Tees Valley

Get Involved Guide

2019
“Being involved in a Friends group gives you confidence, looks good on your CV, and keeps you fit and healthy both physically and mentally.”
- Friends of Rockwell

“It's a real opportunity to meet all sorts of people, make new friends, and learn many interesting things that you might never have thought about before! Don’t worry if you think you might not have the right skills, or the physical ability to do very much. Genuine interest and enthusiasm goes a long way, and there really is something for everyone”
- Quita Owen, Friends of King George V
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Introduction

The Tees Valley has some great spaces for wildlife in the most unexpected places. Parks, woodlands, beck valleys, cemeteries, lowland meadows and lakes all form a green network of sites that are vital for wildlife.

Throughout the Tees Valley there are a number of “Friends of” groups who are busy caring for their local green parks and green places, usually in partnership with their local council.

These groups vary in the size and what they do, but they all share a common goal of improving their local site for wildlife and for people to visit and enjoy.

Volunteering

There are many different aspects of voluntary work you can take part in throughout the Tees Valley including:

- Physical conservation work
- Admin work
- Running activity days
- General running of the group
- Online assistance e.g. Running Facebook page
Wild Green Places:
1. Drinkfield Marsh
2. Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve
3. Rockwell
4. Snipe Lane Pond
5. South Park
6. The Whinnies
7. Bellburn Lane and Brickburn LNR
8. Cocker Beck
9. The Denes
10. Fryer’s Field
11. North Lodge Park
12. Geneva Woods & Brankin Moor LNR
1. Friends of Drinkfield Marsh

Drinkfield Marsh is a peaceful wildlife haven surrounded by housing and industry located to the north of Darlington. The 8 hectare site is managed as a Local Nature Reserve by the Friends of Drinkfield Marsh. They are a friendly and active volunteer group of local people who work hard to ensure that the Nature Reserve remains an important, attractive and well managed place for all ages to safely visit. The group has members of all ages who take part in conservation tasks, litter picks and monitoring of the site.

Contact Details:
Whesoe Road, Drinkfield, Darlington, DL3 0RY
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Drinkfield Marsh Friends Group’

2. Friends of Maidendale

The Maidendale Nature Reserve is situated on the south-eastern edge of Darlington. It is the ideal place for an interesting walk along footpaths and boardwalks through wetlands and grasslands, or to sit and relax by one of the lakes. The site was established in 2002 to encourage, promote and enhance sustainable recreation, nature conservation and education. The Friends group was set up to work on the upkeep, maintenance and enhancement of the reserve and to encourage greater diversity of wildlife. The group carry out conservation tasks, such as litter picking, repairing footpaths and meadow management. The group is keen for new volunteers to get involved!

Contact Details:
maidendale@outlook.com,
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Maidendale Nature and Fishing Reserve Charity’
3. Friends of Rockwell

This is one of Darlington’s largest and most popular nature reserve. A decade ago this site was restored to its present form by creating new meanders, pool features and new habitat along this stretch of the River Skerne. The Friends of Rockwell set up in 2010 as a community-led initiative to get areas adjoining the green space cleaned up. The group has carried out planting, making bird boxes, and hosted family bat walks and regular litter picks. This friendly community groups welcome new members to join their projects.

Contact Details:
Access via Haughton Road or Salters Ave. Darlington, DL1 2BQ.
Darlington Borough Council. 01325 406719
Pippa.Smaling@darlington.gov.uk
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Rockwell Nature Reserve’

4. Friends of Snipe Lane Pond

This small, but beautiful pond, was once a Victorian Reservoir. It is a peaceful place to visit or enjoy a spot of fishing. The Friends of Snipe Pond help maintain and improve the site. The group also keep it as safe as possible for the local children who regularly use it for fishing and recreation, through litter picks and maintaining paths and slopes around the pond. In 2017, the Friends of Snipe Lane Pond began a partnership with the Durham Wildlife Trust for ongoing improvements.

