

Happy New Year from the Heart of Teesdale!

With the New Year, why not make a fresh start and make 2014 the year you get active in your local community through volunteering? 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** team. We also have an exciting programme of **free training** courses planned for 2014, ranging from traditional crafts and skills to wildlife surveying and 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).

HoT has moved!

We have now moved from Teesdale House to our new premises at the Durham County Council offices above the library behind the Witham. Please note our new address at the bottom of this newsletter. We are pleased to say we have now settled in and are up and ready for business so please do get in touch!

Staff on leave

Please note that both Karen and Honia will be away on holidays in the nearer future.

Karen from 17th February until 2nd March

Honia from 24th February until 9th March.

Updates from activities

A roundup of the volunteer activity over the past months:

Volunteers help create Forests Fit for Fairies!

Our conservation volunteers have continued in the epic quest to remove the rhododendrons from the banks of the Tees near Romal Kirk, improving habitat for local wildlife. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteers a large area of rhododendrons has now been cleared but there is still much to be done! We will be holding more 'rhododendron bashing' days over the next few months so if you fancy getting active outdoors, meeting new people and helping your local environment at the same time please do come along.

See below for further details and picture. **KC**

Field Barns Survey Training



The two day Field Barns survey training that took place last year at the beginning of December proved to be very popular with both days being oversubscribed.

We are currently recruiting volunteers that would like to help with the surveys in the area. Further hands-on training will be provided. Robert White who led the training produced a set of guidelines that soon will be available from our website. Please get in touch if you would like more information.

HD

Generations come together to explore the landscape through proggy mat making!

As part of the national Make a Difference campaign last October 2013 young girls from the Teesdale YMCA helped out the Residents of the Manor House Care Home to make landscape inspired proggy mat pictures.



Lianne Oliver, YMCA Centre Manager said: 'One of the girls was so greatly impacted by the project that she really wants to pursue care as a career' **We really need more volunteers** to help with facilitating these activities to support the project officer, residents and YMCA.

HD

Upcoming Volunteering Events

Life time memories project

This is a new project which involves working with the King's Court Care Home, Barnard Castle and a local primary school. We will engage residents living dementia and their families through reminiscence work inspired by the Teesdale landscape and exploring its significance in their lives.

Volunteers are needed to support the project worker Jude Irwin. You will receive relevant training. **HD**

Crafts and Skills in the Community events

There will be a lot of new exciting free events organised as part of the Craft and Skills in the Community Programme such as Foraging, Natural Dyes and Bushcraft.

We are now taking bookings for:

Felt making workshop

**Saturday 29th March 2014, 10am-4pm
Winston**

Please note although the course is free of charge we are asking for a returnable deposit of £30 to secure your place. **HD**

Practical Conservation volunteering tasks:

Rhododendron bashing day

Wednesday 26th February, 10.30am-2-30pm
Meet at Romal Kirk Village Hall at 10.30am **KC**

Practical works at Kennedy's Ponds, Cotherstone

Wednesday 5th March 1.30-3.30pm

We will be carrying out practical maintenance works on this nature site, including coppicing hazel trees, cutting back excessive vegetation from around the ponds and pruning trees to create habitat piles.

Meet at Cotherstone Village Hall (postcode DL12 9PH) at 1.30pm. **KC**

Footpath clearance works

Wednesday 19th March 1.30-3.30pm

We will be doing a practical volunteering task in Flatts Wood to complement the ongoing access improvement works in the woodland. We will be removing old, collapsed steps and using the wood to create habitat piles. We will also be cutting back vegetation to open up the paths.

Meet at the entrance to Flatts Wood off Raby Avenue, Barnard Castle (postcode DL12 8AJ) at 1.30pm. **KC**

For all practical tasks all tools and equipment will be provided. Please ensure you wear suitable outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear. **KC**

Ongoing volunteering opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to help with wildlife conservation tasks, historical research, guiding walks, running events and many more.



Fit for Fairies Project – Volunteer task

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

www.heartofteesdale.net/volunteering

Other

Tree planting sites needed!

We are still looking for more tree planting sites within the Heart of Teesdale area. If you have any suggestions and think you may be able to help, please get in touch with Karen. **KC**

VOLUNTEERING CONTACTS

Karen Collins (KC)

Volunteering Officer - Green and Environmental Issues

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Honia Devlin (HD)

Volunteering Officer - Culture and Heritage

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Our new address is:

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership
Durham County Council
2 Hall Street
Barnard Castle
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DL12 8JB

Please note our phone numbers and emails have not changed.

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



Barnard Castle
VISION

