

# TheValley

2025

News from Tamar Valley National Landscape





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## Keep in touch

Sign up to receive quarterly ebulletins from Tamar Valley National Landscape - a great way to keep up to date with progress on projects and volunteering opportunities in between issues of *The Valley* newsletter, now produced annually. Please email: [charlotte.dancer@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.dancer@cornwall.gov.uk)

Front cover image - South Hooe Cottage  
Farmland Nature Trail © Jan Simpson

# Challenges and Celebrations



**Another season unfolds and springs into life here in the glorious Tamar Valley as once again Mother Nature delivers without fail.**

**And yet within our human community we are somewhat distracted as we continue to face the many challenges and economic pressures both here domestically and the global uncertainty.**

Financial restrictions within our National Landscape budget allocation from Defra, together with increased employer costs, continue to challenge our staffing levels, just in similar ways to our many micro-business and family farms who make up the wider rural economy across the Valley.

However, for every challenge there comes an opportunity to celebrate the good works and fine achievements that have been nurtured across the Valley over these past 30 years of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) status. Summer 2025 marks our Pearl Anniversary with a series of commemorative events - more details coming soon. So, although we acknowledge being the youngest AONB designation, we continue to proudly demonstrate our cross-border uniqueness as a now Pearl 'Jewel in the Crown' of the National Landscape family.

We look forward to seeing you somewhere - One and All - in celebration this summer season.

*M. Howlett*

**Martin Howlett**

**Chair, Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership**

Our Tamar Valley National Landscape is a very special place. With an exciting year ahead, we're planning the next five years of our Partnership work to protect and enhance the Tamar Valley and we'll soon finish the new Management Plan for the area. With Nature worryingly still in decline, a great deal more work is needed to ensure our National Landscape is thriving long into the future. This work will take each and every one of us, as residents, landowners, farmers, business owners and visitors, we can all contribute to making more of a difference for this wonderful place. Keep an eye on our website and subscribe to our newsletters or drop in to our Tamar Valley Centre at Drakewalls on a Tuesday or Thursday to learn how you can help.



**Sarah Gibson,**

**Manager, Tamar Valley National Landscape**



Listen to Nature Connects through your chosen podcast platform



@tamarvalleynl



@tamarvalleynl



@tamarvalleynl



@tamarvalleynl



@tamarvalleynationallandscape



## NATURE CONNECTS



# New podcast celebrates the stories and sounds of the Tamar Valley

**A brand new podcast, 'Nature Connects', celebrating the stories and sounds from Tamar Valley National Landscape, is hoping to bring the benefits of Nature to a wider audience.**

In each episode, Ginnette Sutherland and Charlotte Dancer from Tamar Valley National Landscape team chat with local organisations and community representatives about topics that connect Nature, including people, with the landscape.

The first episode, which launched at the end of January, was themed around the benefits of wetland areas, to mark World Wetlands Day in early February. Listeners learned more about Calstock Wetlands and the wetland area at National Trust's Cotehele. February's podcast was based around green careers and the apprenticeship, traineeship and internship opportunities within the Tamar Valley. For English Tourism Week in March, Sarah Bartlett chatted about Visit Tamar Valley's green tourism scheme, and we caught up with Gary Lewis along a stretch of the Tamara Coast to Coast Way.

Regular features of the podcast include taking just a moment to pause, engage and connect with the natural world, through our senses, beauty, meaning, emotion and compassion, based on University of Derby's Nature Connectedness research. The podcasts also highlight at least one Tamar Valley Special Species, from our Nature Recovery Plan 2023-2030.

Ginnette Sutherland, Community Engagement Officer (intern) for Tamar Valley National Landscape, explains more: "Our immersive walk and talk podcasts aim to inform, celebrate and connect individuals and communities to our National Landscape. Research has revealed that we are more disconnected now than ever before from Nature, and this podcast is just one way we can help bring Nature closer to people."

**"It's the perfect time to release our very first podcast as this year is the 30th anniversary of the Tamar Valley being designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."**

**Charlotte Dancer,  
Information &  
Communications Officer  
for Tamar Valley National  
Landscape**



**Charlotte Dancer and Gary Lewis  
at Okel Tor, on the Tamara Coast to  
Coast Way, Episode 3**

**Listen to 'Nature Connects' on your chosen podcast platform, including Spotify, Apple and Amazon Music. These podcasts have been made possible thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund supported Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme, a project of Tamar Valley National Landscape.**



# Farming in Protected Landscapes

An old overgrown pond at Duchess Green, Landulph, has been resurrected and enlarged with a boardwalk bridge across it

Farming in Protected Landscapes has been supporting farmers and land managers for four years

**This Defra-funded programme awards grants to farmers and land managers to undertake bespoke projects that will deliver under the themes of Climate, Nature, People and Place. Here in the Tamar Valley, over 85 projects have been approved to date, receiving a total of over £1.2 million.**

We have funded a range of projects, from water management and quality improvements through pond and scrape creation, and the installation of leaky dams, to hedgerow and orchard creation and management. All of these are helping the Tamar Valley to manage the effects of climate change and improve habitats to support the wildlife in the area to thrive. We have also supported a number of projects with facilities to allow them to welcome visitors to their farms, enabling them to learn more about where their food comes from and the environment around them.

You can find out more about the many projects awarded funding through the Tamar Valley Farming in Protected Landscapes programme at <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/farmers-and-landowners/farming-in-protected-landscapes/projects/>

More details will be announced very shortly regarding future funding through Farming in Protected Landscapes. Sign up to receive our Farming Ebulletin (email: [charlotte.dancer@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.dancer@cornwall.gov.uk)) or follow @tamarvalleynl on social media.



The stone tiered green meeting space at Duchess Green will be grassed over and will seat up to 100 people. There are two field shelters which have bird watching flaps in the back.

## Focus On... Duchess Green

**Farming in Protected Landscapes has provided £48,924 to Duchess Green, a 2.7-acre site managed by Landulph Parish Council to create a community space and increase biodiversity, including tree, hedge and bulb planting, seating, wildlife boxes, a pond and bridge.**

The site of an old pond, fed by a small stream, has been restored to provide a habitat for pond life, with an island for nesting water birds. A boardwalk bridge across the pond provides access to the field and will allow for pond dipping. A tiered green meeting space, constructed with Cornish dry stone walls, together with two field shelters will provide space for small outdoor events and an outdoor classroom for Landulph School.

At the beginning of November 2024, the first planting day took place at Duchess Green involving 19 volunteers. In total, around 2,500 daffodil bulbs have been donated by local people, 596 local daffodil varieties supplied by award-winning daffodil supplier Scamp's, based in Cornwall, as well as 100 fritillaries and 90 camassias. In addition, 600 snowdrops and 120 English bluebells have been planted.

Later that month, thanks to 40 volunteers, 750 saplings were planted to create a Miyawaki\* forest and 80 metres of hedging. The forest was planted using designs from each child at Landulph School; this involved some detailed planning to make sure the right trees were planted in each one metre square.