Contact Details:
Snipe Lane Pond, Snipe Lane, Darlington, DL2 2SA
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Snipe Pond’
Durham Wildlife Trust www.durhamwt.com 0191 584 3112
5. Friends of South Park

South Park is a beautiful Victorian Park and is a great place for today’s generation, after its multi-million pound Heritage Lottery Fund restoration project. It was the first Victorian Park in the North East of England, opened in 1853. You can enjoy a splendid lake, new play areas, skateboard parks and seasonal bistro-style café. The Friends of South Park group aim to enhance the park by liaising with the park management and staff and listening to views and suggestions from park users. The group carry out various activities, namely; fundraising, litter picking and gardening clubs.

Contact Details:

South Park, Parkside, Darlington DL1 5TG
01325 283225 John Throw johnthrow@btinternet.com
www.southparkdarlington.co.uk

6. The Whinnies

This former iron work site is now an attractive 5 hectare Local Nature Reserve situated between the famous Darlington to Stockton railway line and the A67. The meadows at the Whinnies boast a diverse and rare mix of grassland plants with 15 species of grass, including frequent patches of Quaking-grass and Heath-grass. Amongst over 50 wild flowers present are Devil’s-bit Scabious, Pepper-Saxifrage, Yellow-Rattle, Dyer’s-greenweed and Autumn Gentian. This site is owned by Darlington Borough Council and as of 2017, management was transferred to the Durham Wildlife Trust.

Contact Details:

Access via Woolsington Drive, Middleton St George, Darlington, DL2 1UX
Durham Wildlife Trust Office
www.durhamwt.com 0191 584 3112
7. **Friends of Bellburn Lane & Brinkburn LNR**

This vibrant nature reserve can be found nestled amongst houses between Hartington Way and Bellburn Lane. The site is owned by Darlington Borough Council however the Friends group works to raise awareness and share ideas on how to protect the open green space. The site is home to a huge variety of wildlife such as squirrels, birds and frogs. This beautiful green space is also used as a recreational area for children and adults including activities such as football and dog-walking.

**Contact Details:**

DL3 0RZ  Visit their Facebook Page ‘Bellburn Field Lane Community Hub’
Darlington Borough Council Park Ranger: Pippa Smaling 01325 406720
countryside@darlington.gov.uk

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8. **Friends of Cocker Beck Nature Reserve**

This beautiful nature reserve is situated next to the Cocker Beck stream. It is located between the Mowden, Cockerton and Branksome estates of western Darlington. The site is populated by an abundance of wildlife such as frogs, insects and fish. It also welcomes a variety of birds, for example the wonderful kingfisher. The friends group are volunteers whose hard work aims to develop and improve the area and habitat for the animals living there. The site also boasts flowers such as Yellow Rattle and Cuckoo Flower.

**Contact Details:**

Darlington DL3 9EU  
countryside@darlington.gov.uk  
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Cocker Beck’
9. Friends of the Denes

This beautiful area consists of six separate green spaces all of which run along 1.5km of the Cocker Beck. There is the Sheddy Dene, Bowling Dene, Footie Dene, Paddly Dene, Play Dene and Tennis Dene. The site’s 23 acres are situated in the heart of Darlington. The valley has historically been used as allotments during the First World War, and later as a public park from 1925 onwards. It is host to a variety of wildlife including kingfishers, bats and otters. The site is owned by Darlington Borough Council, however the volunteer group, Friends of the Denes, was established in 2006 and promotes the use of the Denes by local residents.

Contact Details:

Darlington DL3 9JA
01325 406719 Park Ranger
friendsofthedenehistory@gmail.com/friends.denes@gmail.com
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of the Denes’
10. Friends of Fryer’s Field

Fryer’s Field is a popular green space located in Haughton-le-Skerne and is an important local site due to its historic use as a recreational area. The field benefits from having a children’s play area and basketball court for fun, family-friendly outdoor activities. The Friends Group is relatively new, having been formed in 2017, and members have been working hard with support from Darlington Borough Council Rangers and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to maintain the field. Volunteer activities so far have consisted of mowing the grass, flower bed preparation for bulb planting, tree planting, litter picking, vegetation clearance and general maintenance of the field. The Friends are a very friendly, active group and welcome new members!

