

CUERDEN VALLEY PARK'S NEWSLETTER

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A Warm Welcome.

Firstly, Thank you so much for signing up to our Newsletter, its the place to be for all things Cuerden! It's a chance to see the inner workings of the park, upcoming events, conservation projects and volunteering opportunities.



A Spooky Thank you.

Last year's spooky walk took place on the 28th of Oct and was very well received. Cuerden volunteers were on top form and we saw an array of costumes - from red riding hood to some wicked witches. Thanks to all who attended it made for a fantastic community focused event.



CUERDEN CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES

We had a busy Christmas period in the park, with Christmas magic and our new Wreath making workshops being a massive success.

What's Christmas without a little drama though...The Christmas market and Christmas Light Show being cancelled due to Storms Elin and Fergus. We managed to rearrange our grotto, so thanks to Santa for rearranging his busy schedule.



EVENTS FOR 2024



Our most exciting update comes in the form of our Northern Light event which is new for Feb 2024. It will see the Pinetum lit up like you've never seen it before. We're working with CDS Entertainment, to offer a magical experience for all ages. CDS are well known in the area for the Rivington Festival of Light - so expect big things!

We've also got our first colour run in the park in partnership with Gujarat Hindu Society. Celebrating the festival of Holi and the coming of spring. We'll be using eco - friendly powders and the course will be around 2km (perfect for little ones too!). Get your running shoes ready for the 10th of March.



Our Beer and Gin festival is coming back with a bang on the 21st and 22nd of June 2024!



We've continued our investment in the walled orchard and yard which has improved the space two fold. With a new line - up, some tasty treats and first rate locally sourced Ale's and gin; It'll be the event on the summer. More information about ticket prices to be replaced in March 2024.

Take a look below at our new Events Calendar for 2024.

Follow us!

@cuerdenvalleypk



What's on @Cuerden?



Looking for event space?

Our Barn is available to hire. Please get in touch for more info.

UPcoming Events

February

16.02.24 - 18.02.24 - Northern Lights

March

10.03.24 - Holi Festival Colour Run

16.03.24 - First Volunteer Task Day

30.03.24 - Easter Market

April

03.04.24 - 11.04.24 - Forest Camp

TBC - Flower Walk and Talk

TBC - Intro to Dragonflies & Damselflies

May

TBC - Foraging Walk and Talk

27.05.24 - Cuerden Wildlife Week

30.05.24 - Forest Camp

June

21.06.24 - 22.06.24 - Beer and Gin Festival

July

07.07.24 - Leyland Trucks 10km Run

07.07.24 - Summer Market

22.07.24 - Forest camp

August

01.08.24 - Forest Camp

TBC - Orchard Sessions

TBC - Bat Walk and Talk

September

14.09.24 - Harvest Market

29.09.24 - Foraging Walk and Talk

October

23.10.24 - Forest Camp

26.10.24 - Spooky Walk

27.10.24 - Spookier Walk

December

TBC - Christmas Workshops

07.12.24 - Christmas Magic

08.12.24 - Christmas Market and Santa's Grotto

14.12.24 - 15.12.24 - Christmas Lights

Volunteer Task Days - The Third Sat of Every Month.

TRAMPER-TASTIC – ACCESSIBILITY

We've been working closely with Lancashire County Council throughout 2023. Receiving funding from them alongside The Environment Fund for our new accessible path in front of Cuerden View café.

The next stage of our Accessibility project has seen the donation of several Trampers which will be available to hire from 2024. It'll give park visitors with mobility issues, a chance to explore and really get the most out of the park.



Ask in the Park office for more details and to book your induction.

RIVER STUDIES – IN FULL FLOW



Our River Studies are well underway in the park, with school booking coming in quickly.

We welcomed Greenbank Secondary School who are our first secondary school, adapting our usual primary school program to suit the year ten's and eleven's

Focusing primarily on their Geography GCSE studies, measuring the flow rate of the river Lostock at different intervals.

We're always looking for more volunteers in our education team as we get busier each year. If this is something you'd be interested in, please get in touch via: education@cuerdenvalleypark.org

It's a great way to build up experience for any aspiring teachers or outdoor instructors.

Equally, if your school is interested in booking with us for 2024, we offer a multitude of days including River studies, Orienteering and our renowned Victorian days.



