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networkbulletin

SPRING 2022

FOR TCV SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITY NETWORK



In this issue: flower power in Yorkhill



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WELCOME to the latest Network Bulletin from The Conservation Volunteers in Scotland. We’re living in very uncertain times, so all the more reason for people to come together for mutual support and to take part in activities to improve their own health and wellbeing, plus that of their local communities and to provide welcoming havens for nature and people.

This issue of the Bulletin features the usual mix of groups and organisations belonging to TCV’s Community Network, plus some of TCV’s own activities. We highlight volunteers enhancing greenspaces in the contrasting environments of Livingston new town, a former opencast mine in Fife, Kyle of Lochalsh in the Highlands, and inner-city Glasgow. We aim to support more such initiatives in the year ahead through the **Glasgow Bio-Enhancement Programme** and **Community Support Days** elsewhere – can we help your greenspace project?

Whatever your surroundings we can all **Make Space For Nature** such as providing a pond, or planting trees as NatWest volunteers have recently done. Likewise, the **Grow and Learn in Nature Award**

encourages people of all ages to garden for nature. Diverse communities can also get involved, an example being the Gilded Lily group in Govan who joined the **Source to Sea Litter Quest** to help tackle marine plastic pollution where most of it begins – in our towns and cities. And creating opportunities for unemployed young people is the aim of **Community Jobs Scotland (CJS)**, which is supporting several trainees with TCV. We find out how two of them have been getting on during their placement with us at the Seven Lochs Wetland Park.

As well as practical conservation and community gardening activities, spring is a great time to take part in Citizen Science, such as the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year. This is called phenology and you can get involved through **Nature’s Calendar**.

Discover more on all of the above initiatives in the following pages.



A neighbourhood in Glasgow's West End is benefitting from the actions of its green-fingered residents, says **Fiona MacLeod**, Chair of Yorkhill Green Spaces:

Yorkhill Green Spaces (YGS) formed as a community gardening group in an urban area of Glasgow where few people have their own gardens, and the public green spaces were in need of some TLC. Our initial aim was to provide clean, safe, pleasant spaces for the community to enjoy spending time in.

After becoming a registered Scottish charity in 2017, we set out to improve two small parks, Overnewton Park and Cherry Park, by encouraging local volunteers to join us in litter picking and planting. We quickly gathered a diverse group of enthusiastic members all willing to apply their various skills, suggest ideas and learn from one another. We tend to meet every second Sunday, but activities vary throughout the year. We are passionate about improving habitats to support

biodiversity within the city and recording the wildlife we find. We strive to ensure that sustainability and climate resilience are key considerations in all our activities, including only using peat-free compost. We were delighted to recently win the [Keep Scotland Beautiful and NatureScot 2021 Pollinator Friendly Award](#).

During the last 2 years many of our members have become very enthusiastic species spotters while out walking and appreciating the neighbourhood. Our Yorkhill Green Spaces wildlife list currently has over 1,060 species, including over 250 flowering plants, 215 moths and butterflies, and an impressive 29 types of bees.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have had to adapt our ways and overcome difficulties. We got used to working individually, holding Zoom meetings or interacting via social media, and storing all our tools and equipment in our living rooms and balconies. As restrictions eased, there was even more enthusiasm



from the community to improve our local green spaces, so we took on responsibility for improving another green space, Yorkhill Park, with a focus on biodiversity enhancement.

We have created native wildflower strips by sowing wildflower seeds and planting pollinator-friendly bulbs and wildflower plug plants. We've also planted native hedging, trees and pollinator-friendly herbaceous perennials. We've installed insect houses, bird nest boxes, bat boxes and solitary bee hotels. All three parks are within one of [Buglife's mapped B-Lines](#) and therefore enhance the network of stepping stone sites for pollinators to move across the city.

In 2021 we began managing one hectare of grassland in Yorkhill Park as a cut and lift wildflower meadow, leaving 30-40% uncut each year for hibernating insects and weevils. The uncut area will be rotated each year. In addition, yellow rattle seed was sown to reduce the dominance of grass, and native wildflower plugs were planted. We have worked with TCV volunteers to sow a woodland wildflower seed mix along the footpaths in Yorkhill Park and are now

starting to see the wonderful results, and we hope to work again with TCV in the year ahead.

