

HEART OF TEESDALE ANNUAL FORUM!

Wednesday 11th November, The Witham 6.30pm – 8.30pm

It's that time of year again! Come along to our last Annual Forum and find out what has been achieved over the past year, the impact the partnership has had as a whole and the plans for the final year of the Partnership. There will be a chance to talk to staff, our Advisory Group members and some of our projects. Please come along and show your support!

PROJECT UPDATE: Investeesgate



Our volunteers have been getting their feet wet helping The Tees Rivers Trust Fisheries Officer, Richard Holmes, with electrofishing surveys over the summer. This work continues the electrofishing surveys that started in 2014 on a number of local becks that run through the HoT area. A total of seven becks are being monitored again to monitor the fish stocks within them.

The surveys have shown similar numbers and species of fish although there have been a couple of surprises and discoveries. Firstly, a large eel of about 2.5ft turned up in Scur Beck (see above). This was great to see as eels are now an endangered species having suffered an estimated 98% collapse in stocks. It was also surprising to find one so far up the river. Eels start life in the Sargasso sea of the Mexican Coast and move with ocean currents, looking more like a leaf than an eel for the first 2 years. As they reach brackish waters they become tubiform and free swimming. They then move into rivers and wetlands and stay for between 8-15 years before making the journey back to the Sargasso. An eel of the size caught would have been around 10 years old!

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

The Gruffalo comes to Flatts Wood!



If you went down to the woods on a Saturday in August you might well have bumped into a seldom seen creature (mice frighten him!) – The Gruffalo! Around 30 booked on to our Trails through Teesdale family friendly walk. Participants made clay mice and took part in a 'sniff' challenge, built log pile houses and enjoyed a picnic of 'roasted fox' and 'owl ice cream'! We had lots of really enthusiastic feedback!



Barney goes Batty!

Over the summer months, our volunteers have been undertaking bat surveys in Barnard Castle under the expert tuition of Tricia Snaith from Durham Bat Group. The results are fed into a monitoring programme run by the Bat Conservation Trust and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Around 20 people also attended our Family Bat Walk at the end of August and got a chance to see some of the fascinating creatures up close and to use a bat detector!

If you are interested in getting involved yourself, please contact Karen Collins – Karen.collins@durham.gov.uk 03000 260835

PROJECT UPDATE: Teesdale Viewmarkers

During the summer months, the project presented two artists ideas for artwork to mark up to 12 viewpoints across the Heart of Teesdale area, at an exhibition in Barnard Castle and asked members of the public to comment. After a good response from the exhibition, Victoria Brailsford has been commissioned by Artworks in Teesdale to develop her ideas for three dimensional cast objects and Ant Macari will produce a collection of illustrated haikus to be published in a limited edition bound sketchbook early next year.

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: TRAILS THROUGH TEESDALE Guided Walks

Second Sunday of every month

Starting at 12.30pm

13th September –Eggleston and Romaldkirk Circular (6 miles)

11th October - Cotherstone East Circular (4.5miles)

8th November - Hutton Magna Circular (4.5miles)

Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

Event: CREATIVE MEDIA WORKSHOPS

Writing for Press Releases

Thursday, 10 September

Writing for Leaflets / Marketing

Thursday, 17 September

Blog Creation and Writing

Thursday, 24 September

Writing for Websites

Thursday, 1 October

All above workshops from 7-9pm at The Witham, Barnard Castle

Creative Writing

Saturday, 10 October, 10am-4pm

Winston Village Hall

Event: TONGUES IN THE TREES STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Saturday 19th September, 10am-4pm

Whorlton

Led by experienced tutor and storyteller Malcolm Green

Event: NORTH PENNINES WALKING FESTIVAL – Guided Walks

Bowes to Middleton (12.5 miles) HARD 10am-4pm

Sunday 27th September

Mickleton Circular (10 miles) MODERATE 10am—4pm

Wednesday 30th September

River Greta (7 miles) MODERATE 10am—3pm

Thursday 1st October

To book please visit

www.friendsofthenorthpennines.org.uk/north-pennines-walking-festival

Event: TRACKS AND SIGNS

Saturday 24th October 1.30pm - 3.30pm

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: VIVA

This project has completed 3 community artwork pieces so far including a Stone Bench in Boldron, Parish Markers in Eggleston and a Stained Glass Window in Romaldkirk.

The project is now seeking other interested villages/communities who would like to develop a community artwork piece or host community art workshops within their village.

If you would like to find out more please contact Karen Collins – Karen.collins@groundwork.org.uk
tel: 01207 524803



PROJECT UPDATE: Crafts and Skills in the Community

A knitting project led by Warm Age Wood Company has been delivered in St Mary's RC and Green Lane Primary Schools in Barnard Castle. A minimum of 40 children overall are learning to knit.

Learning how to knit has been developed and delivered in an inspiring and creative way that has enabled children to become competent at basic knitting techniques and to enjoy and seek progression.

This project is fundamentally linked to Teesdale, its agricultural base and its community craft skills. This foundation will be used to appreciate and develop children's understanding of local assets and natural resources. Feedback so far has been very positive.

'I am going to keep knitting all the time' Child Participant