HAZEL HURDLES & FANTASTIC FISH: A DAY VOLUNTEERING AT CUERDEN VALLEY PARK

One of our volunteers Annabelle Brittle, a keen content creator – perfectly summarises a volunteer task day at Cuerden:

I count myself incredibly lucky that Cuerden Valley Park is a stone's throw from my house. I have enjoyed walking around it countless times, spotting bluebells in the spring and crunching through snow in the winter. I'm a big fan of the on-site café (who isn't?) and I even have a favourite spot for foraging for wild garlic when it's in season.



However, Saturday 21st October saw me visiting the park for another reason: to join one of their monthly Volunteer Days. I'd seen a post about it on the Cuerden Valley Facebook page and decided to come along to lend a hand. I didn't know exactly what we'd be doing, but I'd heard that a spot of fence-making was on the cards...

I found myself in the yard near the car park with around twenty other volunteers and various members of Cuerden Valley Park staff. We began the day by sorting out a huge mound of hazel branches into piles according to size. Once the branches had been grouped, we began the engaging process of turning them into hazel hurdle fencing that will be used in the park.



It's a simple enough process: eight thick branches with sharpened tops are placed in a line into a narrow wooden block to create upright posts. Thinner branches are then woven horizontally in and out of these posts until you've essentially made a wooden tapestry, and that's a fence panel.

The end of each branch needed to be carefully twisted to break the internal fibres without snapping it completely, and then these softened ends were wrapped around the outer posts to hold each branch in place... in theory. My fence-making partner Ian and I might have been a little heavy-handed to start with but hey, you know what they say: you can't make a fence without breaking a few hazel sprigs.

I felt really rather proud as we placed the last branch into our panel. In just an hour or so I'd learned the basics of hazel hurdle fence-making and given it a good go. I'm sure I'll feel even prouder when I see our completed panel in situ in the park; I'll be able to identify it from all the snapped ends!

After all that hard work we were grateful when lunchtime rolled around. Steaming cups of beef chilli and vegetable soup from Cuerden View Café were passed out with soft slices of bread; the perfect food to keep us warm on a brisk autumn day. There was a lovely sense of community as we all shared a meal together and chatted about how fun the morning had been.



The afternoon's activity was even more creative than weaving fence panels: taking willow rods and fashioning them into fish-shaped lanterns. After a brief demonstration on how to make the basic shape of these fish lanterns, proceedings took a competitive turn, with all kinds of elaborate fins and elegant tails being created with little more than masking tape and ingenuity. One group even made a huge fly agaric mushroom lantern which will no doubt look magical in the woodland.

All in all, it was a brilliant experience. I drove home from the volunteering session with a big smile on my face, feeling contentedly weary after a busy day. It felt fantastic to be physically contributing to the park with the other volunteers, and I can't wait to see our handiwork on display.

I'm already looking forward to joining more projects soon (apparently elves are in high demand for festive events) and would highly recommend volunteering at Cuerden Valley Park to anyone who enjoys learning new things, making new friends, and spending time in the great outdoors.

Our next volunteer task day will be on the 10th of February followed by every third Saturday of the month (16.03.24)

DAVID'S DIAIRES – WILDLIFE UPDATE

David Beattie is one of our long standing volunteers who's knowledge of the park is unrivalled, a much loved member of the Cuerden Team.

Recent Sightings.

- **broad-leaved helleborine (Epipactis helleborine)**

This particular species of orchard hasn't been seen in the park for at least 10 years. Interestingly, Bees and Wasps that visit its flowers can become intoxicated as a result of the alcohol within the flower. Spotted at Kem Mill.

- **Redwing (Turdus iliacus)**

A regular winter visitor to the park and part of the Thrush family. These birds travel all the way from Scandinavia to avoid the harsher winter. Spotted on a Hawthorn bush between Town Brow and Kem Mill.



We also spoke about the increase of litter in and around the park and encouraged our visitors to take their litter home with them. It costs the park on average £32,000 a year to manage the bins alone. So every bit of rubbish really does help.

If you're interested in watching the newest episode, please check out our Facebook page at Cuerden Valley Park for more updates.

CUERDEN TASKMASTER – TEAM BUILDING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Last year we launched our flagship Cuerden Taskmaster and it went down a treat.

Our Taskmaster is team building with a difference. If you want to challenge your colleagues or friends, you've come to the right place. The Cuerden Taskmaster has an array of tasks and challenges that will get those cogs turning and keep even the brightest of bulbs on their toes. We can cater to an array of different groups of all backgrounds and abilities. Creating a tailored event that is bound to be an enjoyable afternoon.