Contact Details:

Fryer’s Field, entrance via Fryer’s Crescent, Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington, DL1 2DX
Contact number 07 826 846326
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Fryer’s Field Recreation Ground—Haughton le Skerne’
In co-operation with Darlington Council Rangers 01325 406720
The Friends of North Lodge Park is a charity, founded in 2001 to enhance and protect North Lodge Park for the benefit of the local community. The park is a peaceful green space in the town centre. Foxes, rabbits, weasels, birds and owls have all been sighted within the park boundaries over the years, as well as plenty of squirrels. In 2010 the Grade II listed bandstand was re-opened, having been carefully restored with funds raised by the group. ‘Blues in the Park’ has enabled a group of talented and experienced musicians to perform amid the beautiful surroundings of the park on Summer Sundays. The group need willing people to coordinate and take responsibility for the events or to raise money for event funding. The activities carried out by the group are dependent on the time, skills and interests of the people involved. Currently the focus is on keeping the park tidy and working with agencies.

**Contact Details:**

North Lodge Park, Gladstone Street, Darlington
Visit their Facebook Pages ‘North Lodge Park Darlington’ and ‘Blues in the Park—Friends of North Lodge Park Darlington UK’ @bluesinthepark
Geneva Wood is a 13-Ha woodland plantation predominantly consisting of mature Scots Pine as well as oak, ash and elm. Various woodland plants and orchids have also been spotted in the wood. The site is a short walk from Brankin Moor LNR, a 2-Ha area of deciduous woodland, ponds and grassland.

Geneva Wood & Brankin Moor LNR are home to a variety of species including dragonflies, damselflies, newts (including the Great Crested Newt priority species), butterflies (including the White Letter Hairstreak priority species), birds (including Coat Tits and Goldcrest specific to Conifers) and mammals (including foxes and Roe deer).

Regular maintenance of the woodland and litter picks are carried out at the sites.

Contact Details:
Access via Neasham Road, Darlington, DL1 4BN or via the underpass from Skerne Park, Darlington.

Darlington Council Rangers 01325 406720
Wild Green Places:

1. Hartlepool Wild Green Spaces
2. Seaton Park
3. North Cemetery Group
4. Summerhill
5. Ward Jackson Park
1. **Friends of Hartlepool’s Wild Green Spaces**

This Hartlepool-wide volunteer group, formed in 2013, arose out of the successful three-year Wild Green Spaces in Hartlepool project. The group works to ‘protect, conserve and enhance Hartlepool’s parks, LNRs and green spaces’. The group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays to carry out a wide range of practical countryside tasks, support other Friends of groups around the town and help at Parks and Countryside family events. This hands-on group welcomes new volunteers who want to join the team.

**Contact Details:**
friendshartlepoolwgs@virginmedia.com  
Anne Brown 07769815017  
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Hartlepool’s Wild Green Spaces’

2. **Friends of Seaton Park**

Seaton Park is a public park situated close to the seafront at Seaton Carew. Once farmland, the park contains a bowling green, tennis courts, playing field and a fantastic new children’s play area. The Friends group is a new, small and active community group and works for the “restoration, preservation, conservation and improvement of Seaton Park. To promote and develop facilities of recreational, leisure and educational activities within the park.” Past projects have included the creation of a sensory garden, planting of wildlife hedgerow and organising an annual park fun day.

**Contact Details:**
Station Lane, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool  
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Seaton Park, Hartlepool’  
@seatonparkfriends
3. Friends of North Cemetery

Whilst the cemetery is no longer a working one, the Friends group are constantly working on the maintenance and improvements of the site. The size of the cemetery is now the equivalent of 25 football pitches. The Friends undertake tasks such as gravestone recording, tree planting, bulb planting, litter picking, headstone history walks, organising a Remembrance Service and general maintenance of the site. The group has secured funding that has allowed them to add bird sculptures, a carved seating area and the design and implementation of four new entrance gates. ‘The Friends meet 4 times a year and are always looking for new members. Please get in touch via the contact details below.

