celebrate the unpaid work that

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