Mud from the pond has been used to construct additional hedges to increase biodiversity and provide an interesting landscape for people. The mud has been sown with a five-year ley to stabilise the soil. Wild flower seeds donated by the National Trust have been sown on one of the banks.

Despite the wet weather, in January, 30 fruit and nut trees were planted by volunteers along with a willow arch. A dead hedge was also constructed from the branches that had been cleared by volunteers on previous visits. The dead hedge will be a haven for wildlife and can easily be added to.

Duchess Green will be a tranquil space for the community to enjoy spending time in, and will be officially opened in June 2025. For further information, please contact Clare Tagg at [clare.tagg@landulph.org.uk](mailto:clare.tagg@landulph.org.uk).

*\*one of the most effective ways to plant trees, based on natural reforestation principles. You can find out more here -*

*<https://treecouncil.org.uk/guidance-resources/the-miyawaki-method-an-introduction/>*



The entrance sign designed by Gill Mannings Cox, a member of the Working Group



New hedges have been formed from soil removed from the pond and are planted with saplings and bulbs



Volunteer working sessions take place once a month and always finish with hot drinks and cake!



Three children from Landulph School are standing in the squares that they designed as the Miyawaki mini forest is being planted by volunteers



# 12 actions for Nature-friendly gardens

Dragonfly by garden pond © W Darwall

Inset: Blue Tit and Woodpecker © Coralie Barrow

In our Nature Recovery Plan (2023-2030), we set out our priorities and actions for habitat recovery, species recovery and Nature connectedness.

We want people to enjoy, understand and access the natural environment, and to take positive action for, and to connect with, Nature, with all the wellbeing benefits that brings. This is good for people and it's good for Nature, too.

Whether you have a back garden, an allotment, window boxes or a pot outside your front door, here are 12 ways that you can benefit both your wellbeing and Nature.

"It's good for people, and it's good for Nature, too"

## Nature's Calendar

We're encouraging Tamar Valley residents to look and listen for Nature throughout the year, as we keep a diary of 30 Nature Notes, to mark 30 years since designation as an AONB. Inspired by the Japanese tradition of observing 72 micro seasons, find out more and submit your findings – <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/2024/12/19/natures-calendar-2025/>



### 1. Water for Wildlife

Pond habitat creation, water troughs, brooks, drainage, rainwater harvesting.

### 2. Seasonal Selection

Choose plants for wildlife for every season – Snowdrops in spring, clover/lavender/salvias in summer, seedheads in autumn, holly in winter.

### 3. Leave the Leaves

Autumn and winter leaf litter decay, let the brown stuff stay.

### 4. Hedgehog Journeys

Friendly fencing ideas leaving gaps for the ongoing journey, hotel accommodations, no strimming when they're hibernating, check your bonfires, watch out on the road.

### 5. Inhibit Invaders

Report sightings of Asian hornets, removal guidance for Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, American skunk cabbage, giant hogweed.

### 6. Ditch the Harmfuls

No slug pellets or fertilisers, don't pollute the drains, septic tank run off, herbicides, weed killers, pesticides – go cleaner!

### 7. #NoMowMay

Let it grow!

### 8. #LetItBloomJune

Let it go!

### 9. Go Native

Fungi, trees, shrubs.

### 10. Listen to Your Soil

Soil quality, peat free, home composting – what to compost/ not to compost, soil listening workshops – yes the woods are louder than a farmed field so what does your garden sound like?

### 11. Welcome Weeds

Let them grow, especially the yellow and pink ones!

### 12. Get Outside

Sit, read, play, garden, just be – enjoy your outdoor space.

The need to control invasive non-native species (INNS) is well documented. A feasibility study, published in spring 2025 and led by Tamar Valley National Landscape on behalf of the Tamar Invasives Group, examines potential INNS management across the Tamar catchment, focusing on Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, American skunk cabbage and giant hogweed control.

# Invasive non-native species control in the Tamar catchment

The report highlights that the spread and impacts of INNS could worsen. The study was driven by the increasing negative impact on riparian and aquatic habitats and native species in Tamar Valley National Landscape. Despite the widespread presence of balsam and knotweed, the report suggests control action could be taken, and offers implementation suggestions.

The study outlines control strategies based on local and external experiences. There are examples of other catchment-scale INNS programmes in the UK, as well as effective INNS control in the Tamar Valley through the annual giant hogweed control programme.

A programme prioritising Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and American skunk cabbage across the catchment, with initial trials for Himalayan balsam on a few rivers, would be beneficial. This approach could inform farmers and landowners about grants and other resources, aiding efforts to improve water quality and quantity. Agri-environment scheme funding can help. Partnerships with companies or corporate bodies, biodiversity net gain or corporate social responsibility may provide long-term solutions.

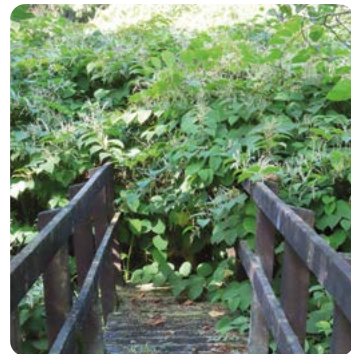
The size of the catchment means that this work is beyond the sole reach and resources of Tamar Valley National Landscape. A coordinated approach and catchment-wide consensus involving various partners and stakeholders are necessary. The extent of control depends on funding and goodwill.

The project was funded by Defra's Local Invasives Management Fund. The Feasibility Study and Strategy Development is available to view and download - <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/our-work/projects/invasive-non-native-species/>

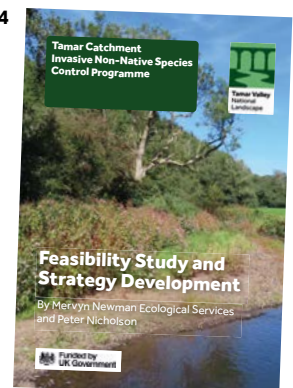
## Biodiversity Net Gain in Tamar Valley

What is Biodiversity Net Gain, how does it work in practice, and could this be an exciting opportunity for Nature in the Tamar Valley? We hope to answer these questions in our new project with the National Landscapes Association and Finance Earth. Tamar Valley has been chosen as a dynamic and ambitious pilot site for exploring all things BNG and is currently consulting with landowners who are interested in joining this mission. Lots more to come so watch this space... please contact Rebecca Hunt, National Landscapes Association for further details – [rebecca.hunt@national-landscapes.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.hunt@national-landscapes.org.uk)

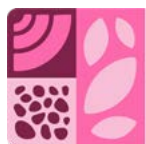
We're also creating opportunities for businesses to contribute to the work of protecting and enhancing the Tamar Valley. We have Nature restoration projects, special species sponsorship and staff volunteer opportunities available for anyone wishing to help take care of the beauty of our National Landscape. If you'd like to find out how your business or employer can get involved, email Sarah Gibson, Tamar Valley National Landscape Manager: [sarah.gibson@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.gibson@cornwall.gov.uk).



