

Free Tree Scheme

Derbyshire County Council and the Forestry Commission have given out over 3,000 trees and shrubs as part of the 2009/10 Free Tree Scheme. Schools, parish councils, community groups and individuals were invited to make a claim and plant them, with community schemes and schools allowed up to 250 trees whilst private individuals could request up to 150. The scheme aims to raise awareness of the importance of planting trees and the benefits they can bring by creating shelter and food for wildlife, improving the appearance of an area and helping reduce pollution in built up areas.

Nationally there is 11.8% woodland cover but in the East Midlands which includes Derbyshire, it is as low as 5.3%. Mineral extraction, agriculture and building development in the past 50 years are blamed for the low figure. Shipley Country Park along with Shand House at Matlock served as collection points for the scheme. The scheme runs each year and people need to apply in advance. For more information about the 2010/11 scheme or to be placed on the mailing list contact: Stephanie Burkinshaw, Derbyshire County Council, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 3RY stephanie.burkinshaw@derbyshire.gov.uk

Volunteer update

Our enthusiastic volunteers have continued to work hard despite the cold weather. Tasks have included fishing peg improve-ments, hedgelaying, path clearance work, bramble bashing and plantation thinning. From October to December 2009, they carried out over 700 hours of work in the park. As always, their help and efforts are greatly valued.



Winter Events for 2010

**Sunday 14 February
10am-12.30pm and
1.30pm-4pm
WHICH WAY NOW**

Confused, disorientated and lost? Wondering which way up the map should be, and what a compass is for? Then book yourself onto Shipley Country Park's beginner's guide to map reading. Meet: Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre. Equipment: Packed lunch and drinks. Cost: £6. Information contact: Shipley Country Park 01773 719961 **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** Suitable for all.



To book contact Call Derbyshire 08456 058 058

Centre Improvements

Towards the end of 2009 work commenced to extend the Ramblers Coffee Shop kitchen and to update the electrics throughout the Visitor Centre. These works have now been completed. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to our visitors during these refurbishment works.

Sunday 21 February 1pm-3pm BOXING CLEVER

Join the Countryside Service, as part of National Nestbox week, making new homes for birds for you to take home and put up in your garden. All materials and equipment provided. £5 per box (when booking please state the number of boxes you want to make not the number of people taking part). There are 4 sessions: 1pm-1.30pm, 1.30pm-2pm, 2pm-2.30pm, 2.30pm-3pm. Meet: Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre. Cost: £5 per box Information contact: Shipley Country Park 01773 719961 Children MUST have an accompanying adult, only 2 children per adult. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** Suitable for all.

FREE

Newsletter Winter 2009/10

Shipley Country Park Visitor Centre



DERBYSHIRE
County Council
Improving life for local people

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L to r: Walking in the park, Nature Club outing, enjoying the wayfaring challenge and tree planting for Tree O'Clock.

Welcome to Shipley Country Park's Winter Newsletter

Winter really has arrived with a vengeance, our first white Christmas for years! Read on to see what's been happening.

Help provided during the adverse weather

Although the park looks wonderful covered in snow and many people have visited us to play in the snow on sleds and for nice winter walks, the weather conditions can affect people in more serious ways, something that Social Services staff are more than aware of. Staff from our Countryside Service have been working non stop since December 21 in the snowy, icy conditions to transport home helps and other vital assistance out to vulnerable and at-risk people. They suspended nearly all normal countryside services to use the fleet of four-wheeled vehicles to get help out. So far they have helped hundreds of people needing critical care, medication and other necessary care.

Changing Places

A Changing Places facility has recently been installed in Shipley Country Park, the first in a country park in the UK. It is also the second to be completed in the county. Changing Places facilities are different to standard disabled toilets with extra features and more space meeting the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, plus other serious impairments such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis or an acquired brain injury. They often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets comfortably.

Presently there are very few in the UK, so the Council is actively seeking to promote the development of more facilities through our own sites or by working with the private sector to encourage their inclusion in existing or new developments. For information about Changing Places please visit Mencap's website: www.mencap.org.uk/changingplaces

Calling 7-11 year olds!

Shipley Country Park's Nature Watch Club is due to restart in March 2010. The club is for children aged 7 - 11 years old, and we meet for 2 hours, one Sunday afternoon per month, March - December (except August). Nature Watch Club is a great way for local children to meet new friends and learn about the park and nature through fun games and activities, such as pond dipping, bug hunts, nature trails and arts and crafts.

It costs £9 to register for the year, that's only £1 per session! We usually have a trip in September for which an extra charge applies but is, of course, optional. Places are limited so join up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

If your child is interested in joining, or you would like further information, please contact the Visitor Centre 01773 719961 or visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk. Rangers who lead the Nature

Watch Club are registered leaders with the Wildlife Trust and have been CRB checked.

Find your way!

Shipley Country Park has an extensive wayfaring course and we have recently produced a new leaflet for members of the public to learn all about it. Wayfaring packs are available from the Visitor Centre for only 50p and will provide everything you need for a fun activity in the park.

Wayfaring is like orienteering only the posts are permanent. Simply put, all it requires is for you to find a number of posts with a wayfaring map and record the letter on each post to prove you have located it. It can be used to add interest to a walk, as a treasure hunt with a difference or for a more serious competition. Wayfaring is suitable for people of all ages and abilities as you can decide how far you want to walk by setting your own route. Countryside Service staff are on hand at the Visitor Centre if you need any assistance with getting started, so why not have a go in 2010?

Look out for our 'Points, Posts and Prizes!' event in September which provides an introduction to wayfaring and then you can take part in a family friendly competition to see how many points you can score in 1 hour.

Tree O'Clock

In December 2009 volunteers from the local community helped plant 1089 trees at Shipley Country Park as part of a nationwide attempt to break the world record for the most trees planted in 1 hour.

The record attempt was initiated by the BBC Breathing Spaces project, as part of National Tree Week, and thousands of events took place across the country. Unofficially the BBC's estimates suggest that as many as 500,000 trees may have been planted with lasting benefits for native wildlife, people and the environment for generations to come. Entries are still being counted by Breathing Places, so far over 230,000 trees were definitely planted during the Tree O'Clock hour. So not a Guinness World Record, but still an incredible achievement!

Seeds to Sawdust

December 2009 saw the Seeds to Sawdust woodland festival taking place. On the Saturday (Tree Dressing Day) there was an arts and crafts day creating items to dress trees close to the Visitor Centre, as a celebration of them and their uses, this was run by staff from the Green Health Enterprise, a local organisation, based at Shipley, who work with people with mental health issues. As the photograph shows, the completed tree was certainly dressed to impress! The second day provided people with the opportunity to make a besom, a recycled wood picture frame, bird feeders and have a go at willow weaving. There were other stalls and activities including Forest Schools, Bushcraft skills and wood carving.

