

## **Events and Activities**

**May - July 2021**

**The Tamar Valley AONB team wants to help people pursue their interests and develop new skills and knowledge, increasing their enjoyment of this wonderful area. If these skills are put it to use in the Tamar Valley as well then all the better!**

Since lockdown, many organisations have suspended their volunteering and training activities. All will be hoping to resume as soon as possible and, in the meantime, will be busy reviewing what they may be able to offer and how to do so in a Covid-safe way.

In the meantime there are online activities taking place that you may find of interest - see information below. Please note these are just a few examples of what's happening at the moment - this list is not exhaustive and may be subject to change (please contact organisers directly).

The TVAONB office is not currently running any activities with the Tamar Valley Centre still closed and many staff working from home.

If you know of other upcoming activities or training which may be of interest to volunteers in the Tamar Valley, please do send details to [enquiries@tamarvalley.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tamarvalley.org.uk).

**If you would like monthly updates from the AONB with details of what's on in the Tamar Valley, please sign up by going to our website at <https://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/> and your monthly ebulletin will be emailed to you directly.**

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### **Friends of The Valley Talk**

**Zoom meeting - Peter Thompson's fascinating films of wildlife in the Tamar Valley**

**\*\*TODAY\*\*** May 7 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Pete Thompson will show his recent film of sightings of otters in the River Tamar around Calstock, and will share news of the recently created Wetlands. If you would like to join the AGM and Talk, please contact Jane Kiely - 01752 466287 or email [janekiely3@gmail.com](mailto:janekiely3@gmail.com)

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### **Tamar Valley AONB & Tamara Landscape Partnership**

**Invitation to Tamara Landscape Partnership Launch & Tamar Valley AONB Annual Forum - online event**

May 19 @ 10am

We hope you can join us on **Wednesday 19th May at 10am** for the launch of the Tamara Landscape Partnership Scheme and Tamar Valley AONB Annual Forum.

Please **book your free ticket** at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tamara-landscape-partnership-scheme-launch-tvaonb-annual-forum-tickets-150917693885>

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## Tamara Landscape Partnership

**Current recruitment – 3 posts**

Deadline for applications 23 May

The Tamara LP is advertising for 3 new members of staff. If you or someone you know is interested in applying for the positions then more details can be found at

<https://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/care/gettinginvolved/jobs/>

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## Tamar Valley AONB

**Naturally Health May Events**

May 21 - Buckland Community Orchard

May 26 - Hallowell Forest

Free event.

It's **Naturally Healthy May**, and what better time to explore the beautiful Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

We hope you'll join us on a walk, led by local botanist Martin Summers, to find out more about the folklore and medicinal uses of our hedgerow plants (supported by Active Devon).

**Booking essential as places are strictly limited.** For more information go to <https://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/events/>

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## Tamar Valley AONB

**Logo Hunt**

Ongoing

Have you seen old AONB logos on an interpretation board near you? If so, please get in touch! Find out more here - <https://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/tamar-valley-logo-hunt/>

Why are we doing this now?

Unfortunately, many of the boards in the AONB are looking tired and some contain information that is very out of date. With the introduction of a new brand for the Tamar Valley AONB, it seems timely to take stock of everything that's out there, to start scheduling updates of the panels or replacing them entirely if they are no longer fit for purpose.... and this is where we'd love your help!

During your daily exercise, if you pass an information board that contains one of our old logos, please could you note where it is, what information it contains and provide a brief description of the condition of the board?

Thank you!