Through community brainstorming events we are continually updating our aims and goals and developing mini projects. Over the next few months we plan to create rain gardens to reduce surface flooding after storms, and will complete phase two of our sensory garden, as well as creating new meadow strips in all three parks.

Our small, but very friendly Committee is looking to recruit more members to help plan and deliver community events and projects. Please get in touch for more information.

The benefits provided by YGS to the local environment are immense, but equally the benefits to the mental and physical health of everyone involved is incredible and there is a new sense of community. We would like to thank everyone who has made this possible.

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James in the workshop. ALI LAWSON

Our CJS trainees

Community Jobs Scotland (CJS) is an employability programme delivered by SCVO which works with voluntary sector employers like TCV to create job opportunities for unemployed people aged 16 to 29. The programme has a focus on those most disadvantaged in the labour market. Two of our CJS trainees, **James Hamilton** and **Rebecca Ramage**, are getting near the end of their 6 month placement with us at the **Seven Lochs Wetland Park**, so how have they been getting on?

James Hamilton

James has been working with **Ali Lawson**, Senior Project Officer, who says: 28 year-old James has taken part in a wide variety of environmental conservation tasks with us and has learned a lot. He has undertaken a host of training courses including Lantra Awards for Brushcutters/Trimmers, Tractor Use with Attachments, Hand Held Hedge Trimmer, Ride-On Mowers, and Woodchippers, plus First Aid at Work, Bumblebee Identification and Fungi and Lichen surveys.

James has been slowly growing into the role of leading small groups on site with myself, working with the Seven Lochs Training and Employability Group and our Seven Lochs Volunteers Group. He has also been helping lead COP 26 Volunteer Ambassador events and TCV's Glasgow Midweek Group. And James has also helped

facilitate SQA training and learning sessions with the Training and Employability Group.

Throughout his time with us James has grown in confidence and has been a valued member of the Seven Lochs Team. Looking to the future we have been working closely with James on conservation job search websites looking for suitable vacancies and helping him fill out application forms. We have also been assisting him prepare for the challenges and changes to his normal routine which a full-time job would involve. We hope the CJS traineeship at our Seven Lochs project will help him achieve his goal of employment in the conservation sector.

Rebecca Ramage

Here, Rebecca describes her CJS experience: My placement with TCV began after I heard about the position from a volunteer, so I applied through the Kickstart

programme and have since been welcomed by the staff, who have made my experience inspiring.

My role began as a Project Assistant working with Ali Lawson and the Seven Lochs Training and Employability Group. This group meets through the week, working primarily in practical conservation. More recently I have been assisting Claire Brady, Senior Project Officer, and her various projects involving outdoor education and Citizen Science. Our day-to-day work can range from Forest School training to wildlife surveying and nature-based crafts. This has been a great opportunity to work with sometimes challenging but always rewarding schools and young people.

I felt the traineeship was truly tailored to meet my individual needs with no shortage of encouragement. Training opportunities have always been made available and I have received Lantra Awards in Brushcutters/ Trimmers and Ride-On Mowers, as well as First Aid at Work. .

During my placement I've been given time to work with different projects allowing me to better understand the different approaches that other Senior Project Officers have when working with groups.



Rebecca battening a shed roof. ALI LAWSON

I have also been lucky to work with Grant Fleming at Carrongrange High School where I got to use the Makaton method of communication and aid the students using power tools to assemble birdboxes. At Gartnavel Hospital I worked with Camilo Brokaw to understand the power of mindfulness in gardening which can have a real benefit to mental and physical health.

As social media is a huge part of promoting any organisation I really wanted to get involved in this and have been posting for TCV whenever possible. This has also allowed me to practice using Canva and through these messages engage with potential new volunteers.

During my time at TCV I really wanted to gain skills organising events and activity sessions and to help deliver these. Public speaking was something that I struggled with throughout university and so I hoped that gaining these skills would increase my confidence to do this and more. I was supported by colleagues who signposted me to events and opportunities and helped me forward in this regard.