Japanese knotweed blocking footbridge on the River Lew,  
September 2024  
© M. Newman



Funded by  
UK Government



# Nature Calling

## Rooted: A journey through Land, Story and Belonging

**Earlier this spring, Tamar Valley National Landscape commissioned three creative practitioners as part of the national Nature Calling project, aimed at connecting people with Nature through art in its widest sense.**

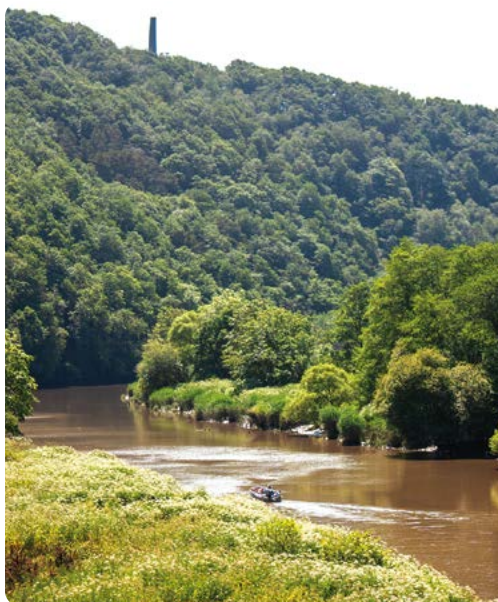
Matt Bryden, Hanna Collins and Jo Tytherleigh will be working together to help new audiences, who may currently feel excluded, to feel welcome and start their own story in this protected landscape, in particular refugees and asylum seekers from within and around the Tamar Valley.

Matt is a teacher and a writer whose project proposal aims to create an accessible, varied and colourful anthology consisting of writing and artwork created by participants during walks around the Tamar Valley. Matt would also like to incorporate sound recordings and oral testimonies to accompany personalised maps and linked writing.

Hanna is a photographer who tells authentic stories using documentary-style photography, capturing candid moments in a dynamic and honest way. Jo is a market gardener, chef and yoga instructor who is the custodian of Harewood Farm. Hanna and Jo's proposal combines photography, journalling, and growing. Over the course of the project, participants will come together at Harewood to create a garden and grow food from their homelands as well as share meals. The process will be captured through photography and journalling to tell their story along the way and that of myths and legends. Their project – Rooted: A journey through Land, Story and Belonging – will culminate in an exhibition to showcase all outputs created and grown.

Our thanks to Tressa Thomas, Wellbeing and Education Lead for Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support Group, who will facilitate the visits to the Tamar Valley.

Find out more about this groundbreaking new art programme, funded through Arts Council England, Defra and National Landscapes in England, that will amplify new voices and create innovative artwork, here <https://www.naturecalling.org.uk/>. Follow us on social media for more on the national Season of Art, as National Landscapes share their work between May and October 2025, or contact Charlotte Dancer & Bryony James – <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/our-work/#meet-the-team-anchor>.



**Harewood Farm, one of the locations chosen for refugees and asylum seekers to visit and experience Nature**

## Explore the Tamar Valley Walk this way!

**Our free weekly walks provide the perfect way to explore new areas of the Tamar Valley, every Monday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. No booking required - <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/discover-explore/walking/free-walk-groups/>.**

### Strolls & Rolls

Our stile-free walks provide accessible access to some of the most scenic parts of the Tamar Valley. The six routes, varying in length from ½ mile to 4 ½ miles - <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/discover-explore/walking/strolls-and-rolls/>.

### And relax...

South Hooe Cottage Farmland Nature Trail offers a haven of peace and tranquillity on the first Saturday of every month (sorry, no dogs) - <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/discover-explore/places-of-interest/south-hooe/>.



Duchy College students conducting a bird count

## Connecting classroom learning with real-world conservation

On a crisp autumn morning in November, students from Duchy College joined members of the Tamar Community Trust for an educational field trip to the wetlands in Calstock. The eight Land and Wildlife students met with the Trust's Pete Thompson and Dave Wallis for a day of fieldwork, habitat exploration and valuable lessons in wetland ecology.

The day began with an overview of the wetlands' creation - an ambitious £2.5 million project designed to create an ecosystem which is salt water marsh that is endangered in the estuary due to potentially being drowned out by rising sea level. It also supports biodiversity and climate adaptation in the region.

The students learned about the significant changes to the landscape, as the introduction of tidal water has created a dynamic environment, where some species thrive, while others face challenges in the changing conditions.

With a deeper understanding of the area's ecological importance, the students set out to conduct wetland bird surveys, recording 10 different species, including Black-headed Gulls, Canada Geese, Pied Wagtails and Teal. This hands-on activity was an essential part of their coursework.

The data collected will feed into the Tamar Community Trust's long-term monitoring records, helping track how the wetland ecosystem evolves over time. This ongoing research is vital for assessing the effectiveness of the restoration project and for making informed decisions about future habitat management.

This trip was an invaluable opportunity for students to apply their academic knowledge to real-world conservation efforts. By contributing to data collection, they are helping to build a picture of how the wetlands are changing, year by year.

For the Tamar Community Trust, bringing students from schools and colleges in the area to the wetlands is an important step. The Trust would be delighted to engage with institutions that feel a visit may be beneficial, from primary schools upwards.

**To find out more about the valuable work Tamar Community Trust does to protect and regenerate the Tamar Valley National Landscape, visit: <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/tamar-community-trust/> or follow them on Facebook.**



Nightjar © D. Cirano

### Spotlight on the Nightjar

The European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) is a migratory priority species on the Amber List of Birds of Conservation Concern. This enigmatic, nocturnal bird, with its churring, almost mechanical sound, arrives in the Tamar Valley from April and usually departs in August.

Loss of habitat for breeding is a big issue for nightjar populations. So, together with expert partners, we'd like to work with foresters to ensure that the area frequented by nightjars in the Tamar Valley is sensitively managed.

For more information on the nightjar, visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/nightjar>.

You can view all 17 of our Tamar Valley Special Species, part of our Nature Recovery Plan, at <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/our-work/projects/nature-recovery-plan/> or listen to our Nature Connects podcast where one of our Special Species is highlighted in each episode.

# Celebrating 30 years conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of our landscape

© Countryside Agency/Chris Chapman (national photography commission for AONBs in the early 2000s)



2025 is a special year for us, as it marks 30 years since the Tamar Valley was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Although we are now known as Tamar Valley National Landscape, the designation remains, and we are proud to continue to look after this treasured area on the Devon/Cornwall border.

Our thanks to our volunteers, partner organisations and everyone who cares for the Tamar Valley as much as we do.

Here's just a very small selection of the many achievements, highlights and memories since it all began in 1995...

## 1995

30 August 1995 – the Tamar Valley was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## 2000

Environmental enhancement projects, including Calstock, Callington, Gunnislake, Okel Tor and Clitters. Worked with Cornwall County Council. Attracted £2.9 million from a range of funding partners.

