

Dear Volunteers,

## February 2018 Update



I'm writing this from home as the site is closed due to the weather – I bet the pinetum looks amazing in the snow today. I took this picture earlier in the month – doesn't the Wollemi pine look stunning covered in snow? If you are planning to visit Bedgebury this week keep an eye on Facebook for details of closures due to adverse weather conditions.

If you know anyone who is interested in joining a volunteer group at Bedgebury please tell them about our **Volunteer Recruitment Day** this Saturday from 10am to 2pm at the Visitor Centre. I will be joined by Sue Baines from the visitor centre to talk to potential volunteers about opportunities to become Visitor Experience Volunteers or join our new Thursday Volunteer Group.



**Forestry Commission**  
England

**bedgebury**  
adventure in a world of trees

## Volunteer at Bedgebury?

Your time could help others.

- Our Visitor Experience Volunteers help our visitors to get the most from their time at Bedgebury.
- They play a key role in meeting the visitors, helping them with their queries, giving them directions and advice.
- You could make a real difference by giving visitors a warm welcome at Bedgebury.

**RECRUITMENT DAY**  
Sat 3rd March  
10am – 2pm

If you are interested – please get in touch:  
[bedgebury@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bedgebury@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**Live**  
Bedgebury




## Volunteer at Bedgebury

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen to be part of a small team working in the pinetum, an internationally renowned conifer collection.


We would like to hear from you if you

- Have experience working in a horticultural or arboriculture environment
- Can commit to working Thursdays (outside of school holidays)
- Are a keen team player with a positive and friendly outlook



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### Training Sessions

We are running four training sessions this year for all direct reporting volunteers (Wednesday Wild Crew, Sunday volunteers, Tree Labellers, Visitor Experience Volunteers and Learning volunteers), the course will include manual handling and risk assessments. Please can you ensure that you attend one of these important training sessions, dates are as follows:

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March (am)

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (am)

Timings and more details to follow as well as details of two further dates in September.

### Updates from the Bedgebury Teams

#### Pinetum / Tree Team News

The Tree Team have been working hard cutting back dogwood, willows and grasses over the last couple of weeks, you can't miss seeing their hard work as you come through the main gates and walk down to the visitor centre – it all looks very smart.

Wednesday Wild Crew and Sunday volunteers have been working hard continuing to clear



rhododendron and scrub in the eastern section of the pinetum. They also worked hard in the snow spreading woodchip in the play area, preparing for a play inspection and more recently helping the tree team cutting back dogwood and willow alongside Marshal's Lake.



Bob, from the Wild Crew, took this picture of former volunteers, Nik and Alan, who are currently working in the tree team, working hard to winch out scrub from near Marshal's Lake.

I'm delighted to say that we have had several new volunteers join the Sunday volunteers this month and are no longer looking to recruit volunteers into this group. A warm welcome to all the new volunteers.

We are starting a new volunteer group on Thursdays, to do similar work to the Wednesday and Sunday Groups. We are looking to recruit four volunteers into this group, please see the attached role profile for more details, and advertisement above. Feel free to pass on to friends and family.

Dates until the end of March are as follows -

Date	Meet @	Working @
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Area Office	Clearing streamlines in sections 13 and 34 yew collection
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Area Office	To be confirmed
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Area Office	To be confirmed
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Area Office	To be confirmed
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Area Office	To be confirmed
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Visitor Centre	Manual Handling and Risk Assessment Training Course

### **Visitor Attraction Team News**

#### **Visitor Centre**

We are looking to recruit new casual staff in the Visitor Centre, see the attached advert. Please pass on to any interested family and friends.

#### **Recreation**



Thank you to the Wednesday Wild Crew for helping the recreation team out with preparing for a playground inspection, Dan is pleased to report that the inspection went well. This picture shows them enjoying a well-earned warm drink in their break.

#### **Active Forests**

**Nordic Walking** sessions have recently started at Bedgebury on Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. John, the leader, is looking to appoint a volunteer to assist him with these sessions. If you are interested, please contact me and I will pass your details

on. To find out more about Nordic walking at Bedgebury go to the [website](#).

Our first **Buggy Running** event took place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February with 12 runners and children in buggies enjoying an escorted 5km run around the forest. There are four more events planned for this year, keep an eye on their [website](#) for more details.

Last Saturday was Bedgebury's 100<sup>th</sup> Park Run, hopes to reach 200 runners for this date were well exceeded when 249 runners turned up!

### **Events**

It would be great to hear of any volunteers who wish to help out at any of the following events:

**Forest Live Concerts** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June Paloma Faith and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott featuring Billy Bragg.

**Illyria children's theatre production** - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July "The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle"

**The Hunting of the Snark** – 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October

### **Learning Team News**

Chantelle Jay has joined the learning team this month covering for Karen Kimber who is on maternity leave. I'm sure you will be pleased to hear that Karen had a baby boy on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, weighing 6lb 13oz.

Irene Davies, who was worked in the learning team for many years, is retiring at the end of March. I'm

sure all of the learning volunteers will join in to wish her luck in her retirement. Having first met Irene when I started work as a learning volunteer nearly 10 years ago, I know how much her enthusiasm and dedication to learning at Bedgebury will be missed.



### **The Friends of Bedgebury**

The new [Spring / Summer 2018 Friends of Bedgebury](#) magazine is now out. This edition features articles about upcoming events at Bedgebury as well as a suggested trail around the pinetum entitled 'The Hidden Secrets of the Pinetum'. The Friends are keen to hear your feedback about the magazine and the new walking trail. As always volunteers can receive a 10% discount on their events, see [here](#) for more details.

Hard copies of the magazine are available from the Visitor Centre or see the link above. The friends are happy for you to grab a few copies and circulate to friends, families or your local community such as your library, primary school or local shop.

### **Borde Hill Garden Vouchers**

Finally, I have two sets of family gift vouchers to visit Borde Hill Gardens in West Sussex, each offering free entry for two adults and three children for one visit in the 2018 season.

If you are interested, please let me know and I'll enter your name for a draw. I will announce the winners in the March newsletter.