I was able to help organise the first COP 26 Conservation Legacy event with Craig Young that took place at Dawsholm Park and gained experience leading groups with Claire Brady. All of which has added to my independence and goals to aim high and strengthen my ambition within the organisation. I am now in the process of contacting care homes to work with vulnerable adults. I am quite passionate about doing this, as over the Covid lockdown I, like everyone else, experienced what it was like to be isolated, and wanting to make sure older adults have engaging activities whilst staying safe in their care facilities. As I finish my CJS placement I believe I have strong skills to take forward and feel ready to take the next steps in my professional career, which is all thanks to the friendly team at TCV.



Moorland path volunteers.

Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust supports community-led projects which help to deliver economic, social and environmental improvements in the Lochalsh area, in the beautiful North-west Highlands. Here, **Heather Beaton**, Trust Ranger, explains their activities on the area of land known locally as the ‘Plock’.

In 2019 the Trust gained ownership of the 30hectare Plock on the outskirts of Kyle village, close to the Skye Bridge. Since then, we’ve been working together with the community to create a parkland which is positively welcome to all. Covid delayed the start of some of our projects, most severely on our Community Shed, but we’ve kept our enthusiasm levels high and shifted to outdoor events where possible, providing

members of the local community with plenty of opportunities to get involved and discover more about the nature on their doorstep.

By creating paths, building bridges, running events, and carrying out habitat work we are creating a place that will hopefully show resilience through an uncertain future. Knowing the importance of individuals being able to connect with the outdoor environment has led to us developing a Forest School on site, and we’ll soon be running Branching Out sessions to enhance the mental health of participants. Branching Out activities might involve path clearing, vegetation work, building nest boxes and myriad other tasks depending on the interests of the individuals involved.



The beach clean rubbish included the 'usual suspects' with plentiful plastic, mainly marine fish farming litter. Some of the affected areas were probably not cleaned since before the Skye Bridge was built in 1994, so we found lots of plastic that would shatter as soon as it was touched, milk bottles being especially guilty of this. And a lot of plastic along the shore was being incorporated into the soil and the roots of plants – horrible! We'll do an annual beach clean from now on and try to keep on top of things better.

Our wildflower meadow is managed by annual cutting, and we run a scything festival in August aimed at introducing people to this environmentally friendly management technique. Over the coming months we're hoping to start a small food growing project and to improve accessibility within the site. On the Plock, whatever your ability you can always find somewhere away from the busyness of daily life.

The year ahead will be full on, with a new Tree Trail opening in spring, and a huge restructuring of the freshwater habitats aimed at creating space for increased biodiversity. A 'Freshwater Day' in early April will celebrate this in collaboration with other local environmental charities.

Our group of volunteers meets weekly and undertakes a huge variety of work, from beach cleaning, path making, tree planting and the installation of features such as our outdoor exercise equipment and signage. Regular volunteers find satisfaction in the results of team working and the comradery that comes from seeing a project through together. New volunteers are always welcome, but the Plock is also a welcome stop-off point for visitors on the way to Skye, an opportunity to stretch your legs and relax awhile in nature.



Scything the wildflower meadow.



Plockton Primary School Nursery pay a visit.



▲ *The multipurpose wood circle is part of our outdoor gym and was originally designed as step-up blocks, placed at different heights to encourage participation. The non-slip logs are set at a distance just reachable so you can walk around on top of them. They also make a lovely seating circle for enjoying a storm kettle or fire pit in the middle, and we're currently saving to purchase a tentipi which will fit over the circle and provide shelter in rough weather.*

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Grow and Learn in Nature



Members of Kennoway Community Shed in Fife receiving their GLiN Award.

Through its GLiN Award, the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (The Caley) is encouraging people to garden for nature, as **Jean Gavin**, Grow and Learn Development Officer, explains:

Grow and Learn in Nature (GLiN) is our project-based award, helping you make your outdoor space more nature friendly. Through practical learning, it teaches you to garden in a way that is beneficial to

both you and the natural world around you. Demand for GLiN continues to grow, understandably in response to current global issues such as biodiversity and habitat loss. GLiN offers you easy, practical solutions to mitigate these challenges at a local level, offering you a deeper connection with the natural world. GLiN is open to anyone of any age and ability and it can be undertaken individually or as a group.



grow. and learn in nature

Check out our [webpage](#) to find out more about the GLiN Award. You will also find some recent examples of GLiN portfolios to inspire you to get involved.

