

The Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Newsletter

Winter 2005/2006



FREE



The Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project An introduction

As the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage project moves into its latest phase, organisers are keen to emphasise the principles on which the entire programme was founded.

Having gained £5.8 million of funding to take the project forward, a series of public consultations have been carried out to keep local residents informed of the plans and incorporate their views.

In fact, this type of consultation is to be an important part of the development and construction process, as project backers believe

local people have an extremely important contribution to make in terms of what is carried out, and how the new facilities can be best utilised.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, more than 500 people attended exhibitions this autumn to see details of the proposed work for themselves, and a heartening 98%

of those attending declared themselves fully behind the initiative.

The core principle of the project is to preserve the mining heritage of the Tamar Valley, not only in terms of the engine houses, chimneys and artefacts; but also the knowledge, stories and local history which are so much in abundance here.

Unfortunately, action is needed to stop this heritage disappearing, as the weather and vegetation takes its toll on the standing monuments to our industrial past. There's also the danger that local knowledge could die too, as stories passed down through the years go unrecorded.

There is the need, then, for both physical action to preserve the buildings, and educational action to pool all local resources into one central facility. The funding secured so far has been obtained – with a lot of hard work – by the Tamar Valley AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Partnership, with the ultimate aim of not only protecting the mining heritage, but making it more accessible to everybody.

But it's not just about chimney stacks and engine houses. Since mining ceased in the area, it has become home to a significant array of plants and animals, which have become an attraction in their own right.

The Mining Heritage project intends to preserve this wildlife habitat, while also conserving the buildings within it.

In order for the public to be able to see all of this at first hand, a series of tracks and trails have been planned, which will bring walkers and cyclists into the heart of the Tamar Valley, as never before.

continued page 3 ►

INSIDE ■ Making the Past the Future ■ A Boost to Local Businesses ■ The 'Outdoor Gym'
■ Discovery Trail ■ 50th Anniversary of AONBs ■ A History of the Valley



Making the Past the Future

The sites involved in the Project are among the most significant in Britain, in terms of mining heritage.

One example is an area on the east bank of the River Tamar, where once you would have found mineworkings at Devon Great Consols, Bedford United Mines, South Bedford Mines and Russell United Mine.

Where now there lies a heavily wooded landscape, once there was a bustling scene of mining activity. Most of the above-ground buildings were demolished in the early 1900s, but the shafts, adits and spoil tips which once characterised the landscape are harder to conceal.

Some of these old workings remain unplanted and unvegetated to this day, while the ruins of some buildings can also be found here and there.

Another interesting site is that of Gawton Mine, which lies just downstream from Newquay. It started life as a copper mine with a quay in the 1840s, while the copper boom of the mid-19th century saw the port expanding to store the huge

quantities of copper ore sent from Devon Great Consols Mine.

Morwellham Quay is one of the most significant sites in the project area. For 1,000 years it was a centre for shipping silver, tin, copper and other minerals. The Quay is at the highest navigable point on the River Tamar and moving great quantities of heavy ore from the mines to the port was a real problem. In 1803, work started on the Tavistock Canal. To reach Morwellham Quay it had to skirt the hills between there and Tavistock.

It took 13 years of hard labour to construct a tunnel through the rock but due to the formation of the land the canal ended high up above Morwellham. To reach the port below, a water-powered 'incline plane' railway was constructed. At the bottom, a network of sidings fanned out around newly enlarged quays and docks – Morwellham literally doubled in size.



In 1844, the greatest copper lode in Europe was discovered near Morwellham and Devon Great Consols, a new company, was formed to mine the ore. The mine was only four miles from the Quay, but it lay in a completely different direction from the canal. In 1856, the mine owners constructed a railway to the hill above the quay and a second inclined plane railway was built, passing through a tunnel beneath cottages and the village green. Extensive quays and a huge dock were built. At the time Morwellham Quay was hailed as 'the greatest copper port in Queen Victoria's empire.' 300 people lived there and ships from all over the world

brought the vital supplies needed to work the mines and took away the cargoes of ore.