## 2005

- £5.8 million awarded through Heritage Lottery Fund to conserve and tell the story of the Tamar Valley's Mining Heritage
- Heath Fritillary project, initiated by Butterfly Conservation, began
- Tamar Valley's Sustainable Development Fund launched, helping to instigate £1 million-worth of projects during its first year, by awarding £90,000 to 21 successful projects



Gunnislake Clitters © Countryside Agency/Chris Chapman

Launch of Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project at Morwellham Quay, 2005





## 2009

As part of East Cornwall Regeneration Project\*, the Tamar Valley Centre was built. Home to the National Landscape team and Calstock Parish Council, it was opened by HRH The Princess Royal in July 2009. \*£1.8 million project, launched 2006, that focussed on conservation and access improvements at seven mine sites, plus the creation of trails.

HRH The Princess Royal opening the Tamar Valley Centre, 2009  
© Apex PR



Local produce  
© Tamar Grow Local

## 2013

Tamar Valley Food Hubs established with funding from the Cordiale\* project, delivering weekly produce to 127 people, supporting 46 local suppliers. \*Cordiale began in 2008, with AONB staff visiting northern France to develop a new 'French connection' with similar landscape organisations in the area.



## 2025

Much activity is taking place behind the scenes to ensure the future of Tamar Valley National Landscape thrives, including a range of funding bids, green finance work and social value discussions. Much more news to come, and opportunities for you to get involved as our National Landscape looks to the next 30 years and beyond!

## Why is the Tamar Valley so special?



It was first proposed in 1963 by Devon and Cornwall County Councils that the Tamar Valley should be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but it wasn't until 30 August 1995 that this designation was granted.

The valleys of the Tamar, Tavvy and Lynher rivers were recognised as being of outstanding national significance as;

- A rare valley and water landscape based around an unspoilt estuary
- A landscape of high visual quality
- A unique wildlife resource
- A remarkable heritage
- A landscape of artistic and public appeal

Together, the valleys were designated by the Countryside Commission (now Natural England), signifying that the Tamar Valley is among the finest countryside. In the UK, there are 46 National Landscapes – the Tamar Valley is the youngest of them all.

## 2020

Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme launched. Five-year project that aims to create a brighter future for the Tamar Valley and its communities by creating opportunities and positive change through a programme of ten exciting projects. £3.2 million project, National Lottery Heritage Fund supported in addition to other funding partners.

# Events



Here's a selection of events, activities and volunteering opportunities for you to enjoy throughout the Tamar Valley. New events are added regularly to our online Events Calendar.

Visit [www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk](http://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk) and click on News, Events & What's

On for your up-to-date guide.

**Please note:** events may be subject to change. Please contact the event organiser in advance to check. Persons who participate in events do so at their own risk. Neither the Tamar Valley National Landscape team, other organisers, nor landowners shall be liable for any death, loss or damage sustained. Participation in events is at the discretion of the leader. Whilst every care has been taken, no responsibility can be taken for inaccurate information in the newsletter.

## April

Saturday 26, 10:30am  
**Celebrating Devon's World-Class Heritage: Discovery Day**

A day of talks and displays to increase the public's awareness of Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.

**Venue:** Town Hall, Tavistock  
**Information:** <https://devonas.soc.org.uk/> and click on Events  
**Organiser:** Devonshire Association

Saturday 26 – Sunday 11 May, 10am–4pm

### **Festival of Blossom**

Celebrate the beauty of blossom at Cotehele.

**Notes:** Suitable for children of all ages when accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather, walking shoes or wellies encouraged.

**Cost:** Normal admission charges apply.

**Venue & Organiser:** National Trust Cotehele, St Dominick, Saltash, PL12 6TA.

**Information:** 01579 351346, [cotehele@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:cotehele@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## May

Wednesday 7  
**Valley Volunteers Working Party – Tamar Trails**

Join us with a range of hands-on tasks at Tamar Trails, with the Valley Volunteers.

**Notes:** tools and equipment provided, please bring gloves. Wear sturdy footwear, be prepared for weather on the

day. Lunch and refreshments provided. Please bring cups and cutlery.

**Information:** for further details and to let Phil know you're coming, please email: [greenwood.music.plus@gmail.com](mailto:greenwood.music.plus@gmail.com)

**Organiser:** Tamar Community Trust

Saturday 10, 9:30am–4pm  
**Celebrating Devon's World-Class Heritage: President's Symposium**

A day of talks with speakers from Devon's six UNESCO assets, who will share their views on the global significance and how the assets also enhance social, economic and environmental life.

**Cost:** £30

**Venue:** Petroc College, Tiverton

**Information:** <https://devonas.soc.org.uk/> and click on Events

**Booking:** Essential by 2 May

**Organiser:** Devonshire Association

Saturday 17, 10:30am–12:30pm

### **Wildflower Walk**

Come and learn about the various plant species found on the reserve with Chris Ullman from St. Cleer.

**Notes:** Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as the terrain can be steep and slippery. Bring cameras and binoculars. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sorry no dogs.

**Meet:** outside The Cecil Arms, St Stephens, Saltash, PL12 4AR

**Information:** 01752 844666, [baustin165@hotmail.com](mailto:baustin165@hotmail.com)

**Organiser:** Friends of Churchtown Farm Community Nature Reserve

Monday 19 – Wednesday 21  
**Bee-Keeping for Beginners (3-day course)**

Our bee-keeping courses are a combination of classroom studies and practical work in the apiary aimed at complete beginners. The aim is to provide the student with the theoretical knowledge and the practical skills to handle a colony of bees.

**Cost:** £225 per person (the cost includes membership of the Honey Co-operative and a £10 voucher which can be used for extraction, jars or sundries).

**Venue:** please email for further details

**Booking & Payment:**

01579 208412, [info@tamargrowlocal.org](mailto:info@tamargrowlocal.org)

**Organiser:** Tamar Grow Local

Saturday 24

### **Valley Volunteers Working Party – Tamar Trails**

Join us with a range of hands-on tasks at Tamar Trails, with the Valley Volunteers.

**Notes, Information,**

**Organiser:** See Wed 7th May

Sunday 25 – Monday 26, 10am–4pm

### **Tavistock Country Garden Show**

This Show hosts an array of all things green, with a wonderful display of show gardens, nurseries, community stalls

and much, much more.

**Venue & Organiser:** Tavistock Pannier Market, and Butchers' Hall PL19 0AL

**Information:** 01822 611003, [countrygardenshow@tavis.tock.gov.uk](mailto:countrygardenshow@tavis.tock.gov.uk)

Monday 26, 2pm–4pm

### **Tamar Valley Vineyard Guided Tour**

Enjoy a guided tour around Tamar Valley Vineyard to hear about the history and nature of the Valley as well as the very special history behind the vineyard site.

**Notes:** The Vineyard is a working site, please wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Wheelchair access is limited due to terrain, please contact us and we can arrange to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

**Cost:** £0–£18 per person

**Venue & Organiser:** Tamar Valley Vineyard, South Hooe, Bere Alston, PL20 7BW

**Booking & Payment:** [www.tamarvalleyvineyard.co.uk](http://www.tamarvalleyvineyard.co.uk)

Thursday 29, 7pm–8:45pm

### **'Endsleigh: Humphry Repton's Picturesque Masterpiece'**

Ben Ruscombe-King has been head gardener at Endsleigh since 2015. With reference to Repton's Red Book, his talk will focus on the garden's history, development and its management today.