Supporting our projects and participants

Our free online drop-in Zoom sessions give you the opportunity to find out more about GLiN and how to register your group. Sessions run each month and are open to anyone who is interested in delivering GLiN or participating in the Award.

Interested?

Then email:

caleygrowandlearn@gmail.com
to book your place.



Source to Sea Litter Quest with Gilded Lily

A recent clean-up in the heart of Glasgow is helping tackle marine litter, as explained by **Eilidh Call**, Senior Project Officer for Citizen Science:

I've been working with **Kirsty Crawford** from the **Marine Conservation Society (MCS)** to plan some joint activities for the **Gilded Lily** organisation in Govan, Glasgow. Our first event with a group of women and children was held in the local Elder Park as part of MCS's Source to Sea Litter Quest and our own Scotland Counts project. We discussed the impact of litter and plastic pollution on marine life around Scotland and globally, followed by a litter pick.

Most of the rubbish that ends up on our beaches or in the sea starts its journey in villages, towns and cities miles from the coast. We collected 16 kgs of litter from the park, including 40 glass bottles, 39 drinks cans and 48 plastic bottles. But Source to Sea Litter Quest doesn't stop with some waste bags full of litter. Data about what is collected is analysed by MCS and used in its effort to bring in regulations on single-use plastics, as it did so successfully with plastic bags a few years ago.



Kirsty Crawford explaining the impact of marine plastic pollution. EILIDH CALL



Eilidh Call, (second from right), with Gilded Lily litter pickers. KIRSTY CRAWFORD

We're looking forward to taking the Gilded Lily group to Irvine beach in April. We'll do some rock pooling and learn a bit more about Scottish marine life, followed by a beach clean and hopefully an ice cream!

Taking part in the [Source to Sea Litter Quest](#) means that no matter where you live across the UK, you can help keep our seas clean.

TCV's [Scotland Counts](#) project aims to ensure that every individual and community in Scotland has the opportunity to develop skills and confidence to understand their local environment through Citizen Science.

The award-winning [Gilded Lily](#) helps women to overcome barriers and become more confident and creative. This is done through supportive and flexible programmes to explore, start-up and succeed in enterprise, social enterprise or employment.



PHOTOS: ELIDH CALL

Growing in Livingston

Dale with Barbara of Almond Housing Association (second from left), and TCV's Alice, Josef and Rosemary.



Volunteer Lisa planting runner beans during a seed planting information session.



PHOTOS: DALE MULLIN

Residents in Livingston, West Lothian, have new food growing opportunities, says **Dale Mullin**, Senior Project Officer:

The aim of our project is to connect members of the local community with Rowan Grove Community Garden to improve their sense of autonomy in being able to grow food for themselves. We also want to connect with the broader community of Livingston by hosting events

that bring people into this greenspace to enhance their mental health and wellbeing, and to strengthen ties between community gardens and growing spaces across the area.

Our activities are run as part of the **Growing Together - West Lothian** project in partnership with **Almond Housing Association**. In addition to myself, our activities are co-ordinated by **Dave Alcorn**,



Volunteer Shirley birdwatching during the Big Garden Birdwatch.



The garden in the autumn sun.

TCV Operations Leader, and **Barbara Boertien**, Community Engagement Officer with Almond Housing Association. And we have members of the local community who volunteer their time to come along to weekly events. So far, we've hosted a bird box building session, a free tatties giveaway and a birdwatching and information session in association with **RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch**.

As the warmer seasons approach, we'll be hosting planting events and soon we'll be engaging with the pupils of Letham Primary School, sharing sustainability tips and biodiversity information with them through short workshops in the garden.

New volunteers are always welcome, and people can get involved by contacting myself or by keeping an eye on the **TCV Scotland Facebook page**, where I try and post weekly updates. And I have a weekly email that I send around as well.

