

BBC BREATHING PLACES

The 'BBC Breathing Places' Campaign is now in its second year and lots of action has taken place throughout Northern Ireland to transform local green spaces into places that are good for wildlife and people.

This year in Northern Ireland, over 30 projects received Big Lottery Breathing Places grants. **Ulster Wildlife Trust** is working in partnership with CVNI and BBC to provide advice, support, training and networking for Breathing Places community projects. RSPB are providing this service for schools.

If you are considering a Breathing Places project and would like assistance, please contact:
Deborah McLaughlin, Breathing Places Officer, Ulster Wildlife Trust on tel: 07738945052 or email:
deborah.mclaughlin@ulsterwildlifetrust.org

DO ONE THING

The BBC is encouraging people to 'Do One Thing' in their garden for nature. Every garden, big or small, is a potential mini nature reserve and simple changes like putting up a nestbox or larger projects such as building a wildlife pond can benefit local wildlife.

For quick and easy ideas on how to give wildlife a helping hand visit:
www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/thingstodo/ or check out Ulster Wildlife Trust's Make Space for Nature campaign at: www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org/campaigns/



AUTUMNWATCH

The Autumnwatch series returned to our screens on Monday, 5 November. After watching this series of programmes many people will feel inspired to get outdoors and get involved with nature, so Derry City Council has teamed up with the BBC, **Ulster Wildlife Trust** and CVNI to host an Autumnwatch Festival in Creggan Country Park.

The event will be held **Saturday, 10 November** and will provide people with the opportunity to get out and 'Do One thing' for the environment.

This event is part of Derry's Year of Action as a Breathing Places City and follows on from the very successful Springwatch Festival held at Guildhall Square in June.

This will be a great family fun day with lots of activities including: tree-planting, the Big Auld Tree Hunt, guided nature walks, recycled art workshops and face painting to mention but a few.

The event will take place from **11am – 3pm**.

BIG LOTTERY BREATHING PLACES FUNDING



The next round of Big Lottery Breathing Places grants will be announced during the Autumnwatch series, which started on Monday, 5 November. **The closing date for applications is Saturday, 19 January 2008.** That allows over 9 weeks, but remember it falls over the very busy Christmas period, so get started on your application now and don't leave it all to the last minute.

Don't worry though, because help is at hand. The BBC will be hosting seminars and workshops to encourage a wide number of community groups to apply, by walking them through the application process. Representatives from UWT and CVNI will also be present at these seminars to provide local connections and on-going support. For more information on the seminars contact Deborah McLaughlin, Breathing Places Officer, Ulster Wildlife Trust on tel: 07738945052 or email: deborah.mclaughlin@ulsterwildlifetrust.org

To obtain application forms and guidance notes click on: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>

For other sources of funding you can also check out Greenspace, which provides a very useful online fund search: visit Greenspace at: www.green-space.org.uk

BREATHING PLACES PROJECTS

Field of Oats

The Glenelly Historical Society undertook a project to demonstrate to local school children and villagers the traditional methods for planting a field of oats, which was once prominent in the area but is now quite rare.

The field, donated by a farmer, is situated just outside the village of Plumbridge, Co.Tyrone in the Sperrins Hills region, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty located in the west of Northern Ireland.

The group used a horse-drawn plough to prepare the field and traditional tools such as fiddles to sow the seed. The field margins were also planted with wildflowers to improve the habitat and provide food for insects, birds and small mammals.

All the pupils from the local primary school took part in the project. They were given talks by UWT on the benefits of this form of farming to wildlife, and then visited the field on the ploughing, sowing and harvesting days to view the activities and participate in old fashioned games and customs.

Harvest day was a great celebration with the villagers being treated to a range of traditional music, singing and dancing. There was also traditional crafts and food available and for the grand finale, the Aughakillymaude Mummers from County Fermanagh arrived to perform ancient customs and fertility rites that would ensure a good harvest and the fertility of the crop in the following year.

The project was a great success and Glenelly Historical Society has provided a new and exciting way to highlight the connections between farming and wildlife to a rural community.



Dromore 2000 Ltd

Dromore 2000 community group developed the Irvinestown Road Breathing Places project to enhance the area for wildlife and people. Members of the local community and school children from St. John's and Dromore Primary School took part in the project, which involved working alongside CVNI to plant native trees and wildflowers in the open green space that backs onto the rock outcrop at Dromore.

This area is important to the local community as it is steeped in ancient folklore and customs. The area also gained further recognition of its importance last month, when the rock outcrop was designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). The rocks exposed at Dromore ASSI belong to the Shanmullagh Formation and are of Lower Devonian age, approximately 370 million years old.



Glenarm Wildlife Group

Glenarm Wildlife Group formed in spring 2006, with a view to helping UWT in the management of three nature reserves in the Glenarm area and to influence local landowners to help protect the unique flora and fauna of the region. With their Breathing Places funding, the group was able to provide a small budget for field guides and to purchase surveying equipment such as a moth trap, butterfly nets and binoculars to name but a few and also tools for carrying out practical tasks. All of this, along with a training allowance has gone a huge way towards making the group more self-sufficient.

Glenarm has some of the last remnants of ancient woodland in Northern Ireland and the group are particularly interested in woodland management techniques. In a drive to increase awareness of coppicing as a tool for wildlife-friendly forestry, they have organised a training exercise in use of coppice products. A traditional craftsman will demonstrate furniture making from hazel rods, charcoal making, green woodturning and besom making. This event will be held on **Sunday, 2 December from 10am - 3.30pm** at UWT's Glenarm nature reserve, and will run concurrently with the annual UWT coppicing event. Booking is absolutely essential for this event as numbers are limited. Contact UWT on 028 4483 0282 or email events@ulsterwildlifetrust.org for more details.