

## Volunteer News

### *Keeping you in touch with Devon Wildlife Trust*

#### **Volunteering Opportunities**

We are currently looking for volunteers for the following roles:

- [Practical Volunteers – Natural Flood Management \(Otter St Mary\)](#)
- [Learning and Participation Volunteer \(Seaton Jurassic\)](#)
- [Scrub Clearing Task at Barley Valley Park \(Exeter\)](#)
- [Help with Collection Tins \(locations across Devon\)](#)

These are just some of the volunteering roles that we currently have available. A full list can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/volunteering-opportunities>



#### **Volunteers Forum**

A huge thank you to everyone that attended the Volunteers Forum on Sunday 29 September at the Seaton Jurassic Visitor Centre!

*"A really positive & interesting day!"*

*"Great venue, nice lunch – thank you."*

*"First time I've attended – interesting day all round."*

*"I enjoyed meeting volunteers from other groups."*

This year we went for an "East Devon Projects" theme, so we started the day with an update on the Beaver Project with Jake Chant (River Otter Beaver Trial Field Officer), including lots of recorded footage of the beavers in action! This was followed by presentations from the Seaton Jurassic Visitor Centre staff, as well as the chance to hear from the Seaton Jurassic Volunteers about their amazing contribution to the day to day running of the centre.

After some delicious cake and coffee, we then moved onto the main forum, which provided the opportunity for volunteers to raise any queries. We touched on a number of topics, but particularly focused on reserves volunteering and climate change. For further information on DWT's response to climate change, as well as some inspiring and practical everyday actions that you can do to help as individuals, please visit the following page:

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/defending-wildlife/meeting-threats-climate-change>

The main forum was followed by lunch together in the café at the Seaton Jurassic Centre

and a tour of the exhibition and gardens. This was an excellent opportunity to network and meet volunteers from different areas of the trust.

If you weren't able to make the forum this time, we hold two Volunteer Forums each year. The next forum will be taking place on **Tuesday 21 April 2020** at the Riverside Conference Centre (Exeter) as part of DWT's Programme Information Day, with further details to follow in the Spring.

## **Torridge River Restoration Project (TRRP): Himalayan Balsam Pulling**

Our project team at TRRP would like to say a big thankyou to all the volunteers that have signed up and participated in our Balsam pulling days so far!

The Torridge River Restoration Project kicked off in July 2019, so it was touch and go if we would manage to get a group together in time in order to get out and about with the practical work. This year we have managed to organise and deliver three sessions before the season ended! These days were highly successful, we were able to clear a large area covering three land holdings in the Upper Torridge. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and determination of our volunteers; particularly on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> August, when it poured with rain all day!

We are well on our way to achieve our projects targets and we hope to continue with such success and enthusiasm next year. We would like to thank our volunteers for their time and support and look forward to working with you again next season. If you are interested in volunteering on the TRRP Himalayan balsam pulling days next year, please get in touch with Kitty Maurice on 01409 221823 or [kmaurice@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:kmaurice@devonwildlifetrust.org) We will be running days throughout June, July and August 2020, everyone welcome!



## **Congratulations to DWT!**

DWT has retained its ISO14001 certification for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running! ISO14001 is the international standard for environmental management and demonstrates the organisation's commitment to reducing its environmental impact in the highest possible way. The standard requires an organisation to implement an environmental management system (EMS) and to identify the significant impacts that it imposes on the environment through the day to day running of its operations. It then seeks to reduce these impacts to an acceptable level by

setting annual objectives. It also ensures the organisation is compliant with all current legislation and has plans in place for emergencies and pollution incidents.

Since attaining the ISO14001 standard, DWT has made significant progress in reducing its environmental burden with highlights including a reduction in gas use at its HQ by 70% on pre EMS amounts and a reduction in waste to landfill across the organisation to just 2% of our total waste streams. Certification is an annual activity and we will seek to improve our EMS over the winter by completely redesigning the way in which we record and monitor our carbon emissions making the EMS even more accurate and effective.

## **Volunteer Impacts & Thank You's**

### **Seaton Jurassic**

- Volunteers John & Judith have been busy at Seaton Jurassic, creating a wildlife pond and painting a Wilder Futures marine pledge wall for the summer – in the end we had over 1000 pledges thanks to their amazing artwork!
- Volunteer Sue has developed a successful Saturday craft event, with families coming in every week to get creative!
- We have been very fortunate to work with Mike and Norah from the Jurassic Coast Trust to help lead groups during school visits at Seaton Jurassic.

