



HEART OF TEESDALE

Landscape Partnership

NEWSLETTER December 2012

STAFF DEVELOPMENTS

As some of you will already know, the Partnership team has been a little under strength over the last month or so, but we hope to be fully back in gear by January. All staff are trying to make certain that there are no serious impacts on activities and projects meanwhile.

We also have some other staff news: Kath Marshall-Ivens, Volunteering Officer – Green and Environmental Issues, will be going on maternity leave in the spring. Groundwork North East is looking at cover arrangements to ensure that her work continues during her absence.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND

It is hoped that we will be able to launch the next annual round of the above fund by the end of January, or before if possible. Please keep your eyes open for announcements but if you have a project and wish to be sent information as soon as available, please send us your contact details, ideally via an email so that we can provide you with an electronic version of the pack and Expression of Interest form.

CASTLE AND SCAR TOP REVIVAL

Work will start on the Castle and Scar Top programme early in the New Year and the intention is to finish by April. The main scheme will include a new entrance feature to draw visitors towards the Castle, improvements to the walls and curbs, new and refreshed landscaping of the green areas, a small performance area near Woodleigh, a new kiosk and a new play area aimed at younger children. Barnard Castle Town Council is also working with Groundwork North East to install a totally new mini golf area with features on the theme of a Journey through Teesdale. Further information and a programme newsletter will be available in January.

BIRDS AND FARM LANDSCAPES PROGRAMME

The programme is now fully in gear following Mid Teesdale Project Partnership's appointment of Jennie Stafford to develop its conservation work throughout the Heart of Teesdale area. Jennie has an extensive knowledge of the area and its wildlife through her former role as farm conservation adviser with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. Jennie will work with farmers, landowners, local groups and volunteers to promote farmland conservation surveys, and improve habitats and conditions for threatened farmland birds such as grey partridge, tree sparrows and barn owls. She will also be managing a small grants scheme to encourage the creation of wild bird seed mix plots, restoration and establishment of hedgerows and the re-wilding of field margins. If you are interested please contact Jennie on ☎ 01833 628 443, or via mobile 07866 235 307, or jennie@jenniestafford.co.uk.

TEES RIVERS TRUST GOES EAST!

Please note that the Trust has just moved office to Scotch Corner. New address details are: Sedbury Stables, Gilling West, Richmond, DL10 5LQ. ☎ 01748 518066

*With Very Best Wishes for
Christmas and the New Year
from the Heart of Teesdale
Advisory Group and Staff*

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Staff and volunteers have a stall at the Bowes Museum Christmas Fair from 10-4 on Sunday, 16 December. As well as publicising programmes and projects we will also be selling a few items suitable for Christmas (or other) presents including: wooden bat boxes, slate and wooden hearts, and wooden sheep designed specially for the Partnership. Do come and say 'Hello' if time.



ROKEBY EXHIBITION 29 Jan -28 Apr 2013

The next major exhibition at the Bowes Museum will celebrate the bicentenary of the epic poem 'Rokeby' by Sir Walter Scott. The poem takes inspiration from the landscape around this country estate, with tales of love, derring-do and deception during the English Civil War! Its publication helped to draw artists and visitors to Teesdale, including Turner.

The Partnership is supporting this initiative, which has a variety of associated events and workshops throughout the year. They will include walking tours and leaflets to help visitors to explore the area, and relate sites and views to the art and literature they helped create.

Further details from the website at www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk

The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership is supported by
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PHILOSOPHY AND LANDSCAPE

The talk postponed from the Stone Festival will now take place on Friday, 18 January 2013 from 5.30 for 6pm start at the Teesdale Restaurant, Main Public Car Park (near Morrison's supermarket), Barnard Castle. The speaker will be Dr Simon James from the University of Durham's Department of Philosophy. Dr. James will talk about our attachments to landscape and nature. He is keen to make Teesdale the subject of a research project and after his talk, there will be discussion and conversation around the topic and how landscape is perceived and valued. Everyone is welcome and there will be no charge. Tea time refreshment will be provided so notice of attendance is helpful.

ARTSCAPES – COTMAN ON THE GRETA

The project will be running some new watercolour workshops on this theme from 27 February 2013. Look out for further publicity or contact Judy Caplin on 01833 640077.

CREAM TEES

The new group formed through the Music@Heart of Teesdale project held a very successful concert and ceilidh at the Hub at the end of November, with around eighty people attending. Interest and activities are expanding, with hopes of forming an associated dance group to revive the Long Sword tradition in Teesdale. Meanwhile, if readers have any information that would add to the archive of local folk music, song and dance, please let the project know, as they are keen to add them to the performers' repertoire. Contact Mike and Rosie Bettison via bettison@bowes.onyxnet.co.uk.

WINSTON MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY GREEN & WOOD PROJECT

The project has been making progress over the autumn: the fencing is complete, the path to the Community Wood has been dug out and the memorial oak tree has been planted, with a tree guard in place. There is now a new stone sculpture at the top entrance near the Church. Unfortunately due to the heavy rain, a period of dry weather or frost is needed to allow access via a neighbouring field in order to bring in the hardcore and chippings for the path, and also the stone for the second sculpture at the entrance to the wood. It is hoped that works can be completed in January and a project celebration will follow.

HELP TO WIN TENDERS AND CONTRACTS

Starting on Friday, 18 January, Durham County Council's Corporate Procurement team are holding a series of four half-day workshops aimed at suppliers, and potential suppliers, of goods, works or services to the Council. These events are open to any organisation, of any size, private and third sector, who may be interested in doing business with the Council (or submitting tenders for contracts linked to the Partnership). The sessions are delivered directly by DCC procurement officers and are free to attend. To book a place, please contact as soon as possible on ☎ 03000 265 428; Email: corporate.procurement@durham.gov.uk

HEART OF TEESDALE ANNUAL FORUM AND OPEN DAY

The Partnership held its first Annual Forum at Startforth on Saturday, Saturday 10 November. As well as a general presentation of activities over the last year the audience heard about three partner projects which were well under way, and illustrated different aspects of the Partnership: Artscares, WildTees and Barningham Limekiln Restoration. A copy of the Annual Report is being circulated to partners and projects and will be available shortly on our new website.

VOLUNTEERING WITH HEART OF TEESDALE!

Kath has planned a practical conservation task at Winston on Sunday, 13 January 10-12, helping the community to clear a path which is well used by local people on a popular walking route around the village. If you would like to help please contact Kath for more details or come along on the day and find us!

Honia has been working on a new project in Barnard Castle to develop opportunities with care homes and engage volunteers from the homes in a variety of activities such as studying nest box cameras and craft based sessions. Further options will be investigated as the project and contacts progress.

Two new volunteers have been recruited recently and agreed to help out at the Bowes Museum Christmas Fair. Several more potential volunteers have also made contact and placement matches are being sought for the New Year. Project partners are asked to let us know of any suitable activities asap!

There will be plenty of tree planting activities coming up in the New Year as part of the Big Tree Plant project and there are also a couple of environmental volunteering opportunities available with the Tees Rivers Trust and Wildlife Trust. If you would like to find out more about any of these or register your interest to take part please contact Kath in January.



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You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter!**