

Welcome to latest edition of our volunteer newsletter. We would like to wish all our volunteers a very Happy New Year! We hope you are starting the year with the enthusiasm to get stuck in with volunteering in 2015!

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 brand new 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

A roundup of the volunteer activity over the past few months:

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



Volunteers from EE and Mazars of Durham got stuck in with our Environmental Volunteering programme, helping to clear a large area of rhododendrons near Romaldkirk as part of the Forests Fit for Fairies project.



Volunteers from Heart of Teesdale and Durham County Council Countryside Volunteers joined forces to carry out footpath repairs along the Teesdale Way at Cotherstone.



We had our volunteers Christmas walk and lunch in December, which was enjoyed by all.

Our volunteer Robin Laycock (left) has helped to run activities at the Charles Dickens Lodge including painting bird boxes and making bird feeders.



Volunteers from the YMCA (right) have been helping to organise and run a variety of activities at the Manor House Care Home, such as making Christmas decorations.



Volunteers have been trained and are now busy surveying Traditional Farm Buildings in the area.

Office volunteers

Our office volunteers Jamie and Andrew continuously support a wide range of activities, including creating posters, maps, displays and carrying out research.

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE!!!!!!

Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers needed to help monitor and maintain wildlife boxes

Durham Wildlife Trust are looking for volunteers to help clean out Dormice boxes in Abbey Bridge Woods, near Egglestone Abbey during February. The boxes were placed there by volunteers as part of our Watch Out for Wildlife project. We now need volunteers to help keep them in top condition to encourage the dormice to use them.

KC

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with monitoring and maintenance of bird nesting boxes as part of the Birds & Farm Landscapes project. This will involve checking and cleaning out boxes within the HoT area.

KC

Practical conservation volunteering tasks:

Wed 4th Feb 1.30-3.30pm: Snowberry clearance in Abbey Bridge Woods. Meeting at Egglestone Abbey Bridge.

Wed 11th Feb 10am-3pm: Footpath improvement works at Brignall Banks. Meeting at Brignall Farm, Brignall. DL12 9SF (Parking in farm yard).

Wed 25th Feb 10am-3pm: Rhododendron clearance and burning at Romal Kirk. Meeting at the Village Green.

No previous experience necessary. All tools provided; please wear suitable outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear.

KC

Heritage and other opportunities:

Traditional Farm Buildings Survey Project

It's not too late to join the survey project. Jen Deadman is providing and on-going training and we have plenty of buildings to keep us working over the next year

HD

Increasing Access Workshops

Various times (day or evening)
Help and support local care home's residents at a variety of craft and wildlife workshops.

HD

Guided walk leaders and marshals

We are looking for volunteers to marshal or guide walks that will be taking place throughout the year on the second Sunday of every month. These are organised as part of our project called 'Trails through Teesdale'. No previous experience required.

HD

We are carrying out evaluation of our projects as part of our ongoing quality monitoring. We would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete our online questionnaire:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/HeartOfTeesdale

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

This year we are starting an exciting new programme of guided walks in the Heart of Teesdale area. The walks will take in some of the area's most stunning landscapes and will be suitable for most ability levels, ranging from 3.5 to 7.5 miles in length. The walks will be held on the second Sunday of every month, meeting at 12.30pm.

The first walk will take place on **Sunday 8th February** at Bowes, meeting at Bowes Village car park (opposite the community centre). The walk will be approximately 3.5 miles. Please ensure you wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

Woodcarving workshop

Saturday 7th February, 9.30am-5pm
Hutton Magna Village Hall

An experienced tutor Alan Suddes from the British Woodcarvers Association will teach basic carving techniques. Each participant will carve a simple leaf in relief. All tools will be provided.

Rag Rug workshop

Saturday 28th February, 10am-4pm
Winston Village Hall

Join us for a Rag Rug workshop to learn both hooky and proddy techniques. This workshop will be led by an experienced tutor, Susan Abel.

Ceramics Workshop

Saturday mornings, 7th & 21st March
Teesdale School

Learn about the techniques and traditions of working with clay and create your own Teesdale inspired ceramic. Led by Teesdale-based artist Lindsey Starborn. Please note you'll need to attend both days.

VOLUNTEERING CONTACTS

Karen Collins (KC)

Volunteering Officer - Green & Environmental Issues 03000 260835
karen.collins@durham.gov.uk

Honia Devlin (HD)

Volunteering Officer - Culture and Heritage 03000 260830
honia.devlin@durham.gov.uk

The Partnership is supported by Barnard Castle Vision/Durham County Council/The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund

