

Friends of The Wern Park

'Friends of The Wern Park' is a voluntary group, which began in July 2009, to encourage residents of Nelson to help look after and improve the Wern Country Park. This 14 hectare site is in Local Authority ownership and comprises of 9 hectares of woodland and scrub and 2.5 hectares of managed wildflower meadows, as well as a football field with changing rooms, skate park, children's playground and car park.



Some of the Group's main aims are:

- To encourage greater use of the Wern Park by the community.
- To reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- To maintain and enhance the area for wildlife.
- To enable access for recreational and educational/training purposes.
- To improve access and the general appearance of the Wern Park.
- To highlight dog fouling and litter problems to the local community.
- To help Caerphilly CBC to obtain Green Flag Status for the Park (a benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces).
- To provide effective volunteering opportunities for local people.

The Group is supported by the Nelson Village Partnership, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Groundwork Caerphilly, Gwent Police and Keep Wales Tidy. The Group organises regular events/activities that volunteers can come and take part in - from coppicing and hedge laying to bird watching and wildlife evenings. The Group is always looking for new people to join in with its activities!

Examples Of Some of Our Activities So Far...



On the 21 September 2009, we organised a litter pick with pupils from Llancaeath Junior School around the Wern Park, as part of *Keep Wales Tidy Week*.

In October 2009 and March 2010, members of the group planted daffodil bulbs and trees with pupils from Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School.



Creative writing workshops for local young people and adults were held during February and a variety of captivating poems and rap songs were written about Nelson. A graffiti artist has used these to inspire an artistic design for the Wern pavilion, which will be painted by the community over the Easter holidays.



The Nelson Village Partnership secured £13,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Cohesion scheme in January 2010, to install a vehicular barrier with 'crocodile teeth' at the entrance to the Wern car park. This will prevent vehicles from entering the car-park in the evenings and creating a nuisance/public disturbance.



Our Planned Activities for 2010

Saturday 27 March	Launch, Easter Egg Hunt , Litter Pick and Easter Crafts	10.30am – 12.45pm
Saturday 27 March	Hedge Laying	12.45pm – 14.00pm
Tuesday 30 March & Wednesday 31 March	Graffiti Art Painting of the Wern Pavilion	10.30am – 12.30pm 13.30pm – 15.00pm
Wednesday 07 April & Thursday 08 April	Graffiti Art Painting of the Wern Pavilion	10.30am – 12.30pm 13.30pm – 15.00pm
Saturday 24 April	Wildflower planting	10.00am – 2.00pm
Saturday 15 May	'Dawn Chorus' Bird Watching	04.30am – 06.30am
Saturday 06 June	Bio Blitz Day	10.00am – 16.00pm
Saturday 12 June	Nelson Skate/BMX Jam 2010	11.00am – 16.00pm
Saturday 24 July	Otter Holt Building	10.00am – 12.00pm
Saturday 21 August	Bracken Bashing and Litter Pick	10.00am – 12.00pm
Saturday 24 September	Bats, Owls and Moths Night	19.00pm until late
Saturday 23 October	Fungi Foray	10.00am – 12.00pm
Saturday 20 November	Coppicing and Bulb Planting	10.00am – 12.00pm

Meet at the Wern Park Pavilion/Car Park for all activities

Friends of The Wern Park Meetings

DATE	VENUE	START TIME
Monday 26 April	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 24 May	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 28 June	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 26 July	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 23 August	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 27 September	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 25 October	Nelson Institute	17.30pm
Monday 29 November	Nelson Institute	17.30pm

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the Wern Park Group, or have any queries, ideas, or need more information, then please contact:-

Anouska Beaumont on: 01443 453135

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OR

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All ages are welcome to join our group and/or our activities!