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## Drawn to The Valley

**Spring Exhibition 'Resurgam'**

May 22 - May 29

Free event

We are delighted to host Drawn to the Valley's much awaited Spring Exhibition 'Resurgam' at the Tamar Valley Centre. Enjoy many beautiful pieces of new work that kept Drawn to the Valley artists busy during the last year. 22 May - 28 May 10:30am - 4:30pm daily, Saturday 29 May 10:00am - 2:00pm

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## RSPB

### Volunteering

Ongoing

Many of our reserves are now open and our local groups are still recruiting so there is plenty to get involved with by donating your time and talents. Find all our current opportunities here. There are some you can do from the comfort of your own home or out and about on our reserves and projects. Nature needs people to take action, we hope you'll find something that interests you.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-fundraising/volunteer/>

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## Tamar Community Trust

### Volunteer Work Party

12 & 29 May, 5 & 16 June, 7 & 17 July - Tamar Trails

13 June - Wacker Quay

Tasks include footpath maintenance and possibly removing a few overhanging branches

Tools equipment will be provided but please bring gloves. Wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for the weather on the day. Please bring your own lunch and refreshments

Volunteer numbers are limited so if you wish to join in please contact Phil beforehand for more information.

Email [greenwood.music.plus@gmail.com](mailto:greenwood.music.plus@gmail.com); Mobile 07971768147

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## Tamar Grow Local- Tamar Valley Honey Co-operative

### Bee-Keeping For Beginners (3 day course)

28, 29 & 30 June (*Mon, Tue & Wed*)

10, 17 & 24 July (*All Sats*)

£165.00 including VAT

Please contact Tamar Grow Local at [info@tamargrowlocal.org](mailto:info@tamargrowlocal.org) for further details and to register your interest.

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## Family Foraging Kitchen

### Bee keeping (1 day)

Various dates, 10:00am-3:00pm

£40

Join Robbie Ryder at Horsepool Apiary to get hands-on with their hives.

You'll learn how to handle and care for bees, as well as the construction of hives and how to manage honey.

Numbers are limited, so early booking is recommended.

For more information <https://familyforagingkitchen.co.uk/product/bee-keeping/>

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## Plantlife

### Road verge Campaign

#### Online webinar presentation: Saving Wild Flowers on our Road Verges (Spring into Action with Plantlife talk)

Since launching in 2013 Plantlife's Road Verge Campaign has been working to transform the way the UK's verges are managed. In her talk, Dr Kate Petty (Plantlife's Road Verge Campaign Manager) explores the importance of road verges habitats and the history of the Plantlife campaign, takes you on a whistle-stop tour of Plantlife's management guidance and shares inspiring case studies from successful projects across the country.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4WAXgW7MkU>

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## Plantlife

### Great British Wildflower Hunt

On going

Do you love wild flowers? Would you like to know more about them? And help save them for the future? So would we.

For more information go to <https://plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt>

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## Canterbury University

### Plant Aesthetics Survey

Here's something a little different - Canterbury university researcher Naomi Beddoe has contacted us with an invitation to take part in a survey on how appealing and valuable people consider plants to be. If you'd like to take part, here's a message from Naomi...

*I hope you can help. I'm a plant science researcher working with Canterbury Christ Church University. I am interested to find out how visually pleasing people find certain plants, as part of a wider project on how people value plants. I have also investigated social/economic/ecological/medicinal uses, usefulness for pollinators/wildlife, edible for humans/livestock, invasive/competitive, host for disease/pests, toxic to humans/livestock, native/introduced to the UK and abundance).*

*Would anyone in your group be willing to help by completing a short survey focused on how attractive they find a set of 12 plants? There are 4 questions and a consent part. We hope to gather views from a wide range of people to understand what types of plants people find attractive.*

*I can email the survey directly to anyone who wishes to participate. Please ask them to email me ([naomi.beddoe@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:naomi.beddoe@canterbury.ac.uk)) to get a copy of the survey and the background information.*

*Thanks for your time and help - I appreciate it.*

*Naomi*

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## Butterfly Conservation – Field Trips

### Greenscombe Wood (Near Luccett)

June 6 @ 10:30am

Join Butterfly Conservation on a field trip to Cornwall's only site for the nationally rare Heath Fritillary butterfly which is now established here after a successful reintroduction in 2006. This walk has several steep inclines that can be slippery, so a walking pole and sturdy footwear advised. Local expert on the species, Richard Vulliamy will be leading the trip. Meet in Luccett Village car park, (SX389737) PL17 8NJ. Please bring a packed lunch.