"The garden is looking wonderful. And it was really great to build my bird box and take it to be installed in Ash Grove just in time for the breeding season!"

Shirley, volunteer.



Volunteer Jack building a bird box.

For further information contact:
dale.mullin@tcv.org.uk



Some of the enthusiastic NatWest tree planters. TERI GRIEVE

Increasing tree cover and creating homes for wildlife in Fife

Over the current tree planting season, TCV and some 475 **NatWest** volunteers have been planting thousands of native saplings at a former opencast coal mine near Oakley village in Fife. TCV's input on the ground has been organised by Senior Project Officers **Marc Knight** and **Teri Grieve**, who say:

By the end of March 2022, 14,000 trees will have been planted on the site which is being restored by **Forestry and Land Scotland** into a healthy, natural state with greatly enhanced biodiversity and public access. We planted the trees in three groupings:

- Pioneer species of aspen, alder and birch to improve the soil quality which is very poor here due to it being an old opencast mine. Pioneer species can quickly establish on disturbed or poor ground and can help other species come in after them.



One of the local residents. MARC KNIGHT



A freshly made hibernaculum – providing a winter home for creatures including the great crested newt – more on page 18.

TERI GRIEVE

TERI GRIEVE



- A mix of native shrubland species including hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, dogrose and guelder rose, plus some oak and rowan.
- Wetland-tolerant alder and various willow species on the site's boggy areas.

In addition to the tree planting, the NatWest volunteers also created several hibernacula for reptiles and amphibians, including the protected great crested newt, which is present on the site. These hibernacula may look like unassuming piles of soil, but they're so much more and are really important habitats. A bedding of logs and sticks, covered with soil and grass makes the perfect winter home for hibernating reptiles and amphibians. A satisfying job and great fun too! If you

fancy making a hibernaculum in your own garden or greenspace there are lots of tutorials online.

Looking ahead, we will carry out ongoing work on the site, including further habitat creation, building more hibernacula, improving access by repairing gates and styles, sowing wildflowers, and maybe a bit of coppicing. We have greatly appreciated the help of our Forestry and Land Scotland colleagues, and as always, we're extremely thankful for all the hard work of our NatWest friends. At Oakley and other locations, they enable us to do some fantastic things for both the environment and the local community, and their enthusiasm and dedication constantly impress us – even on miserable rainy days!

Great crested newt

Thanks to NatureScot for permission to reproduce the following from its website.

The great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) is the largest of Britain's three newt species, with adults reaching up to 17cm in length. This amphibian gets its name from the jagged crest along the adult male's back, which gets larger in the breeding season. Both sexes are very dark in colour, with a vivid orange belly with irregular black spots.

The great crested newt spends most of its life on land, though it must return to small freshwater ponds to breed. The nocturnal newt hunts its invertebrate prey by night and rests in damp grassland or leaf litter during the day. It usually lives within 250m of a breeding pond.

Rare across Europe but still quite widespread in Britain, the great crested newt is found in Scotland in patches in the rural south and around Inverness. The species also occurs across the central belt, where it's often under threat from industrial or housing development. This is because the newt has found a niche in former mineral workings and other brownfield habitats.



RAINER THEUER/WIKIMEDIA

Breeding takes place in ponds in spring to early summer, when it's warm enough. A female lays around 300 eggs one by one on vegetation. Larvae usually develop in the pond for three months before moving to land. Once on land, the young take around three years to reach breeding maturity.

Threats to great crested newts

The species has suffered a decline in recent years and is under threat in several European countries. The British great crested newt population is amongst the largest in Europe. A 1995-96 national survey found 85 ponds in Scotland with great crested newts. Subsequent work brought this number up to around 160 ponds.

Threats to the great crested newt include:

- loss of breeding ponds through destruction or degradation of water quality
- the introduction of fish to breeding ponds – this is almost always catastrophic
- loss and fragmentation of terrestrial habitat
- the natural process of succession in which the pond, through time, fills with vegetation and silt and so dries out great crested newts thrive where several ponds within an area are connected by suitable habitat. If one pond becomes unsuitable, others are still available for breeding.