**Notes:** Please book in advance

**Cost:** £15 per person

**Venue & Organiser:** The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton,



PL20 7LQ

**Booking & Payment:** please book in advance, 01822 854769, office@thegardenhouse.org.uk

Friday 30

### Valley Volunteers Working Party – Wacker Quay

Join us with a range of hands-on tasks at Wacker Quay, with the Valley Volunteers.

**Notes, Information, Organiser:** See Wed 7th May

## June

Saturday 7

### Valley Volunteers Working Party – Tamar Trails

Join us with a range of hands-on tasks at Tamar Trails, with the Valley Volunteers.

**Notes, Information, Organiser:** See Wed 7th May

Saturday 14, 12noon–5pm  
**Tamar Valley Fete**

Live band, entertainment, food, stalls and much more

**Cost:** small entry fee  
**Venue:** King George V Playing Field, St Ann's Chapel  
**Information:** <https://tamarvalleyfete.org/>

Saturday 21

### Valley Volunteers Working Party – Tamar Trails

Join us with a range of hands-on tasks at Tamar Trails, with the Valley Volunteers.

**Notes, Information, Organiser:** See Wed 7th May

Monday 23, 10pm lighting

### Tansys Golowan – Midsummer Bonfire

**Venue:** Kit Hill summit  
**Information:** [secretary@oldcornwall.net](mailto:secretary@oldcornwall.net)  
**Organiser:** Callington Old Cornwall Society

Thursday 26, 6:30pm–9:30pm

### 80th Anniversary 'An Evening With Frances Tophill'

Join presenter of BBC's Gardeners World and ITV's Love Your Garden, as guest speaker for this special celebratory event.

**Notes:** Please book in advance. Doors and bar open from 6:30pm.  
**Cost:** £25 per person  
**Venue:** Tavistock Town Hall, PL19 0AU

**Booking & Payment:** 01822 854769, office@thegardenhouse.org.uk  
**Organiser:** The Garden House

Saturday 28, 10:30am–12:30pm

### Bee Walk

This walk might include a visit to nearby Honey Bee Hives with Phil Jordan (a local bee keeper).

**Notes, Meet, Information, Organiser:** see Sat 17 May

Monday 30

### Valley Volunteers Working Party – Wacker Quay

Join us with a range of hands-on tasks at Wacker Quay, with the Valley Volunteers.

**Notes, Information, Organiser:** see Wed 7 May

## July

Thursday 17, doors 7pm, talk starts 8pm

### Benedict Macdonald – "Naturally Profitable: Restoring Nature to Farms & Estates"

Benedict Macdonald is a naturalist, conservationist, writer, producer and founder/director of Restore. Benedict will talk through how nature restoration is now scaling across the UK. He charts the journey the UK is going on, from being one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth, to rapidly restoring large areas of land – as nature restoration becomes more profitable than extractive or intensive farming.

**Cost:** £10 online, £12 on the door, students £5

**Venue & Organiser:** Calstock Arts, PL18 9QX

**Booking & Information:** [mail@calstockarts.org](mailto:mail@calstockarts.org), 01822 833183

Saturday 19, 10am

### Exploring St Germans

Join Jane and Phil for an explorative walk of the St Germans area. Walk to St Germans quay, then up into fields, views everywhere, return to village via Stableyard Cafe as seen in Beyond Paradise, option to stop for coffee or return straight through Port Eliot estate to

car, passing the gem of gems, St Germans Priory, open for visitors! Suitable for well-behaved dogs.

**Meet:** 10am Gunnislake car park to car share, or 10:45am at St Germans. Road parking near Old Quay Lane on right-hand bend nearing end of village just past church.

**Organiser:** Gunnislake Community Matters

Saturday 19, 1pm–3pm

### Butterfly Walk

Join members of The Butterfly Conservation Group for a Butterfly Walk.

**Notes, Meet, Information, Organiser:** see Sat 17 May

Saturday 26

### Latchley, Chilsworthy & Cox Park Show

**Information:** [www.lccpshow.org](http://www.lccpshow.org)

## August

Friday 8

### Friends of the Tamar Valley walk

Join Anthony and Jane for a walk and talk from lay-by near Weir Quay for a fairly level walk to Thorn Point with tea on return at Weir Quay Boatyard café.

**Booking:** essential as café capacity is 12, [janeikiely3@gmail.com](mailto:janeikiely3@gmail.com)

**Organiser:** Friends of the Tamar Valley

Saturday 9, 8pm–9pm

### Bat Walk

Walk led by Stuart Mathieson, East Cornwall Reserves Officer for Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

**Notes, Meet, Information, Organiser:** see Sat 17 May

## September

Saturday 6, 10:30am – 2:30pm

### Friends of the Tamar Valley walk

Join Peter Adams for a walk and talk on the history of Launceston, figuratively the gateway to Cornwall. The gentle walk will finish at St Mary's church with an hour for lunch in town, followed by a further hour walking down to the River Kenese and Newport. There may be a small charge

for this event.

**Meet:** Costa Coffee, Launceston

**Information:** email [janeikiely3@gmail.com](mailto:janeikiely3@gmail.com)

**Organiser:** Friends of the Tamar Valley

Saturday 20, 10am

### Devon Great Consols Walk

Join Steve for a walk around the Tamar Trails.

**Notes:** 90 minutes to 2 hours.

Some inclines but often muddy. Suitable for well-behaved dogs.

**Meet:** 10am Gunnislake car park to car share or 10:15am Tamar Trails car park.

**Organiser:** Gunnislake Community Matters

## October

Saturday 18, 10:45am

### Calstock via Danescombe Wood Walk

Join David and Phil for a walk of the Calstock and Danescombe Wood area.

**Notes:** Nearly all down hill. Bring money or bus pass for return journey. Suitable for well-behaved dogs.

**Meet:** 10:45am Gunnislake car park to car share to Tamar Valley Centre, PL18 9FE (11am)

**Organiser:** Gunnislake Community Matters

## November

Saturday 22

### Tamar Energy Fest

**Venue:** Butchers' Hall, Tavistock

**Information & Organiser:** Tamar Energy Community – [hello@tamarenergycommunity.com](mailto:hello@tamarenergycommunity.com)

## December

Saturday 20, 10am

### Gunnislake Circular River Walk

Join Steve and David for a riverside walk around the Gunnislake area.

**Notes:** One steady incline and can be wet under foot. Suitable for well-behaved dogs.

**Meet:** 10am Gunnislake car park

**Organiser:** Gunnislake Community Matters

# Tamara Landscape Partnership



Creating work for North Side, South Side: Tamara Riverscape Stories, the exhibition of which was recently held at Cotehele and Buckland Abbey

The Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme is a five-year project that aims to create a brighter future for the Tamar Valley and its communities through 10 exciting projects. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Cornwall Council and Devon County Council, projects have covered heritage, Nature, wellbeing, produce, training and farming. With match-funding commitments from other partners, a total of £3.2 million has been invested across the Tamar Valley landscape up until 2025.

