

We have a range of opportunities for people of all ages and interests to give something back to your local community. You could help to hold **arts and crafts** activities for young people or the elderly at local care homes; **carry out research** into local heritage or get hands-on in helping to look after your local environment with **our practical conservation volunteering** team. We also have an exciting programme of **free training** courses, ranging from traditional crafts and skills to wildlife surveying & monitoring and first aid training, so why not come along and develop your skills and interests? 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 months:

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

- Improving footpath access at Whorlton.



- Tackling Himalayan Balsam at the Bandstand in Flatts Wood as part of the Tees Invasive Species project.
- Carrying out a bat survey around Barnard Castle on the 11th June.
- Volunteers from the Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club led a Limestone Grassland species training day at Bowlees Visitor Centre on the 18th June.



- Half yearly forum – a walk from Barnard Castle to Whorlton during which we talked about various HoT projects, finishing with presentations and lunch at the Bridge Inn.



Volunteer Peter Singer explains about the Discovering Britain Walk.

- As part of Dementia Awareness Week volunteers from YMCA had a lovely time with the Residents from the Manor House Care Home planting a variety of herbs and decorating the planting pots.



- Our office volunteers Jamie and Andrew have been busy helping with publicity and promotion for our many events.

Upcoming Events

Himalayan Balsam blitz

As part of the Tees Invasive Species project, we will be trying to remove as much Himalayan Balsam from along the River Tees as possible. Please come along to one of our conservation volunteering days if you can and lend a hand to eradicating this invasive species.

- Thursday 26th June 10am-3pm** at Cotherstone. Meeting at the Fox & Hounds.
- Saturday 28th June 10am-3pm** at the Bandstand, Flatts Wood, Barnard Castle. Meeting at the Silver Bridge.
- Thursday 3rd July 10am-3pm**- Barnard Castle to Abbey Bridge. Meeting at the green footbridge (Thorngate Bridge).

No previous experience necessary. Gloves will be provided; please wear suitable outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear.

All the events listed below are FREE. Spaces are limited so please book.

An Introduction to Bushcraft

Saturday 28th June, 1.30-4.30pm
Deepdale Wood

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. **HD**

Otter Surveying & Monitoring

Saturday 12th July 10am-3.30pm
Low Barns Visitor Centre, Witton-le-Wear

The day will cover otter ecology, identification and monitoring and includes a practical outdoor workshop looking for signs of otters within the nature reserve. **KC**

Butterflies & Bees

Wednesday 23rd July, 7-9pm

The Witham Hall, Barnard Castle

An evening talk, introducing easily identifiable bees and butterflies as well as other common flying insects such as wasps, flies and beetles. **KC**

Woodcarving workshop

Saturday 18th October, 9.30am-5pm
Venue to be confirmed

An experienced tutor Alan Suddes from the British Woodcarvers Association will teach basic carving techniques during this workshop. Each participant will carve a simple leaf in relief during the day and learn correct use of tools. All tools and materials will be provided.

Only 6 places available, please book **HD**

Traditional Farm Buildings Surveys

Meetings and Training

Jennifer Deadman, a Historic Building Consultant is now helping us with our Field Barns Project. Jennifer led on a 2 year survey of traditional farm buildings at Nidderdale AONB. She will provide full training and ongoing support to volunteers to carry out surveys within the Heart of Teesdale area, with the support of by Les Hardy from the Traditional Farm Buildings Group.

If you are interested in helping out with this project please attend the following events:

Introductory meetings to find out about the project:

Tuesday 7th October, 10am

Saturday 10th October, 10am

Barnard Castle, Venue TBC

Hands-on training sessions:

Saturday 25th October, 10am – 4pm

Sunday 26th October, 10am – 4pm

Venue for both: Romalldkirk Reading Rooms

Upcoming Volunteering Opportunities

Events Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the events below. We require help with setting up and taking down, engaging with the public and participants and helping out with the activities.

Family Events in Flatts Wood

23rd July – Stickman book walk

30th July - Woodland Treasure Hunt

6th August - Fairies, Goblins and Pixies

13th August - To eat or not to eat?

20th August – Art bugs

27th August - Family Fun Day

Sheep Race in Cotherstone

Saturday 17th August (making small wooden sheep and hurdles)

Bowes Show

Saturday 13th September (hurdle making and displays)

Increasing Access Workshops at the Manor House Care Home

Monthly, Tuesday evenings at 6pm (a variety of craft and wildlife workshops).

Guided walk leaders

We are looking for volunteers to research and guide a variety of walks. For the Heritage Open Days this September we would like to offer the public a walk along the Teesdale Way from Barnard Castle to a forgotten Spa mentioned by Richard Garland in his Tour of Teesdale in 1813. Can you help to find out more? Please get in touch! **HD**

Music at the Heart of Teesdale

The project is looking for a new newsletter editor to take lead in establishing a social media presence for the project, initially with a Facebook page for their planned 'Friends' group. **HD**

VOLUNTEERING CONTACTS

Karen Collins (KC)

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For details of volunteering opportunities across the Partnership, please visit our website or contact one of the volunteering officers.

www.heartofteesdale.net/volunteering

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