Find out how to conserve this protected species, report sightings, and learn more.

make space for nature



NatureScot's [Make Space For Nature](#) campaign has plenty of simple tips and ideas for everyone to help reverse nature loss and climate change. A range of seasonal activities encourage you outdoors to benefit both nature and yourself. We can all do something during spring to make a difference: plant for pollinators, avoid cutting grass until late spring, leave some bird nest building materials lying around, avoid pruning spring-flowering trees or shrubs, take part in a nature survey, provide a pond....



Even a small pond can be great for wildlife.

Water for wildlife

Providing water at any time of the year will help a great variety of wildlife. Ponds can attract frogs, toads and newts, plus dragonflies, water boatmen and other freshwater insects. And a pond can provide a welcome watering hole for birds and mammals, including hedgehogs and foxes.

Buy or DIY?

Plastic and fibre glass ponds are available from garden centres and online, but they often have high sides, which is OK for fish but does limit their appeal to wider wildlife. Alternatively, you can build your own – even a small pond can be great for a wide variety of species. Build it and they will come! Wildlife ponds usually have curved shapes with shelved edges and a sloping end to allow wildlife to get in and out. They are commonly lined with plastic or rubber material, which will mould to the shape of your pond.

Where and how?

A pond should be placed in an open, sunny spot. A little shade is fine but avoid placing a pond directly under a tree as it can clog up with leaves. Mark out the outline of your pond and then dig it out to the correct shape and depth – at least 60cm at its deepest which will protect species such as frogs from extremes of temperature. If you're using a pond liner, adding a layer of sand or piece of old carpet will help avoid punctures from sharp stones underneath. Excess liner can be trimmed, before tucking into a small trench dug around the edge of the pond, and then covered over with the turf cut from the trench. A new pond can be filled with tap water although this should be left for a day or two for the chlorine in the water to dissipate before adding any plants.

Pond plants

Native pond plants are best to encourage wildlife, examples being marsh marigold, bogbean, purple loosestrife, water mint and yellow flag iris. Plants will colonise naturally although this may take some time. If you want quick results, cuttings can be taken from plants in nearby ponds, and plants or seed can be purchased from specialist suppliers. Avoid adding exotic

plants, some of which are invasive and can soon choke a pond.

Introducing wildlife

Freshwater invertebrates, frogs and other pond life will naturally colonise a pond surprisingly quickly, so there's no need to add buckets of mud or water from other ponds, which can also introduce disease or invasive species. And avoid adding ornamental fish as these can become dominant and limit the variety of other species.

Safety first

For obvious safety reasons a pond may not be suitable in a space used by small children. Alternatively, consider placing a rigid safety net or grille over the pond.

Bath time

If space is tight an old bath or sink can provide a mini pond and a welcome spot for amphibians to cool off in the summer. Even a small water bath will suffice for drinking and bathing for many species. Bird baths are available from the RSPB and garden centres, but equally useable (and cheaper!) are a washing up bowl or deep saucer, but make sure there are stones or

other objects positioned to allow wildlife to get in and out. And note that birds are vulnerable to predators (including cats) when bathing, so where possible place your bird bath well away from trees or other cover.

Further information:

Froglife is the national wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles – and saving the habitats they depend on.

The Freshwater Habitats Trust provides plenty of information on pond creation and management.

The Royal Horticultural Society has advice on building and maintaining a wildlife pond.

Waterways & Wetlands is a comprehensive online TCV Handbook on creating and maintaining freshwater habitats, including ponds. An annual subscription, with discounts for Community Network members, provides access to all ten **TCV Conservation Handbooks**.



If you have a pond, large or small, remember it may need maintenance from time to time. Our **Stirling Midweek Group** has been working in Balquidderock Wood near Bannockburn to carry out pond maintenance for Stirling Council as part of the [Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund](#). The woodland has ancient origins and is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The group has been removing vegetation and silt from the wood's ponds to improve conditions for wildlife. The volunteers got to see some of this wildlife close-up and ensured the newts and frogs weren't harmed during the work.





Boosting biodiversity in Glasgow – can we help you?

