

### Welcome to the sixth Heart of Teesdale Volunteers Newsletter!

Ever fancied having a go at volunteering in your local community? We have lots of interesting and fulfilling opportunities for people of all ages and interests to get involved in volunteering in the Heart of Teesdale area. See below for a sample of the opportunities that we currently have on offer. Interested? Contact Honia or Karen for more information (the initials refer to the lead person for each project- see contact details at the end).

### Volunteering Picnic at Lartington Hall!



We had a lovely day out at Lartington on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteers enjoyed a guided walk from Woodleigh to Lartington, led by John Musham of the Tees Rivers Trust, who showed us how to identify invasive plant species. This was followed by a tour around the beautiful and fascinating Lartington Hall and a picnic in the grounds. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event!

### Volunteering Vacancies & Opportunities:

#### Bat Surveying workshop- 14<sup>th</sup> August

On Wednesday 14th August we are running a bat surveying workshop in Barnard Castle, meeting at Woodleigh at 7.30pm. Come along and find out about how to recognise, record and monitor different bat species! The workshop will be led by Tricia Snaith from Durham Bat Group and will include an introduction, followed by a chance to go out and try your hand at using bat detectors to identify and record local bat species. The event is free and all ages are welcome! The event will finish at approximately 10pm. No booking necessary.

#### Volunteer Conservation task at Romaldkirk

On Monday 19th August we have a volunteer conservation task at Romaldkirk, which will involve raking grass to create a wildflower meadow, removing nutrients to allow the finer grasses and wild flowers to grow. The task will take place on the Tees railway path, at the area locally known as the "Tattie patch," meeting at 9.30am for a 10am start. Please bring a packed lunch, drink and suitable outdoor footwear and clothing. For more information please contact Karen.

KC

#### Tidy up tasks around Barney

We are holding a couple of volunteer tasks to tidy up a few areas around Barnard Castle. If you have the time, please come along and lend a hand- no experience necessary and all tools provided!

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> August 1.30- 3.30pm-** Cutting back saplings and clearing vegetation to open up the views to the river at the Ladies' Circle bench on the castle end of the county bridge.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1.30-3.30pm-** Cleaning and tidying up the sculpture garden, by the old gas works below Scar Top. We will be doing some weeding, clearing vegetation and spreading down new bark chippings.

KC

#### New! Landscape Discovery Volunteer

We are looking for volunteers to identify and try out short walking routes suitable for parents with toddlers and pushchairs, in order to develop established 'Toddler Trails,' creating opportunities for young children and parents to explore their local area. The trails will initially be focussed in Barnard Castle, possibly also looking at routes elsewhere in the HoT area, e.g. Gainford and Eggleston.

KC

#### Free willow weaving events!

##### 4<sup>th</sup> September – Thorpe Farm

Come along to work with our professional willow weaving instructor to build a bird screen at the farm's wetland. Please get in touch for details.

##### 5<sup>th</sup> October – Barnigham Village Hall

##### 10am-3pm

Basket weaving course run by a willow weaving artist Ruth Thomson. Places are limited so please book now. A returnable deposit will be required to secure your place.

HD

## **Heritage Open Days – Landscape and Heritage Eggleston Guided Walk**

**Sunday 15th Sept: 13.30-15.00.**

**Meet at: Village Hall, Egglestone, DL12 0AE**

A family walk around the beautiful village of Eggleston led by the Heart of Teesdale Volunteer Sue Laycock. Come to discover the fascinating heritage and picturesque landscape of the area. The village is often seen as marking the boundary between the gentle lower reaches of Teesdale and the wilder upland areas of the upper dale. Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. The route is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for weather conditions. You may want to bring food and water.

**Volunteer Marshalls are needed to help with this walk. Please get in touch! HD**

## **Teesdale Tales Project – Kando Arts**

Kando Arts are leading a new CIF project – Teesdale Tales.

Further details available on the HoT website.

### **They are currently looking for volunteers:**

- **Fundraising event organiser** - assist in attracting sponsors (local traders etc) to support events. Visiting shops and businesses and asking for contributions in kind, such as items for raffle prizes. Organise raffles, quizzes. Help to serve refreshments at the performances.

- **Musician** - to work closely with the artistic director on sound production for the Tees Tales production. This would include transcribing traditional songs and tunes. It would also involve experimenting with sounds recorded from our local environment to use as soundscapes.

- **Social Media Manager** - promote the Tees Tales project and related fundraising events, using social media. Use Social Media to increase awareness and gather support for the Tees Tales project.

**HD**

## **Stone Academy needs volunteers again: 21<sup>st</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September**

The Stone Festival is back for its second year celebrating the past, present and future of stonework in the North Pennines.

[www.stonefestival.wordpress.com](http://www.stonefestival.wordpress.com)

They are calling for volunteer:

- Marshalls
- Education Assistants
- Events Assistants

## **Increasing Access Volunteers!**

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Increasing Access programme and to support Project Officer with the following:

- Organising and delivering events at Care Homes and similar
- Assisting the elderly and young participants in a variety of hands on workshops
- Encouraging social and intergenerational conversation and interaction. This role may be a subject to a CRB check (volunteers could be expected to work without a member of HoT staff present but will not work alone or without a group worker present at the session).

**HD**

## **Volunteer Events Organiser**

We are seeking volunteers to help with organising, publicising and delivering events.

**HD**

## **Teesdale Dialect**

### **Researcher and Recorder**

Radio Teesdale is looking for volunteers to help with researching and recording as many people as possible who speak in the Teesdale Dialect. Also, to create entertaining, educational and informative projects on the subject and an important reference point for future generations.

**HD**

## **Enjoyed volunteering, why not share your experience?**

We are looking for a volunteer to write a short article on your volunteering experience with the Partnership or a report from an activity you have taken part in. If you are interested in doing this please contact Honia or Karen. This may be used in a future newsletter or perhaps on the new website.

**HD/KC**

## **VOLUNTEERING CONTACTS**

### **Karen Collins (KC)**

**Volunteering Officer - Green and Environmental Issues**

03000 260835

[karen.collins@durham.gov.uk](mailto:karen.collins@durham.gov.uk)

### **Honia Devlin (HD)**

**Volunteering Officer - Culture and Heritage**

03000 260830

[honia.devlin@durham.gov.uk](mailto:honia.devlin@durham.gov.uk)

For details of other volunteering opportunities across the Partnership, please visit

**[www.heartofteesdale.net/volunteering](http://www.heartofteesdale.net/volunteering)**

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