



HEART OF TEESDALE

Landscape Partnership

NEWSLETTER July 2014

TEESDALE VIEWS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Our photography competition is now open for entries! It is focussed on the views around Teesdale, whether they are culturally iconic or purely beautiful due to the landscape. There are many significant views throughout Teesdale, including those that were painted by Turner and Cotman or photographed by Yeoman.

This competition aims to give the local people of the Teesdale area a chance to share with us their favourite views. Entries have to be of a 'view' and the subject matter must be predominantly within the HoT Project area.

For a competition information pack and submission form please visit www.heartofteesdale.net/downloads2 or contact Susie Lane, Community Officer on 03000 264903 or susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk

CLOSING DATE: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

HALF YEAR FORUM WALK AND TALK

We held our half year forum in early June, which consisted of a guided walk from Barnard Castle to Whorlton and a couple of talks about the project at the Bridge Inn in Whorlton. It was great to be able to show off our variety of projects and for those who attended to see how the projects are going on the ground.

Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a great event.

PROJECT UPDATE: Upper Demesnes Hay Meadow

This project led by Barnard Castle Town Council continues to be a great success. One of the highlights this year has been the sighting of the first orchids in the meadow. This gives an indication that the project has helped to create an environment that enables more diverse plants to become established.

Seed rich grass was collected from a field above Middleton in Teesdale and spread on the meadow last July and this has resulted in a marked increase in the amount of yellow rattle in the meadow this year. Over forty plants were identified while walking round the field in June. These included common sorrel, eyebright, sweet vernal grass, pignut, and ribwort plantain. Chimney sweeper moths were also in great numbers.

The field will be cut for hay in mid-July and then, just as importantly, sheep will graze the field in October to eat as much of the grass as possible so that the more delicate plants have as little competition from the more aggressive grasses as possible.

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: Landscape Discovery

This project is now well underway and we have already run some very successful training and workshops.

We held a limestone grassland species training session led by members of the Darlington and Teesdale Naturalists Field Club. Everyone had a lovely day wandering through hay meadows identifying the wide variety of species.

We have held two workshops led by Bruce Ferguson from Wild North Discovery. The first was a foraging workshop, which everyone really enjoyed, despite the wet weather! The second was a bushcraft workshop where those who attended got to learn how to erect a shelter and make a fire. Both were brilliant sessions, enjoyed by adults and children alike!



PROJECT UPDATE: Flatts Wood

An event was held in early July to celebrate the completion of the improvements works to Flatts Wood. 5 bridges have been replaced or repaired, many of the paths have been improved, all the benches have been restored and the signposts replaced. This work has been carried out with 'Paths for Communities' funding from Natural England and will hopefully allow Flatts Wood to continue to be a lovely place to walk and explore.

The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership is supported by Durham County Council/Barnard Castle Vision/The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund

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Event: BUTTERFLIES AND BEES TALK
Wednesday 23rd July 7-9pm

The Witham Room, Barnard Castle

An evening talk introducing easily identifiable bees and butterflies as well as other common flying insects such as wasps, flies and beetles. Find out about which fantastic flying creatures you can find in your local area. Led by Malcolm Birtle, Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club.

Event: FLATTS WOOD FAMILY EVENTS

Every Wednesday through the summer holidays 1-3pm
Starting and finishing at the front of The Witham

This is a series of events that will have a different theme each week:

23rd July – I am Stickman.

The children's book 'The Stickman' is brought to life through a number of games and activities.

30th July – Woodland Hunt.

Set throughout the wood, children will have to find certain objects.

6th August – Fairies, Goblins and Pixies.

Learn about the folklore of woodlands, through games and activities.

13th August – To eat or not to eat? BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Led by Bruce Ferguson from Wild North Discovery, children and adults alike will learn what they can (and can't!) eat in the woods.

20th August – Art-bugs. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Led by artist/zoologist Sara Cox, discover where the minibeasts are living. Have a closer look at them and make your own bug to take home!

27th August – Family Fun Day!

A celebration of Flatts Wood. There will be a nature trail, wooden monster making & storytelling! Bring your picnic along & join the fun at the Bandstand!

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Event: WATER VOLE SURVEYING TRAINING

Saturday 20th September 10.30am – 3pm
Bowlees Visitor Centre

This course will cover the basics of water vole ecology and field survey techniques. There will be information about water vole habitat requirements, field signs and how to safely survey them. Led by Michael Rogers from Durham Wildlife Trust.

Event: TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDING SURVEYING TRAINING

We are organising further training on how to survey traditional farm buildings. This forms part of our Field Barns project, which aims to survey as many traditional farm buildings as possible in the HoT area.

Tuesday 7th October and Saturday 10th October 10 – 12am
Barnard Castle, Venue TBC

Introductory meetings to find out about the project.

Saturday 25th October and Sunday 26th October, 10am – 4pm
Romaldkirk Reading Rooms

Hands-on training sessions in how to survey traditional farm buildings and contribute to this important project.

Event: WOODCARVING WORKSHOP

Saturday 18th October, 9.30am-5pm
Hutton Magna Village Hall

Tutor Alan Suddes from the British Woodcarvers Association will teach basic carving techniques. Each participant will carve a simple leaf in relief during the day and learn the correct use of tools. All tools and materials will be provided. **Only 6 places available.**

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



PROJECT UPDATE:
Environmental Volunteering and Tees Invasive Species

These two projects have been working together to try to eradicate the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the Tees. They have held a number of volunteer days to pull up the Balsam and have now managed to clear sections of the Tees from Cotherstone to just downstream of Barnard Castle. It is important to remove this plant as it is not native to Britain and out-competes a lot of our natural riverside flora.

If you are interested in helping eradicate this invasive plant, keep an eye on our website for details of future clearance tasks or contact Karen Collins on 03000 260835 or karen.collins@durham.gov.uk



PROJECT UPDATE:
Riverbanks Restoration

This project is led by the Tees Rivers Trust and aims to improve the access and understanding of the River Tees and its tributaries. Tees Rivers Trust has gained extra funding from the Environment Agency to create disabled angling platforms along the Tees.

It is hoped that these platforms will increase the level of access to the Tees, to allow anyone who wishes to fish to be able to do so, even if they have limited mobility. Sites for these platforms are currently being identified.