

Limestone Festival

People have just been really friendly and it's been really nice for us to talk to young children and just get them involved in activities. What we want people to get out of today is to have fun to realise that being in the countryside is good, it's nice, it's enjoyable. We're also going away with a message about why things are important and why we look after them and try to get people to come out and visit and enjoy places and potentially to get new volunteers as well, people who might not necessarily come to countryside events. This is a really good community festival and we've got people here, local people who have travelled and it's nice for us to reach a new audience.

What we're trying to do is trying to get a bit more awareness about the magnesian limestone plateau and about the events and activities that we've got going on and trying to give people information about where they can find out more, how they can get involved more and hopefully we are going to get people to volunteer their time or to come along to some of our events and activities. It's to really find out a little bit more about the unique area here.

We're here also to support Limestone Landscapes. The idea is that through the outdoor sustainable education service that we work for that we're actually promoting people's interest in the special qualities of the area of the limestone landscapes. We want to encourage families, young people and anybody who enjoys the outdoors really, to just get out there and to do things to get back to wild places and the nature. The idea is to use natural products, things that they may find out in the woods and actually attract birds and wildlife into the garden, but also for families to take more interest in spending time outdoors.

We basically just have a fun day, a bit of blacksmithing and just try to enthuse people with a passion for the craft of hammering hot metal. This is where your artistic talents come into play.

I've never done it before; it's the first time I've ever done it. Well, I was a bit nervous at first but it's not as difficult as I thought it was going to be because of the stuff we're making, obviously, and yeah it's really good fun.

Well this afternoon at Herrington Park we're going to be doing a mini bio blitz, so we're going to be recording as many wild life species as possible in the pond habitats and the meadow habitats. So we're going to be getting people from the general public to come along down to the pond, and we're going to be doing pond dipping and having a little look in the meadows, if we can find some time to put our waterproofs on and avoid the rain showers and see what species we can find in there.

We're finding all like little creatures and stuff. I think I've got a sea worm or something, then little midge larva things, then little ones that go really fast in the water. It's a fisher boatman; a water boatman yeah – well done great memory. Well that's a midge larva, so when it grows a bit bigger it's one of these little flies that flies around. I think for us the festival is about raising awareness of what an important area we've got, it's about letting people know what we've got, why it's important and trying to engage with the local community as well.

(Singing)