



Hello!

We're proud to launch our community newsletter - a chance to catch up on what's coming up across the charity and around the local area.

The purpose of this newsletter is to better communicate the great things happening within our community. We so often receive gorgeous pictures from across south-east Dorset, hear of wonderful things happening in the area, and learn of lovely stories from local people - and we want to celebrate and share the great things happening in our area.

Additionally, we would like to use this forum to keep you better informed on the management and maintenance of Trust-owned land such as our allotments, woodland, and heathland.

We welcome feedback and guidance on what you'd like to hear more about.

GET INVOLVED - UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING SESSIONS

People of all ages can connect with nature in meaningful ways across the Talbot estate, whether through hands-on conservation volunteering, the Woodland Playgroup, forest bathing, our seasonal events, or simply taking time to pause and appreciate the changing landscape.

If you'd like to know more about our local events programme or wish to discuss running your own activity in the woodland or similar, please get in touch with **Martha Searle**, community and engagement lead at Talbot Village Trust.

Get in touch

Conservation Volunteering Sessions In The Woodland

This winter we've been delighted to involve local volunteers in our woodland winter conservation programme.

Volunteers from AUB, BU, and the wider community have helped us with litter picking, removing invasive plant species, and opening up the space to allow more sunlight to reach the woodland floor. They have also created festive decorations from woodland materials, learned about identifying plants and trees and enjoyed s'mores around a campfire.



What better way to beat the winter blues than spend time in the woods, improving the habitat for wildlife? Get involved in hands-on activity to clear some of the middle layer vegetation, allowing sunlight into the woods.



This work follows our woodland management plan, and helps replace the impact now-extinct large herbivores (such as auroch and bison) would have had, encouraging biodiversity, and creating a richer habitat. The sessions are a great way to enjoy the outdoors, make new friends, lift your spirits, and contribute to helping the woodland thrive. We provide hot drinks and doughnuts.

Meet at the **Slades Park Pavilion Café** every **Wednesday** from **1-3pm**. The sessions will continue until the start of bird nesting season at the end of February 2025.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Special Event: Woodland Conservation Volunteering Session

Join us at **Slades Park Pavilion Café** on **Saturday, February 8, from 10am - 12:30pm** for an additional conservation session, helping to prepare the woodland for spring. We'll be removing invasive laurel plants before the season changes, followed by a well-earned break around the fire with a hot drink.

We'd love for you to get involved - see you there!

[Reserve your spot](#)

Spring Equinox Event

Saturday 22nd March

We've been running nature-based craft and storytelling events since winter 2023. Our next one celebrates the Spring Equinox and will be held on Saturday 22nd March.

Artists from **CoCreate** will lead nature-based craft workshops at Slades Farm Pavillion Cafe:



11am to 1pm - make a willow and woven bird staff: this workshop is a little advanced and so is best suited for more dexterous fingers; we suggest children aged 10+ and adults.

2.30pm and 3pm - woodland wand making: suitable for families with younger children.

Places on the workshops are limited, so secure your spot by searching **Talbot Village Trust** on Eventbrite or book your tickets below:

[Book Now](#)

4pm - woodland walk and fire circle: meeting at the Slades Park Pavilion Cafe, we'll lead a procession into the woods, using our staffs and wands to 'tickle the trees awake' for the spring. We'll gather in our fire circle, where we'll hear folk stories reflecting the season. Do bring marshmallows to toast over the fire after the stories have finished.



All children must be accompanied and supervised throughout all of our events. The storytelling is free, and no booking is required - just join us at 4pm.

COMMUNITY CAPTURES



Thank you to local resident **Neil McKenney** for sharing this stunning photo of the winter sunlight catching our gorgeous trees in the woodland!

TALBOT VILLAGE TRUST GRANT UPDATE

We are pleased to share that as part of our ongoing strategic review, we're refining our approach to the Spring 2025 grant programme. As a result, the previously set application deadline of 31st January 2025 is no longer applicable.

We'll be announcing further details on the new grant application process and timelines in the coming months. These changes will ensure that our funding better reflects the needs and priorities in south east Dorset, incorporating feedback from both applicants and awardees.



The Trustees remain committed to achieving our goal of awarding more than £1m to charities and other purpose-led organisations in 2025, in line with our grant giving policy.

We will provide an update on our next steps on our website, in our grant-specific newsletter, and in our next community newsletter.

Thank you for your understanding and continued interest in our programmes. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon!

[Visit our website](#)

NEW LAND AGENTS & WINTER WORKS

As some of you may have noticed, we have a revised and renewed approach to our land maintenance and management, which is being overseen by our newly appointed land agents, **Fowler Fortescue**.

We recognise the importance of carefully, proactively, and sensitively managing the land we are custodians of, and we appreciate that there is more we can do and do better going forward. With the new appointment of Fowler Fortescue comes renewed commitment and dedication to these important and special places.



Jonathan Bury is our day-to-day contact and regularly on the ground here. He has worked for a wide variety of clients including trusts and charities and is meticulous and forward thinking.

**To contact Jonathan call
01747 359903 or email
jb@fowlerfortescue.co.uk**

Through our new relationship with Fowler Fortescue, we are also excited to be working with **Dr Abigail Barker**, a natural capital specialist advisor, who is helping to inform our decisions, improve environmental impact, and identify opportunities and risks across our estate. Prior to her career in natural capital, Abigail spent over 10 years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew where she was the Head of Science. She also has a PhD in spatial and statistical modelling of heathland ecosystems.

Gorse cutting and heathland exhibition - January

Some of the more mature gorse on Talbot Heath has recently been cut back as part of the winter works programme.

We are delighted that local artists Julia Chiapetti and Kira Bennett are using the cut away gorse for artwork that will be displayed at the community art exhibition 'A Heathland Celebration' in The Gallery Upstairs, Upton House from 14th to 23rd February 2025. The exhibition will then move to South House Gallery at AUB from the 7th to 21st March 2025.

The exhibition celebrates the unique beauty and ecological importance of Dorset's heathlands. Julia and Kira were helped by our contractor, Jon Baker (AKA Giggly Twiggs), who cut back the gorse.



HEATHLAND SUPPORT AREA & INNOVATION QUARTER UPDATE

Planning consent for our proposed Heathland Support Area and Innovation Quarter scheme was granted in July 2024.

Our priority is delivering the Heathland Support Area, and while we have three years to complete this activity, we are fully committed to planting and opening this land and reducing pressure on Talbot Heath as soon as possible.

We have begun working up detailed Heathland Support Area plans which we are aiming to submit to BCP Council for sign off in the second half of this year.

Similarly for the wider scheme, we are now formalising the vision for the Innovation Quarter. We are committed to delivering a hub for innovation that meets the needs of growing businesses now and for the future.



As part of our work to complete the vision for the Innovation Quarter, we are engaging with the real estate industry and potential occupiers, establishing which different organisations could work with and support each other, the new Nuffield Health hospital, and the research teams at BU and AUB to further innovation in healthcare for example.

We will keep you updated on progress of this scheme in future newsletters.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

We'd love to hear from you and share your news, pictures, events, and learnings in our next edition of 'TVT Times'.
To contribute, please get in touch!

[Contact Us](#)



THANK YOU!

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