Contact Details:
www.northcemeteryhartlepool.co.uk
Visit their Facebook Page ‘@northcemeteryhartlepool’
Gary Allen, Chair 07939 132801

4. Friends of Summerhill

Summerhill is a unique Country Park that is both a Local Nature Reserve and Outdoor Activity Centre. There are a wide range of onsite activities from woodland walks to high ropes. The Friends of Summerhill are a community group supporting and assisting Summerhill Country Park to improve, maintain and preserve the facilities as a local nature reserve and as a place for recreational and educational activities. They are involved in various maintenance and improvement projects, events and regular conservation tasks. New volunteers are

Contact Details:
Summerhill Visitor Centre, Summerhill Lane, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 4LL
01429 284584 Countryside Warden Office
summerhill.enquiries@hartlepool.gov.uk / www.hartepool.gov.uk/summerhill
5. Ward Jackson Park

Ward Jackson Park is listed in the National Register of Historic Parks & Gardens because of its collection of Victorian and Edwardian features. A project to restore and develop the park was completed in 2001, returning the park to its original splendour. The Friends group is dedicated to keeping the park beautiful and improving it for everyone to enjoy. They host 3-4 very popular annual events, which not only provide a great opportunity for people to enjoy the park, but raise funds to ensure the park is maintained in the interests of the public.

Contact Details:
Elwick Road, Hartlepool,
TS26 0BQ
friendsofwardjacksonpark@hotmail.co.uk
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Ward Jackson Park—
Wild Green Places:

1. Fairy Dell
2. Linthorpe Cemetery
3. Natures World
4. Maelors Wood (Stainton & Thornton Green Spaces)
5. Stewart Park
6. Bluebell Beck
1. Friends of Fairy Dell

Fairy Dell is a slice of tranquil countryside in the heart of Coulby Newham. The wooded beck and park are a mixture of natural woodland, parkland, ornamental lakes and meadows. The Friends of Fairy Dell are a dynamic community group who have driven the rejuvenation of the Park and Dell. Regular meetings are held at Langdon Square Community Centre on the second Wednesday of every month. There are also opportunities to take part in practical activities (every Tuesday morning), campaigns and fun social events.

Contact Details:
Fairy Dell Park, Gunnergate Lane, Middlesbrough, TS8 0UT
01642 300355 David Everitt
admin@team-everitt.co.uk
Visit their Facebook Page ‘The Friends of Fairy Dell’

2. Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery

Linthorpe Cemetery is a Local Nature Reserve and working cemetery. Mature trees and open grassland areas can be seen with wonderful displays of wildflowers in spring. Seventeen species of butterflies have been recorded, and the cemetery is a great place to see a wide range of birds. The Friends group seek to preserve and enhance the cemetery and to study and enjoy the local and natural history of the cemetery and town. This friendly group holds regular weekly meetings (Wednesday 12-2pm) and monthly business meetings, welcoming new members to join them in their work.

Contact Details:
Linthorpe Cemetery, Middlesbrough, TS5 5AP
Dorothy Humphreys 01642 883761 / djhumphreys@virginmedia.com
www.folc-nr.co.uk
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve’
Friends of Nature’s World group was established in 2014, to protect, promote and support the secret gardens, water features and wildlife areas at the former Nature’s World site. It is no longer an eco-centre but has transformed into a volunteer hub with over thirty volunteers, employing the same environmental principles: sustainability, respect for nature & the environment, recycling and re-using materials and promoting these values at their free public events. They work in partnership with Hoggy Stockton Rescue and release rehabilitated hedgehogs onsite and work to support existing habitats and create new wildlife areas. FONW meet every Thursday & Saturday 10am-2pm and the gardens & wildlife areas are open to the public for one-off events, workshops and volunteer open days throughout the year.

