

voluntary work at Haysden Country Park, please email Don Croker at: reknod@yahoo.co.uk or Kevin Lavender at: klavender@cafonline.org or telephone the Council's Leisure Services on 01732 876166. Volunteers can also just turn up!

We would also like to hear from anyone willing to help out with fund raising and administration of the group.

Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of every month at 10am at the wooden hut by the main car park. Tea and coffee during regular breaks is provided, but please bring your own packed lunch. The day of volunteering usually finishes at around 4pm.



Haysden Country Park - background information

The Park, which is owned and managed by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, first opened 20 years ago and is now a well-used local facility offering leisure activities such as fishing, walking, cycling, dog walking, sailing and a play area for children. Historic and nature trails around the park provide a variety of habitats for flora and fauna which can be enjoyed by the public.

Haysden Country Park covers an area of about 165 acres in the Medway Valley, to the west of Tonbridge, and encompasses a range of habitats including river, grassland, freshwater lakes, marshland and woodland. The Park stretches from Barden Lake at its eastern end, westwards to Haysden Water, with the River Medway running along the northern extremes of the site. The Park's most prominent features of interest are the lakes along with the Environment Agency Flood Relief Barrier that provides a crucial role in the protection of Tonbridge from the threat of flooding.

The Civic Trust has officially recognised Haysden Country Park as one of England's best parks and green spaces by awarding the prestigious Green Flag which can be seen flying proudly above the entrance to the park. The flag signifies the park as being welcoming, safe and well maintained with strong involvement from the local community.

More details about Haysden Country Park can be found on the Council's Website at www.tmbc.gov.uk or by contacting

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Leisure Services, Gibson Building,
Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent
ME19 4LZ
Email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk

If you are having difficulty reading this leaflet and would like the information in another format, please call 01732 876166 or email leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk



Join the Haysden Country Park Volunteers (HCPV)



Why volunteer?

- Help to look after the Park
- Learn new skills
- Meet new like minded people
- Work outside
- Learn about the countryside and wildlife
- Try something new apart from your everyday job
- It's rewarding and good fun
- Maintain an active healthy lifestyle
- Free parking for regular volunteers
- Participation in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSP)

To contact us Email:
leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk
or if you would prefer to send us your details, please complete the form below:

I would like to join the Haysden Country Park Volunteers.

Name

Address

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Daytime telephone

Evening telephone

Your personal details will be passed to the HCVP and not be retained by the council.

Please return this form to:
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Leisure Services, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ

Haysden Country Park Volunteers (HCPV)

The group was set up by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) - the UK's leading practical conservation charity, which offers help and advice for people in local communities wishing to improve their environment. The Haysden Country Park Volunteers is a group of local people interested in conservation issues who work in conjunction with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to carry out a range of projects throughout the year designed to maintain and enhance facilities within the Park. The practical tasks undertaken compliment the objectives set out within the Council's Management Plan for the Park. The group meets at weekends once a month and local people can go along to be actively involved in the maintenance of the Country Park and to carry out a wide range of tasks.

The types of tasks carried out over the past year have included hedge planting, pond clearance, coppicing, habitat improvement, hedgelaying, bird box building, litter clearance, scrub clearance, lakeside revetment and invasive plant control.



On occasions other groups such as the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, the RSPB and the Kent Bat Group work in the Park which enables the volunteers to learn more about carrying out specialist tasks such as reptile and bird surveys and making improvements to the man-made bat cave.



The outdoor nature of the group's work means that volunteers need to be prepared to work in all weathers and dress accordingly. There is plenty of opportunity for volunteers to try their hand at a variety of new skills although there is no obligation or pressure to do anything beyond an individual's abilities or inclinations. In the case of tasks which require some technical ability, instruction and training is given on site.

Volunteers are not required to bring along any special tools or equipment as these are provided by the Council and an assessment of the tools needed is made when the tasks are planned.

If you are enthusiastic and willing to "get your hands dirty" (although protective gloves are supplied!) and would like to find out more about