Welcome to the final Burrator Project focused Newsletter

This is definitely a bumper edition as it provides the story of the Burrator Heritage and Natural Environment Project and what has been achieved with your help over the last 3.4 years! (A full version is in the Centre) Thank you ever so much to everyone that has been involved (funders, contractors, volunteers, visitors, and everyone who has attended an event) – It wouldn’t have been possible without you!

Burrator Historic and Natural Environment Project

Inspiring engagement in conservation, heritage and recreation

‘To preserve the area’s rich heritage and make it more accessible by improving the visitor experience, overcoming barriers, extending the learning programme and by reaching out to a more diverse range of people’

June 2010 – Submit pre-application to HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) with the Project Proposal.

April 2011 – Sept 2012 - Following a successful pre-application, SWLT was awarded £33,500 by HLF for the development phase of the project, enabling the Trust to employ a part-time project officer.

December 2012 – SWLT was awarded £378,900 by HLF and secured match funding from the Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund (£15,963), South West Water (£145,000), Biffa Award (£45,000) and West Devon Borough Council (£500). In addition South West Lakes Trust contributed £37,263 in cash and £2,000 in kind support to the project total of £652,276.

July 2013 – The Project Started!

As Chairman of the Burrator Advisory group for the past few years I have been able to observe the positive impact which the Burrator NHE project has played in helping to manage the inherent tensions which exist between local residents and the many different users of Burrator Lake and surrounding catchment. The project has provided a positive focus for discussions and has served to demonstrate the value which people are able to derive from positive engagement with the local environment. The efforts which have been made to attract and engage clients groups who would not normally visit Burrator and the active involvement of volunteers is I believe viewed far more positively than the casual use of the site from which negative impacts can arise e.g. parking, litter, and crime. The use of Burrator as an educational and teaching resource has been amply demonstrated through the project. I have been able to use Burrator as a case study in my teaching and I recently used it as a fieldwork location for MSc students as we discussed the challenges of managing recreational pressures on the sensitive fringes of Plymouth. There is I believe more opportunity for this type of activity by the higher and further educations institutions in and around the city. Chris Balch, Chairman of Burrator Advisory Group

52,295 people have benefitted over the last 16 months!
PART 1 – THE CAPITAL WORKS

Creation of Burrator Discovery Centre

Following a successful tendering process, Ryearch Ltd, Plymouth, were contracted to carry out the works to restore and convert the Iron Store into the Burrator Discovery Centre, to include a SWLT field office, classroom, toilets, and visitor centre. Work started in September 2013 and the Burrator Discovery Centre was officially opened on 4 July 2014.

Unfortunately on New Year’s Eve 2014 we had a flood in the centre due to an extreme frost which caused the pipe to expand and disconnect itself from the water tank and mice having eaten the lagging around the pipes to protect them. However we worked with our insurance company and a local builder and the building was restored in time for Easter 2015.

Total Number of Visitors:
6,237 over 16 months
(Not inc. school visits, groups, etc.)

Aim: To preserve the Iron Store and create a place for visitors to learn about the area, geographically & historically

The Dartmoor Society is delighted to support the achievements of the Burrator Historic & Natural Environment Project. The successful conservation of the Iron Store and its transformation into a Discovery Centre has been one of the most positive historic environment conservation projects within Dartmoor National Park in recent years - a neglected but historic building has been saved for future generations and a valuable contemporary use found for it. The consolidation works to Lowery Barn and Longstone Manor with accompanying interpretation leaflets, talks and walks have also been very successful in alerting people to the rich historic environment of the Burrator area. The work on the natural environment has been equally praiseworthy and, thanks to very committed and engaging staff, the ‘outreach’ of the project to different sections of the wider community has been very impressive. We hope this foundation of good work will be a springboard for continuing research and interpretation which will further open eyes to the wonders of the cultural and natural environment of the Burrator area in a sensitive way.

Tom Greeves, Chairman, The Dartmoor Society
The Totem Pole

To coincide with the opening of the Burrator Discovery Centre, it had always been a long term dream of the Burrator SWLT team to have a totem pole to mark the entrance to the centre made out of the remaining sycamore. In keeping with the Burrator Historic and Natural Environment Project we wanted to provide something that depicted all the different areas of interest that can be seen when you explore Burrator, and what the site is famous for. In June 2014 we launched a competition to pupils from local schools to see if they could design a totem pole that showed what they thought visitors should know about when visiting Burrator. It was a very difficult decision but the panel decided on a combination of 15 entries from which the final design was created. The wood carver was Gary Orange.