It's hard to believe that the Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme has already been running for four years, and this year, 2025 will be the Scheme's final year.

This fantastic project has held hundreds of events, offered training opportunities, supported local and wannabe growers and taken steps to care for the Valley's historic sites. But, there are still many ways that you can continue to get involved through events, community roadshows and even a brand-new Digital Nature Hub!

The next six pages bring you the latest updates and highlights from Tamara...



## Important dates for your diary

We are providing support and guidance to Parish Councils on Nature-based projects - from community spaces to hedgehog awareness and improving access to Nature. Excitingly, as part of this project and in partnership with Tamar Valley National Landscape, this spring we will launch a Digital Nature Hub on their website [www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk](http://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk). This will provide accessible tools, resources and top tips for connecting with the natural world. The Hub will also provide information and signposting for national initiatives, events and field study resources and equipment available for loan.

### Festival of Blossom 26 April – 11 May

A programme of blossom events will be held throughout the Tamar Valley, hosted by the National Trust. The events will focus specifically on hedgerow blossom and the importance of healthy, well-maintained, diverse native hedges connecting habitats and landscapes.

### Parish Roadshows

Seven events will take place in different locations across Tamar Valley National Landscape that will bring communities together to connect with local wildlife, grow knowledge, nurture curiosity and celebrate Nature. Locations and dates are still to be confirmed, but keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates @tamarvalleynl.






 A group of children and an adult are crouched by a riverbank. They are looking into a white tray that contains various small aquatic creatures, including what looks like a crayfish and some snails. One child is wearing a bright red jacket, another a purple jacket, and a third a blue and white striped jacket with a pom-pom hat.
 

Mesmerised by river life

## River Explorers

Westcountry Rivers Trust is delivering our River Explorers Project with sessions to schoolchildren throughout the Tamar Valley. These curriculum-linked sessions are designed to connect children with their waterways, informing and inspiring them, as they learn what creatures live under the water. So far, over 220 children and their teachers have taken part.

## Calstock Primary School sets up shop in Plymouth Station

As part of the Heritage Storytelling project, 21 Year 5 and 6 pupils from Calstock Primary School, dressed as Tudors, took artefacts, including decorated boxes showing river and rail scenes, as well as local variety apples to Plymouth Station to show the travelling public.

Boarding the train at Calstock, they travelled to Plymouth where they 'set up shop', displayed their artwork and gave members of the public apples for their journey.

The storytelling project was recently completed, with exhibitions held at Cotehele from 24 – 30 March and Buckland Abbey from 31 March – 6 April.



## Connecting to Nature leads to greater wellbeing

We have continued to run and fund wellbeing sessions for community groups, focusing on connecting people to Nature through seasonal, food-related, creative, craft and physical activities. We hope to have completed 170 wellbeing sessions by the end of the Tamara project.





Planting trees in the Tamar Valley

# Supporting farmers and land managers



Leaky dams

**Our project, 'New Approaches', is providing support and advice to farmers, landowners and communities to create opportunities and mitigate challenges. The final year of the project sees a strong focus on improving water quality in the Luckett Stream, Lower Lynher and Tavy.**

Our work with Duchy College is continuing, with the riparian buffer area either side of the Venterdon stream, being planted with trees. This will roughen the terrain, slowing the flow of water before it reaches the stream, while also acting as a filter for nutrients and stabilising soil, creating habitat diversity and improving water quality. This project, in collaboration with Westcountry Rivers Trust, will create a demonstration site for natural flood management.

A small project is underway to restore hedges, Devon banks and traditional stone walls on land that slopes steeply down to the Tavy above Denham Bridge. This will intercept surface runoff and help infiltrate the soil, slowing the flow of surface water into the Tavy, as well as reducing nutrients and sediment in the watercourse.

We are also working with partners to deliver interventions on farmland above New Consols mine site to reduce the flow of surface water. Works include cross drains, scrapes, leaky dams and hedge/tree planting. This complements the work we hope to complete this summer on the mine site below, subject to obtaining scheduled monument consent. This will slow surface flow across the spoil heaps and stabilise the riverbank, hopefully reducing the metalloid contamination from the spoil entering the Luckett Stream.

A feasibility study into reconnecting the floodplain on the River Lynher is to be commissioned. This will identify how we may reduce flood risk, improve habitat and biodiversity and protect the priority species that may be present on the site near Pillaton. We are working closely with partners at the Environment Agency and Natural England to achieve this work.





The Tamara Scheme is providing new apprentice and internship opportunities. By the end of the Scheme, five apprentices and six interns will have taken up their new roles.

# Tamara Trainees

Ginnette Sutherland



We are delighted to announce that our first internship of Community Engagement Officer, has been filled by Ginnette Sutherland, who was keen to change careers and move from a career in education into the environment sector. We wanted to find out a little bit more about Ginnette, what made her apply and whether she would do it all again, so we asked her some probing questions!

## Focus on Community Engagement Officer – Ginnette Sutherland

### What inspired you to apply?

This role felt like the perfect transition from my education career into a green one. I was eager to apply my skills and put my MSc in Land and Ecological Restoration into practice.

### What's your connection to the Tamar Valley?

I've lived and worked in Devon and Cornwall all my life, starting as a gardener for the National Trust at Cotehele when I was 17. It feels special to have come full circle, working back in the Valley. My family is also connected to the river - my father has built Cornish Pilot gigs for years, some of which are tied to the Tamar Valley.

### Have you always been passionate about the environment?

Absolutely! Growing up on a small

Devon farm, I've always felt connected to the land, seasons, and wildlife. Becoming a parent deepened that passion. As a teacher, I loved seeing young people light up when discovering Nature, whether spotting wildlife for the first time or finding joy in the outdoors.

### What are you most enjoying about the job?

The incredible team! I'm constantly learning from experts in conservation and land management while collaborating with communities to encourage grassroots action for Nature.

### What's next?

I hope to grow my skills in community engagement and advocacy, with aspirations to move into project management in Nature recovery.

### Any advice for future interns?

Internships are a great way to step into a new field. Get involved, ask questions, and don't be afraid to showcase your strengths. Nature needs passionate people!





# Tamar Valley River Festival

River of Hope Parade, from Calstock Station through the village to Calstock Quay

**The pilot Tamar Valley River Festival which took place in the autumn was a resounding success, so thank you to everyone who took part. On the day, Calstock was bustling with festival goers, performers, artists, singers, morris dancers, circus performers, stilt walkers and even a bubble fairy! Around 2,700 people joined us for the day and thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. We had some wonderful feedback that will help us shape our plans for future festivals.**

Highlights of the day included live music and theatre, the first public rendition of the Tamar Shanty written by Rosie Fierek, the River of Hope Parade, circus skills workshops, taster trips on the Calstock Passenger Ferry, arts and crafts workshops and demonstrations.