Lancashire Football Association

All of our events are run by professionals who are first-aid trained and are there to create the best experience possible. We run our events mainly in an outdoor space, so please dress appropriately for the conditions of the day.

Food packages are available with The Cuerden Taskmaster and quotes are offered on a case by case basis. For more information, please contact: admin@cuerdenvalleypark.org



★★★★★ 18 hours ago **NEW**

I had a fantastic time taking part in the curden task master, there were a lot of laughs & the challenges were all fun. A great activity for team building would recommend this to anyone looking for something a little bit different to do with your friends or sports team

Reply Like

★★★★★ 17 hours ago **NEW**

Honestly what a fun few hours!! Worth every penny, such a variation of tasks and the people running it were a blast. Thank you!!

Reply Like

★★★★★ 4 minutes ago **NEW**

Had a great time on the Cuerden Taskmaster last weekend. Unlike any team building I've ever been on and would totally recommend!

Reply Like



Leyland Warriors RFC

CSR/SPONSORSHIP

What most people don't know is that the Park has been run by a small charity since its creation in 1992. Looking after the park is a huge challenge and one which relies on the incredible support of volunteers and donations from the local community and increasingly the wider business community.

The Trust is a fantastic charity partner for many businesses, not just as a good cause to donate to but also because we can offer so much more:

Volunteering days – conservation tasks and habitat creation

Team building – Our Taskmaster offers a chance to put your work colleagues and friends through their paces.

Corporate events – Our café, walled orchard and barn are available to hire upon request.

Whether you are a small, medium or large business we can create a fresh way of engaging with your team and customers.

For all businesses, any donation to the park is tax deductible so whether its a small investment, or a larger one - it can be of benefit to both parties.

Cuerden Valley Park Trust Sponsorship Packages

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
	£250	£500	£1,000	£2,500+
Benefits for sponsors				
CVP certificate in recognition of your support	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acknowledgement of your organisation's sponsorship on this website (Platinum members to have opportunity for promotion/publicity on website)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Listed in the printed and online version of the Annual Review	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feature in our newsletter and Media Promotion	✓	✓	✓	✓
Copies of annual calendar	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guided walk around the park (up to 6 people)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discounted rate for on-site facilities hire and Taskmasters - number negotiated with sponsors		✓	✓	✓
Right to the use of CVP logo branding on your company website		✓	✓	✓
48hrs priority access to all our on-site events.			✓	✓
Right to use CVP logo branding on your company PR material			✓	✓
Attendance at annual sponsors "thank you" event			✓	✓
Option to promote your company through a published interview/commentary by your CEO (or other) in the Annual Review				✓
Named sponsor at a principal event				✓
5 pairs of free tickets to an event of your choice throughout the year.				✓

MARKETS & VENDORS

Our flourishing quarterly markets within our walled orchard on Berkeley drive are always full of tasty treats and crafts from quality local vendors.

Upcoming 2024 dates

- Easter Market – 30th March
- Beer and Gin festival – 21st & 22nd June
- Summer Market – 7th July
- Harvest Market – 14th September
- Christmas Market – 8th December

We're always looking for businesses to join our extended team at our events. We prioritise local produce for all our markets, and want to maintain a variety of stalls that we have on offer.

We're looking for niche food vendors to add to our popular Beer & Gin Festival in June, with 2 pitches available for any local breweries interested in joining the team as well. We also have availability for a main event sponsor for this event, if any local businesses are interested then please get in touch. We're expecting over 1400 guests so this will be a headlining event for the trust.



The 7th July will not only see the return of our Summer market but also Leyland trucks 10k run! For this market, any vendors who sell running or fitness equipment would be welcome to attend – alongside any themed 'fitness' food offers.

If you're interested in partnering for any of our events please get in touch via admin@cuerdenvalleypark.org and we will respond to your enquiry.

SUPPORTING THE PARK

Thanks for reading and we appreciate the support!



@cuerdenviewcafe

@cuerdenvalleypk



To book onto any events mentioned, please go to:
<https://cuerdenvalleypark.org/> or use the QR code

Please note that not all events are fore sale but more details will be released soon!

If you have any enquires about anything mentioned please send your enquiry to:
admin@cuerdenvalleypark.org