Contact Details:

Natures World Secret Gardens, Ladgate Lane, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 7YN

Friends of Nature’s World
VOLUNTEER WITH US
@FONWsecretgardens
E: friendsofnaturesworld@gmail.com
W: www.friendsofnaturesworld.co.uk
4. Stainton and Thornton Green Spaces

Stainton Quarry and Kell Gate Green straddle Stainton Beck, between the villages of Stainton and Thornton. The Quarry is a reclaimed whinstone Quarry that became Middlesbrough’s first Local nature Reserve in 2002. Maelors Wood is a young woodland and playing field. Planted in 1999 the woodland is now thriving and providing an attractive landscape feature and habitat. The friends group are committed to the care and improvement of green spaces around the two villages. Over the years the group have managed substantial improvements to wildlife habitats and access to their green spaces.

Contact Details:
Stainton Quarry, Cedarwood Glade, Stainton, Middlesbrough TS9 9DL / Maelor’s Wood, Low Ln, Stainton, TS5 8DY
01642 598234  Alan Liddle: 49liddle@gmail.com
Visit their Facebook Page ‘The Friends of Stainton and Thornton Green-Spaces’

5. Stewart Park

Stewart Park covers about 120 acres and consists both of mature woodland and arboretum on the southern side, with open parkland on the northern side. The park has an extensive pets corner with many types of domesticated animals, fallow deer, llamas and goats. Stewart Park also houses the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum. Friends of Stewart Park was established to support the park and its staff, the group now has a number of members of varying ages who give their time and efforts voluntarily. Over the years Friends of Stewart Park have helped fund seating and picnic tables, successfully published a book called “Memories of Stewart Park” and meet weekly for work groups.

Contact Details:
Stewart Park, The Grove, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8AR
fosp01@yahoo.com
Blue Bell Beck is located between Brookfield and the A19 Mandale Interchange, where it meanders through the lowland meadows and woodland of Acklam. The site is an important wildlife habitat area and offers a piece of green tranquillity amongst the predominantly urban Middlesbrough. Foxes, ladybirds and butterflies are just a few of the species of wildlife which have been spotted. Visitors can also engage their imaginations by looking out for the mysterious hidden sculptures, created by Steve Iredale, and funded by Tesco Bags for Help. The site benefits from an enthusiastic group of volunteers who carry out conservation and remedial works along the beck. The group do 4 regular task days a month, which alternate between Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Contact Details:
Blue Bell Beck, Malvern Drive, Middlesbrough, TS5 8JD
bluebellbeck@yahoo.com
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Bluebell Beck’
Wild Green Places:

1. Coatham Green
2. Errington Wood
3. Flatts Lane Country Park
4. Guisborough Forest and Walk Way
5. King George V Playing Field
6. Redcar Cemetery
7. Saltburn Valley Gardens Woodland Centre
1. Coatham Heritage Group

Coatham Green is a public open space in Redcar. It is located between the seafront and terraced houses and is valued by local residents for its sense of natural wilderness. The coastal grassland and sand dunes were formerly a golf course that has now naturalised. Coatham Green Heritage Group are an active Friends group committed to improving Coatham Green as a place where people of all ages can enjoy its natural beauty and wildlife. They are involved in practical work to improve access, appearance and its wildlife in order to raise the profile of the Green.

Contact Details:
Coatham Green, Majuba Road, Coatham, Redcar, TS10 5BJ
goathamheritage@gmail.com
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Coatham Heritage’

2. Friends of Errington Wood

Errington Woods sits on the northern face of a hillside above the village of New Marske, surrounded by countryside. The wood is managed as Local Nature Reserve and has over 9 miles of well-maintained footpath, a wooden adventure playground and picnic field which has expansive views over the coast. The Friends of Errington group are a very friendly and active volunteer group. They work in partnership with Redcar and Cleveland Council to manage the woodland for wildlife and improve access for visitors, meeting on Friday mornings.