Circus workshops took place on the village green with tight rope walking, unicycles, a bubble fairy and stilt walkers, providing a great 'festival' feeling to the day.

A magical and awe-inspiring 'Allis the Shad' interactive performance brought tears to the eyes as the story of this Tamar Valley National Landscape special fish species was brought to life.

The first 'taster' tours were held on the Calstock Passenger Ferry, which aims to start up for its one season commercial trial this year.

Our partners had displays in the village hall which was packed with people all day and there were arts and crafts workshops running all day.

**Festival goers made hats and joined the parade from the train station to the green, led by the Calstock Samba Band. Beautiful flags created by local school children were carried by strong adults! The flags were made as part of the River of Hope Thames Festival project linking schools around the world through the study of rivers and environmental issues.**



It is hoped a new project will help to inform future growing and training programmes in the area, while also increasing the amount of people engaged in food, farming and hospitality and giving them the confidence to start new employment roles.

# Get ready to Grow, Share and Prepare in the Valley!

**Grow Share Prepare seeks to engage up to 20 young people aged 16 and over who are not currently in work or education in growing fruit and vegetables, cooking fresh healthy produce to share with their community, and engaging in relevant workplace and wellbeing training to increase opportunities in gaining employment or further volunteering.**

The project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund under the Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme and the National Lottery Community Fund, builds on volunteering opportunities through the Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme. It aims to enthuse and build awareness of the variety of roles in food, farming and hospitality work through visits and experiences throughout the year; at the same time as increasing wellbeing and confidence in gaining or returning to employment through practical training.

Grow Share Prepare aims to improve community connections by creating community lunches and also frozen ready meals for those experiencing food insecurity. At the end of the project, participants will have gained both accredited and non-accredited training and a record of achievement.

Part of the training will also include social media and photography skills, with participants recording their learning and progress; the activities of the farm days and provision of community meals. This will also demonstrate the value and variety of food that is available locally.

For further information on Tamara Landscape Partnership, please visit [www.tamaralandscapepartnership.org.uk](http://www.tamaralandscapepartnership.org.uk)



**TAMARA**   
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



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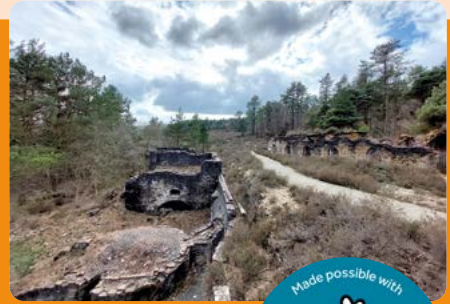
## Celebrating Devon's world-class heritage

by Sue Andrew

Last autumn, the Devonshire Association was delighted to learn that we had been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in support of our project 'Celebrating Devon's World-Class Heritage'.

The project will run throughout 2025 and aims to increase public awareness of the six UNESCO assets in Devon: the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site, the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site, the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, the Exeter City of Literature (covering all of Devon), the English Riviera Global Geopark, and the Exeter Book.

Twelve Discovery Days across the county will be free to attend and will be as wide-ranging, accessible and engaging as possible. Events will include walks, talks and a symposium that will bring together speakers from Devon's six UNESCO designations. You'll find details of our events on pages 12-13.



Devon Great Consols



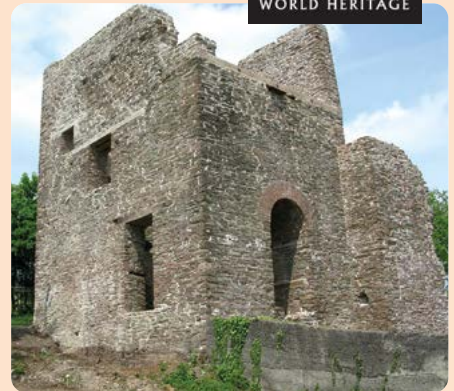
## Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site

**The many former metalliferous mine sites and mining settlements have helped shape this particularly distinctive landscape over time. Area A10 of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site is located almost entirely within Tamar Valley National Landscape and encompasses many of these mine sites and settlements. This shared acknowledgement and appreciation of the Valley's remarkable mining heritage has afforded many opportunities for partnership working and a number of major projects have been pursued in support of this.**

The first of the projects to be undertaken following the inscription of the World Heritage Site in 2006, was the East Cornwall Regeneration Project (Phase 2), which was in effect until 2009. The momentum of this project was maintained through the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project, which ran until 2011. For more information on the projects, see pages 10 and 11.

The World Heritage Site team continued to support the Tamar Valley National Landscape, with the Helping Hands for Heritage programme (2014-2016), the Rediscovering Gunnislake Clitters Mine project (2020), and, currently, with the Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The management plans of Tamar Valley National Landscape and the World Heritage Site acknowledge mining heritage as part of the Valley's special qualities, and it is hoped both organisations will continue to build on previous successes and work together to pursue mutually beneficial outcomes.



**The pumping engine house at the Prince of Wales Mine, Harrowbarrow, which was conserved as part of the East Cornwall Regeneration Project in 2007 © Colin Buck**

**Find out more about Area A10 Tamar Valley Mining District with Tavistock – [www.cornishmining.org.uk/areas](http://www.cornishmining.org.uk/areas)**



# Tavistock Abbey shaped the history of the Tamar Valley

Tavistock Heritage Trust is leading an ambitious project, Rediscovering Tavistock Abbey, which includes repairing Abbey buildings, community archaeology and a major research initiative.

Research highlights the Abbey's pivotal role in the Valley's history and economy. As a major landowner, it shaped agriculture, trade and mining, including managing the Bere Ferrers silver mines during the 13th and 14th centuries. Strategically positioned, the Abbey fostered connections between Devon and Cornwall, and its administration of markets, fairs and Stannary courts made it a vital cultural and economic hub.

Although the mines declined after the Black Death and the Abbey's dissolution, their legacy endures. Remnants of this historic industry can still be traced in the Tamar Valley, reflecting the region's integral role in England's economic and cultural development.



Tavistock Heritage Trust Finberg map

As the project moves forward, there will be opportunities for significant community involvement. Please contact [david.conn@heritageintavistock.org](mailto:david.conn@heritageintavistock.org) for further details.



Bere Ferrers mineral lode from the air  
© Barry Gamble

## Working to protect and preserve the Tamar's rich heritage

**The Tamar Protection Society (TPS) aims to improve, protect and preserve the Lower Tamar area for the benefit of the public.**

The TPS also manages two unique heritage properties in Saltash - Mary Newman's Cottage and Elliott's Shop and Museum.

### Mary Newman's Cottage

Mary Newman's Cottage, where the first wife of Sir Francis Drake is reputed to have lived as a child, is authentically furnished and portrays aspects of life during the 15th and 16th centuries through artefacts and displays. The Courtyard Café serves drinks and light snacks.

**Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday from 12noon-4pm**

### Elliott's Shop and Museum

The Elliott family moved into the premises in 1902 and ran a general store until the late 1970s. When Frank Elliott died in 1995, he bequeathed the building and contents to the TPS, on the understanding that it became a museum.

2025 is the 30th anniversary, and to mark this



**Elliott's Shop and Museum and (inset), Mary Newman's Cottage**

milestone a new exhibition is highlighting the social and economic history of Saltash, thanks to Frank Elliott's legacy.

This amazing time capsule is open on:  
**Wednesday, Thursday 2-4pm and Saturday 10am-2pm. Both properties reopened on April 5 for the 2025 season.**

To find out more about the Tamar Protection Society, including details of a variety of volunteering roles, please visit <https://www.tamarprotectionsociety.org.uk/>.

# Cosy, efficient and future ready

**UK homes use 35% of the UK's energy and emit 20% of our carbon dioxide emissions (TrustMark, 2024). In a typical household, around 80% of energy use goes towards space heating and hot water (Energy Saving Devon, 2024).**

You can take both large and small steps to improve your home's energy efficiency, for example by installing an air source heat pump, insulating your loft and other areas, and making more use of microwaves and air fryers in the kitchen.

Consider a free retrofit home visit, where an advisor can assess your home and provide personalised recommendations, or visit Tamar Energy Community's website <https://tamarenergycommunity.com/contact-us/>.

By improving home energy efficiency, we reduce the UK's carbon emissions, tackle climate change, and build a sustainable future. You can contact Tamar Energy Community by calling 0800 233 5414 or emailing [hello@tamarenergycommunity.com](mailto:hello@tamarenergycommunity.com)

**Reducing energy use through better home energy efficiency is not only crucial for cutting carbon emissions but also for tackling wider societal issues.**



One of the new interpretation boards installed at Lopwell Dam



New benches by Drakewalls Mine, in the grounds of the Tamar Valley Centre

## New interpretation boards throughout the Tamar Valley

**Look out for our new interpretation boards at key sites across the Valley from early 2025. The refreshed signage will engage local communities and visitors with our wonderful landscape, its management, Nature, heritage and recreational opportunities.**

Tamar Valley National Landscape's Project Officer, Jane Hart, explains more: "The strong heritage connections of orchards, forestry, farming and the use of local rivers for transporting goods to markets will be celebrated along with our exceptional Nature. We'd like signage adjacent to all our sites designated for their wildlife importance. The boards will be widely accessible and have features such as QR codes to scan for further details and opportunities to explore."

The 14 new boards have been produced in partnership with local land managers and are funded by the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and Defra. Keep an eye out for the new seating at Drakewalls Mine site (one of which is in memory of our AONB Manager (2000-2012) Tim Selman) and at Calstock Wetlands, too (funded through Defra's Access for All programme). Thank you to Tamar Community Trust (and their fabulous volunteers), Tavistock Taskforce and Cormac.





# Tree planting at Buckland Abbey

**It's been a busy winter at Buckland Abbey, with lots of fantastic projects and some great community events getting underway.**

Following the excitement of the Viking Yule and the blessing of the apple trees at Wassail, the Community Tree Planting project was launched. In January alone, visitors, school groups and volunteers helped plant over 12,000 of the 30,000 trees being planted this year. Look out for details of more events and progress with the project - [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/buckland-abbey](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/buckland-abbey) or call 01822 853607.



## Milton Abbot Village Hall

**Milton Abbot Village Hall has a serious dry rot condition that requires urgent and expensive treatment.**

The campaign to get the hall up and running again continues, with a successful Open Day held last November, launch of the sale of their tote bags and a fundraising quiz in April. Good response was generated from their survey, ranging from volunteering help to ideas for future community events. For more information on fundraising and future events, please visit [saveourhall.co.uk](http://saveourhall.co.uk).



## Devon's biggest business celebration

**The new Devon Business Awards celebrate the excellence and innovation of Devon's thriving business community.**

Hosted by Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, the event on Friday 16 May will see new award categories, a new and immersive theme, and a broader celebration of the diverse and vibrant businesses that make Devon exceptional.

In addition to recognising business entrepreneurship, the event also rewards environmental and conservation work. The aptly named 'Planet Saver' award recognises organisations with sustainability at the heart of their business. Other categories include:

- The Community Champion
- Collaboration/Project of the Year
- Start-Up Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year

For a full list of this year's categories and to find out more about the event, visit <https://devonchamber.co.uk/chamber-awards/>.

Through Tamar Valley National Landscape's membership of the Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, we've not only been able to present to its members our 2055 Vision, create great relationships and bring people together, but we've also been able to find local businesses to support our projects. During 2024, Pollenize CIC (based in Plymouth), delivered a Farming in Protected Landscapes funded series of Citizen Science events at the Tamar Valley Centre, planting wildflower seeds and creating a baseline report. Pushed, a dynamic media creation company, is in the final stages of creating an exciting short promotional film for us, thanks to Defra access funding.



**Pollenize CIC sowing wildflower seeds in the grounds of the Tamar Valley Centre**



## Tamar Valley National Landscape

### About Us

Tamar Valley National Landscape helps to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley by offering advice and assistance to community groups, landowners, farmers, residents and visitors.

There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK. The Tamar Valley itself covers an area of 75 square miles (195 sq km).

Tamar Valley National Landscape  
Tamar Valley Centre  
Cemetery Road, Drakewalls,  
Gunnislake,  
Cornwall, PL18 9FE  
t: 01872 324341  
e: [enquiries@tamarvalley.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tamarvalley.org.uk)  
w: [www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk](http://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk)

Help us keep our National Landscape, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, special whilst exploring the Tamar Valley. Please follow the Countryside Code.

### Produced by

**Tamar Valley National Landscape:**

Charlotte Dancer  
[charlotte.dancer@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.dancer@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Editorial support:**

Tracey Eustice, PED

**Design:**

PED (Paul Eustice Design)

**Print:**

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[@tamarvalleynationallandscape](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtamarvalleynl)



## Space to hire at Tamar Valley Centre

**If you're looking to host a club, meeting or event, following a number of recent upgrades, the Tamar Valley Centre could be the perfect choice.**

Close to Gunnislake Railway Station and with free parking, the Centre is ready to host a growing number of events and activities.

The multifunctional space is also available for a whole range of activities, from hot desking, meetings and conferences, or as an ideal location for your organisation's or business's team days, public exhibitions or maybe the launch of a new club to serve the community.

The building's sustainable design with high ceilings and big windows brings the calming effect of Nature to any activity, and Steven or Holly from the Tamar Valley National Landscape team will work with you to ensure your use of the building is successful and stress free.

To find out more, view the Tamar Valley Centre pages on our website - <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/tamar-valley-centre/>, or contact [steven.draper@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:steven.draper@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Meet the Team

We have a dedicated team of staff who care for Tamar Valley National Landscape, including a team of six who are delivering the £3.2 million Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme (supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund). Discover our different roles, and contact us direct at <https://www.tamarvalley-nl.org.uk/our-work/#meet-the-team-anchor>