

# Help Middlesbrough's Parks and wildlife sites to thrive

## Volunteering Opportunities with Friends of Parks and Green Spaces Groups 2024

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

Friends groups, by working in partnership with Middlesbrough Council and the 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 putting something back into your local community.*

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

**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 group 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 practical conservation tasks.

### More info:

Secretary: Yvonne Neeve

Email: [friendsofbluebellbeck21@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbluebellbeck21@gmail.com)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofBlueBellBeck>

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsofbluebellbeck/>

## 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 a monthly weekend wildlife and conservation activities there.

### More info:

Chair: Alan Liddle

Tel: Alan Liddle 01642 598234

Email: Alan Liddle [49liddle@gmail.com](mailto:49liddle@gmail.com) or John Cooper [coopej5@outlook.com](mailto:coopej5@outlook.com)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1828523277389823/>



## 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 a 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, project management to helping to organise community events. As well as community campaigns, events and activities there are also social events.

### **More Info:**

Chair: David Everitt

Tel: David Everitt 01642 300355 (07813 020953)

Email: [fofd.middlesbrough@gmail.com](mailto:fofd.middlesbrough@gmail.com)

Website: [www.friendsoffairydell.co.uk](http://www.friendsoffairydell.co.uk)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsoffairydell/>

## Friends of Natures 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 special 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.

### **More info:**

Key contact: Anne Kelly

Email: [Naturesworldfriendsof@gmail.com](mailto:Naturesworldfriendsof@gmail.com)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FONWwildlifegardens/>



## Friends of the Arty, Acklam

The Arty is a historic pond and 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 help 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.

### More Info:

Chair: Sue Rowney

Email: [friendsofthearty@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofthearty@outlook.com)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1757858234396404/>

## 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 butterflies 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.

### More Info:

Secretary: Dorothy Humphreys

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

Website: <https://www.folc-nr.co.uk/>

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/FofLC/>



## 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.

### More info:

Key contact: Jackie Young

Email: [ccboro@outlook.com](mailto:ccboro@outlook.com)

Social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/communitychampionsmiddlesbrough>

<https://www.instagram.com/borochamps/>



## Friends of Middle Marsh & 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.

### More Info:

Key contact: Colin Conroy

Email: [colintheconroy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:colintheconroy@yahoo.co.uk)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/middlemarshfriends>

## 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.

### More info:

Key Contact: Wade Tovey

Website: <http://ourgreenways.org/>

Email: [info@ourgreenways.org](mailto:info@ourgreenways.org)

Social media: <https://www.facebook.com/ourgreenways>





## Friends of Stewart Park

Stewart Park is an historic public park in Marton, south Middlesbrough. It covers approximately 120 acres, with open parkland lakes, ponds, woodland and arboretum. The Friends groups carry out seasonal gardening work in the Rose garden.

### More info:

Key Contact: Craig Holmes (Park Manager)

Email: [craig\\_holmes@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:craig_holmes@middlesbrough.gov.uk)





...or start your own green space project!

If you have an idea for a wildlife or community project on a green space in Middlesbrough which is not covered by an existing volunteer group the 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 groups and Middlesbrough Council to pool ideas, expertise and resources so that Middlesbrough is a better place, for people and our wildlife.

**For information on the forum or volunteer opportunities contact Susan Antrobus, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust [santrobus@teeswildlife.org](mailto:santrobus@teeswildlife.org) or ring 01287 636382.**



**Wilder Community Green Spaces**  
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TEES VALLEY

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**The tool box is free to community groups and volunteers in the Tees Valley, contact Sue Antrobus for information**



# How to get involved

**If you fancy helping one the Friends groups why not contact one of them to find out more? You can arrange to pop along to one of their meetings or outdoor activities to meet volunteers to see first hand what they do and how you get involved.**

**Volunteers of the groups are registered with Middlesbrough Council. Middlesbrough Council recognise that volunteers are an important part of our communities and they are committed to supporting them. More information is available on their website <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/community-support/volunteering-for-middlesbrough/> or by emailing [volunteering@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

