



the National Trust  
for Scotland  
a place for everyone

## CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS TAYSIDE GROUP WINTER PROGRAMME



OCTOBER 2009 – APRIL 2010

[www.nts.org.uk/volunteering/outdoor](http://www.nts.org.uk/volunteering/outdoor)

### About Conservation Volunteers

Conservation Volunteers (CVs) are a diverse group of people who carry out practical conservation work for the National Trust for Scotland. The Tayside CV Group work mainly on properties in Central, Tayside & Fife and occasionally at properties outwith this area. All food is provided on residential weekend projects. **However, please bring your own sandwiches on day projects (we provide hot drinks & biscuits).**

Becoming a CV gives you the opportunity to:

- Learn new skills such as drystone dyking, footpath construction and woodland management;
- Work in beautiful gardens and stunning countryside throughout Scotland;
- Meet new people, get some fresh air and exercise, and become actively involved in conservation and the Trust;
- Attend training courses and lectures to enhance your understanding of countryside skills and conservation issues.

### Becoming a Tayside Group Member

You will need to complete a Registration Form (details on how to obtain this form can be found at the end of this programme). Once you have completed the Registration Form, please return it to Julie Bond at Central Office enclosing a cheque for £25, made payable to the National Trust for Scotland. *If you are a member of the National Trust for Scotland, you will be exempt from paying this one off fee.* Thereafter, you will receive a Conservation Volunteers' New Member Pack and, if you are not already a member of the Trust, you will also receive details of your NTS membership. As an NTS member, there are many fantastic benefits for you to enjoy:

- Free entry to all our fabulous places of interest throughout Scotland;
- Free entry to properties in the care of the National Trust in England, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- The *Guide to Properties*, our annual member guide listing all of our wonderful places, with travel guidance, opening times, facilities, etc;
- Regular members' magazine, *Scotland in Trust*, an award winning publication that keeps our members up-to-date with what we are doing.

Renewing your NTS membership after the first year is optional. However, if you choose not to renew your NTS membership, you will still remain on the Conservation Volunteers' Tayside Group Register.

## Planning Meetings

Most planning for the weekend projects and social events is discussed/arranged at meetings held on Perthshire workdays. Additional meetings and the AGM are held when necessary on a Monday evening at 7.30pm, in Dundee or Perth.

## How to Join a Project

If you would like to go on any of the projects listed below, please contact the nominated leader directly. If there is no leader yet appointed for a particular task, please give your name to Robert Dey. Robert can be contacted on the number given at the end of this programme. To enable property staff to co-ordinate projects and to maximise use of the hire minibus, it is **ESSENTIAL** to know volunteer numbers in advance. **Volunteers must sign up for a project by the Sunday preceding the weekend on which the project is due to take place (ie a week's clear notice).** If there are insufficient numbers to make a project viable, then volunteers will be notified of the cancellation by phone at the start of the week. **If you are unable to attend a project, it is ESSENTIAL that you let the project leader know, so no one is waiting for you. Please let leaders know if you require a lift or will make your own way to the project.**

<b>October 2009</b>	
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	<b>Branklyn</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Robert Dey 07880 812677
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Falkland Palace</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Robert Dey 07880 812677
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	<b>House of Dun</b> weekend project. Depart TBC Leader: Steve Edwards 01241 434268
<b>November</b>	
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Hill of Tarvit</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Roy Cooper 01241 879349
<b>December</b>	
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>North Perthshire Properties</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Robert Dey 07880 812677
<b>January 2010</b>	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Culzean</b> weekend project. Depart TBC Leader: Roy Cooper 01241 879349
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Dollar Glen</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Colin Johnston 07514 150627
<b>February</b>	
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Kellie Castle</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Steve Edwards 01241 434268
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Hill of Tarvit</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Robert Dey 07880 812677
<b>March</b>	
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Falkland Palace</b> one-day project. Depart 9am. Leader: Fiona Mathers 07986 003814
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Threave &amp; Rockcliffe</b> weekend project. Depart TBC Leader: Steve Edwards 01241 434268
<b>April</b>	
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>North Perthshire Properties</b> one-day project. Depart 9am Leader: Robert Dey 07880 812677

## PROJECT INFORMATION

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**Branklyn** Getting ready for winter in the walled garden will include clearing leaves, spreading compost and soil, and a cleanup of the car park area.

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**Falkland Palace** Working in the Palace gardens, with the Head Gardener, carrying out some general garden maintenance work. This will include preparing the gardens for winter, cutting back herbaceous shrubs, spreading compost and collecting leaves.

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**House of Dun** This weekend project will allow you to join the Head Gardener to carry out some path work and woodland tasks on the estate. *Accommodation:* Base camp, on site – max.14.

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**Hill of Tarvit** This day will be working in the estate surrounding the Hill of Tarvit mansion house, assisting the Head Gardener with some essential path and woodland management, including planting wildflowers.

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**North Perthshire Properties** Location TBC. Join the Rangers at one of the Perthshire properties and assist them with a variety of jobs. May include habitat management or path maintenance jobs.

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**Culzean** A weekend spent helping the Rangers on this stunning property. Jobs to be confirmed. *Accommodation:* The Farmhouse : 12-15 beds/mattresses, plus floor space.

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**Dollar Glen** A one-day project helping with essential work on this woodland site. Tasks to be confirmed - may include path work and/or habitat management.

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**Kellie Castle** Various winter tasks to be carried out include splitting and re-planting 30 varieties of rhubarb, working on the herbaceous borders plus some woodland management tasks at Crow Wood. Possible wild flower planting in the new meadow and bulking the apple collection to 75 different varieties.

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**Threave and Rockcliffe** Work may include the traditional countryside skill of hedge laying together with scrub management and coppicing at Rockcliffe. *Accommodation:* Rangers Cottage or Countryside Centre, Threave (Max 10 volunteers).