As copper deposits began to run out, arsenic ore was mined instead. This provided the deadly poison which was used in insecticides and weed killers. It was believed that there was enough arsenic stored on the quayside at Morwellham to kill every person in the world.

However, the decline of the copper mines in this area during the 1860s – coinciding with the new mainline railways – led to the closure of the mines in 1903. As the mines and buildings slowly became overgrown, the buildings have gradually collapsed, as nature reclaimed the site.

The Morwellham and Tamar Valley Trust was formed and its first task was to rediscover the port. Volunteers – and later, paid staff – moved in to clear the undergrowth. Today, Morwellham Quay is a popular tourist attraction and you can see the results of an ambitious programme of restoration. Plans for the future are to transform neglected ruins and recreate Morwellham Quay as it was when it reached its peak in the mid 19th century.

Yet another point of interest is that of the Tavistock-Bere Alston Railway line, which is partly accessible to the public, and partly overgrown.

Formerly the mainline link between the market town of Tavistock and the

Bere Peninsula, it was constructed between 1887 and 1890, and covers a distance of approximately 10 miles.

The route – which includes many embankments and cuttings, along with a spectacular viaduct over the Lumburn tributary to the River Tavy – was closed in 1968, when the track was taken up.

These and many others – all of them gems of local history – are still to be discovered by many.

“Morwellham Quay was hailed as ‘the greatest copper port in Queen Victoria’s empire.’ 300 people lived there and ships from all over the world brought vital supplies and took away cargoes of ore”

These unique qualities are why the project area is a candidate for World Heritage Site status. If it is successful, Cornwall and West Devon’s World Heritage Site Bid will, according to the World Heritage Site team, ‘...bring tangible socio-economic benefits to the region. It will draw down conservation funding, be a major asset to international tourism marketing and assist the regeneration of former mining communities.’ ■

**For more information please visit:
www.cornish-mining.org.uk**

◀ *continued from front cover*

As those who visit the site for the first time will no doubt be captivated by their surroundings, a wider circle of knowledge will also be created with a series of new websites, books, CDs and information packs. In this way, knowledge of the area will be circulated in a way which would not previously have been possible.

As well as general information about the mining and wildlife, the books and education packs will be targeted at different social groups, so a wider variety of people will be learning about this area.

People will now be able to set foot on areas of the Tamar Valley which have long been closed to the public. For locals and visitors alike, the project will breathe new life into the area, and create a wealth of opportunity for education, exercise and local tourism.

Local residents, councils and public bodies have been involved with the project since its inception, as it is their needs which have helped to shape its directives. This relationship will continue through the life of the project, in order that it stays close to these ideals. ■

Invasive Plants in the Tamar Valley

The Tamar Valley AONB Service, in partnership with English Nature, The Environment Agency and Silvanus Trust are continuing their survey and control programme of invasive plants along the banks of the Tamar and Tavy, with positive results.

Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are the invasive species being targeted, as they are the most prolific within this area.

Following the success of an awareness day, held in Spring at Morwellham Quay, it is hoped that another day will be planned in early in 2006. If you are a landowner and would like to find out how you can control these troublesome species, please call **01579 351681** or email: **info@tamarvalley.org.uk** to register your interest. ■





Flora & Fauna

Among its woodland, grassland and heathland, the Tamar Valley is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

While the River Tamar itself is of significant wildlife interest due to its changing character, it is among the old mine buildings and shafts where many animals and plants have settled themselves.

“As the mine buildings are repaired and the new trails constructed, there will be a new opportunity to create habitats for different wildlife”

For instance, the dark shafts are home to a number of rare bats and other mammals. The spoil tips which were long blighted by toxic material now play host to rare species of plants – the only things which can live on them.

As the mine buildings are repaired and the new trails constructed, there will be a new opportunity to create habitats for different wildlife. There are already a wide variety of habitats in the area; with sensitive planning and construction, these can be extended and multiplied.