Leader: Richard Vulliamy. Contact: Tristram Besterman (01579 349146)

### Churchtown Farm (Saltash)

July 17 @ 2pm

We are joining Friends of Churchtown Farm for a walk identifying and learning about the butterflies and moths that make their home at this CWT reserve on the banks of the River Lynher. Directions: Follow the signs for Saltash Community College to Wearde Road and park in the access road to the school (SX421581) PL12 4AS.

Leader and contact: Sue Allen (01872 240246)

For information on other field trips in 2021 go to <http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk/events.html>

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## Coombe Trenchard

### The English Country Garden Festival

June 5 @ 10:00 am - June 6 @ 5:00 pm

£6

Set within the beautiful private gardens of an Edwardian Arts & Crafts Country House Estate – The English Country Garden Festival is a quintessential traditional summer event with a diverse selection of exhibits and specialists

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## The British Society of Soil Science

### Great Worm Hunt

Ongoing

Looking for something to do this weekend? If you have a garden why not take part in the Great Worm Hunt? Help DLNP find out more about these fascinating creatures that live underneath us.

<https://soils.org.uk/education/the-great-worm-hunt/>

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## Tavistock Heritage Trust

### Tavistock Guildhall- The Past- From Abbey ruins to iconic symbol of crime & Justice

May 11 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Free online event.

**Sue Spackman – Architect, Trustee of Devon Historic Buildings Trust and past Chair of Tavistock Heritage Trust – will** unravel the story of the group of buildings in the Great Court at the time of the Abbey which would eventually form part of the Police Station and Guildhall. Who used them, what happened to them when the Police moved on, and what was the DHBT's role before the formation of Tavistock Heritage Trust?

To book a place at this free event, please contact Richard Rundell [richard.rundell@tavistockguildhall.org](mailto:richard.rundell@tavistockguildhall.org)

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## Council For British Archaeology and end 2021 Festival of Archaeology – Exploring Local places

July 17 – August 1

The CBA Festival of Archaeology is the largest celebration of archaeology in the UK. With hundreds of events delivered by community groups, heritage organisations, universities and commercial units, over half a million people have engaged in archaeology, explore stories of place and connect with the environment around them.

This year our theme is **Exploring local places**. Discover the archaeology that is all around you by exploring your local area and the stories of the people and communities who lived there. Many of the 2020 Festival events are still available to watch or download.

For information on digital and on the ground events as well as self-led activities and downloadable resources visit

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/about>

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## Historic England

### Enrich the List

Ongoing

The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is the only official, up to date, register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England - listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields.

Historic England is asking volunteers to help 'Enrich the List' with your images, insights and secrets of England's spectacular historic places.

The List has over 400,000 entries: tower blocks and tombstones, barrows and bunkers, palaces and pigsties, plague crosses and piers, cathedrals, windmills and rollercoasters. Many places on the List are well-known and even world-famous. But in some cases there is much that remains unknown.

Share your knowledge and pictures of listed places, so Historic England can record important facts, and even unlock the secrets of some places.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/>

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## The Bat Conservation Trust

### Online even NBMP "Using Your Ears" Bat Detector Workshop

May 12 @ 6-8pm

£8

This bat detector workshop involves an evening classroom session featuring videos, activities and quizzes. It is designed to provide attendees with an introduction to using a tuneable

heterodyne bat detector and fundamental species identification skills, and enable them to participate in a UK-wide survey as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). The focus is on the NBMP Waterway Survey, how to separate big bats and small bats, and on identification of pipistrelles and Daubenton's bat. The workshop will be led by Richard Dodd.

