

btcv support for local community groups



inspiring people improving places



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BTCV is a national charity that was formed in 1959. Its Mission is to create a more sustainable future by inspiring people and improving places. It presently employs around 650 staff and has an annual turnover of nearly £27 million. In recognition of its work, BTCV is one of only three organisations that in 2006 were awarded five years of funding from the Home Office, to help guide and inform Government policy relating to volunteers and volunteering.

BTCV has been supporting local, environmental and community groups for 50 years. It coordinates the national, BTCV Community Network. Around 2,000 groups are members of this Network. Locally, BTCV has nine staff deployed in three local offices at Aylesbury, Chilworth (Southampton) and Reading, dedicated to supporting groups and individuals who want to make a difference. BTCV owns no land, so its resources are focused entirely on supporting community groups and volunteers. You choose what activities you undertake and where; we're here to help you do this as effectively and safely as possible.

benefits available to all groups

- BTCV has produced a range of ten Handbooks, which explain how and why to carry out work in a range of habitats, with the focus on volunteering. These 'industry standard' publications, along with a number of others, can be [read for free on our website](#). Alternatively, printed copies can be purchased from the [BTCV Online Shop](#), or contact us for more details and an order form.
- BTCV runs 100s of training courses every year, covering habitat management, practical skills and group organisation. Along with the more specialist courses run through the Environmental Trainers' Network, the details can be found and bookings made through the [BTCV Online Shop](#), or contact us for printed details.
- Does your group want a training course set up especially for it? If so let us know your wishes, as we may be able to provide what you want. These can be delivered at any time, including evenings and weekends. Contact our local offices for details.
- Trees, wildflowers and seeds, along with advice on how to grow them, are available from the [BTCV Online Shop](#), or contact us for a catalogue and an order form.
- Tools, along with other specialist equipment, books and merchandising, are available from the [BTCV Online Shop](#), or contact us for a catalogue and an order form.

- BTCV can carry out a Group Review Check for you, to make sure you're working practices meet present safety standards and to provide you with advice on what training or other measures you might need to take to address any shortfalls. Contact our local offices for details.
- Need insurance, access to grants and discounts on tools, training and trees? Join the [BTCV Community Network](#) to take advantage of a range of cost-saving services. Membership of the Network is open to all community groups, clubs, schools, parish and town councils, local organisations and residents' associations wanting to work for a better environment. Membership is £35 a year. [Download a membership form](#) or contact us for more details.

additional benefits available to members of the btcv community network

- A free **Welcome Pack** with everything you need to get started. This includes either Local Action, the definitive handbook for all groups organising practical conservation activities, or our Teachers' Pack for organisers of school-based groups.
- Access to Public Liability and Personal Accident **Insurance**, which is essential for groups carrying out practical tasks. This typically starts from around £100 a year, depending on your requirements. We can also offer insurance if you manage your own land, use power equipment, want to insure your tools and equipment against fire and theft, or employ no more than five staff and require Employer's Liability insurance.
- A **Grants and Awards Fact Sheet**. This is our essential guide to grants and awards for local groups. Groups receive this every six months, to help them to raise the funds needed to carry out their conservation projects. The current one gives details on nearly 100 opportunities.
- **Subsidised** places on most of our training courses. Our short-course training programme covers practical, technical and leadership skills, from pond management to first aid.
- A **10% discount** on most orders from us for tools, trees, wildflowers, seeds, merchandising and books.
- Tools and specialist equipment can be **borrowed** from us; locally we have tool stores in Aylesbury, Chilworth and Reading.
- Optional **free listing** of [your group's contact details on our website](#), which receives around 100,000 visitors a month.
- Access to grants from **The Chestnut Fund** for groups with less than £1,000 of existing funding that carry out practical conservation. The Chestnut Fund, an independent grant-giving body administered through BTCV, gives Start-up Grants of up to £100 to help with the costs of membership of the BTCV Community Network, general administration costs and insurance in the first year of membership. It also provides Support Grants of up to £300 for any Network members to cover the costs of training and tools.
- An optional website template, to enable groups to set up and update their own professional looking web sites quickly and easily. [Here's an example](#).

additional benefits available to members of the btcv community network in berkshire, buckinghamshire, hampshire, isle of wight, oxfordshire, surrey and west sussex

- A full, short-course **training programme available locally**, around 12-15 courses a year.
- A **47% discount** on all local, short-course training events. Courses cost £75 per person per day, but this is reduced to £40 per person for volunteers who are members of groups that are part of the BTCV Community Network (which costs £35 a year to join).
- An optional **Certificate of Attendance** from most short-course training events. These are awarded by the BTCV Institute and externally **accredited** through the NCFE, a national awarding body.
- **Access to BTCV's local staff and expertise**; just phone or e-mail us if you have any questions as we might be able to help.
- Our bimonthly, **local e-mail bulletin**.
- Optional **promotion of your group** through a range of local, BTCV publicity. This includes materials distributed through libraries, volunteer centers, shows and forums.
- Optional **promotion of your group** if we receive an enquiry from someone interested in volunteering in your area; we make sure we let them know about you.
- Optional **promotion of your group** through our local web site.
- **One to one fundraising support** for groups wishing to make an application to Awards for All or The Chestnut Fund. We will use our fundraising skills to help you write your application.
- Direct support from **BTCV volunteers** to help you to manage the places you care for. You tell us what you want done and we arrange for a group of volunteers to come and do it; we will even lead the volunteer group for you too.
- Thanks to the support BTCV receives from its partners, **additional support** is also available in certain areas, depending on local availability. This is presently available in Buckingham, several parts of Hampshire and Mid Sussex. Contact our local offices for details.

contact details

BTCV External Communications Manager

Sedum House, Mallard Way, Potteric Carr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 8DB.

Main Contact: Leanne Cobb / Telephone: 01302 388 834 / E-mail: local-groups@btcv.org.uk

BTCV (Aylesbury)

Haydon Mill, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8RU.

Main Contact: Jane Craven / Telephone: 01296 330 033/ E-mail: aylesbury@btcv.org.uk

BTCV (Chilworth - Southampton)

Room 1-3, 2 Venture Road, Chilworth Science Park, Chilworth, Southampton, Hampshire, SO16 7NP

Main Contact: Rachel Moroney / Telephone: 02380 769 719 / E-mail: chilworth@btcv.org.uk

BTCV (Reading)

BTCV, 16 Bridge Street, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 8AA.

Main Contact: Oonagh Kelleher / Telephone: 0118 947 5049 / E-mail: reading@btcv.org.uk

BTCV Web Site: <http://www.btcv.org>

BTCV Online Shop: <http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/index>

BTCV Online Handbooks: <http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/index>

BTCV Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire: <http://www.btcv.org/thamesandchilterns>

BTCV Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey & West Sussex: <http://www.btcv.org/southerncentral>