

Welcome to latest edition of our newsletter. If you're wanting to work off those Easter eggs you indulged in then try joining in with a volunteer conservation task- it's great exercise!

As always, we have a range of opportunities for people of all ages and interests to get involved in volunteering and give something back to your local community- see below for further details, check out our newly revamped website at www.heartofteesdale.net or contact Honia **(HD)** or Karen **(KC)** for more information (the initials refer to the lead person for each project- see contact details at the end).

Updates from activities

Our volunteers have been very active over the past few months and have taken part in a number of activities and events, including:



Regular conservation volunteers have cut back overgrown snowberry bushes on the Teesdale Way

Volunteers helped clean out and monitor dormice nesting boxes in Abbey Bridge woods



Volunteers have also been carrying out footpath improvement works at Brignall Banks, cutting back more Rhododendron at Romaldkirk and sowing wild flower seeds at the Tattie Patch near Romaldkirk and at Kennedy's Ponds near Cotherstone.



YMCA volunteers have engaged with the Residents of Charles Dickens Lodge and Manor House; planting herbs, making bird feeders and Easter decorations.

Volunteers have received training and have already surveyed about 60 traditional farm buildings.



The Social Media Café with Emma Hignett is now a permanent fixture at the Witham on the first Thursday of each month.

We have helped to create a mini-beast hotel at Montalbo Primary School.



Office volunteers

Our office volunteers Jamie and Andrew continuously support a wide range of activities from creating posters to distributing them around town.

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ALL THE TIME AND EFFORT YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED!

Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

Practical conservation volunteering tasks:

Wed 29th April- footpath improvements at Low Shipley 1.30-3.30pm. Meeting at Low Shipley Caravan Park, Marwood, DL12 8RL

Wed 13th May 10am-2pm- footpath improvements at Brignall Banks, meeting at Brignall Farm, DL12 9SF (parking in farm yard).

Wed 20th May 1.30-3.30pm- footpath improvements along the Teesdale Way in Tees Bank woods. Meeting at the Silver Bridge, Flatts Wood.

No previous experience is necessary and all tools are provided; please wear suitable outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear. **KC**

Bat surveys

We are looking for volunteers to help us carry out bat surveys around Barnard Castle and villages in the HoT area. The first planned survey dates are:

Wed 20th May 9.15pm-11.15pm, Barnard Castle

Wed 24th June 9.30-11.30pm, Barnard Castle.

The meeting point for both is Morrisons car park (free parking after 6pm).

We are also looking for volunteers who are able to carry out bat surveys individually from home too, so please get in touch if you are interested. **KC**

Heritage and other opportunities:

Traditional Farm Buildings Survey Project

It's not too late to join the survey project. Jen Deadman is providing on-going training and we have plenty of buildings waiting to be surveyed. **HD**

Increasing Access Workshops

Various times (day or evening)

Help to support local care homes' residents at a variety of craft and wildlife workshops. **HD**

Guided walk leaders and marshals

We are looking for volunteers to marshal or guide our Trails through Teesdale walks, which will be taking place throughout the year on the second Sunday of every month. No previous experience required. **HD**

Social Media Café with Emma Hignett

First Thursday of each month, 10-11am

An opportunity to have your Social Media queries answered and to network with others. Open to

volunteers and community groups. There is no charge but please buy a drink at the café. **HD**

Upcoming Free Events

To book on any of these events please contact Susie Lane on 03000 264 903 or email Susanne.Lane@durham.gov.uk

Trails through Teesdale guided walks

Sunday 10th May 12.30pm- Egglestone Abbey and Boldron circular. Meeting at Egglestone Abbey. Approx. 4 miles.

Sunday 14th June 12.30pm- Cotherstone West circular. Meeting at the Fox & Hounds, Cotherstone. Approx. 7 miles.

Sunday 12th July 12.30pm- Bowes West circular. Meeting at Bowes Village Hall car park. Approx. 7.5 miles.

Woodland Plants & Flowers training course

Saturday 9th May 10.30am-4pm

Whorlton Village Hall

Led by experts from the Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club, this introductory day course is suitable for those with an interest in woodland botany but little or no previous knowledge of the subject.

Wood Fest

Saturday 16th May, 11am-3pm

Deepdale Woods

A free fun family event with loads of activities, including willow weaving, woodland trail, storytelling, wild cooking, stream dipping, with picnic food and a brass band! **Booking not required.**

Storytelling workshop

19th September, 10am-4pm

Whorlton Village Hall

Join us for this workshop with experienced story teller Malcolm Green who will help you to explore existing tales about nature and landscape and to create your own. This workshop is suitable for all ages and abilities. **HD**

VOLUNTEERING CONTACTS

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