The Grand Opening of Burrator Discovery Centre – Sunday 4 July 2014

Over 600 people attended. Alongside the grand opening of the Centre, the open day also included a marquee full of Dartmoor related organisations, granite splitting demonstrations using feather and tare, wheelyboat trips, fishing demonstrations, family wildlife watch activities, the launch of the ‘Burrator Alive with History’ book, the unveiling of the Totem Pole, and much more…

“As a resident privileged to live in an AONB, I applaud the developments that have taken place to enhance the natural and historic environment of Burrator. What is particularly special about this project is the diversity of the work that has taken place, allowing Burrator to be experienced by all, regardless of age, interests and capabilities, for recreation and voluntary employment. This has resulted in an increased awareness throughout our community of the need to conserve what we have for the pleasure of future generations.” Karen
The Arboretum

In terms of access improvements, after carrying out a successful tendering process we appointed Landmarc, from Totnes, to create the easy access trail at the Arboretum. A 1.5 km looped walk which includes a boardwalk, which was reinforced through the project and hand rails added at the 2 bridges, 32 nature information markers installed at intervals alongside the path, and a 2 way easy to use entrance gate. Work started in September 2013 and completed in April 2014. It was officially re-opened on Easter Monday in partnership with Radio Devon’s Favourite Walks Programme, attended by over 100 people.

Aim: To provide an easy access trail for people with limited mobility to get closer to wildlife, instead of just using the road

What has pleased me the most on this project is that people can enjoy the work that Landmarc have carried out by being able to access the beauty of the arboretum and that SWLT are pleased with what has been achieved. Being involved in this particular heritage project is additionally satisfying knowing that we have been able to assist less able bodied people to access the arboretum and experience the natural beauty of their surroundings.

Marcus Evans, Landmarc

Number of Visitors: 10,528

Thanks to the arboretum easy access trail, all of the young adults from Dame Hannahs are able to enjoy nature and the outdoors, despite the variety of wheelchairs they have. This means they are able to access the wetland nature reserve which without the trail would not be possible, as well as accessing environmental education activities such as pond dipping and exciting nature trails! Being in the outdoors provides a multi-sensory experience for everybody so thanks to the arboretum we are all able to enjoy this!

Bex Marshall, Dame Hannahs

“Had a great time with my 3 grandsons we found frogs, toads, little lizard things, fish and there was sign posts post everywhere telling you what to look for and lots of information. Beautiful place, we had a great day and a lovely ice cream to finish it off.” (Trip Advisor - May 2016)

The Burrator Historic and Natural Environment Project did a fantastic job of meeting Biffa Award’s twin objectives of preserving heritage and inspiring communities. The interpretation on site is fantastic and we loved that this was regularly updated when new items are discovered or new stories are offered by members of the public. The team successfully created a safe engaging space for the community to enjoy and flourish in, long may it continue.

Gillian French, Biffa Award (Main Funder, Arboretum Project)
The Quarry Trail Footpath

**Aim:** To provide a safer entry route on foot to the reservoir and prevent people walking round the dangerous bend in the road.

The other access improvement work we carried out was installing a new footpath leading from the quarry car park up to the disused railway (now a cycle track). This was done to encourage more people to use this route to reach the reservoir, instead of walking along the road around a dangerous corner and reduce congestion at the main dam.

Consolidation Works

**Aim:** To consolidate 2 important ruins to prevent their condition worsening & preserve them for the future.

Following a successful tendering process Hindsite Construction Ltd, Exeter, were selected to carry out the consolidation works to Lowery Barn and Longstone Manor in May 2014, and completed in Sept 2014.

For **Lowery Barn** once the planning permission for the tin roof was received work was able to start.

For **Longstone Manor** we first needed to remove two trees that were growing out of the ruin and that had to be done before the end of March before the start of bird nesting season. Following that and permission granted from English Heritage to carry out the works, the work got underway in May 2014.

**Number of Visitors:** 3,852

**Number of Visitors:** 14,899
When coming to the end of the retention period we identified some small mortar repairs that needed to be done at Longstone Manor, however we found that Hindsite Construction Ltd had gone into liquidation. Therefore following discussions with Historic England (formerly English Heritage) we were granted permission to hold a 2 day training event on lime mortar repairs, led by the historical surveyor who had been advising us throughout the project, and it was attended by 15 of our regular volunteers.

We are both very keen to see our local area cared for. Burrator Discovery Centre provides a focal point for all manner of concerns, interests, knowledge and, importantly ACTION. Gangs of volunteers, capably and enthusiastically led, have undertaken and achieved massive improvements to the locale, a major success of the overall project objectives. The monthly evening talks at BDC were, without exception, enlightening, enjoyable and fun; a gathering for 30+ like-minded folks to hear, learn and see (video/slides) about this fascinating microcosm of Dartmoor. Wheelchair access improvements were hugely appreciated by the monthly visitors from Dame Hannah's, who enjoyed a variety of activities put on by staff and helpers. The Burrator Heritage Project has been inspired by SWLT staff, achieved by them and their MANY supporters, and has resulted in an area of great historical interest, beauty, biodiversity and ecological importance, being enhanced and preserved for the future. Neil & Linda Morrison

In summer 2015 during our 2 year review meeting with HLF we received permission to spend part of our under spend on carrying out some additional work to Lowery Barn. Due to the roof being added we had discovered a new area of damp in a section of wall so we employed a contractor to carry out additional stone work and add external drainage to the left side of the building.