Contact Details:
Errington Wood Car Park, Sandy Lane, New Marske, Redcar, TS11 8EE
www.foew.btck.co.uk
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Errington Wood’
3. Flatts Lane

Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park is the perfect place to explore the countryside in the south of Normanby. It is host to 100 acres of woodland and scrub as well as a picnic site, play area and visitors centre. You can see an exhibition showing past, present and future landscapes. A volunteer organisation was set up to help raise funds for the park. The Friends group work along side the volunteers and Site Ranger to deliver new projects. They host regular family activity days as well as a weekly Park Run.

Contact Details:
Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park TS60NN
01642 459629 Park Office
Visit their Facebook Page ‘The Friends of Flatts Lane Country Park’

4. Friends of Guisborough Forest and Walkway

Guisborough Forest and Walkway is the ideal place to visit and enjoy the countryside surrounding the historic market town of Guisborough. It is managed as a Local Nature Reserve by Redcar & Cleveland Countryside Rangers and extends for 2.5 miles along the former Guisborough Branch Railway line. It contains a variety of habitats, including wetland, farmland and woodland. The Friends group was formed in November 2003 by volunteers who wanted to improve facilities for the benefit of visitors and the local community. They manage the site to conserve and enhance the natural industrial heritage.

Contact Details:
Guisborough Forest & Walkway, Pinchinthorpe, TS148HD
01287 631132 Visitor Centre
www.fogfw.org
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Guisborough Forest and Walkway’
5. Friends of King George V Playing Field

Guisborough’s KGV is part of a nationwide family, dedicated and approved in 1954 as a King George V Memorial Field for permanent preservation. It provides a playing field, children’s play areas, and is home to a number of sports clubs. There is also a secluded area being developed into a wild rough meadow, scrub, and scattered woodland. The Friends work to promote and further the preservation, conservation, care and improvement of our KGV Field. The group is leading the development of the old Pitch ‘n’ Putt into a nature area for local people and schools to enjoy seeing wildlife.

Contact Details:

King George V Playing Field, Howlbeck Road, Guisborough, TS14 6LI
fkgv.guis@gmail.com

6. Friends of Redcar Cemetery

The cemetery is situated on the east side of Redcar, off Redcar Lane. Within the boundary, there are three plots separated by access roads to the Redcar Racecourse car park. The Friends of Redcar Cemetery were formed in 2005 with the aim to improve the cemetery. They are a charitable organisation run entirely by volunteers who regularly hold fund raising events and undertake remembrance walks/talks of the Great War. They also meet weekly to garden the cemetery and are looking for volunteers to join them in gardening, maintenance and headstone cleaning.

Contact Details:

Redcar Cemetery, Redcar Lane, Redcar and Cleveland, TS10 2BP
www.forcem.co.uk. dotahmed@btinternet.com
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Redcar Cemetery’
The Friends of Saltburn Valley are a group of people who share a commitment to maintaining natural heritage. They aim to conserve, enhance and encourage enjoyment of this beautiful and interesting area.

As a registered charity, the Friends manage the Saltburn Woodland Centre and the old horticultural site, now renamed the Walled Garden, with a 25 year lease from the local council.

Contact Details:
Saltburn Valley Woodland Centre, Valley Gardens, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, TS12 1GG
sfotvmailing@gmail.com
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of the Valley Saltburn’
www.saltburnfriendsofthevalley.co.uk
8. Friends of Skelton Pond

Skelton Wildlife Pond is a piece of tranquillity amid a modern housing estate, located between De Bruijs playing fields and Nidderdale. The Friends of Skelton Pond have been working hard to clear rubbish, maintain path access and plant new trees and bulbs. The Friends are now moving forward with the support of the council and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to continue improving and maintaining the site. Visitors to the pond are often rewarded with the sight of cygnets and swans, Canada geese, black-headed gulls and various ducks.