Over the past year TCV has been working with **Glasgow City Council** to enhance the biodiversity of sites across the city, often in conjunction with local organisations including 'Friends' groups and others eg Yorkhill Green Spaces – see page 3. We are continuing the **Glasgow Bio-Enhancement Programme** through 2022/23 with further GCC support and we would like more groups to participate, including members of TCV's Community Network.



Does your community group have an environmental project in mind, but you need a little boost or extra hands on the ground to help make it happen? If so, we are looking for projects in Glasgow where we can work alongside a group's own members and volunteers. This could also be an opportunity for groups to attract new participants and volunteers. And we're keen to support projects involving people from diverse ages and backgrounds, including those with limited 'eco' experience.

The type of community conservation schemes we can support include:

- Tree planting and woodland management
- Hedgelaying and planting
- Removing invasive non-native species

- Meadow management and wildflower planting
- Greening and 'rewilding' of appropriate vacant and derelict sites
- Create or enhance pathways to improve access for people to enjoy their local nature and greenspaces
- Build homes for wildlife including bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, and bug hotels

Maybe you have other ideas in mind? These activities needn't be large scale – just something that makes a difference. And it's not just nature and the environment that benefits – everyone involved can enhance their own health, skills and experience.



Community Support Days

In addition to the Bio-Enhancement Programme in Glasgow, we may be able to offer similar assistance during 2022/23 to community greenspace projects across Scotland. Our Community Support Days, funded by NatureScot, may provide TCV resources to help community groups undertake their environmental projects. If you think your group has something we can help with, please get in touch: g.burns@tcv.org.uk

In addition to the physical improvements on the ground, we may also provide Citizen Science activities and surveys so people can discover and better understand the nature on their doorstep. And we can advise on wellbeing activities such as walking groups which can help people enjoy their local greenspaces in the company of others. We can also run training sessions in practical conservation or project/group organisation matters. So, as well as undertaking activities alongside TCV's staff and volunteers, the programme also aims to increase groups' knowledge, skills and capacity to run further activities themselves.

TCV's input in the Bio-Enhancement Programme is led by Glasgow-based Senior Project Officers **Bo Couch** and **Craig Young**, plus our local volunteer group, who are equipped with any necessary tools and equipment. And all TCV-led activities are covered by appropriate insurance, risk assessments, and health and safety procedures – including any Covid measures still operating.

The programme covers the cost of TCV's support, plus some modest funding for materials etc. Other TCV resources may be used including our **I Dig Trees** scheme

and the **Chestnut Fund**, and if required we may also apply for funds from external sources. Some groups may themselves have access to funding for materials etc. Our involvement may be for just a day or many days over a longer period – it depends on the project! If you think we can help you through the Bio-Enhancement Programme and make Glasgow a greener and better place for people and nature, please contact:

Paul Barclay, Project Officer

p.barclay@tcv.org.uk

07767 112088

Nature's Calendar

The arrival of spring is a good time for people to get involved in phenology, which for the Woodland Trust – *'is the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals from year to year, such as flowering plants, emergence of insects and migration of birds, especially their relationship with weather and climate.'*

Through its Nature's Calendar initiative, the Woodland Trust encourages people to record the dates of certain species during the changing seasons. The list of species you can record has been carefully selected so scientists can understand how wildlife is affected by weather and climate change. Records from today can be compared with those going back 300 years.

'Using Nature's Calendar records, a research team at the University of Cambridge has found that the effects of climate change are causing plants in the UK to flower one month earlier under recent global warming.'

Add your own records to **Nature's Calendar** and become a phenologist!





“Making and mending, clearing and digging, tree planting and building, laughing and giving.”

TCV has produced a short video which sums up what our volunteers do – day in day out, whatever the task, whatever the place, whatever the weather! Watch the film [here](#)

Free membership

With support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, TCV's Community Network offers free one year membership to community organisations, large and small, who help care for their local greenspaces. The Community Network has 1,800 member groups spread throughout the UK, with over 250 in Scotland.

Find out more and join the Network here



The Network Bulletin is produced quarterly by The Conservation Volunteers in Scotland and features groups belonging to the Community Network, plus news of TCV's own projects and volunteers.

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TCV Scotland's community, health and environmental volunteering activities are supported by organisations and partners including:



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