The wildlife which inhabits the area will also provide a fascinating study for local experts, and a valuable educational resource for anyone who cares to tap into it. ■

The Outdoor Gym

A key part of the Heritage project is that of encouraging people to explore the area under their own steam.



(i.e. a walk or cycle along a project trail) will be a major selling-point of the project, as more and more people combine the discovery of local history and wildlife with keeping in shape, rather like an Outdoor Gym,” said Tim Selman, AONB Manager.

The needs of both walkers and cyclists of all ages will be catered for, ranging from a downhill mountain bike course (which is to be sited well away from the other cycle routes) to a new footbridge over the River Tamar – the first for hundreds of years.

The health benefits are manifold – as studies show a good walk can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and strokes, as well as lowering blood pressure, reducing high cholesterol and body fat, enhancing mental well being and helping to control body weight.

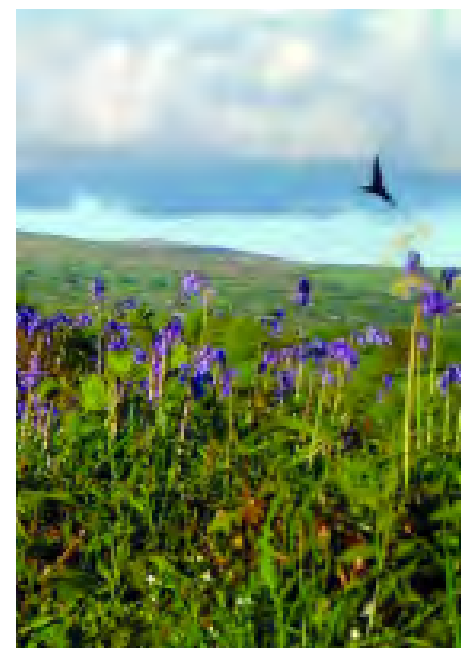
Cycling, meanwhile, is said to halve the chances of suffering from heart disease, Britain’s biggest killer. As well as improving strength, stamina and cardio-vascular fitness, it also lowers both blood pressure and resting heart rate.

So, with millions of pounds being spent on advertising to encourage British people to take more exercise, it seems the time is right for a visit to the ‘Outdoor Gym’. ■

Rather than catering for car drivers alone, the project will provide a number of new tracks and trails in and around the Mining Heritage area. Some trails will be for walkers only, some will be used by cycles and horse-riders also. These routes will be built to a specification which will also allow access for those using wheelchairs and pushchairs where gradients allow.

It’s worth pointing out though, that powered off-road vehicles such as cars and motorbikes will not be permitted on these tracks.

“We hope that the concept of healthy exercise coupled with local heritage



A Boost to Local Business

With more than five million pounds already earmarked for the Project, it potentially represents one of the biggest investments in the area for many years.



anticipated that hotels and self-catering accommodation will see the results of this in their annual guest numbers.

But there is also the trickle-down effect for restaurants, pubs and other tourist-related businesses, which rely heavily on visitors for their trade.

Local businesspeople will be able to use the Project area to promote themselves, and as the sites are likely to be in constant use over the winter, this would have the extremely beneficial effect of extending the tourist season.

Marketing and promotion will be carried out to target specific groups of people, so local advertising can be in tandem with this, for maximum efficiency.

Above all, there will be a Tamar Valley branding exercise, which highlights the area's unique selling points.

While the Project breathes new life into the Tamar Valley, it is hoped that local businesses will be among the first to benefit. ■

With a greater influx of visitors and a greater interest in the area overall, a new platform of opportunity exists for local businesses.

Firstly, with an increase in tourism, the local spend will rise, bringing new trade to shops and services in the towns and villages nearby. It is



Discover the Beauty of the Tamar Valley

One of the best ways to enjoy and explore the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley is to take a stroll along the 30-mile Tamar Valley Discovery Trail, which extends from the edge of Plymouth to Launceston.

