



Tamar Valley

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Working in partnership to conserve and enhance the Tamar Valley
eNews Bulletin - September 2009 (including October Events)

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The Morwellham and Tamar Valley Trust - In Administration

Following a meeting with all major Morwellham stakeholders in Exeter on Tuesday 22 September 2009, it was agreed that The Morwellham and Tamar Valley Trust and its associated trading company, The Morwellham Trading Co. Limited, would go into administration.

As a result, on 25th September, each appointed Nigel Morrison and David Matthews of Grant Thornton as joint administrators. This step was taken following discussions between the Trust and Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council, its principal creditors.

All parties agreed that administration was the best course of action to protect this unique heritage asset and the significant amount of public funding already invested in the site and its surroundings.

The administrators intend to keep the centre open until the end of October, when it will close for winter maintenance. There are likely to be some job losses but these will follow a review of the needs of the site and the seasonal closure programme.

Although specific asset sales may be considered by the administrator, the administrators will seek a way to preserve as much of the site as possible.

This will seek to ensure that the Trust's obligations to its stakeholders, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Tamar Valley AONB and the World Heritage Site for the Devon and Cornwall Mining Landscape are fulfilled.

Administration with these goals in mind will also provide the opportunity to fulfil the original goals of the Morwellham and Tamar Valley Trust, which was founded in 1970 to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and amenity of the site for the benefit of the public.

Anyone who has events scheduled at Morwellham Quay should contact David Cutts of Grant Thornton on 0118 983 9611.

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Tamar Trail Festival 2009 - 24 October-1 November

View the programme online: www.tamarvalley.org.uk

Following the great success of the very first festival last year, the **2009 Tamar Trail Festival** promises an amazing array of active, arty and absorbing events to choose from during the autumn half-term!

With more than 50 events for all ages and abilities, the programme brings together a range of workshops, activities and exhibitions from groups, clubs and organisations across the area, showcasing some of the highlights of the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). As an area designated and protected for its stunning landscape and rich wildlife, the Festival gives everyone the chance to get out there and enjoy it.

The **Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project** is one of the biggest and most ambitious projects ever undertaken by the AONB and its partners. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, plus many other funders and organisations, the project has seen 25km of brand new trails being created, opening up access to some of the most significant mining heritage sites in the country.

Tim Selman, Tamar Valley AONB Manager, hopes the new trails will encourage even more people to explore the environment and heritage on their doorsteps: "The first phase of the Tamar Trails network is now open and everyone is invited to come and celebrate access to our beautiful landscape. With autumn in full-swing, it's a perfect time of year to enjoy the stunning colours of the Valley's dense woodlands."

Join one of the many events taking place during autumn half-term: spooky halloween-themed walks, historical hikes, motor trials, strolls for health and well-being, pony treks, bike rides, river cruises, wildlife wanders, puppet theatre, pottery workshops, storytelling, art exhibitions, film installations, soundscapes, heritage trails and much more.

The full programme is available from local outlets, or visit the website: www.tamarvalley.org.uk to download the programme online. For more information, please call the Tamar Valley AONB office on **01822 835030**.

A huge thank you to every individual and group who has joined the AONB and Mining

Heritage Project in making the festival possible. Many events have been organised through the hard work of volunteers and people with a genuine passion for the beautiful and fascinating Tamar Valley. With more than 50 events organised, the Festival is a testament to the enthusiasm and motivation of the local community and everyone who supports the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Mapping our Orchards - Volunteers Needed

Rosemary Teverson & Eloise Metson from the Tamar Valley AONB team are beginning to draw up a definitive map of the locations of all traditional orchards in the Tamar Valley. The condition of these orchards will then be checked, with a view to assessing which need attention.

A similar national project is also underway, through the People's Trust for Endangered Species charity, to map and assess orchards throughout the country. Aerial photography will capture some of the information, but volunteers are also being sought to check and survey each orchard.

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to find out more, please contact Rosemary Teverson at the Tamar Valley AONB (01822 835032, rteverson@tamarvalley.org.uk) or speak to Anita Burrough at the People's Trust (020 7498 4533, Anita@ptes.org).

Staff Changes

At the end of October we say a sad goodbye to Jemma Sharman, our Community Development Officer for the Mining Heritage Project.

Jemma has been a valuable member of the team for 2 years since the Project began, and has been instrumental in forging and maintaining strong working relationships with many community groups in and around the Valley.

We shall miss Jemma, but wish her well in her new role in community outreach as part of the Stepping Stones to Nature project in Plymouth. Jemma says, "I won't be leaving the Tamar Valley behind completely as my new role includes working with the AONB, as part of the 'final step', to encourage people to explore Plymouth's surrounding countryside. The Tamar Valley AONB are one of several partners to the project".

