



# HEART OF TEESDALE

Landscape Partnership

# NEWSLETTER May 2014

## GUIDED WALK HALF YEAR FORUM Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 9.30 – 2.30pm

The day will consist of a guided walk from Barnard Castle to Whorlton along the River Tees. Along the way we will be pointing out projects we have completed or are currently ongoing.

The walk will end at The Bridge Inn, Whorlton where a buffet lunch will be provided and there will be presentations about the work of the Heart of Teesdale.

The event is FREE but we do need to know numbers attending, so if you would like to attend all or part of the day please contact Susie Lane, Community Officer on 03000 264903 or [susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk](mailto:susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk)

## PROJECT UPDATE: Focus on Farming Addicted to Sheep

This is an independent film depicting the everyday life of a tenant hill farmer in Upper Teesdale. Filmed by Provenance Films over 18 months, the film makers needed funding to enable them to cut the 62 hours of footage down and edit it into a 60-80 minute film. We have offered them funding towards this goal and they have raised the remaining funding through donations from the public. This means that they have now started the editing process which should take roughly 8 weeks. We hope that the film will help to raise the profile and awareness of a traditional but very difficult way of life in this remote landscape. For more information visit [www.addictedtosheep.com](http://www.addictedtosheep.com)

## Love Food

Love Food are organising a number of events related to food production and harvesting. They are planning an 'Apple Day', which will be a celebration of all the different types of apples and the things you can do with them! They are also organising fruit picking days, of fruit such as apples, pears and plums. One of the biggest elements they will be delivering is 'Big Picnics', this will be working with local Parish Councils to organise events in many different parishes. For more information contact Angela Whiting on [angelajwhiting@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angelajwhiting@hotmail.co.uk)

## Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Service

UTASS are helping to deliver the educational element of our Focus on Farming project. They are going to be running 10 school sessions at Middleton-in-Teesdale auction mart with local primary schools. The aim is to teach the children about local and seasonal food, farming heritage and the farming year. If you work for a school that is interested in one of these sessions please contact Julia Stephenson, UTASS on 01833 641010 or [julia@utass.org](mailto:julia@utass.org)

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

Website: [www.heartofteesdale.net](http://www.heartofteesdale.net)

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

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## PROJECT UPDATE: Riverlab

This project led by the Tees Rivers Trust has worked with pupils from local schools over the last 3 months helping them raise trout fry from eggs. The pupils gained first-hand experience of the importance of good water quality for our native Brown Trout, learnt about the trout's life cycle and the Trust's work on river habitat management.

The project culminated in the successful release of the fry just before the Easter holidays. After releasing the trout fry downstream, the school children surveyed the range of freshwater aquatic invertebrates present in their local beck - and were delighted to find so many different species thriving in our river system which are potential food sources for the trout!



## PROJECT UPDATE: The Natural History of Tees Bank Woods

This project led by the Upper Teesdale Botany Group is now complete, with the updated version of Dr Margaret Bradshaw's booklet now on sale! You can buy it from the Teesdale Mercury shop in Barnard Castle, the Tourist Information Centre in Middleton-in-Teesdale and a few other shops in Middleton-in-Teesdale. All proceeds go to the Upper Teesdale Botany Group.

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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LOTTERY FUNDED

## PROJECT UPDATE: Birds and Farm Landscapes

It has been a busy winter for the project with a wide variety of different activities taking place. Local birding group the Teesdale U3A carried out survey work of sites planted with wild bird seed mix last spring, which showed promising results with species such as Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting and Brambling being recorded. Several additional feeding sites on farms, schools and a golf course have also been hugely successful with birds getting through about 2 tonnes of seed over the winter months!

Habitats have also been created with around 1500 trees being planted by Trees for Cotherstone and local farmers, and 1250 metres of hedgerow being planted. Durham Bird Club have made and put up 80 nest boxes for Tree Sparrows and other small birds and 8 boxes have been put up for Barn Owls, with the help of Barnard Castle Guides. Survey work continues on a number of farms in the area.

For more information about introducing conservation measures on your land please contact Jennie Stafford on 07866 235307 or at [jennie@jenniestafford.co.uk](mailto:jennie@jenniestafford.co.uk).

### **Event: AN INTRODUCTION TO LIMESTONE GRASSLAND SPECIES Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 10am-3pm Bowlees Visitor Centre**

This course is for beginners will focus particularly on plants and flowers associated with the limestone grassland of the Dales. The day will include a presentation and discussion as well as a practical outdoor workshop in the meadows of Teesdale, giving participants the opportunity to develop skills in identification and recording of plant species. Led by Fal Sarker, Elizabeth Elliott and Carole Sobkowiak of the Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club. Booking required.

### **Event: AN INTRODUCTION TO BUSHCRAFTS Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 1.30-4.30pm Deepdale Wood, Barnard Castle**

Learn about two of the basics for survival skills - shelter and fire. You'll learn how to set up a shelter and a range of different ways to light a fire without matches, including in wet conditions. The activity leader, Bruce Ferguson, is qualified through the Institute for Outdoor Learning to teach bushcrafts to groups and has been involved in bushcrafts and woodland skills since 1987. Bring waterproof clothing and sturdy footwear. Booking required.

### **Event: OTTER SURVEYING TRAINING Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10am-3.30pm Low Barns Visitor Centre**

The day will include a presentation on otter ecology, identification and monitoring and a practical outdoor workshop looking for signs of otters within the nature reserve. This course will help participants to understand otter ecology and develop the skills to carry out surveying of wild otter populations. Led by Dr Vivien Kent of the Durham Wildlife Trust. Booking required.

### **Event: BUTTERFLIES AND BEES TALK Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**For more information and to book please contact Susie Lane on 03000 264903 or [susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk](mailto:susanne.lane@durham.gov.uk)**



Photo donated by Margaret King

## PROJECT UPDATE: Increasing access – Lifetime Memories

This project aims to help those with dementia to recall and pass on their memories to young school children from the area. Children from Forest-in-Teesdale school visited Kings Court care home to interview the residents and record their memories. They used objects borrowed from Beamish Museum related to farming, mining, play and households to help jog the residents' memories. The children then wrote up the stories they had heard and drew pictures.

A final resource is now being drawn together using all the different material collected throughout the project.



## PROJECT UPDATE: Artscapes

The exhibition held at the Witham has now closed but we have had some wonderful comments from those who visited the exhibition:

*"Fabulous and inspirational – makes you want to go and explore Teesdale and do something creative"*

*"How lucky to be living where Artscapes happens – genius from the project organisers/creators."*

*"Great to see local people's work exhibited"*

*"Inspiring to see the children working together to produce something so bright and worthwhile"*

*"Lovely exploration of the local landscape"*

A brilliant end to a fantastic project.