

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT HEART OF TEESDALE!



PROJECT UPDATE: Paths for All People - Donate a Gate!

We are working on an exciting new project with the Friends of the North Pennines to roll out a 'Donate a Gate' scheme across Teesdale and the North Pennines area.

The aim is to make popular footpaths more accessible by replacing stiles with gates. Members of the public will be encouraged to 'sponsor' a gate and in return the new gate will be fitted with an engraved plaque.

Everyone who 'donates' a gate will be given a choice of the location of their gate (subject to conditions), choose their engraving and receive a personalised map of the area around their gate.

Emma Ashton-Wickett, our Paths for All People Officer said 'This scheme is a great way to leave a lasting tribute whilst benefitting the hundreds of walkers that will use the route in the future.'

For more information about the scheme, please contact Emma Ashton-Wickett on 03000 260645 or emma.ashton@durham.gov.uk

Heart of Teesdale Evaluation Questionnaire

If you have a few minutes to spare please complete our evaluation questionnaire and tell us how we're doing! The closing date is 15th February. www.surveymonkey.com/s/HeartOfTeesdale

PROJECT UPDATE: Trails Through Teesdale

As part of our Trails Through Teesdale project, we will be holding ten free guided walks across the Teesdale area on the second Sunday of every month starting in February. Each walk will start at 12.30pm. Please make sure to wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

The first two walks are listed in our events listing on the next page.

Keep up to date with the Heart of Teesdale's activities!

Website: www.heartofteesdale.net

Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/heartofteesdale](https://www.facebook.com/heartofteesdale)

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/heartofteesdale



PROJECT UPDATE:

Woodlands fit for Fairies

This project is funded through our Community Initiatives Fund and led by Tees Rivers Trust. The project has been making good progress clearing the Rhododendron along the Teesdale Way between Cotherstone and Romaldkirk near the infamous fairy cupboards! This has been achieved through groups of volunteers. The work will be continuing this year.



PROJECT UPDATE:

Romaldkirk Heritage Assets

This project was funded through our Community Initiatives Fund. The project led by the parish council has completed the restoration of key historic features including 2 water pumps, oak bollards, posts and chain protecting the village green, repairs to footpath and an ancient water culvert.

Heart of Teesdale Website!

Our website has had a facelift! Check out the refreshed site at www.heartofteesdale.net

PROJECT UPDATE: Riverbanks Restoration

The Tees River Trust will be working this year to create access and install platforms for disabled anglers along the River Tees at Barnard Castle as part of the Riverbanks Restoration Programme.

The project is also funding a Master by Research student to undertake a project on natural flood risk reduction. The student is expected to carry out catchment survey work along Tutta Beck. Tutta Beck has experienced a number of high magnitude flood events in recent years and these have affected local properties. There is the potential to use natural flood risk reduction techniques within the catchment area to reduce the amount of flood water reaching the houses. This will also be a better solution for local wildlife.

PROJECT UPDATE: Music at the Heart of Teesdale

The young musicians from 'Cream Tees' debuted their new folk composition entitled 'Rooted – A Teesdale Suite' at the Witham in late November. The concert organised by Music at the Heart of Teesdale also featured a display of traditional sword dancing from the Teesdale Longsword Dancing group and Teesdale-born concertina player Septimus Fawcett. It was all well received.

To purchase a CD of Cream Tees playing Rooted – A Teesdale Suite, please contact Neil Diment on 01833 628263 or email neil@ndiment.co.uk.

Event: WOODCARVING COURSE Saturday 7th February, 10am-5pm Hutton Magna Village Hall

This is a day course of woodcarving with expert tuition and all materials and tools provided. Learn about the basic woodcarving techniques and carve a simple leaf in relief during the day.

This course has been designed to guide total beginners step by step through each stage of woodcarving so that at the end of the day you will have a finished product to take home. No previous experience is required.

Event: RAG RUG WORKSHOP Saturday 28th February, 10am-4pm Winston Village Hall

Join us for a Rag Rug workshop to learn both hooky and proddy techniques. This workshop will be led by an experienced tutor, Susan Abel.

Event: CERAMICS COURSE Saturday 7th and 21st March, 10am-12.30pm Teesdale School

This is a course which introduces the rural craft of working with clay; all materials and tools are provided. Learn about the techniques and traditions of working with clay and creating your own Teesdale-inspired ceramic work. This course has been designed to guide total beginners step by step through each stage of the ceramic process so that at the end of the course you will have a finished product to take home. Please note that you will be expected to attend both dates.

Event: TRAILS THROUGH TEESDALE Guided Walks Sunday 8th February and 8th March, Starting at 12.30pm.

8th February - Bowes East Circular (3.5miles)

8th March - Cotherstone to Barnard Castle (4miles). Return transport provided.

Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Booking required.

For more information and to book please contact Susie Lane on 03000 264903 or susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk



PROJECT UPDATE: From Fleece to Fabric

This project was funded through our Community Initiatives Fund. This project led by Teesdale YMCA delivered a series of courses aimed at developing young people's skills in textiles, design, awareness of wool, and the processes from fleece through to fabric.

The young people investigated the felt making process and explored the use of natural dyes, eco-dyeing and chemical dyeing techniques. They were taken on a visit to a local farm, where they had the opportunity to see the rare breed Teeswater Sheep, native to Teesdale, and gain an appreciation of sheep farming in their area. At the farm, they were encouraged to handle fleece in its raw state, prior to washing and scouring, and take part in each of the processes in the transition from fleece into fabric, including carding, spinning, weaving, knitting, crochet and felting.

The project also had the opportunity to exhibit the work at the NeST gallery in Barnard Castle, Cockfield Christmas Tree Festival and as part of the 'Trashion Show' at the Hub in Barnard Castle.



PROJECT UPDATE: Teesdale Heritage Archive Research Resource

This project was funded through our Community Initiatives Fund. The project led by The Witham, has purchased equipment to allow local history and heritage groups, as well as individuals, to form high quality digital images of documents and to convert them, where appropriate, into editable text.

To access the resource, please email info@teesdalemercuryarchive.co.uk