This wonderful walking route, waymarked by an apple symbol, follows the River Tamar – the historic boundary between Devon and Cornwall, and involves crossing the river by ferry or train. Superb scenery, ranging from wide open estuary to woodland and farmland can be enjoyed whilst walking the paths, tracks and quiet roads.

The Tamar Valley AONB Service can provide you with a free Discovery Trail Map, or a more comprehensive pack, detailing many circular village walks, that you can buy for £3. Call **01579 351681** or email **info@tamarvalley.org.uk** for details; don't forget to ask about the comprehensive Events Programme that you can join in with, too! Alternatively, visit: **www.tamarvalley.org.uk** where you will find a great selection of Car Free Days Out for you to enjoy. ■





Tips and Ideas from Working the Woods – Linking People and Trees

Jacqui Orange Project Manager for Working the Woods, covering Tamar Valley and South Devon AONBs and Dartmoor NP, suggests the following to help support our local woodland industry.

Caring for your Christmas tree

Here are some handy hints to help you look after your Christmas tree and guarantee it makes it through to twelfth night, the traditional end of Christmas.

- When buying a Christmas tree try to ensure that it is reasonably fresh; look for healthy dark green foliage.
- When you get it home, place the stem in a bucket of water in a garage or some other cool place until you are ready to decorate it.
- Before bringing the tree into your house, tap the base of the tree on to the floor so that any loose needles drop to the ground. Then saw off the last couple of inches from the bottom of the stem.
- A Christmas tree will need a container, in which to stand indoors – make sure it will hold at least a

couple of pints of water. If you cannot buy a satisfactory container then the next best thing is to place the tree in a bucket filled with gravel and pour in water to a level near the top.

- Place the tree in as cool a place as possible, avoiding radiators.

Remember to recycle your Christmas tree after the festivities

Christmas trees in Caradon will be collected with your Garden Waste Collection in the week commencing 17th January. For further information please call the Caradon Green line on 01579 341040.

Alternatively, trees can be taken, during opening hours, to the recycling centre located at Crowndale in Tavistock. For further information please contact West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813655.

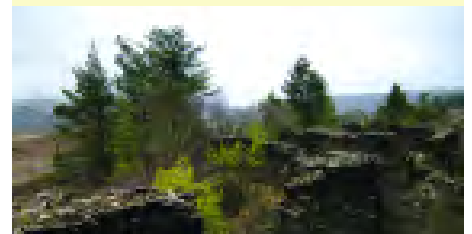
5 Things You Can Do To Support Local Producers

- 1 When planning what to grow next year in your vegetable patch don't forget bean poles, pea sticks, trellis and hurdles from local coppice materials. Contact **Working the Woods** for local suppliers.
- 2 Choose seasoned hardwood logs for your open fire or wood burner. Find a local, reputable fire wood merchant and avoid unseasoned softwood logs that come in netted bags on garage forecourts!
- 3 Take part in **National Tree Week** by planting a tree. Choose a native species or consider one of the many local fruit varieties. Remember NOT to plant when the ground is frozen or waterlogged and protect from rabbits, squirrels and deer. National Tree Week takes place from 23rd November until 4th December, further details at www.treecouncil.org.uk
- 4 Break with tradition and have venison for Christmas lunch, for local producers visit your local farmers' market or www.devonfoodlinks.org.uk
- 5 Learn a new skill or buy a course as a Christmas present. Devon Rural Skills Trust offers a range of practical skills courses from hedgelaying to hurdle making. Contact them on 01364 642480 after 6:30pm.

Working the Woods

tel: 01579 351316

email: jorange@tamarvalley.org.uk



A Mine of Information!

A cornerstone of the Project is that of educating locals and visitors alike.



To achieve this, a variety of learning opportunities is being planned, including guided walks and events, art, film, music and drama projects, volunteer programmes and health and exercise activities for the young, old and less able.