The Burrator Natural and Historic Environment Project has been a great success from my perspective as the local “Heritage at Risk project Officer” (field archaeologist!) for Historic England. I greatly appreciate the creation of a pool of heritage savvy and skilled volunteers in this archaeologically rich landscape! This alone will greatly support my work in this special part of Dartmoor. A highlight of the project was the success in insuring the long term protection of Longstone Manor both legally; by getting the important remains designated as a scheduled ancient monument, and physically through the excellent and well executed consolidation works. The project has also increased our knowledge of the local archaeology through the large scale field surveys that have been expertly completed by volunteers. The high quality of surveys of both tin working sites and prehistoric settlements will directly feed into the proactive management plan for these special areas. Personally I have been very impressed with the public engagement side of the project and also the improved interpretation of key archaeological sites. Both these aspects will no doubt lead to increased public awareness and appreciation of the resource. Finally I’m excited to see how the innovative archaeological monitoring project will evolve. This project will give a degree of “ownership” to the volunteers involved and will quickly resolve any negative issues that may be spotted as a result of the monitoring.

Andy Crabb, Historic England
Interpretation & Resources

**Aim:** To provide interpretation around site and in the Discovery Centre so that regular site users and new visitors alike can learn more about the Reservoir & catchments’ heritage, and enable them to explore new areas.

Following a successful tendering process and interviewing we appointed Smith & Jones Design Consultants, Bideford. We worked closely with them, volunteers, partner organisations and specialist historic groups to research and design the: 32 nature trail markers in the Arboretum; Content for the Centre, Four site orientation boards (Discovery Centre car park, Quarry car park, Norsworthy car park & Arboretum car park); and 3 historic art panels at Lowery Barn, Longstone Manor and Leathertor Farm.

“We discovered that there is a recently opened Heritage Centre which offers directions of additional walks and the history of the reservoir as well and well worth a visit.”

(Trip Advisor July 2016)

“A really interesting walk with wildlife display boards. This has recently been upgraded to allow disabled access. All in all, a great day out!”

(Trip Advisor - July 2016)

“Numbers of Visitors at Norsworthy: 16,799

The leaflets are an excellent and affordable way of getting visitors to visit and learn about historic sites at Burrator.

Anne, DTRG

We tendered for the interpretation project at Burrator Reservoir because it’s a fantastic place and environment full of character and interest and this appealed to us. We felt our design skills and passion for the environment and area would be really well suited and were confident we could create a unique, characterful but well thought out interpretation scheme. As designers we understood fully what you were trying to achieve and how the design scheme should reflect the environment around it.

We are particularly pleased with the visitor centre installation we designed which gives visitors a really varied interpretive approach, a fascinating concise narrative for visitors that is easy to read and engage with. We used a variety of materials to good effect that related really well with the environment. So we used chunky real timbers and even actual tree trunks as displays to bring the environment into the visitor centre.

Chris Jones, Smith and Jones Design Consultants

Resources

To help people orientate themselves around the site, visit new areas (thus helping to reduce congestion at key sites) and learn more about key heritage areas, we designed, in partnership with volunteers and specialist organisations, 1 site leaflet, 1 education leaflet, and **5 themed self-guided walks leaflets** on the railway, old farms and tin working.
Overall Aim: To enable visitors to learn about their own and other people’s heritage, through interpretation, formal and informal learning programmes, work experience, volunteering, rural skills and public events.

Work Experience Placements provided:

- 1 x Countryside Management, Swansea University - 3 month full time
- 5 x Week Long Consolidation Projects at Longstone & Lowery with Hindsite Construction Ltd
- 5 x Outdoor Education Adventure Degrees, College of St Mark & St John – 100 hours each
- 2 x Conservation Biology Degrees, University of Plymouth – 6 month full time each
- 1 x Biological Science Degree, University of Plymouth – 6 month full time
- 1 x Countryside Management Degree, Bridgwater College – 230 hours
- 1 x Pathway to Employment, Bicton College – 3 days a week for a year
- 1 x Estate & Countryside Management, Duchy College – 50 hours
- 1 x Marine Studies, South Devon College – 1 day a week for a year
- 1 x Countryside Management, Bicton College -270 hours
- 17 x Year 10 Work Experience, Tavistock Community College – 1 Week long
- 9 x Year 10 & 11 – BTEC Level 1 Extended Award in Planning and Participating in Work Experience, Tavistock Community College – Wednesday afternoons
- Learning Curve, 1 day a week for every group between 2013-2014

The experience our young people had with the Burrator Heritage Project was pretty special. They were truly engaged and totally felt part of the project they were working on – not just “the work experience kids” as many placements can be. They worked closely with the project team and contractors, learning new skills and experiencing in many cases for the first time the feeling of pride in their environment. A great experience which lead to 4 out of the 5 who attended gaining full time employment shortly afterwards.

