

Time to say Goodbye....

At the end of March we are saying goodbye to three members of our staff team as the programme gradually winds down.

Sarah Smith – Community Officer

Honia Devlin – Cultural and Heritage Volunteering Officer

Karen Collins – Environmental Volunteering Officer

Most of you will have come across them at some point during the life of the Partnership. We wish them well for the future!

Please bear in mind that this will mean there will be reduced capacity within the team. However there will still be limited activity taking place over the next few months so keep an eye out.

Invitation to our volunteers - THANK YOU!

The Witham, Friday 11th March, 6pm

Honia and Karen will be giving a presentation of photos and highlights from the volunteering programmes and there will also be a buffet and refreshments.

After this there will be an opportunity to view the Traditional Farm Buildings exhibition, which many of you have been involved in creating, and there will be a talk by Jen Deadman on the project.

If you have been a volunteer with us directly or on any other projects, please do come along if you can.

It would be wonderful to see you all and thank you in person for the time you have given to us.

PROJECT UPDATE: Phototrails!

Phototrails is the home of a new and expanding database of trails in the UK and around the world. Phototrails was developed by the Fieldfare Trust to provide you with more information, and therefore more choice, about where to spend your day out in the countryside. As a charity that actively promotes countryside access for people with disabilities, Fieldfare understands the importance of providing "pre-visit" information on trail features and site amenities, such as whether disabled parking and accessible toilets are available.

Heart of Teesdale has developed three local phototrails which are now available, and two more are in planning stages.

http://www.phototrails.org/default.cfm?page=home&county_id=10

PROJECT UPDATE: Addicted to Sheep

This project has had fantastic coverage nationally. It also featured on BBC Countryfile: Winter Special on 31 Jan and BBC4 on 8 Feb as an hour length documentary which attracted a viewing figure of 523,000 (not including catch up). Fantastic for raising the profile of the area! You can still see it on iPlayer.

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: Marvellous Mosaics!

During February half term we held a Mosaics workshop aimed at families. Participants created a piece of artwork inspired by nature which could be used as a stepping stone or decoration in the garden. This was fully booked and we received some great feedback!



Project Update: New Signposts

Over the past few months new signposts have been installed by 4Nature around the area, particularly along the Teesdale Way. Have you spotted any? What do you think? Any feedback would be appreciated. This work has been undertaken as part of our Paths for All People Programme.

Did you know?

In its entirety, the Teesdale Way is a 100 mile route which follows the River Tees from its source at Dufton in Cumbria to the sea at South Gare in Teesside.

Event: SOCIAL MEDIA CAFÉ with Emma Hignett

First Thursday of every month!

The Witham 10am-11am

An opportunity to have your social media queries answered and network with others. Businesses, community groups and individuals all welcome.

Event: A HISTORY OF FARMING

The Witham (closed Sundays and Mondays)

Exhibition - Wednesday 9th March to Wednesday 16th March 10am-4pm

Preview and talk by project lead Jen Deadman - Friday 11th March 7pm

Come and see the results of our Traditional Farm Buildings Survey Project.

Event: VOLUNTEER THANK YOU EVENT

Friday 11th March

The Witham, 6pm

Presentation and refreshments followed by the preview of our Traditional Farm Buildings Survey Project. Please book by contacting Alex.

Event: COUNTY DURHAM ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Saturday 12th March

County Hall, Durham 9.50am-4.20pm

If you're interested in archaeology come along and find out more! This year, two of our Community Archaeology projects feature - Hawksley Hill and Brignall Shrunken Medieval Village.

Cost: £14.00 which includes buffet lunch, teas & coffees

£12.00 for full-time students

Tickets sell out very quickly so book early to avoid disappointment.

tel: 03000 267 123 or email archaeology@durham.gov.uk

Event: LONGSWORD DANCING WORKSHOP

Saturday 12th March

Gainford Village Hall, 10am – 4pm

FREE longsword dancing workshop led by Patrick Langdon and Mike Bettison. The workshop will be a mixture of theory and practice, with participants learning about the history of longsword dancing as well as having the chance to learn some dances. All ages and abilities welcome (you do not have to be particularly fit or agile to take part). Places are limited so please book.

Event: OUR NEAR NEIGHBOUR-THE MOON

Wednesday 16th March

Hutton Magna Village Hall, 7-9pm

Organised by Teesdale U3A Astronomy Group

Lecture with Dr J. McCue, Open University and designer of the Wynyard Planetarium followed by a sky watch.

Refreshments provided

Entry: £4, £3 concession and £2 for children (12 years and over) with an adult.

Reserve seats online at www.astronomyinteesdale.com/reserve-seats

Event: VIVA WILDLIFE ART EXHIBITION

Thursday 17th to Tuesday 22nd March

The Witham 10am-4pm (Closed Sundays and Mondays)

Preview on Thursday 17th March 6-8pm

This exhibition will showcase the work of local residents, who have produced artwork inspired by the wildlife of Kennedy's Ponds at Cotherstone. All welcome.

Skills: L3 AWARD UNDERSTANDING REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF TRADITIONAL PRE-1919 BUILDINGS

Cross Lanes Training Centre, 9am-5pm

Two alternative dates: 14th and 15th April, 5th and 6th May

FREE PLACES AVAILABLE - To be eligible for free funding you should be aiming to use the skills gained within the areas of Teesdale and Upper Teesdale.

Please contact Jude Newell at Heritage Craft Alliance on 01677 422289 or heritagecraftalliance@gmail.com to discuss.

www.heritagecraftalliance.co.uk

For more information please contact Alex Sijpesteijn on 03000 260842 or alex.sijpesteijn@durham.gov.uk

Before



After



PROJECT UPDATE:

A home for Sand Martins

As part of our Lost Landscapes Programme, we have been able to restore a valuable home for sand martins at Hayberries Nature Reserve, near Romaldkirk and Eggleston. The project has re-profiled the face of the sand martin colony in the old quarry back to vertical, to restrict predation of the eggs and chicks from the ground, as well as stopping rabbits using the holes which disturb the habitat and nesting of the birds.

Although the project was successful in terms of the outcomes of the machinery work, we will not be able to determine whether the project was a success in terms of increased breeding pairs and survival rates until after the nesting season. Members of the U3A group have previously monitored the colony, so if they continue to do this over the next season, then we will be able to compare the figures from last year to this year to see if there has been a significant increase in the success of the colony.

Lost Landscapes has also recently supported the creation of an interpretation board for Balder Banks SSSI site at Doe Park, tree planting through Trees for Teesdale group, and installation of bird boxes (including owl boxes) and pond clearance at Gainford.

PROJECT UPDATE:

Field Boundary Programme

This programme has held another successful hedge laying course this February with good attendance and feedback. Planning for the 2016 training programme is well underway and will include Drystone Wall Stile Repair! Keep an eye out - if you are interested contact Durham Hedgerow Partnership on 03000 267143.