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### What to bring with you

Tough old clothes to work in, waterproofs, boots and/or wellies, toilet kit/towel, hat, scarf, gloves, personal medication, torch, camera - and don't forget your lunch if it's a day project! **NB:** Sturdy footwear is **ESSENTIAL!** Any volunteer wishing to participate in footpath work or drystone dyking is required to wear boots or Wellingtons with steel toecaps. For newcomers to the Group, there will be a limited supply of Wellingtons with steel toecaps available for use.

### What we provide

Transport, accommodation, food (weekend projects only), crockery, cutlery, tools, work gloves, insurance and first aid kits.

## Additional Information and Events

### **Joint Committees' Meeting, The Old Granary, Perth, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009: 10.30am – 2.30pm**

The purpose of the meeting is for the committees and NTS staff to discuss issues, activities or problems that have arisen over the past six months. Lunch will be provided and travel expenses will be reimbursed if receipts are produced within a month of the meeting date.

### **First Aid Course: NTS Central Office, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh - Boardroom Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009 - Course Instructor: Phil Glennie**

The day will start off with tea and coffee at 9.30am; your prompt arrival would be appreciated and comfortable trousers are recommended! At the end of the day all delegates will receive a First Aid Certificate, which is valid for 3 years, together with a First Aid Manual. **Please bring a packed lunch.** A **cash subsidised payment of £10** should be given to Phil Glennie on the day. Travelling expenses will be re-imbursed for Leaders, Co-leaders and Drivers. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 it will be a requirement for all CV Leaders to hold a First Aid Certificate. Please contact Julie Bond at Charlotte Square to book your place.

### **Leaders Course, House of Dun Basecamp, Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Sun 4<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

This weekend leaders' course is free and open to all four local groups and is aimed at those who would like to lead or co-lead weekend/day projects or Thistle Camps. You will cover all aspects of leading, tool safety, health & safety, working with people, minibus driving and catering. The course will be at the House of Dun. If you would like more information or would like to put your name down please contact Julie Bond.

### **Would you like to join an NTS Bat Group?**

Each year, the Trust needs to carry out essential bat survey work to ensure our building works and tree management do not disturb or destroy bats and their roosts on our properties. Due to the legal protection covering bats and their roosts, this type of work is increasing. Lindsay MacKinlay, our Nature Conservation Adviser, is looking to establish a Volunteer NTS Bat Group. Free training will be provided by the Trust and in return you will be expected to help out with survey work on at least 3 nights per year (typically between June and September). If you are interested in joining such a group and/or wish to gain experience of bat work to help get a job in conservation, Lindsay would love to hear from you! Please contact Lindsay Mackinlay on [lmackinlay@nts.org.uk](mailto:lmackinlay@nts.org.uk) or telephone 0844 493 2454.

### **MiDAS Minibus Training**

If you would like to drive minibuses for weekend projects you will need to take a MiDAS minibus test. This certificated course covers all aspects of safe and defensive minibus driving and is recognised nationally. The course is free to members of all local CV groups who are over 21 with two years' driving experience. Please contact Robert Dey if you are interested in this. If you have any queries in relation to MiDAS, please contact Gavin Kennerley by email [gkennerley@nts.org.uk](mailto:gkennerley@nts.org.uk) or by phoning 0844 493 2588.

### **Paramo - [www.paramo.co.uk](http://www.paramo.co.uk)**

The National Trust for Scotland has negotiated a 50% discount with the outdoor clothing company Paramo. For further information, please contact the Tayside Group Paramo Representative Robert Dey. This discount is only available to active members of the Group.

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## Health and Safety

The Trust is committed to a safe and healthy working environment for all, and as part of this aim, considers all volunteers as staff for the purposes of health and safety management and legal compliance. In practical terms this means that:

**Volunteers** should be aware of their general responsibilities to look after their own safety and that of anyone else around them, and to cooperate with the Trust fully in adopting their safe working practices. The normal arrangements in relation to footwear, clothing, preventative steps and sensible working practices apply equally to staff and volunteers.

**The Trust Staff Member** co-ordinating the activity should carry out a specific risk assessment of the activity before it takes place, to identify the significant risks and their control measures and provide the volunteers with the information prior to the activity starting. Property staff should familiarise all volunteers with:

- the summary of the risk assessment
- any relevant emergency procedures
- detailed instructions for specific equipment
- detailed instructions for specific techniques, as required.

Further support can be obtained from:

- The current NTS Health, Safety and Environmental Manual - particularly the model risk assessments
- Property staff involved in the activity
- The NTS HSE
- The Property's Safe System of Work where one exists.

**If at any time you have any questions, or feel uneasy about the level of risk being faced, please let the leader of the group know immediately.** Please note that Health and Safety Legislation requires that items such as aspirin are not included in our First Aid Kits. If you suffer from migraine or require any form of medication, you must provide this yourself. Volunteers are strongly urged to have an anti-tetanus injection, or booster, if required.

**Other Groups' Projects:** All members of Tayside Group are also welcome to join other Groups' projects if there are spaces available and if you can arrange your own transport to the site or pick-up point. If you would like copies of other Groups' programmes, please contact Julie Bond at Central Office.

**REGISTRATION FORMS** can be obtained at planning meetings or from Julie Bond. Alternatively you can download a registration form from our website: [www.nts.org.uk/volunteering/outdoor](http://www.nts.org.uk/volunteering/outdoor)

**ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST COMPLETE A REGISTRATION FORM PRIOR TO WORKING WITH THE GROUP.**

**Volunteer Chairperson:**

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Craigie Knowes Road  
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**NTS Regional Co-ordinator:**

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NTS Conservation Volunteers are also affiliated to the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers