



Anyone inspired to **photograph, paint or write** about their bluebell experiences is encouraged to send material to nature@halton.gov.uk for inclusion in our future publications. In the meantime, why not visit Ann Bridges' **beautiful bluebell monoprints** at www.ann-bridges.com/print-plants.htm Ann will be leading a **print workshop** as part of Marshall's Arm LNR 10th Anniversary Bluebell Day on April 26th. For further information contact Virginia Hunt at virginiaannehunt@yahoo.co.uk

There is nothing to beat a walk in the woods whilst enjoying the dramatic views of English bluebells in bloom!

But please take care and keep to the footpaths to avoid trampling the plants!

To find out more about our woodlands visit www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cheshire or phone **01948 820 728**.

For more bluebell sites across Merseyside contact The Mersey Forest Team on **01925 816217**.

A Walk with the Wildlife Trust

Let them Grow!



The Barrowmore Estate, near Chester, has a bluebell woodland and the enthusiasm to manage it for its wildlife. It is the ideal place to start a bluebell nursery, growing bluebells from seed, for eventual use in bluebell projects throughout Cheshire. The Barrowmore Training Centre is part of the Barrowmore registered charity which creates employment, training and development opportunities for around 100 people with varying levels of disability. The bluebell nursery project has been given a great boost this year through an Award for All grant. During 2008 the project will record the process of growing the bulbs, through photography and microscope work, at the Barrowmore Estate and produce an information pack so that community groups can successfully grow their own bulbs from seed.

The project will also raise awareness by surveys and training sessions, including special needs visitors. This will help in understanding the growing conditions of bluebell woodlands, and identification of suitable bluebell seed for collection. Come and see how the project is faring, at the **open weekend** during October. Bluebell enthusiasts will be on hand to explain about collecting seed, growing bulbs and the techniques needed for success. To book a place phone : **01829 741080** or e-mail barry@barrowmore.org.uk

The Barrowmore Project

The ideal place to start a bluebell nursery

The Mersey Forest

The Bluebell Recovery Project

bluebellexpress

News of the Bluebell Recovery Project throughout The Mersey Forest and Cheshire

The Bluebell Recovery Project was set up in 1996 in direct response to the increasing loss of one of our most beautiful woodland wildflowers.

The constant loss of woodland habitat over hundreds of years, trampling damage in the few remaining bluebell sites and the large scale theft of bulbs led The Mersey Forest to start a programme of seed gathering and sowing, bulb cultivation and replanting in partnership with the local community.

The native British bluebell hybridizes with the larger Spanish (common garden) variety. Well meaning gardeners have been known to plant Spanish bulbs in urban woodlands increasing the problem and little is known of the future effect of climate change.

The importance of bluebell conservation cannot be underestimated, recent investigations into pharmaceutical uses show that if we 'save them they could ultimately save us'.

For more information and how to help please contact The Mersey Forest Team on **01925 816217**.

Save our Bluebells



Bluebell Festival & Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08

For the past 10 years, the Bluebell Recovery Project has been surveying and monitoring the locations of our native English, Spanish and hybrid bluebells.

This year, in partnership with Cheshire's Year of Gardens 08, we have produced this bluebell map which highlights places for you to see bluebells in Cheshire.

A great time to visit and view bluebells.

April 2008 will see the launch of an annual Bluebell Festival.

During the summer months why not get involved with seed collecting events at public parks across Cheshire?

Followed by bulb chipping and splitting at Barrowmore Estate in October.

Finally, the Festival will draw to a close, with an afternoon of bulb planting at Anderton Nature Park, on Sunday 4th October as part of the wonderful Night Gardens and Lantern Parade.



Further Information

How you can get involved with bluebell events visit: www.barrowmore.org.uk

Why not visit some of our native woodlands and nature reserves.