BCT will be running other online events and training in coming months. Whether you are a bat-beginner or an expert you are sure to find an event to interest you.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/events>

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## **Cornwall Mammal Group**

### **Hedgehog Project**

On going

Not much is known about the Cornish hedgehog population. But since 2020, we are collaborating with other environmental and wildlife groups in Cornwall to change this. For more information go to <https://www.cornwallmammalgroup.org/hedgehog-project>

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## **Peoples Trust For Endangered Species**

### **National Water Vole Monitoring Programme**

Mid April – Mid June

For more information on how to get involved in this and other surveys visit the PTES website

<https://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside-2/national-water-vole-monitoring-programme/how-to-take-part/>

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## **South Hill Community**

### **Volunteers needed**

Current

Members of the local community are replacing rusted footpath signs with new wooden posts around South Hill parish. Volunteers are working in couples or their bubbles. If you would like to help out please contact the parish council chair Dave Skelton  
07776 386828 [dave@pencashna.com](mailto:dave@pencashna.com)

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## **More Meadows**

### **New Community Forum**

Ongoing

The forum is a new friendly community network connecting all those passionate about meadows, wild flowers and wildlife. If you're keen to take part in nature's recovery, join the growing band of meadow-makers in Devon and beyond. More Meadows now has a West Devon group that is happy to extend into east Cornwall.

Registering is free and only takes a moment.

<https://forum.moremeadows.org.uk>

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## **Sallerton Wood, Bere Peninsula**

### **Craft and Conservation Days**

Ongoing

Currently taking bookings for the 2021 season, and are planning to run a full programme of courses.

For the programme of courses from May to August visit  
<https://www.sallertonwood.org.uk/courses.htm#schedule>

For more information about Sallerton Wood: Tel. 01822 8417818 or visit  
<https://www.sallertonwood.org.uk/index.htm>

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## **Devon Hedge Group**

### **Devon Hedge Award 2021**

Entries now being accepted

The theme for this year's Devon Hedge Awards is Devon hedges that are good for flowers, berries, fruit and nuts. The closing date for entries is 31st December 2021 so there is plenty of time to win an attractive plaque and an individual certificate to put on your farm or garden gate.

For more information go to <https://devonhedges.org>

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## **Royal Horticultural Society**

### **Citizen science- Check a Sweet Chestnut**

Ongoing

If you enjoy looking closely at trees and know your sweet chestnut trees nearby, the RHS would love to hear from you.

They need your help to identify signs of the invasive tree pest Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp. The wasp damages the leaves when it creates the galls, and this can affect the health and vigour of the tree.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/help-our-research/check-a-sweet-chestnut>

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## **Devon Wildlife Trust- Devon Biological Records Centre**

### **Volunteer Wildlife Surveys**

All Year

DBRC manages 2 public participation surveys. These include Operation Otter and the Cetacean Recording Network.

If you would like advice on setting up a public participation survey project or you would like us to manage the data relating to a survey project, please contact us by email.

For more information go to <https://www.dbrc.org.uk/volunteer-wildlife-surveys/>



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## Cornwall Wildlife Trust

### Wildlife Surveys

All year

If you see any wildlife that you find interesting, you can record your sighting with us.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust hosts the Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS) - the central resource for wildlife and habitat information for the county. ERCCIS encourages anyone to submit wildlife records, whatever your experience and no matter how common or widespread the species. Your records will help improve our understanding of the natural history of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, as well as to be used in decision-making, education, research and other public benefit purposes.

For more information go to <https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife/wildlife-recording>

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## Westcountry Rivers Trust

### Citizen Science Investigations

All year

Westcountry CSI is a growing community of citizen scientists taking a closer look at our local rivers across Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

This is a great way for you to keep an eye on your local river – recording wildlife, water quality and signs of pollution. It's a fun to contribute to a growing set of data about our Westcountry rivers, which we can use to target our work and make real improvements to our environment. The aim is to record as many surveys as we can from across the region, literally putting the lesser known Westcountry rivers on the map!