Find out more about this project in *The Valley* newsletter, out soon.

Four workshops are taking place in and around the Tamar Valley this October, so if you'd like to learn or develop a new skill, take a look at what's on offer...

Renewable Energy Workshop - Lucket

Micro-Generation - Opportunities on the Farm is the first of the renewable energy workshops, funded through the Sustainable Development Fund, and organised by the Tamar Valley AONB and Cornwall FWAG.

The day, targeted at landowners, will be spent at Deer Park Farm, Lucket, near

Callington, looking at potential opportunities for micro-generation that will fit within the average farming system. The morning will be held indoors, with a walk around the farm afterwards.

Issues discussed will include small-scale wind turbines, biomass, new technology in wood-burning stoves, micro-generation grants and SW REGS Group support.

Speakers include:

- Martin Howlett - Farmer
- Adam Lockyear - FWAG National Energy Specialist - will demonstrate Anemometer to measure wind speed
- Rosemary Teverson - Tamar Valley AONB
- Will Garnier - Microgeneration/biomass
- Neil Austen - Liskeard Stove Shop
- Caroline Hanlan - SW REGS Groups

Please wear suitable clothing for farm events. Wellingtons are recommended for walking around the farm.

Cost £5, to include a pasty lunch. Please make cheques payable to 'FWAG' and send to Jillie Dale, Resuggan House, Restronguet, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 5SP.

The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, 21st October, 10.30am to 2.30pm**

To reserve your place, please contact Jillie Dale (Cornwall FWAG) tel: 01326 373823 or e-mail: jillie.dale@fwag.org.uk

There will be another workshop on **Thursday 19th November** focussing on solar energy and woodfuel. See next month's News Bulletin for further information.

FREE Coppicing Workshops - Dartmoor National Park

Are you interested in...

- A career in sustainable countryside enterprise?
- Working in woodland management?
- Gaining practical skills in traditional, heritage crafts?
- Learning about woodland ecology?

Enjoy one of four FREE one-day workshops in the ancient hazel woods of Dartmoor National Park, with the Sustainable Coppice Partnership.

Once common, coppice woodlands provide a truly sustainable source of food, shelter and raw materials for people and wildlife. Today, we have almost none left. The Sustainable Coppice Partnership has been set up to revive and revitalise coppicing in Devon for the benefit of wildlife and people, and to make heritage products for today's consumers. The project aims to inform, educate and train people in traditional coppice skills and to create opportunities for new sustainable rural jobs and new sustainable woodlands for future generations to use and enjoy.

The workshops will be held on;

Sunday 18th October
Sunday 25th October
Sunday 22nd November
Sunday 29th November

Places are limited, so please book soon.

0845 458 1732, tean@sustainablecoppice.org (Dr Tean Mitchell)

'Fair Fare' event for the Food & Farming Industry

Do you want to add a new ethical marketing dimension to your farming/food business?
Are you already doing so and would like to share your ideas and build on your work?

Join CoaST for an interactive day to explore how to make food & farming businesses more 'fair' and profitable. Presentations and discussions will focus on successful farming and food case studies, and will include speakers from the NFU and Agrifood Council.

Monday 12th October, 10:00am - 4:30pm, Duchy College, Stoke Climsland

This event is FREE of charge to farmers (£25 deposit required to secure your place, returned on the day), £65 for industry representatives.

Call Duchy College on 0845 458 7485 or email rbs@duchy.ac.uk for further information and to book your place.

'Scenario Planning' Workshop - Rural Tourism Businesses

CoaST are also inviting all Cornish, farm-based, rural tourism businesses to attend a bespoke 'scenario planning' workshop that will be facilitated in partnership with South West Tourism.

This session is FREE to attend if you have a farm holding number (otherwise £51).

The day will focus on 'critical uncertainties' that could shape the future of tourism in Cornwall and will consider how the sector should respond. As participants you will explore the issues and consider their impacts on your business, enabling you to plan ahead and ensure your business is more resilient to whatever the future holds.

This is an opportunity for you to have a voice that will feed into the regional Tourism Strategy.

The workshop will take place on **Tuesday 20th October, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Woodland Valley Farm, Ladock, Cornwall**

Places are limited, so please sign up soon if you are interested - call 0845 458 7485 or email rbs@duchy.ac.uk (Duchy College).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 2009

For a full, up-to-date list of events and guided walks taking place throughout the Tamar Valley this **October**, including the **Tamar Trail Festival - 24 October - 1 November** please click here <http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/eventscalendar.asp> and select 'October 2009'.

Keep In Touch!

If you have any events or information that you would like to be considered for inclusion within the next eBulletin, please send details by 26th October to;

Charlotte Dancer
Information & Communications Officer

01822 835030
cdancer@tamarvalley.org.uk

Access For All

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