Pupils from local schools and colleges visit to learn about the area's heritage, local people learn about the mining history by a variety of means, and visitors come from all over the world for both pleasure and study, especially to places like Morwellham Quay.

In future, it is intended that educational outreach programmes will be established, with experts providing valuable information resources to highlight the historical and conservational aspects and make the Tamar Valley 'come alive'.

Walks, talks, displays, exhibitions all will be co-ordinated locally, with back-up resources easily obtainable via a website.

The Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project aims to widen the area's

current appeal, making it more accessible to people from all backgrounds.

Research has shown that large swathes of the population are missing out on the Tamar Valley experience, because of lack of time, means of transport or other impediment.

“ it will be fantastic to have a proper designated course which will attract mountain bikers not only from the project area and the South West, but from all over the UK, Europe and the world – there's nothing like it in the area.”

The opening up of the Valley's access links is intended to help solve this problem, by using existing local networks to help reach new visitors.

It is this local element which is key to the success of the project, as local knowledge cannot be replaced. For example, local cycling groups such as

the Woodland Riders, a professional mountain biking outfit with over 56 members, will be engaged to develop a new world class downhill mountain bike trail which will be sited away from the quieter cycle routes. Derek Heelis of Dartmoor Cycles who is also president of the Woodland Riders says, “The project is really exciting and it will be fantastic to have a proper designated course which will attract mountain bikers not only from the project area and the South West, but from all over the UK, Europe and the world – there's nothing like it in the area.”

Local access groups are already playing a part in designing the trails so that people with mobility restrictions such as parents with pushchairs, people in wheelchairs, etc. will have as much access into the area as possible.

Walking and wildlife enthusiasts are also being asked for their input into the development of less accessible 'quiet' trails.

In addition, different elements of the furniture on tracks and trails, such as benches and gates, are being designed in conjunction with the local community, so there is a sense of 'ownership' about them.

Project personnel are already working with local schoolchildren, elderly groups and access groups, to design new pieces of art and interpretation to place around the area.

In this way, vital local knowledge and experience will be used to the greater good, and channelled towards every single person who visits the area. ■



Another Successful Year for the Tamar Valley AONB

The Tamar Valley AONB Service recently celebrated another successful year of activity at their Annual Conference held in Bere Alston.

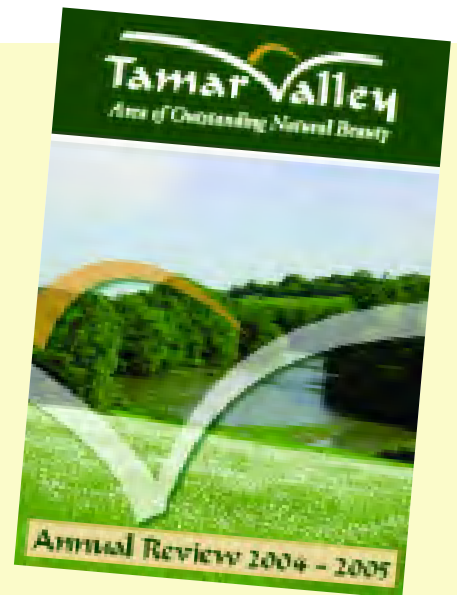
The theme of the Conference was '10 Years of the Tamar Valley', as August 2005 marked a decade since the Valley was designated as an AONB.

The Annual Review (2004-2005) was presented to over 50 partners and interested parties, with the main points highlighted by Tim Selman and Cllr Neil Burden, Manager and Chair of the AONB Service respectively.

A variety of speakers entertained the group during the evening, including Nigel Mathews (Cornwall County Council) who explained the designation of the AONB, Graham Facks-Martin (North Cornwall District

Councillor) who highlighted his memories and recollections of the past 10 years and Rosemary Teverson (Land Management Advisor for the AONB Service) who discussed the changes that have taken place within the landscape over the past decade.