Contact Details:
Access via Nidderdale/Bowland Road
Skelton-in-Cleveland, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, TS12 2FY

Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Skelton Wildlife Pond.’
Wild Green Places:

1. Billingham Beck Valley Country Park
2. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park
3. The Meadowings
4. Roseworth Green Spaces
5. Tinkers Yard
1. Billingham Beck

With its wildflower meadows, reedbeds, ponds, marsh and woodland, Billingham Beck Valley is a great place to visit. The park is a real haven for wildlife. Birds such as kingfishers and wagtails can be spotted along the beck. The low-lying wet grasslands are a real delight in summer, with a diverse range of grasses and wild flowers, and butterflies. There is a regular volunteer group who are involved in practical conservation work and there are opportunities for external groups to use the site for events and education by arrangement with the Council.

Contact Details:
Billingham Beck Valley Country Park, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees, TS23 1PB
billingham.beck@stockton.gov.uk
01642 371633 Countryside Warden Office

2. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park

This highly attractive park is comprised of large areas of woodland, colourful meadows, streams, wetlands and areas of open water. Over the course of a year over 80 species of bird can be seen, toads, newts and dragonflies can also be found in and around the ponds. There is an extensive network of footpaths throughout the site including routes up onto two mounds. There is also a small play area with a fantastic woven willow tunnel. The Friends group aim to promote the biodiversity, conservation, protection and improvement of the park and encourage community use.

Contact Details:
Seal Sands Link Road, Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees, TS23 3NF
Visit their Facebook Page ‘Friends of Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park’
01642 371633 Countryside Warden Office
3. The Meadowings

As you drop down from the tree lined Meadowings in Yarm you arrive at the little valley of Skytering Beck and enter a little community, that feels like its own small village. It blends naturally in to its surrounding green spaces. The community centre is a focal point for the local residents. It is in the heart of the village just by a footbridge over the beck that is a popular spot for watching the ducks and other wildlife. The residents group care passionately about their area and the people and wildlife that live there.

Contact Details:
The Meadowings Residents Group, The Community Centre, The Meadowings, Yarm. TS15 9QS.

4. Roseworth Green Spaces

Roseworth in West Stockton has extensive areas of open green spaces on the estate. The most attractive landscape is the small section of beck, flanked by bank side vegetation and some mature deciduous trees. There is an outdoor play and sport facility for teenagers and has recently been improved by the planting of an avenue of trees along the roadside. The TV Wild Green Places Project is working closely with Stockton Borough Council and has joined the Roseworth Community Partnership to work with local residents on wildlife activities and projects. To get involved please contact the Wild Places team at the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

Contact Details:
Roseworth, Stockton, TS19 9DB
santrobus@teeswildlife.org
01287 636382 Tees Valley Wildlife Trust
Tinkers Yard is a well used green space that brings together two estates in Norton and is home to lots of wildlife including foxes. In a previous life this area was once a brick yard and this now lovely green area, with the help from the enthusiastic Station Road and Crooksbarn Residents’ Associations, is becoming even more exciting with a newly planted orchard. This links the area of Norton back to its rich fruit growing history and will provide lots of local people and wildlife with free fresh fruit!

Contact Details:
Tinkers Yard, Pocket Park, Norton, TS20 1PE
mailsra@mail.com crooksbarnra@hotmail.com
Visit their Facebook Pages
‘Crooksbarn Residents Association’ (@crooksbarnra)
‘Station Road Residents’ Association’
The Tees Valley Wild Green Places Project is a five year project, led by the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, with funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners. Our project partners are the five Tees Valley local authorities, Cleveland College of Art and Design, Askam Bryan College and ERIC (Environmental Records Information Centre- North East). Our mission is to:

“Increase appreciation and understanding of the natural heritage of public open spaces in the Tees Valley and increase the skills of local people to record and care for this heritage”
This guide was created by Teesside University Student, Lauren Collinson, as part of a 6 week summer placement with the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Green Places.

“I have loved my placement with the team and creating this guide. I would definitely recommend getting involved with volunteering to people of all ages and backgrounds. Throughout my placement I have experienced so many amazing things.