Nicky Henderson, Prospects Services

As a student on placement and as a volunteer the support, encouragement and opportunities given to me by the project and staff at Burrator are greatly valued and I am certain that other people like me would love to have the same experiences.

Burrator Natural and Historic Environment Project has played a vital part, in helping to make our ‘Pathway to Employment’ course at Bicton College a success. XX was a student on the P2E course, which is designed for individuals with learning difficulties and helps students to develop the skills they need to be successful in employment. XX felt that a job that involved working outdoors in a natural environment was the type of situation that would suit him. The staff team at South West Lakes were instrumental in providing XX with the opportunity to gain confidence, self-esteem, independence and work related skills within the safe and supportive environment of a work placement. XX became a reliable and valued member of the workforce and finished the course having gained the necessary life and work related skills necessary to move on to employment.

Jo Ledger, Bicton College
Formal Learning

A key part of the Project has been to develop a learning programme for school visits (primary, secondary and post 16) and develop links with local and inner city schools. We have found a good way to promote our offer has been through our termly flyers for schools, our annual after school teacher taster sessions, and word of mouth. School visits have been tailor made to suit the pupil and curriculum needs and subjects have included life cycles, habitats, mini beasts, pond dipping, ‘geology and dinosaurs’, bronze age, ‘journey into the unknown’, night time, ‘ancient Greek, Geography & Art. In addition we have delivered personal development programmes and activity days using a combination of Forest School, practical conservation tasks and wider outdoor learning.

"This was the best day ever!"

"The day was amazing"

"I enjoyed the time-line and matching the pictures, putting them in order."

"Making the hut circles and collecting sticks was brilliant"

4. A quote from a student about their experience? "I didn't know there was a hidden railway on Dartmoor! I liked seeing the ponies and the fish and finding out about them"

‘How do we get here? I want to come back with my mum and dad!’

"At ACE we provide education for pupils that can’t access mainstream education, this can be for many reasons both medical and behavioural. Emily and the staff at the Burrator heritage project have designed programmes that have enabled our students to safely take on new challenge’s and have many new experiences that have helped them grow as young people and progress on their educational journey. I can’t thank you enough for the excellent service you have provided".

Tim Mathias, Alternative Complimentary Education (ACE)

"The visit provided a fun and stimulating day, supporting our science curriculum in a really hands on way."

There are so many positive comments I could say I don’t know where to start. You are doing a great job and filling a gap in children’s learning. In all my years of arranging school trips I haven’t until now managed to find something that introduced the students to the outdoors in an interesting and fun way and that educated them at the same time. The activities were simple and wholesome and really inspired the explorer, adventurer, Bear Grylls spirit in the students! Thank you and well done!

Aim – To provide 840 learning opportunities for young people

We delivered 1,550 opportunities to learners, worked with 22 different schools & delivered 92 educational visits

Excellent, well led school visits for the last two years, enhancing the Curriculum that we teach in school by bringing it to life outdoors and in the Discovery Centre in tailor made visits.
Informal Learning Opportunities

We have had a large focus on engaging disadvantaged groups, who wouldn’t normally visit Burrator and wider Dartmoor. Numerous groups have been involved, both formally and informally, including ACE (Alternative Complementary Education), the hearing centre at Egguckland Primary School, ESOL students from City College Plymouth, Plymouth and Ivybridge DOVE projects, Active for Life and Dame Hannahs. We have also developed a wide range of partnerships with organisations early years, retired groups, uniformed orgs, youth & community groups. Informal learning activity sessions and visits have been tailor made to meet the needs of the groups and have included talks, guided walks, forest school activities & wider outdoor learning opportunities.

Being able to provide an activity that makes the outdoors accessible for everybody here at Dame Hannahs is pretty spectacular! Not only do the young adults get the opportunity to go on nature trails, but develop their knowledge around the surrounding nature and area. The young adults thoroughly enjoy their monthly evening sessions where they take part in activities that enable them to develop forestry skills as well as natural arts and crafts workshops among other experiences. The fact they are able to now access the lower lawn via a newly built accessible path makes the experience more pleasurable for them. Whether they are hunting for clues, toasting marshmallows, making statues, the multi-sensory stimulation means that even the people with the most limited communication and understanding abilities are able to get so much out of the sessions. You can see this by the smiles on their faces! Bex Marshall, Dame Hannahs

The Burrator project has benefitted our clients as the walk we did with over 50 refugees, children and adults, helped to increase people’s confidence in being able to walk freely in the countryside, in some countries it is not safe or access is very restricted. We had an amazing day exploring the country side, eating a picnic lunch beside the reservoir and finding out more about the local natural and historic environment. People’s English skills were also developed as we talked about the areas we walked through and comparisons were made with the natural environment in different countries including Eritrea, Syria and Iraq. There was lots of talk about dangerous wildlife, the whereabouts of snakes and the Beast of Dartmoor! Susie Dent, Students and Refugees Together (START)

Visiting Burrator with support from their staff enabled the group of young people from Barne Barton in Plymouth to step outside their day to day lives. Although Burrator is close to Plymouth, psychologically it’s a world away from their home environment. The space at Burrator allowed the group to have much freer conversations and time to actively explore the area. The young people were inspired by the natural environment and took back some ideas to improve their own, local green spaces. They’re even talking about wanting to plan a residential trip to Dartmoor.

