

WIGAN BOROUGH IN BLOOM

IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP THE COUNTRY

The nation's biggest tidy-up, the Great British Spring Clean, is just five weeks away.

Over the weekend of 2-4 March 2018, join thousands of others taking part and help clear up the rubbish that lies around us.

Whether you're planning to go at it alone, or join in with one of the hundreds of organised events across the country, register today for the Great British Spring Clean and together we can make a difference.

Full details at <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-britishspring>

RHS GREENING GREY BRITAIN COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR 2018 – APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Is there a grey space in your community that you'd love to transform into a green space for people and the environment? Do you have a community garden idea that could bridge the generation gap? In 2018 we're continuing to connect experienced community gardeners with young green thumbs as part of Greening Grey Britain. We're offering a number of groups expert hands-on support from our Community Outreach team, plus up to £500 worth of plants and materials – to help communities bring their green visions to life.

Please visit the RHS website to find out more about the programme, links to supporting information and how to apply for support.

Groups must take part in Britain in Bloom (either at a regional or national level), It's Your Neighbourhood, be a registered RHS Affiliated Society or part of the RHS Campaign for School Gardening. Projects must be partnership based and intergenerational, so applications should demonstrate how young people will be involved and who else will be taking part.

This year we're asking applicants to show how their transformations would fit in with at least one of the following four garden themes. If your project idea addresses more than one of these, please describe the links and detail of how it would work:

- Create a space that will help to address local issues caused by climate change.
The RHS Gardening in a Changing Climate report is a great place to start!
- Create a garden to help promote better health and wellbeing
- Create a productive space with fresh, seasonal food to share and enjoy with others
- Create a space for wildlife and to boost local biodiversity.
Get some inspiration from Wild About Gardens

Want to solve another problem in your community through the power of plants? Then tell us about it!

Please submit your application by the **14th February** via the online application form linked from the website. Guidance notes are also available on the website to help you with your application but if you have any queries, please contact us at communities@rhs.org.uk

COMMUNITY TREES FUND

The Tree Council is the UK's lead charity for trees and works in partnership with communities, organisations and Government to make trees matter to everyone. The Community Trees Fund, which forms part of the Council's annual Community Action Programme, opened for applications on 4th December 2017 with new guidance notes and application forms.

The programme funds trees of appropriate species, size and numbers. Groups may apply for the costs up to four fruit trees on semi-vigorous, vigorous and very vigorous rootstocks.

Applications must be made on behalf of a community group which must be a charity/not for profit organisation.

Children under the age of 16 years must be actively involved in the planting process.

Planting must take place on publicly accessible land, usually in public or charity ownership.

The community group must be able to raise 25% of planting costs.

Planting must take place during National Tree Week (or as soon as possible afterwards).

Hedge plants, willow and retrospective costs will not be funded.

Applications will be accepted up to 31 March 2018.

<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants/community-trees>

SURVEY SEEKS TO RESEARCH VALUE OF URBAN GREEN SPACES TO OLDER PEOPLE

Multi-disciplinary research project, Green Infrastructure and the Health and wellbeing Influences on an Ageing population (GHIA), is running a survey that seeks to capture arts practice specifically engaged with issues of ecology, biodiversity, geographies and uses of green (nature) and blue (water) spaces. The project aims to better understand the benefits and values of urban green spaces to older people and how these spaces can be an important part of healthy ageing in urban areas.

GHIA members include The University of Manchester, the University of Salford and Manchester Metropolitan University. Funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council under the Valuing Nature programme.

Findings from the survey will form part of the written outputs of the project and will inform future research. All data will be anonymised prior to publication. Click on the link to complete the survey questionnaire.

<https://apps.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/surveys/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=94223115&Preview=true>

FRIENDS OF THREE SISTERS

Have a work morning on the second Sunday of each month, meeting at 10 am in the car park. Any amount of time would be appreciated. If you are not a gardener but would like to learn the group can offer help and advice and practical experience: visit www.friendsof3sisters.org.uk

GOLBORNE IN BLOOM

Golborne in Bloom is welcoming volunteers.

They meet regularly in a bid to get the area looking its best

More details from www.facebook.com/GolborneinBloom

BOROUGH IN BLOOM

This opportunity is offered to:

- Individuals
- Schools
- Businesses
- Community groups

In Bloom allows you to get involved all year round involvement in :

- General cleanliness: litter picking; fly posting and graffiti removal, wash street names plates and traffic signage
- Install In Bloom planters and plants
- Plant up floral beds and landscaping areas with summer blooms (annuals)
- Plant salad, vegetable and herbs (part of 'incredible edible' planting)
- Early weed control treatments
- Remove moss growth from street furniture

For further details/to volunteer visit <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Volunteering>

STANDISH IN BLOOM/INCREDIBLE STANDISH

Standish in Bloom/Incredible Standish has a working party that meets every Monday at 4.30pm near the Three Dishes close to the Market Cross in Standish. We tidy the planted areas, weed and sweep street sides and edges, plant flowers, vegetables and herbs and paint the seats around the village, plus lots of other jobs.

The first Monday of every month Standish in Bloom/Incredible Standish meet at 6 pm in The Globe Inn Standish.

For more information contact Tony Jones: Anthony-jones52@sky.com

'FRIENDS OF' GROUPS

'Friends of Groups' are local community-based volunteers, who need your help to keep our parks and green spaces maintained for the enjoyment of all. There are 17 groups across the borough that does things like:

- Fundraising and grant applications
- Nature conservation
- Horticulture
- Clean ups and painting
- Health walks
- Events

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Volunteering>

GARDENING HELP

Gardening help is needed to help keep the Haigh Hall Walled Kitchen Garden looking its best.

The garden is open Monday's and Thursdays throughout the year and volunteers may attend as often and for as long as they wish. No gardening knowledge and experience is needed. Produce and plants are made available to the volunteers for a donation to funds which helps to pay for seeds and equipment. For more details email haighwalledgarden@virginmedia.com

APPLEY BRIDGE IN BLOOM

There is an exciting new project at Forest Fold in Appley Bridge which we are calling Edible Appley Bridge. 10 new fruit trees were planted at the beginning of April to form a mini-orchard, and 5 raised beds were installed on the 16th May. We shall be inviting school and uniform groups to get going, growing vegetables, herbs and soft fruits with us which will be made available to local residents when ready.

Any offers of help - regardless of level of ability - from local residents will be welcomed. If you would like more information or to make arrangements to visit, please contact Eileen at brileen.longmore@blueyonder.co.uk or look at our Facebook, Twitter or Community Book pages

SHEVINGTON IN BLOOM

Need more help to maintain the beds and planters to the existing high standard which is for the benefit of everyone in the village. New volunteers can do as much or as little as they like; an hour a week for a few months of the year would greatly help this organisation to continue. If you are able to help ring 01257 401997 or email shevingtoninbloom@yahoo.com

THE FRIENDS OF HAIGH WOODLAND PARK ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS...

We are a group of like-minded people who came together a few years ago to breathe new life into a much loved area of Wigan which was beginning to look very tired and neglected. Over the last few years we have renovated the original crazy golf course and staff it entirely by

volunteers; our aim is to open every weekend and school holidays from Easter until the end of October.

The park has been transformed over the last couple of years and, if you would like to be a part of that, why not come and join us and help us to play a part in continuing this transformation. Although we have a wide range of talent and skills, anyone wishing to join us would be most welcome as we are always looking for new ventures. Contact Cora on 01257 422377