### **Wembury Marine Centre**

Thank you to all the 2019 Wembury Marine Centre volunteers, in particular, our full-time volunteers Bea Chater and Matt Voller and also our University of Plymouth placement volunteer Chloe Blackman.



Wembury Marine Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with a busy program of school bookings and public events, a highlight was our 24-hour BioBlitz event in September which recorded over 1300 wildlife species living in the Wembury area and was featured on BBC Countryfile.

## **Other News...**

### **DWT's 57<sup>th</sup> Reserve!**

DWT is the proud new owner of Horsey Island, in North Devon.

Devon Wildlife Trust has purchased the 80 hectare wetland which forms part of the northern edge of the Taw Estuary, close to the village of Braunton. With the addition of Horsey Island Devon Wildlife Trust now manages 57 nature havens covering well over 2,000 hectares of the Devon countryside. The Trust aims to improve the site still further as a place for nature and provide opportunities for people to enjoy the spectacular bird life in this quiet corner of North Devon.

Further information about Horsey Island can be found on the following page:

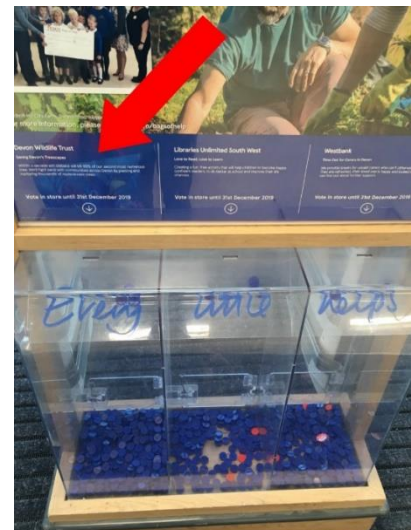
<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/news/dwt-becomes-new-owner-north-devons-horsey-island>

### **Bags of Help**

Our Saving Devon's Treescapes project has been shortlisted for a Tesco "Bags of Help" Grant! We want to work with communities to plant trees, replacing trees expected to be lost due to Ash dieback. Please help by putting tokens in our box if you shop in Tesco!

### **State of Nature**

We recently released a video of Sir David Attenborough showing his support for Nature Recovery Networks. **Click this link to watch the video** and find out what they are and why they are so important.



### **South West in Bloom Award**

Congratulations to the Cricklepit Mill Garden Group, who have achieved a Level 5 (Outstanding) RHS & South West in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood Award"!

### **Health and Safety Focus**

If you have any questions about health and safety then do please speak to your volunteer supervisor, as they will be very happy to help!



If you would like to read the full Health and Safety Policy, it can be found here (the link is at the bottom of the webpage – the second link under “Our Pledges”!):

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/what-we-do/about-us/reducing-our-environmental-impact>

## **Don't Forget...**

... that DWT can pay out-of-pocket expenses to volunteers that are agreed in advance!

We can reimburse travel expenses that were incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of volunteering for DWT. However, we encourage local volunteering and the use of public transport wherever possible. If you have to use a car, [www.carsharedevon.com](http://www.carsharedevon.com) is a useful site.

For more information about claiming expenses, please contact your volunteer supervisor.

## **Dates for the Diary**

These events are selected to show the types of events available - please check out the **DWT Events calendar** on the website or other external providers for more. For more information on events, please call 01392 279244.

**Friday 15 November – *Sweating it out in Malaysia*** - An illustrated talk by Diana Goodacre on her recent trip to Malaysia at Dolton Village Hall, Winkleigh, EX19 8QS. Price: Adults £2.50, children free. Contact Diana Goodacre: 01805 603937.

**Sunday 17 November (10.30am-2pm) – *Scrub Down at Barley Valley Park*** - Join us to help cut back scrub on the wildflower meadows of this lovely Valley Park. All welcome (task suitable for over 16s) - please register for this task for further information and suitability by contacting Anya Oliver: 01392 260839 / [valleyparks@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:valleyparks@devonwildlifetrust.org)

**Saturday 14 December (10am-12.30pm) – *Exe Estuary Walk*** - Join Exmouth local group members for our annual walk from Mudbank Lane to Exmouth docks looking for ducks and waders resting at high tide. Suggested donation of £3. For more information please contact Dee Tracey: 01395 260442 / [mdclaredale@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mdclaredale@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Could you receive this newsletter via email?**

If you already have access to an email account, by receiving this newsletter via email you could save DWT on average approximately £1.11 and 6 sheets of A4 paper every quarter. If you would like to register an email address, or be taken off the contact list please let us know by emailing us at [volunteering@devonwildlifetrust.org](mailto:volunteering@devonwildlifetrust.org) or calling 01392 279244.