

Hostas for Dunblane's Memorial Gardens Volunteers Please

Members of Dunblane's recently formed Environment Group are looking for helpers this coming Saturday. They are planning to tackle the neglected state of the Memorial Park - known locally as the Haugh - which is on the banks of the Allan Water below the city's medieval Cathedral.

'This could be a really attractive area - a focus for locals and visitors alike' said group member, Janice Stewart, 'but at the moment it is strewn with litter. There is a real need for revitalisation'.

Not too long ago, Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) organised the construction of a replacement bridge over the Allan Water. The British Legion now has plans to upgrade the War Memorial itself. Through its Environment Group, DDT is looking to build on these successes by organising improvements to the park.

'We have had a number of ideas about how we might upgrade this area and we would like to discuss these with local people,' said DDT member Monica Cessford. 'We also want to do something that will have an immediate impact. This is why on Saturday morning (9th October) from 10 o'clock until midday we are inviting anyone keen to see our environment improved to join our volunteers in the park to discuss its future, and to help with a litter pick and the planting of some Hostas'.

If you would like to come along, please bring strong gloves and, if you would like to help with the Hosta planting, you will need a fork or spade. Stirling Council has agreed to provide litter grabbers and black bags.

The group also needs more Hostas. So if you have one in your garden, why not cut it in two and donate one half to the Memorial Garden? 'We intend to plant as many as possible on the day', says Monica.