From a Plymouth perspective, Burrator and the work of the heritage project as provided stepping stone support for residents to access Dartmoor in a safe and welcoming environment.

Jemma Sharman, Natural Infrastructure Team, Plymouth City Council
Volunteering

Individuals, Groups and Employee Days

Volunteering at Burrator has been key to the success of delivering the objectives of the archaeological and habitat management plans, as well as the overall Projects aims. Volunteering has been in a variety of guises and has attracted a wide range of people. Volunteers have been involved in site maintenance tasks, practical conservation work, archaeological preservation projects, as visitor guides for the Discovery Centre, assisting with educational visits, delivering activities for Wildlife Watch and school holiday sessions, giving evening talks, leading guided walks, organising events, restoring Wembley Walk, conducting wildlife surveys, & much more. The value of volunteer time that would be given, was estimated in the phase 2 application to be in the region of £27,650 over the three years. At the end of year one alone the total value of volunteer time given was a staggering £44,150 (July 2013 – June 2014). By the end of the project (July 2013 – October 2016) the volunteering value given to the project was an immense £207,563 (calculated to HLF value of volunteering). Thank you so much!!

For a typical month we currently have 64 regular volunteers actively involved in: the Monday / Tuesday projects team; the visitor guide team (Tues/Wed/Thurs); weekend practical conservation group (one Sunday a month) increasingly popular with families and young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh Service or Queens Scout Award; assisting with school visits; 2 evening sessions with Dame Hannahs; monthly family wildlife watch sessions, plus those on individual projects, such as Wembley Walk. We have a weekly practical conservation group which individual volunteers and groups depending on the day: Mondays – Plymouth Dove Group & ESOL Department City College Plymouth; Tuesdays – Plymouth & Ivybridge Dove Groups and Skills Development City College Plymouth; and Fridays – Active for Life, Plymouth Dove Group, Assertive Outreach Service & the Vine. In addition we have also organised a number of employee volunteering days too.

Aim – To deliver 300 volunteering days
We delivered 3,750 days
PLUS 12 volunteer training days
“I used to like Burrator but since volunteering there and getting to know its quiet pathways and history I absolutely love and respect it now.”

“Thanks to SWLT we have been able to give the young adults the opportunity to be outdoors, in an accessible and multi-sensory environment and these experiences have been invaluable.”

“Gaining knowledge of heritage/conservation. Helped me to settle into a new area, form friendships and gain employment.”

Active for Life is a service which supports and promotes physical activity in adults with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities. The aim of Active for Life is to improve health and wellbeing by helping people find something active they can do regularly and enjoy. The Burrator Project was a good fit with the overall aim of our work, giving our clients the opportunity to get active and try their hand at practical environmental conservation and other outdoor activities. Being in the great outdoors can have a dramatic effect on improving mental health, and it has been fantastic to be able to offer opportunities such the rural skills training and the other environmental conservation events to our service users. They have also greatly enjoyed learning about the history of the area too. Larissa Milden, Active for Life

Since our initial engagement with Burrator Heritage Project in 2014, we have sent over 100 staff and contract partners to volunteer at the site.

Initially instigated to offer our Plymouth based staff an opportunity to give back to the community we serve by improving a popular local beauty spot, more recent volunteering days at Burrator have drawn EDF Energy staff from Edinburgh, Halifax and Hove. The popularity of these exercises has grown due to the beauty of the environment, the diversity of the tasks performed, the enthusiasm and knowledge of the Burrator Project leaders and the sense of achievement at the end of each engagement.

The opportunity to work together with other diverse groups at Burrator also adds to the richness of the experience. All of our staff who are privileged enough to have worked at the site, are unequivocally keen to return, and those of us who live close to the reservoir have a huge sense of pride in the small improvements we have been able to make to a place that many of us enjoy on a weekly basis. Glyn Price, EDF
Rural Skills Training

Aim – To deliver 12 training days
We delivered 24 training days, attended by 335 people

In line with our interpretation, learning and participation plan for the project we co-ordinated the delivery of 24 rural skills training days to volunteers and the public, led internally or via outside professionals. Training days included coppicing, hedge laying (at Roadford), stone facing, cleft fencing, cob oven construction, charcoal burning, willow weaving to make a bird hide, lime mortar repair, wet felting, archaeological monitoring, green woodworking and greenwood music, plus certificates were gained in brush cutter, wood chipper and first aid.

“The Bird Hide is a marvellous initiative. Charcoal making and Clay Oven are great examples of innovation and re-introduction of earlier activities.”