A selection of projects that the Tamar Valley AONB Service have been involved with over the past year include submitting the major bid for the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project, launch of book and CD celebrating the market gardening industry of the Valley, Greater Horseshoe Bat Project, Management



Plan production and launch, joint working to raise awareness of AONBs, and much more.

A copy of the Annual Review is available from the Tamar Valley AONB Service – **01579 351681** or **info@tamarvalley.org.uk** – and will shortly be available to view on the website **www.tamarvalley.org.uk**

Competition Winners Locals Win a Meal for Two at Top Local Restaurant and a Mountain Bike

Mr Warren Whiston from Tavistock and 15-year old Abby Walker from Gulworthy Farm were presented with prizes after their names were drawn from questionnaires they filled out at the recent AONB exhibitions in the area.

Local celebrity chef Peter Gorton presented Mr Whiston with a voucher for dinner for two at his Michelin Star restaurant, The Horn of Plenty Hotel and Tavistock businessman, Derek Heelis, owner of Dartmoor Cycles and president of the Woodland Riders, presented Abby with a mountain bike.

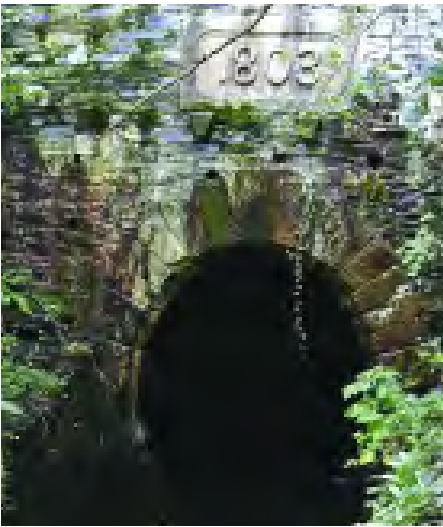
Tom Lemon and John Credicott of the Woodland Riders are also pictured with the prize givers and winners in the gardens at The Horn of Plenty. ■





Capturing Memories & Stories of Past Times

What was life really like inside a cold, dark mine? What time did miners have to leave their homes to arrive at work? How did they cope with such physical work during harsh weather conditions? You will soon gain insight into these and many more questions, as oral history work has just begun for the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project...



A major part of the Project involves talking to members of the Tamar Valley community who remember what the area was like at a time when mining took place in the Valley.

Interviews so far have given great insight into what life was like and how different the area was compared to the rural landscape that exists today. Their stories add a personal and human touch to the Project, and provide information that no amount of archive research and study could ever unearth.

Joanna Lewis, one of the interviewers, said: "It is wonderful that this Project is providing the opportunity to talk to older residents about their memories of the past. We can reproduce their stories onto tape and film – what a great record of what has happened in the Tamar Valley for local people and visitors to enjoy!"

Joanna continues, "Hearing and seeing someone actually telling a story really captures peoples' imaginations; it makes it all so much more interesting and real, and will bring the other information sources, such as websites and books, much more alive".

Stories and pictures that are collected will be used in many

"Hearing and seeing someone actually telling a story really captures peoples' imaginations"

different ways, including the production of a book, education packs, CDs, tapes and downloadable 'podcasts' for people to listen to whilst exploring the area. ■

Did you know?

- You could often hear miners singing whilst walking to work.
- Some families used to make cherry pasties – unique to certain parts of the Valley.
- During the war, fishermen on the Tavy found a small American wooden boat washed up which they named 'Lucky Strike' and used to row up to their salmon pool.
- Miners' lights could be seen bobbing along as they walked along the leat from Morwellham to Devon Great Consols at night going to and from work.
- Miners used to have to dangerously 'swing' round some of the outcrops of rock in the Valley to get to the mines.
- 'The two goal hero' of the 1966 FA Cup Final at Wembley was Michael Trebilcock of Delaware. He played for Everton who won (The Delaware School team were the best in East Cornwall).
- The chimney at Greenhill was clipped by a Mosquito plane during the war (the pilot was killed).
- There was a travel agent in Gunnislake during the 20s called Youlton. They sold shipping tickets to the emigrating miners, and displayed posters and models of liners in their window.