For more information go to <https://wrt.org.uk/project/become-a-citizen-scientist/>. If you would like to take part, please send an email to [csi@wrt.org.uk](mailto:csi@wrt.org.uk)

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## National BRIGIT Project

### Volunteers needed to spot insect's 'spittle'

On going

Xylem feeding insects transmit the bacterium *Xyella fastidiosa* that causes a variety of serious plant diseases. Scientists are calling for thousands of volunteers to help record sightings of the spittlebug (*Philaenus* spp.), which is of particular concern, in gardens, meadows, grasslands and woodlands. If you've ever seen a blob of foam on a plant, it could be a sign that a spittlebug is feeding on a plant.

For more information go to <http://www.xylemfeedinginsects.co.uk>

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## Woodland Wildlife Toolkit

Do you own or manage a wood, or advise on woodland management?

The Woodland Wildlife Toolkit is now available online and is free to use. You can use it to get a better idea of what priority wildlife species can be found in or around your woodland. Each species has an advice sheet that highlights its key habitat requirements and management recommendations. Toolkit developed by the following partners: Bat conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Plantlife, RSPB, Sylva Foundation and Woodland Trust.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Woodland+Wildlife+Toolkit&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

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## Other useful websites for events and training

**As mentioned already here in the TVAONB office we are interested in helping people pursue their interests and develop new skills and knowledge to promote the enjoyment of this wonderful area. Below are just a selection of organisations, some of which are not based in the Tamar Valley (nor are they all linked to the TVAONB) that offer activities and/or training which may be of interest to you. Training ranges from beginners to advanced and includes free and charged events. There are other active organisations, particularly community groups, which may not be listed here but will be offering activities or looking for volunteers- see the TVAONB website for links to some of these.**

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<http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk>

<https://tamartlc.org/events/>

<http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/care/tamarcommunitytrust/>

<http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/care/gettinginvolved/volunteering/friendsoftv/>

<https://tamargrowlocal.org/honey-co-op/>

<http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk/explore/events/>

<http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/search/node/events>

<http://www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk/explore/news-and-events>

<http://www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk>

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor/events/regular-volunteer-events>

<https://devonbatgroup.org/>

Devon rural Skills Trust <https://www.drst.org.uk/pg/course/main.aspx>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/events>

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/events>

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on>

<https://www.launcestonparishwildlife.org.uk/upcoming-events/>

Peoples Trust for Endangered Species- <https://ptes.org/get-involved/>

Plymouth environmental Action – conservation volunteering <http://www.pea-volunteering.co.uk>

Environmental records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly-

<https://erccis.org.uk/WIS/Workshops>

Devon Biological Records Centre- <http://www.dbrc.org.uk/operation-otter/>

Cornwall Bat Group- the group does not have website, but does have a Facebook page, please search for 'Cornwall Bat Group'.

<https://www.cornwallmammalgroup.org/upcoming-events>

<http://www.devonmammalgroup.org/events/>

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/events>

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved>

<http://www.froglife.org>

<http://www.cornwall-butterfly-conservation.org.uk/vols.html>

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/near-me/buglife-south/>

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

Devon Hedges Group- <https://devonhedges.org/training-opportunities-events/>

National Plant Monitoring Scheme-

[https://www.npms.org.uk/?mc\\_cid=6067b83950&mc\\_eid=c9d3595e28](https://www.npms.org.uk/?mc_cid=6067b83950&mc_eid=c9d3595e28)

<https://moremeadows.org.uk>

<https://www.swlakestrust.org.uk/events>

Gunnislake Community Matters- the group does not a webpage. For more information see facebook page <https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/GunnislakeCommunityMatters/>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer>

<https://www.cornwallheritagetrust.org/support-us/volunteer/>

Council for British Archaeology- <https://new.archaeologyuk.org>

<https://historicengland.org.uk>

Chartered Institute for Ecologists and Environmental Managers -  
<https://events.cieem.net/Events/Event-Listing.aspx>

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**For any other information, including volunteer opportunities with Tamar Valley AONB Valley Volunteers, please contact the Tamar Valley AONB Office at [enquiries@tamarvalley.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tamarvalley.org.uk)**