“We really enjoyed coming along to the charcoal rural skills session. It was a fun activity that was also educational, teaching us about the process of charcoal making in a really practical way with the opportunity to get involved! Thank you to Emily and all the team for organising family sessions such as this one, as well as the other great events we have attended.”
Nathan & Emma Blundy & Family

“I’ve learnt a couple of new specialised skills such as dry stone walling. Volunteering helps both my mental and physical welfare.”

The DOVE Project has been given the opportunity to work closely with South West Lakes on the Burrator Heritage Project. This has been highly beneficial to the people we support, giving them the chance to take part in meaningful activities whilst helping the wider community gain better access and understanding of Burrator. The project has increased the work skills our groups including a variety of different tasks using various tools and also promoted social inclusion with other volunteers that access the project. The feedback I have received from staff and the people we support has been of the excellent work of the South West Lakes team at Burrator, especially Emily Cannon, who have gone out of their way to provide suitable opportunities and create a positive working environment. It has also been very beneficial for The DOVE Project to develop a partnership with South West Lakes to provide ongoing vocational training for the people that access our service and hope this will continue in the future. We as an organisation think it is very important to be involved in projects that promote the development of facilities for the wider community and promote the positive impact of the work that can be achieved by people with learning disabilities and autism. Tom Boutwood, Plymouth Dove Project
Public Events – Learning for All

As part of our initial programme submitted in our funding application we initially hoped to deliver several open days for after the capital works were completed, annual Halloween and Christmas Tree walk events, and a series of monthly family wildlife watch sessions. However as the Project gathered momentum and interest grew, we trialled a range of different events aimed at different visitor needs. For example, the evening talk and guided walk programme we initially only planned to have a few as a way of launching the themed self-guided walk leaflets, but that has now been going for over 2 years, and the school holiday family drop in days have been unbelievably popular too.

Events have included:

- Burrator Discovery Centre Official Opening
- Subsequent BDC annual birthday events
- Arboretum re-opening
- Interpretation boards unveiling at the 3 ruins
- Monthly evening talk programme
- Guided Walks
- Themed exhibitions in BDC
- Monthly family wildlife watch sessions
- Birthday parties
- School holiday family drop in activity days
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Annual Halloween Event in Lowery Barn
- Annual Xmas Tree Walk

“A truly fascinating and beautiful area unexpectedly rich in so many layers of human and social history/archaeology as well as in wildlife - the guided walks have opened up whole new dimensions of appreciation and interest to me so that I feel I have fallen in love with the area and the experiences it has to offer. I didn't realize how much good interpretation could add to my appreciation of a place.”

“I was born in Plymouth and have visited Burrator many times over the years, but had been largely ignorant of the history of the building of the reservoir, and of the history (both recent and ancient) of this special place. The evening talks programme has provided me with the opportunity to learn about many very interesting historical and contemporary aspects of Burrator and its surroundings, and of Dartmoor in general. Congratulations to Emily and her team for their efforts!”

Paul Williams

“The public events we attend always spark our children's imaginations. They are always keen to go and will tell everyone after all about their day. We have done many Christmas tree walks in unbelievably wet conditions, but again we loved it. We have attended many walks, talks and open days. The most fascinating one recently was charcoal making. I happened to go with just my son, he absolutely loved every minute of it. Joining in collecting logs and see how they all get laid inside. He still tells me about it!”

Graham Brown & Family

“Super fun birthday parties with nature themed activities and games. Really enjoyed whittling and cooking marshmallows on the camp fire. Their friends said that it was the best birthday party they had ever been to!”

Malm Family
Monthly Family Wildlife Watch Sessions and our new school holiday family drop in days

From the community consultation we carried out in the development stage of the Project we identified a need from families for sessions that they can do as a family, learn new activities and explore different areas of Burrator, which they can return to in their own time. We became a partner with Devon Wildlife Trust and set up a Burrator Wildlife Watch group to run monthly with different wildlife themed activities. Over this last year due to an increased interest by families and grandparents, and with thanks to the advertising and support of Forest Fun and the former Burrator Outdoor Pre-School, we have piloted school holiday drop in days and they have been massively popular, with 146 people attending in October half term!

I have asked the kids what they like best about going to the discovery centre….. Leo said “I like the discovery centre itself. And the thing I like most is the hot chocolate and going out”. Esme said “I like crossing the bridge and going to splash in the water”. I say “As a family with two young children we have really enjoyed being able to get out in to the local environment and enjoy nature through the discovery centre. We have especially enjoyed the improvements to the Arboretum and the information around the historic sites. I think it is extremely important for children (and adults) to enjoy being outside and the activities run by the discovery centre have made it very easy for us to do that. The family wildlife watch sessions have been varied and the promise of a hot chocolate and a biscuit has meant my children have enjoyed it whatever the weather!” Mel Oxborough & Family