Gawton and Rumleigh brickworks in 1911 showing the industrial landscape that was the Tamar Valley



Sustainable Development Fund the first year

In 2005, a Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) was created for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, to encourage individuals, community groups and businesses to work together to develop practical and sustainable solutions to the management of their activities.



The fund consisted of £3.5 million and was spread amongst England's 36 AONBs; the Tamar Valley AONB accessed £100,000 of this, and will bid for a similar amount in 2006.

Thirty-nine projects applied for funding from the Tamar Valley AONB – successful applicants demonstrated sustainable development, involved and supported local communities and helped to deliver the AONB Management

Plan and other strategies. Projects that were innovative, and those that couldn't be funded easily through normal channels, were encouraged.

The Grant Panel, consisting of representatives from the local community, a charity, the private sector, Local Authority (elected and non-elected) and wildlife conservation, met at the end of October 2005 to consider all applications. Twenty-two projects were granted funding, with a total commitment of just over £90,000. The range of projects supported include the enhancement of village halls, wildlife conservation projects (both habitat creation, interpretation and site improvements) and small scale renewable energy schemes – these projects should be completed by the end of the financial year.

The Tamar Valley AONB will be running the Sustainable Development Fund over the next 2 financial years – the application procedure will be confirmed in due course, but if you would like to register your interest in the meantime, please call **01579 351681** or email: **info@tamarvalley.org.uk** ■



Celebrating the South West's Protected Landscapes

For the first time, a calendar has been produced to celebrate the very best of the South West's Protected Landscapes.

The South West is home to 12 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2 National Parks and the South West Coast Path. Together, they make up 37% of the region and represent the jewels in the crown of this remarkable area.

The calendar has been designed to raise awareness of our most cherished areas and to let people discover just how much there is to see and do throughout the entire year in the South West.

It highlights hedgelayers at work in the Cotswolds, explorers of caves in the Mendips, strawberry pickers in the Tamar Valley, a variety of fetes, festivals and regattas, the range of delicious food and drink available from local Farmers' Markets, and much more.

To find out more about these precious landscapes that are right on your doorstep, call: **01579 351163** or email: **info@tamarvalley.org.uk**, for your free 2006 calendar. ■

200 Years of Brunel

2006 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, one of the most inspirational engineers of the 19th century.

Throughout the year, many events and activities will take place across the Westcountry celebrating Brunel's life and achievements.

The celebratory year begins on 9th April (Brunel's birth) with a launch weekend in Bristol and runs through until 15th September (date of his death) with a finale in Swindon.

Looking at the schedule of events, there seems to be a shortfall of events taking place within the Tamar

Valley, Saltash and Plymouth areas – if you know of anything that is planned to mark the occasion within the area please let us know, so that South West Tourism can assist in the marketing and publicity of your events.

In addition, a touring exhibition of 8-12 panels displaying information on Brunel and the South West is available for organisations to host. It would be most fitting to display this within the Tamar Valley area – if you have a suitable space and would like the exhibition to come to you sometime in 2006, please get in touch.

Contact: Charlotte Maunder tel: **01579 351681** or email: **cmaunder@tamarvalley.org.uk**

For further information on the full list of celebrations, please visit: **www.brunel200.com**

50th Anniversary of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2006 will celebrate fifty years since the Gower was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – the first AONB to ever be designated.

As such, all 41 AONBs throughout England and Wales, including the Tamar Valley AONB, will join in the celebrations and raise awareness of protected landscapes as a whole.

In March 2006, AONBs will collectively exhibit at the Ordnance

Survey's Outdoors Show, held at Birmingham's NEC, to commemorate the anniversary. In July, the annual conference of the National Association of AONBs will be themed '50 years of the AONB'. Two months later, Oxford will host the Europarc Conference, and the year will end with 10th December heralding the date in which the Gower was officially designated 50 years ago.

