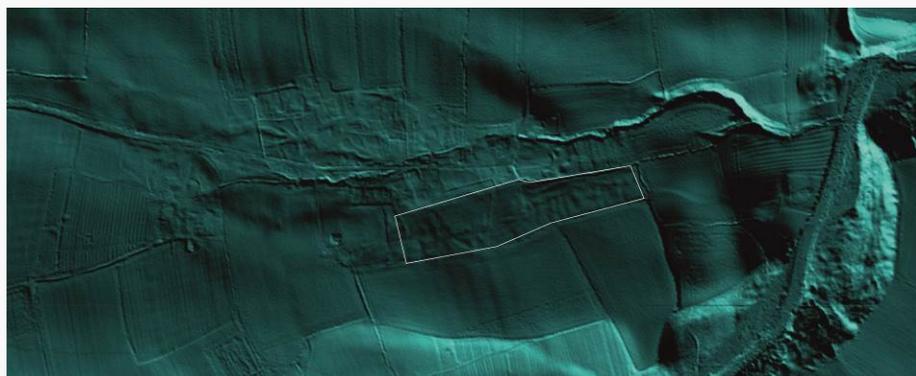


Community Archaeology!



Working with volunteers this autumn, detailed recording of Rock Art features at Hawkesley Hill and additional investigation and excavation has taken place. Evidence of additional Rock Art was discovered however evidence of the people who created them was not evident. There was evidence however of the site being occupied at later periods.

Geophysical and LIDAR surveys were undertaken followed by targeting trenching at Brignall deserted medieval village to clarify the extent and nature of the archaeology (see image above). This proved to be an incredibly rich site which raised more questions than it answered. Evidence of the medieval occupation and unexpected prehistoric farming were found! The finds are currently awaiting further analysis for more accurate dating.

The volunteers have been instrumental to the successes of both projects so thanks to them for coming out in all weather!

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

Website: www.heartofteesdale.net

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/heartofteesdale

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/heartofteesdale



PROJECT UPDATE:

Field Boundary Programme

This project run by Durham Hedgerow Partnership has continued to deliver a number of different training sessions over the past year including dry stone walling, hedge bank restoration and hedgelaying. They have also continued to offer grants to local landowners for the planting and maintenance of hedgerows as field boundaries. The Hedgelaying Competition at Piercebridge this year saw one of our regular volunteers Allan Rayner winning the Novice Category. Well done Allan!



PROJECT UPDATE:

Teesdale Viewmarkers

This project led by Artworks in Teesdale will create 12 "viewmarkers" across the HoT area. Artist Victoria Brailsford has been chosen to progress her ideas for nine locations and Artist Ant Macari has been commissioned to produce a sketchbook of Haiku for the project. The photo above shows some of Victoria's ideas which were shown in a public exhibition in June.

PROJECT UPDATE: Creative Media

This year saw the start of the Creative Media project and a series of workshops were held in the autumn. These covered writing for press releases, writing for marketing, writing for websites, blog creation and a full day creative writing workshop. These were well attended and feedback has been great! Designs for two interpretation boards at Flatts Wood are underway as well as plans to create a series of digital media tools including an app and audio trails.

PROJECT UPDATE: Lost Landscapes

This project has continued to improve or restore wildlife habitats throughout the HoT area. Activities this year have included creating a wildlife garden at a care home, planting two small orchards in Barnard Castle, sowing a wildflower meadow by the Tees Railway Path, an Interpretation Board at Doe Park for their SSSI and removing invasive species at Tees Bank. Further works are planned and include, pond clearance and wildlife boxes at Gainford, and restoration of a Sand Martin Bank at Hayberries Nature Reserve.

PROJECT UPDATE: Stone Academy

This year the programme has selivered a substantial accredited programme to 12 people offering a full level 2 nationally accredited award in Heritage Construction. There are now free places on Leve 2 Craft Masonry and Level 2 Heritage Construction. Open to individuals and volunteers. For more information, please contact us.

Annual Forum

Our Annual Forum took place at the beginning of this month and was a great success! Around 100 people attended along with many of our projects who showed their support by attending, bringing displays of their projects and a few who gave some short presentations. A big thank you to all of you!

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: MAKE YOUR OWN UPCYCLED CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS! Saturday 12th December, 10am-4pm Romaldkirk

Escape from glitter and tinsel this Christmas and spend the day making your upcycled Christmas decorations! All materials will be provided and you will take home your own designed pieces.

Event: WINTER TREE ID Saturday 16th January Time and Venue TBC

Led by Bruce Ferguson from Wild North Discovery. Learn how to identify trees in the winter!

Event: WINTERFEST Saturday 6th February, 11am – 3pm Deepdale Woods, Startforth, Barnard Castle

Following on from our extremely successful 'WOODFEST' this summer, we are having this final big community event to celebrate the work of the Partnership over the last 5 years! Plenty of fantastic activities to be confirmed. Watch this space!

Most events are FREE however a returnable deposit may be required.

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



PROJECT UPDATE: Landscape Discovery

A number of different training sessions have been run throughout the past year including Woodland Management, Bat Surveying, Woodland plants and Flowers Identification, Introduction to Green Wood Working, Scything, Reptiles and Amphibians talk and a Tracks and Signs walk. A training course for Winter Tree ID is planned for early 2016.

Another element of this project was a programme of environmental education activities called 'Woodland Wonders' delivered by Groundwork NE & Cumbria. Sessions have now been delivered to local primary schools, nurseries, toddler groups and open outreach sessions. Training sessions have been held with the YMCA, Bishop Auckland College and an open course for members of the public, teachers and other youth workers.



PROJECT UPDATE: Crafts and Skills in the Community

This project provides training and workshops in a variety of traditional and modern crafts and skills. Workshops have continued this year and have included Level 1 and 2 Woodcarving, Rag Rugs, Storytelling (see above), Ceramics and Proggy Jewellery making.

This year funding was made available for primary schools, nurseries or organisations and groups engaging with children of primary school age for extra-curricular activities that relate to traditional crafts or nature and outdoor activities. Six applications have been approved and activities delivered.