“The BHEP has created a number of exciting new ways for my children to go out and enjoy and interpret the natural world around them. Emily and Neil and others have always worked hard to provide child-focused events that stimulate their interest and help to kindle a respect and understanding of the environment they live in.” Eve Fry

I have been really impressed at the scale of the impact this project has had on the visitor experience, particularly for young children and families through the broad range of events and experiences that they have been able to get involved with. This has only been made possible by the sensitive and appropriate improvements in the infrastructure, including the access to areas such as the arboretum and the truly engaging and imaginative centre and on-site interpretation. It has been a privilege to support the Wildlife Watch family events which have seen people travelling from great distances to enjoy the environment of Burrator, many of whom would have not visited without this project. Without question, this project has excelled at reaching out to a wide range of people who may never have visited the area in the past but will definitely come back in the future. The celebration of local heritage combined with a beautiful environment have proved to be a winning combination. A thoroughly successful and inspiring project!

Paul Martin, Devon Wildlife Trust
Projects not in the original application but thoroughly BRILLIANT additions!

‘Burrator Alive with History’ (Book)
Between September 2013 and June 2014 we worked in partnership with Sarah Waters and her students from the ESOL 16-19 Foundation Programme, City College Plymouth. They attended weekly sessions where they explored and learnt about different heritage aspects of the site. It was recognised there was no existing resource for visitors that easily summarised the unique heritage at Burrator, so they decided to become a social enterprise company, applied for funding, and then designed, created and published a guide book on the main sites of interest at Burrator in partnership with SWLT staff and volunteers. We launched it at the Burrator Discovery Centre open day in July 2014. All of the original copies have been now sold and we are currently awaiting a new order. I think it has been so popular because there isn’t anything else like it, it is really user friendly and it provides just the right amount of information for the majority of visitors to guide their visits.

The Art Trail Project
Earlier this year we were successful in applying for some funding from DAISI as part of their Arts Wave Devon project. Between April and May 2015, 11 workshops were delivered by artists Andy & Gill Cairns, with our regular volunteer and user groups, to create a series of natural sculptures along the inner reservoir path. These workshops enabled volunteers to develop new skills and a sense of ownership by being able to make something that would be on public display along the trail. We also designed a nature trail quiz which provided something a bit different for families to do in the summer holidays, and also improved visitor awareness of the inner reservoir footpath and reduced the number of people walking on the road.

I feel that the Burrator Natural and Historic Environment Project has really raised the level of interaction with visitors to the reservoir for the better since it started up 3 years ago. As a local resident I have noticed a real positive interest from people outside of the area since it started up and it has really put Burrator on the map. It has brought a level of appreciation to the heritage and local wildlife. I noticed this when I was the leading art volunteer for the Art Trail in June/July 2016. It was wonderful to able to bring a creative ‘buzz’ into learning about the reservoirs wildlife and to use all sorts of natural based materials with volunteer groups from around the southwest and locally. The discovery centre is a brilliant base of information and encouragement for learning opportunities around Burrator Reservoir, and it has been wonderful seeing much younger members of the public so excited about it too! Eliza Acty

Burrator Outdoor Pre-School
In summer 2014 the Meavy & Yelverton Pre-School Committee made the decision to re-brand, instead of close, and become the Burrator Outdoor Pre-School - the first outdoor pre-school of its kind in the area, renting the lower lawn from SWLT. In its first year it ran every Thursday however in year 2 it increased to every Tuesday and Thursday to meet growing demand. However behind the scenes its financial stability has always been a fine balancing act for the committee, so with heavy hearts the decision was made to close before the Easter break 2016. However the popularity for their monthly parent and toddler Forest Fun Sessions continues to thrive and the Pre-School and Forest Fun have definitely been invaluable in developing family engagement at Burrator!
Burrator’s War Film

Burrator Historic and Natural Environment Project has provided around 20 young people from East and West Dartmoor with the opportunity to participate together in a film project - Burrator’s War - which has introduced them to the history of the area, as well as to the natural environment of the area and its relationship to Burrator Reservoir. The resource provided by the Burrator Natural and Historic Environment Project, based at the Burrator Discovery Centre, and facilitated with such care, hard work and enthusiasm, by Emily Cannon and her volunteers, has been a rich source of inspiration and learning for these young people, as evidenced by the film they have created, and by the experiences they still talk about.

Mark Beeson, Artistic Director

Burrator provided a wonderful historic and environmentally stimulating location for our young people’s film project. Emily worked effectively with MED theatre to enable a large cohort of young people to write, film, act in and edit a sensitive film describing life in 1914 around the reservoir. The launch event happened at Burrator and was well attended by participating young people, their parents, siblings and grandparents. A model community arts participation project. Thank you.

