

DURLSTON PLEASURE GROUNDS



Project Update: May

The 'Pleasure Grounds' Project will enhance Durlston's Grade II-listed Victorian landscape for nature, history and the local community, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lottery players.

Work will include path improvements, new viewpoints and woodland management to improve wildlife habitats and the condition of historic plantings. Victorian features will be restored and opportunities for 'wild play' created. The project will also provide new ways for people to get involved, including volunteering, training and play opportunities for people with disabilities, dementia or long-term health conditions. A lift-sharing scheme will support the existing Durlston Bus.

Latest News:

- Over Easter we celebrated the launch of the Project, with tasters, demonstrations and workshops throughout the woodland. Hundreds of visitors attended, trying out hurdle making, dry stone walling, spoon carving, willow weaving and much more.
- One visitor even attended the event using our new lift-sharing scheme. Please contact the rangers if you would like a lift to visit the park, or know you will be driving here at a particular time and could offer someone a lift on the way.
- It's been great to see the results of last winter's tree work, with fine displays of spring flowers and butterflies in some of the areas where thinning and felling have taken place. On most days Greater Spotted Woodpeckers have been heard and seen 'drumming' in woods as well.
- Rangers, volunteers and contractors have been busy with final preparations for the Shed opening. The compost toilet has now been installed, along with water and electricity connections, and a beautiful new wood burning stove.
- We hosted an induction for our team of 'Sheddies' who will be assisting the rangers develop and run the Shed – providing a friendly welcome and enabling visitors to take part in a range of light volunteering tasks. If this sounds like a role you would enjoy, please get in touch!
- Once open at the start of June, tasks at the Shed will include practising green woodwork, using our new pole lathe and shave horses recently constructed by volunteers, and also establishing our plant nursery in a greenhouse which has been kindly donated to the Project.



To find out more about the Project, or get involved, visit Durlston.co.uk, email durlston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk or pop in and chat to a Ranger at the Castle.

DURLSTON

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