**Spring is officially here and the daffodils look stunning!**
Over the last 3 months we have been busy carrying out lots of site maintenance tasks, and conservation and heritage preservation projects in line with our management plans, whilst continuing to develop our volunteering opportunities, and our educational and public events programme.

“This has been a really lovely experience – I will come back in the day time now to have another look and bring my other children.”

In addition the fishing season has begun and the newly restored public toilets are due to be open imminently. Thank you to all our placement students and volunteers without whom none of what you will read about below would be possible!

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**Volunteers’ Xmas Meal and end of Project Celebration**

The annual Volunteers’ Xmas Meal was held at the centre on Wednesday 11th January with around 50 volunteers attending. We were treated to a great evening of food served up by our very own Emily, Lins & Neil with lots of fun had by all in the post meal games and quizzes.

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**Volunteering projects from January to March**

The Monday and Tuesday team have been busy carrying out tree safety work and doing lots of rhododendron chipping. Our weekly and weekend practical conservation groups have spent the last 3 months carrying out woodland work and dead hedging between Longstone Manor and Sheepstor Dam, removing rhododendron along the inner reservoir path towards the main Dam, pond and stream work in the Arboretum, clearing gorse off Keaglesborough adit, have made a start at clearing around the bomb shelter at Sheepstor Dam, and planted a new hedge alongside the new quarry footpath. Volunteers have also been busy manning the Centre, supporting school visits and leading family sessions, and much more…

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**EGGSTRA SPECIAL EVENT**

**SATURDAY 8 April**

10am-3.30pm

Come and drop by & take part in one of our Easter Trails and win an egg!

Small charge per person
Educational visits

“This is the best school trip I’ve ever been on!”

On 10 March 30 Year 2 pupils plus parents came for their annual evening visit to experience day becoming night. The evening included a habitat trail, guess that sound, a night walk, and of course some whittling and marshmallow toasting.

On 24 March 47 Year 5 & 6 pupils from Meavy and Lady Modifords Primary School came to study ‘Evolution and Inheritance’ and spent the day as scientists carrying out quadrat surveys in different woodlands and learning about adaptation.

Over the last 5 weeks ACE Primary have been attending weekly forest school and bushcraft sessions, and recently we have developed a new partnership with a Home School Education network and we have started to deliver monthly visits, one on the bronze age and a practical skills days.

Work Experience Placements

15 students from the ESOL course at City College Plymouth completed their placements with us here at Burrator, every Monday afternoon – learning how to use different tools, carry out woodland work and how to plan and lead a volunteer day for their peers.

Family Wildlife Watch

In January we held a busy, and wet, bird themed session joined by scouts from Taunton, making bird feeders, ‘bird drive’ and trails.

In February we moved onto woodlands, hugged a tree and made woodland medals & creatures!

Family Drop in Day

Trails, marshmallow toasting, bird feeder making, and hobby horse racing, in some cases parents vs children!

National Student Volunteering Week

To recognise this we organised a conservation taster afternoon with student volunteers from Plymouth University on 26 February. They worked hard removing redundant fencing near Leathertor Farm, and remained enthusiastic despite the rain getting heavier!

Talks and Walks

So far we’ve covered Sett Makers Bankers, Bogs & Mires, and the reservoirs’ construction!

NEW FILM PROJECT!

MED Theatre will be shooting a short film at Burrator Reservoir on May 30th and June 1st, as a part of our Hound Of The Baskervilles and The Last Wolf on Dartmoor project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and partnered by South West Lakes Trust. In the lead up to this, we will be holding a film taster day on April 4th, at Burrator from 10am, to find our ideal filming locations and introduce you to the story idea and the project so far.

If you, or a young person you know would like to get involved in making a film based on Dartmoor's rich historical culture and heritage, we are looking for 12-20 year olds to perform on camera, or be a member of the production team!
Tree planted to commemorate Anne Frank’s life

On Saturday 4 February David Hemmings, a local resident and regular visitor to the Reservoir, organised a very special tree planting event at Burrator Arboretum, with the support of South West Lake Trust. 2 young people, who attended the World Youth Day in Krakow last year and visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, planted the Horse Chestnut, which was then blessed by Father Louis Rieunier followed by a minutes’ silence.

This tree has been planted to commemorate Anne Frank’s life and all those children, throughout the world, who have been killed through wars and persecution.

Over 50 people came to this very special event. Thank you David for organising it.

When you’re next visiting Burrator please do pay a visit to the Arboretum and take a look at the tree and its information marker.

Rails Across the Moor

Following on from the success of last year’s event, South West Lakes Trust hosted a second Railway Exhibition at Burrator Discovery Centre, to commemorate the closure of the Princetown Railway in March 1956. Over 40 people attended this unique event, and some also brought additional memorabilia to share with us.

If you have any photos, artefacts or personal memories of the railway in action – we would love to hear from you, as we would like to make this exhibition an annual event.

Thank you to all our volunteers who made this event possible, and a special thanks to Sandy Ralph, Bryan Gibson and Brian Poole.
For more information or to book a place on an event, please visit Burrator Discovery Centre OR please contact:

Emily Cannon – Heritage Learning Officer,
South West Lakes Trust, Burrator Discovery Centre,
Yelverton PL20 6PE.

Phone: 01822 855700  E-mail: heritage@swlakestrust.org.uk
www.swlakestrust.org.uk or Twitter: @burratorproject