

## Volunteer newsletter – May 2022

### Dear TTTV volunteers,

Welcome to May's newsletter! It has been a while since our last newsletter, so I hope you enjoy this update.

### Updates from the team

#### *New Staff*

We've had a couple of new faces join the team in recent months, welcome to Marie Smith and Jane Ewing!



*Jane Ewing* joined the team as our Communications Officer, working on the TTTV scheme 1 day per week, in early January 2022. Jane is an experienced, versatile communications and marketing professional. Enthusiastic about all aspects of creative work, she is passionate about nature, wildlife and conservation issues. She has worked for a variety of organisations locally and nationally, including: WWF, Macmillan Cancer Support and Cardiff University. She honed her skills after university, starting in the print industry, moving through to design and onto planning and implementation in communications roles.

*Marie Smith* joined the team as our Senior Interpretation Officer, working three days per week, in mid-February 2022. Marie has worked in Visitor Experience for the better part of a decade, where she honed her passion for audiences and access. In her previous experience working on a community gardening NHLF project, she was responsible for outreach, partnerships and assisted in establishing the project's legacy. When she's not creating new path networks or interpretation, Marie spends her time crafting, exploring historical sites, and hanging out with her two border collies.



#### *Transforming Lives*

The Transforming Lives trainees made a start on their major project for the winter, laying a long section of hedge at Witches Oak Water. We spent eight days on site, laid approximately 120 metres of hedge and have done the prep work for another 60 metres ready to be laid next winter. They have also spent five days in Prince's Wood, carrying out the thinning of the Aggregate Industries section of woodland, and also planted eighteen Alder standards at Newton Road Park.



### *Geophysics survey at Branston*

On Saturday 5th March, a number of Geophysics professionals volunteered their services at Branston Leas, a nature reserve at the southern extent of the Burton Washlands, to determine the potential location of a theorised Roman Road, the via Devana.



### *Friends of Brook Hollows*

The Friends of Brook Hollows continue to volunteer on site one Sunday a month. They are progressing the interpretation of the site having designed a couple of interpretation panels and commissioning some wooden sculptures through a local chainsaw artist. The Friends have received a lot of training through ESBC and project partners to learn skills required to undertake works on site and more training is in planning to upskill volunteers in skills such as plant ID and dead hedge laying. Many of the members are already first aid trained but additional first aid training has also been provided. Site works are including the upgrading of footpaths as a temporary measure during the wet winter, planting bulbs, cutting back scrub and snowberry removal. The volunteer lead, Tim Salmon, is working with ESBC on the development of the management plan.

### *Wildlife Recording Volunteers*

The group continue to survey local areas within the Trent Valley, and we have now reached 8000 records on iRecord! We have also had a few events over the last few months, including at the Staffordshire Invertebrate Science Fair, where we introduced the idea of wildlife recording to over 600 people. A butterfly transect has been set up at Princes Wood, with some of the volunteers now on a rota to survey this woodland for butterflies throughout the summer. If you'd like to get involved, contact Nicola – [Nicola.lynes@supportstaffordshire.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.lynes@supportstaffordshire.org.uk)





## Events and opportunities

### **Wildchild**

There are plenty of Wildchild activities coming up, with activities for the whole family:

**Wildlings at Beans Covert**, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00-11.30am

**Nature Tots in Branston**, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 14.00-15.30pm

**Wildfamilies at Tucklesholme**, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00-11.30am

**Wildlife Trek at the Washlands**, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 13.30-15.30pm

Book here: <https://www.thetrentvalley.org.uk/events.php>

### **Wildlife walks and heritage crafts**

**Tree and Plant Use**, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 09.30-16.30pm, Sinai Park House

**Discovering Bumblebees**, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 14.00-16.00pm, The Wolseley Centre

**Fibrecraft**, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 09.30-16.30, Sinai Park House

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/transforming-the-trent-valley-31939048203>

### **Trent Valley Way**

See below for details of the Trent Valley Way launch in September and October.

### **Thanks for reading!**

Team Trent

(Sarah Burnett, Hamish Jeffreson, Simon Lowe, Louise Morris, Kathryn Kavanagh, Victoria Bunter, Alison Thornhill, Nicola Lynes, Mark Knight, Marie Smith, Jane Ewing)

## Celebrate the Trent Valley Way Footpath



**A weekend of guided walks along the Trent Valley Way (TVW)**



**24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Walk the 51km stretch of the TVW on 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Please e-mail us to register interest



**Help us celebrate the launch of the Trent Valley Way**

The Trent Rivers Trust is promoting a 51km long section of the route as a footpath from Rugeley to Shardlow, along with several circular walks.

*The TVW is a long-distance footpath that connects communities along the Trent Valley from the Staffordshire Moorlands to the Humber Estuary. Along the route it takes in a wide range of places of natural, historic and cultural interest.*

For more information contact:  
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[www.trentriverstrust.org](http://www.trentriverstrust.org)



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