For details about bluebells in Cheshire and the organisations involved in the Recovery project visit: www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk



Bluebell Festival 2008

Celebrate British Bluebells



1 Anderton Nature Park
27 April Walk
4 October Bulb planting.
4 October Night Gardens & Lantern Parade.
Contact: Dave James 01606 77747
Northwich GR: SJ 648 753

2 Marshalls' Arm Nature Reserve
26 April Wildlife Watch
Contact: Stuart Poucher 07788 570628
Northwich GR: SJ 649 727

3 Town Wood, Congleton Park
Apr to early May
26 April 2.30pm
Bluebell walk with a member of the Wildlife Trust and Friends of Congleton Park.
www.congleton.gov.uk
Congleton CW11 1JL GR: SJ 863 633

4 Bluebell Cottage Garden
April to early May
Weds to Sun 10am-5pm
Two acres of wood completely carpeted with native English bluebells.
www.lodgelane.co.uk
Lodge Lane, Dutton WA4 4HP GR: SJ 581 779

5 Arley Hall & Gardens
19-20 April & 26-27 April
Walks at 11, 12, 1 & 2pm
Booking essential.
A unique opportunity to take a walk through the bluebells in the historic Big Wood and back through the idyllic hamlet of Arley Green.
www.arleyhallandgardens.com
Northwich CW9 6NA GR: SJ 675 810

6 Adlington Hall
27 April
2pm Guided walk with Head Gardener, Anthony O'Grady.
House closed but Tearoom open.
www.adlingtonhall.com
Macclesfield SK10 4LF GR: SJ 905 804

7 Walkden Gardens
April to early May
Visit the secret garden and discover beautiful bluebells along the Cherry Walk.
www.walkdengardens.co.uk
Derbyshire Road, Sale M33 3EL
GR: SJ 788 905

8 Norton Priory Museum and Gardens
26 May 10-6pm
National Bluebell Day
Fun family activities and bluebell walks led by Paul Oldfield, Nature Conservation Officer for Halton Borough Council.
www.nortonpriory.org
Norton Priory, Runcorn WA7 1ST GR: SJ 548

9 Combermere Abbey
20 & 27 April 1-5pm
Bluebell walk, 2 miles approx, through the estate and woodlands where visitors can enjoy vistas across the mere.
Refreshments available.
Dogs welcome on leads.
www.combermereabbey.co.uk
Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 4AJ
GR: SJ 590 442

10 Cholmondeley Castle Gardens
April to early May
Weds, Thurs & Sun 11-5pm
Bluebell walk leading from the Tea Room to Tower Hill, with more bluebells in front of the castle.
www.yearofgardens08.com
Malpas SY14 8AH GR: SJ 535 515

11 Rode Hall Gardens
April to early May
Tues, Weds & Thurs 2-5pm
A mass of bluebells in The Wild Garden and adjacent woodlands.
3 May 9.30-1.30pm
Farmers Market, an excellent opportunity to shop and have brunch!
www.rodehall.co.uk
Scholar Green, ST7 3QP
GRP: SJ 819 573

12 Capesthorpe Hall
20, 21, 27, 28 Apr & 4, 5 May
Bluebell weekends; come and explore the bluebells found within the Arboretum and six acres of woodland.
www.capesthorpe.com
Siddington
Macclesfield SK11 9JY
GR: SJ 840 728

13 The Quinta Arboretum
Bluebells on the western boundary overlooking the Dane Valley.
www.tattongardensociety.co.uk
Swettenham, CW12 2LF
GR: SJ 800 672

14 Rivacre Valley Local Nature Reserve
April to early May
Bluebell walks in Well Wood, Hillside and Clayhill Wood, as part of the beautiful 400 acre park.
www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside
Rivacre Road, Ellesmere Port.
GR: SJ 380 777

15 Barrowmore Estate
April to early May
Bluebell walks.
October
Bulb chipping and splitting.
www.barrowmore.org.uk
Barhouse Lane, Great Barrow
Chester CH3 7JA
GR: SJ 475 693

Leaflet design: Moira Rae Carter

