

The Volunteer Mail.

September
October
November
2011

More inspired suggestions for the newsletter title welcome! As are comments/articles/ideas : kate.phillips@nationaltrust.org.uk

What a year 2011 has been!

In a year of change and challenges I really feel the team has achieved an awful lot.

This has been Kate & Waynes first year as NT rangers & they have settled in fantastically well and made a real impact. Chris put in a record number of hours as a volunteer before joining us as staff back in September. We've all had the challenge of getting on top of the workload that the new group of properties has presented, but Thanks to all of your help I think we've done a pretty good job of it.

Most of all 2011 has been the year of the volunteer. There are now volunteer rangers patrolling Roseberry Topping and Penshaw Monument, as well as the ever expanding crew at Scarth Wood Moor. We've launched a Sunday group in County Durham and welcomed new members to the Yorkshire group. Meanwhile our midweek volunteers have continued to help out whenever we've needed a few extra pairs of hands.

Between you you've put in over 5000 hours of work. So it's clear that without you we couldn't achieve half of what we do, and we can never Thank you enough.

So on behalf of all the team Thank you for all your efforts in 2011. Have a fantastic Christmas and we'll see you all in 2012 for another exciting year.

Gareth Wilson

Wallington, Work, Party.



At the start of September volunteers from our Durham and Yorkshire weekend groups took part in a working holiday at the National Trusts' Wallington estate in Northumberland.

As well as having lots of fun we did our bit and helped spruce up and relay a footpath which was in need of repair and carried out some shrub clearance. Highlights of the weekend included free entry to the magnificent mansion and walled garden, a tour of the wider estate by the Wallington rangers, an epic game of chairs (a jenga-like stacking game introduced to us by Gareth), a late night wander, and of course – a lot of hard graft!

A great team effort from all concerned.

Penshaw Pumpkins

Our Halloween fun for families included pumpkin carving & lantern making followed by a spooky walk complete with a blood smeared zombie, a werewolf and a rather disturbing Monk!



Ranger work round up. (What we do when we're not on the A19)

September: Away weekend at Wallington doing some footpath maintenance. Training on the many joys of geocaching. Tree work at Bransdale. Start working through the waiting list for tours up Penshaw Monument. Help Little tern project at Crimdon take down fencing & help BTCV by cutting one of their meadows. Houghall college students come out to help us rake grass on Durham Coast. KP vehicle + trailer trained. CW out helping run education sessions at Robin Hoods Bay. WA spraying off bracken growing over Scheduled Ancient Monument @ Scarth Wood Moor.

October: CW and Nicola learnt how to Hedgelay @ Cotsford fields. Countryside Staff meeting in the Yorkshire Dales. Lots of tours to the top of Penshaw Monument. Guided walks at Hawthorn Dene and from Penshaw to Washington Old Hall as part of NT walking festival. Clearing trees from geological SSSI at Cliff Ridge quarry. Still raking on Durham Coast and doing final cuts on the footpaths on all our sites. Halloween event at Penshaw. Planning our events programme for 2012.

November: CW and WA started growing facial hair but both bottled it about 2 weeks in. Training for KP in Tree Safety Management while WA & CW went to a regional welcome day. Office time spent writing articles for the website and CW doing great work keeping facebook up to date. Lots of hours up at Penshaw improving access and cutting back rhody with a corporate group from 'everything everywhere' (Orange & TMobile). Rowan thinning on Roseberry common and Gorse removal at Beacon Hill.

Managing our SSSIs



Left: Cliff Ridge Quarry geological SSSI. Removing trees obscuring the exposed quarry face which shows the Cleveland Dyke in cross-section.

Right: Beacon Hill removing gorse which suppresses growth of grassland species. We are committed to clearing 1.1ha over 3 years.

Geocache your way around NT properties

Now that Winter is upon us it's too cold to be lounging about on hillsides and sitting under trees. If you like scavenging about in the undergrowth looking for clues on a high tech treasure hunt, then geocaching could be just the activity to keep you warm in the outdoors this season!

Gareth has been working on creating routes at most of our properties Thanks to funding and equipment from Garmin. These are all now online.

To find out what it's all about and sign up to a free account visit: www.opencaching.com or for even more choice visit: www.geocaching.com

↓ Why does the one who has hair need a hat?



Upcoming Tasks.

	North	South
D E C	18th Beacon Hill Gorse removal + burning.	4th Christmas Workshop and yuletide treats @ Ormesby.
J A N	15th Rhododendron or scrub removal @ Penshaw.	8th Hedging @ Warsett Hill.
F E B	19th Beacon Hill.	5th Fencing @ Warsett Hill.
M A R	18th TBC	4th TBC

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Christmas Trees at Ormesby

Trees will be on sale in the courtyard at Ormesby Hall, from 10-4pm every day, 26 Nov until 22 Dec.

Meet the Volunteer: Zara Jeffries



How did you find out about volunteering with the Trust? I read an article in the Hartlepool Mail which was left on the bus I was on, asking for volunteers to help in my area. I was volunteering at RSPB Saltholme. Although this was great fun I was working indoors and was looking for something a little more practical outdoors!

What sort of stuff have you been getting up to? A variety of things from helping to build a footbridge at Moorhouse Woods and a stile at Penshaw Monument, to hay raking and removing invasive species such as Rhododendron and Himalayan Balsam. I also took part in a guided walk recently.

Do you enjoy volunteering with the Trust? I love it. I wish I could volunteer more often but I simply don't have enough spare time during the week. At weekends I wish I could do more – I think one time a month is not enough!

What do you do when not volunteering with the Trust? I work as PA to the Directors of Community Protection and Technical Services at Cleveland Fire Brigade.

What does this involve?

My responsibility is to provide proactive support which encompasses a whole range of roles. It's a pressurised environment and can be quite stressful but I do enjoy it as I support a great team. I joined the Brigade in 2008 and thought only that they put fires out, but they're involved in a lot more! For instance, have you had a Home Fire Safety Visit and do you have working smoke alarms? The Fire Service can fit these free of charge...!

What would you say to someone thinking of volunteering with the Trust?

Give it a try. If you like being outdoors and don't mind working hard it is great fun. Oh, and bring the sunshine please!