Rae Hoole, DAISI

“I loved having the opportunity to help create this short film, I'm so proud of how it turned out!” (Beth)

Virtual Burrator Project by the Human Interface Team, Birmingham University

We were initially contacted by Professor Bob Stone Birmingham University in 2011 when we were working on the development phase of the Heritage Project. Bob and his team of students are working on the innovative ‘Virtual Burrator Project’ which uses the latest 3D computer modelling techniques to create an exact replica of the reservoir and its surrounding catchment. This is then used by patients to explore Burrator ‘virtually’ with the ultimate aim of supporting their recovery and rehabilitation. We have been working together by sharing research, photos and other documentation shared by local residents, and they delivered an evening talk here last year which was extremely well received. Long may this partnership continue.

2017 and beyond ……

As many of you will know since January 2016 we have been busy looking at alternative funding options for the project after the funding ends on 31 October 2016. In the summer we received the exciting news that the SWLT Trustees have made a commitment to permanently fund a community engagement post at Burrator from November 2016 onwards!

Therefore going forward into 2017 and beyond we will be looking to build on what the Project has achieved: Hosting work experience students, Delivering school visits, Offering informal learning sessions, Co-ordinating volunteering, Leading practical volunteering days, and Running public event programmes to include evening talks, guided walks, family wildlife sessions, and much more. We will also be looking at Fundraising to enable all these exciting opportunities to be continued … so if you have any ideas please do let me know.
**Forest Fun Sessions**
Take place the **FIRST Wednesday of each month**. 9.30am-11.30am on the Lower Lawn, term time.
- Wed 11 January
- Wed 1 February
- Wed 1 March

www.burratoroutdoorpreschool.moonfruit.com

**Family Wildlife Watch Sessions**
**10.30am-12.30pm**
We meet at Burrator Discovery Centre. Each session will involve some wildlife/heritage focused games and a practical activity, followed by hot chocolate & biscuits. £1 per person. Please wear old clothes & sturdy footwear.
- **Sunday 29 January** – Birds are Brilliant
- **Sunday 26 February** – Trees are changing
- **Sunday 19 March** – A Railway Adventure

**FAMILY DROP IN ACTIVITY DAY**
**Wednesday 15 February** - 10am –3.30pm
Activities will include a combination of nature trails, wildlife art, games, practical activities and marshmallow toasting. It will cost £1 per person and you can just drop in, no need to book.

**Practical Volunteering Days:**
For all days we will meet at the Discovery Centre
- **Monday 9 January** – 10am – 3pm
- **Sunday 15 January** – 10.30am – 3.30pm
  - Tuesday 17 January – 10am - 3pm
  - Friday 27 January - 10am – 3pm
  - Tuesday 31 January – 10am – 3pm
  - Monday 6 February – 10am – 3pm
- **Sunday 12 February** - 10.30am – 3.30pm
  - Tuesday 14 February - 10am – 3pm
  - Friday 24 February – 10am – 3pm
  - Tuesday 28 February – 10am – 3pm
  - Monday 6 March – 10am – 3pm
- **Sunday 12 March** - 10.30am – 3.30pm
  - Tuesday 14 March – 10am – 3pm
  - Monday 20 March – 10am-3pm
  - Friday 31 March – 10am - 3pm

Please wear old clothes & sturdy footwear, bring lunch & a drink, and dress ready for ‘all the seasons in a day’!

**Tree Planting for Anne Frank**
**Saturday 4 February – 11am**
In partnership with David, a local resident, we will planting a horse chestnut tree in Burrator Arboretum to commemorate Anne Frank’s life and all those children, throughout the world, who have been killed through wars and persecution. All are welcome to join us.

**Burrator Discovery Centre Opening Times: 10am - 4pm**
**Weekdays:** Every Tues, Wed & Thurs
**Weekends:** January – Sun 15, Sat 21 & Sun 29
February - Sat 4, Sun 12, Sat 18, & Sun 26
March – Sat 4, Sun 12, Sun 19, & Sat 25

**Daytime & Evening Talks & Guided Walks Programme at the Discovery Centre**
- **Thursday 26 January** – Evening Talk: “Sett Makers Bankers” by Simon Dell. 7.30pm-8.30pm.
- **Wednesday 22 February** – Evening Talk: ‘Brilliant Bogs and Magnificent Mires’ by Jasmine Atkinson, Devon Wildlife Trust. Discover the fascinating, unrivalled natural and cultural heritage of one of Devon’s least known landscapes – the internationally important blanket bogs of Dartmoor. 7.30pm-8.30pm.
- **Thursday 23 March** – Day Time Talk: ‘Construction of Burrator Reservoir’ by Paul Rendell. 2pm-3pm.
- **Saturday 25 March** – Guided Walk: ‘Exploring the building of Burrator Reservoir’ by Paul Rendell. 10-12pm.

For more Information or to book a place on an event, please contact:
Emily Cannon – Heritage Learning Officer, South West Lakes Trust, Burrator Discovery Centre, Yelverton PL20 6PE. 01822 855700
E-mail: heritage@swlakestrust.org.uk or Visit www.swlakestrust.org.uk or Twitter: @burratorproject

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**Supporting Organizations**
- South West Lakes Trust
- South West Water
- West Devon Borough Council
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Biffa Award