

Open Country Newsletter October – December 1999

Open Country Membership Renewals Due...

Membership costs £4 for individuals and £10 for care homes. This represents excellent value as it lasts for a year and entitles you to priority bookings, and 10% discounts at several local outdoor shops. Even if you are not a regular Open Country user, it could still be worth your while joining to take advantage of the discounts alone.

All Tooled Up...

Thanks to Nigel for giving us a set of tools for the conservation group. We are always on the lookout for more unwanted spades, saws and topplers etc. Ring David for details.

Cumberland Trail, Strid Wood

This is a new ½ mile woodland nature trail, with interpretation displays, for all the family and fully accessible to wheelchair users and pushchairs. An electric vehicle is available free of charge to view the trail. Starting from Strid Wood car parks, this easy trail winds through the wood with resting places and a viewing platform overlooking Barden Beck. Cartoons and exhibits on the trail tell the story of the wood and its wildlife. A fully accessible bird hide provides excellent opportunities to look at the animals and birds. The exhibition at Strid Barn explores life in Strid Wood. During the nesting season a video link shows live action from a nest. Park at the Strid Wood car park where there is a picnic area and toilets. Tea, coffee and ice creams are available at the gift shop. Further details on (01756) 710553.

Volunteers Wanted

Open Country relies heavily on the support of volunteers. Training is provided and includes MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme), First Aid and Disability Awareness. The amount of time put in is entirely up to the individual. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who might be interested in volunteering, please give David a call.

ADVISORY GROUP

The advisory group meets three times a year; and was established to allow regular service users, volunteers and relevant organisations to help in the development of Open Country. The next meeting is at Community House on Tuesday 2nd November, from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

The work is very varied, including tree planting, access work and bird box construction. The success of our group means that now we can expand the hours we work. From now on we will work from 10.00 am. until 4pm. on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. We will continue to meet at Community House, 46 East Parade, Harrogate, and can drop people home afterwards. Some jobs may be dirty, but all are suitable for most capabilities. Tools, training and transport are provided. Depending on weather conditions, work sites may have to differ from those advertised.

Congratulations to everyone who completed '*Conservation in Action*', the recent training course in conservation. Another course will run next year. If you have a learning or physical disability and would like to take part, please speak to David.

Volunteer Works Programme...

Tuesday October 5th, Wednesday November 10th, Wednesday December 15th. These weekday tasks will all involve woodland work at Quarry Moor SSSI near Ripon.

Saturday October 23rd. A visit to Askham Bog, where we will be digging small ponds in the peat to encourage insects.

Saturday November 20th. Heathland restoration on Strensall Common near York. Baked potatoes essential!

Saturday December 11th A return to Askham Bog, this time to restore the Fen by removing the encroaching scrub.