Look out for events and activities taking place in your area throughout the year and join us in celebrating the very best of our nation's landscapes. ■

The First AONB

The Gower peninsula in South Wales, was chosen for its classic coastline and outstanding natural environment. Except for the small, urbanised eastern corner, the entire Gower peninsula is an AONB. Complex geology gives a wide variety of scenery in a relatively small area. It ranges from the south coast's superb carboniferous limestone scenery at Worms Head and Oxwich Bay to the salt-marshes and dune systems in the north. Inland, the most prominent features are the large areas of common, dominated by sandstone heath ridges including the soaring sweep of Cefn Bryn. Secluded valleys have rich deciduous woodland and the traditional agricultural landscape is a patchwork of fields characterised by walls, stone-faced banks and hedgerows.



Why were AONBs designated?

- An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a precious landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.
- AONBs were created by the legislation of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949.
- AONBs represent 18% of the Finest Countryside in England and Wales. Their care has been entrusted to the local authorities, organisations, community groups and the individuals who live and work within them or who value them.
- Each AONB has been designated for special attention because of their high qualities. These include their flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations as well as scenic views. AONB landscapes range from rugged coastlines to water meadows, and gentle downland to upland moors.
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (the 'CRoW' Act) added further regulation and protection, ensuring the future of AONBs as important national resources.

For further information please visit: www.aonb.org.uk

Keep in Touch

The Tamar Valley AONB Partnership helps to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, by offering advice and assistance to community groups, landowners, farmers, residents and visitors.

Tamar Valley AONB
Cotehele Quay, Cotehele
St Dominick, Saltash
Cornwall PL12 6TA

T: 01579 351681
F: 01579 351681
E: info@tamarvalley.org.uk
W: www.tamarvalley.org.uk
www.tamarvalleymining.org.uk

There are 41 AONBs in England and Wales. The Tamar Valley itself covers an area of 75 square miles (195 sq km).

Get Involved

There are a number of ways in which you can get involved in the exciting plans and activities taking place throughout the Tamar Valley. If you have particular interests, enthusiasm or skills that could be put to good use, we would love to hear from you.

name _____

address _____

postcode _____

tel _____

email _____

Where did you find this newsletter?

please tick this box if you would like to be kept informed of plans and activities taking place within the Tamar Valley.

Overwhelming Public Support for Tamar Valley Project

More than 98% of local people have backed the Tamar Valley Mining Heritage Project, following a series of public exhibitions attended by more than 500 people.



The news follows events held at venues in Gulworthy, Tavistock, Bere Ferrers and Albaston. Those who attended were able to find out more about the project, and the work involved in bringing it to life.

They also examined plans and details of the new access routes intended for the area, and the proposed 60km of new trails and footpaths which will be carefully and sensitively laid out across the area, in order that more people can enjoy it.

The displays at the exhibition also explained the recreational activities which will be available to locals and visitors, and the educational opportunities to be created.

Organisers were keen to demonstrate to local people that conservation and environmental issues will be carefully addressed. The economic benefits, such as additional employment, were also a key part of the presentation.

Project Development Officer, Tom Fletcher, told the press: "There are wonderful opportunities through lottery funding and other sources to ensure that the things which make the Tamar Valley special – the river, the wildlife, the mining heritage and woodlands – are protected and enhanced."

"A number of these projects are taking place now, and others are due to take place in the next few years, to ensure the area is looked after in the long term."

"The projects will improve access for local people and visitors alike into the Valley which is currently difficult. There will be new places to explore on foot, bicycle and other means; and people will be able to see parts of the Valley that were previously closed for many years."

"Most importantly, new access has been planned sensitively to ensure the Valley remains special," added Mr Fletcher. ■

Main Project partners and funders:



This Newsletter is also available in Audio format – contact us for details. Printed on 100% recycled paper.

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