

Groundwork  
Pennine Lancashire

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Web Site currently  
under construction  
but key contacts  
available:

[www.valleyofstone.org](http://www.valleyofstone.org)

## Volunteers needed!

There are many opportunities to volunteer within the valley of Stone project and we are currently seeking volunteers to help with the following:

- Heritage Conservation – restoring quarry huts & tramways
- Oral History – learn about oral history and interview techniques
- Video Production & Editing – producing short films for the Valley of Stone Website
- Volunteer Guides – Walk leaders to help with guided walks on Sundays (April – November)
- Horse & Bamboo Theatre are seeking volunteers to help with the exhibition in December

All volunteers have opportunities to achieve a nationally recognised qualification.

### *About Our Project..*

The Valley of Stone project is a £650,000 project funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund with support from Lancashire County Council. Partners in the project

include United Utilities, Horse & Bamboo Theatre Company, Mid Pennine Arts, Community Action Rossendale, The Centre for Virtual Environments, Heritage Recording UK

and Rossendale Borough Council.

### **In the next issue.....**

Sculpture for Lee Quarry and introducing the Valley of Stone website.

Place  
stamp  
here

**VALLEY OF STONE  
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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
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Issue 1



# Valley Of Stone

*Groundwork Pennine Lancashire*

## Master Craftman Certificate for 6!



Six Groundwork Pennine Lancashire staff and trainees from the Environmental Task Force have been awarded a level one certificate in dry stonewalling by the Dry Stone Walling Association.

The three week course at Back Cwm in Whitworth was run by the Dry Stone Walling Association's master craftsman Alan Rhodes. It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

(HLF), the body which distributes a share of the income from the National Lottery to projects aimed at preserving and making accessible the nation's heritage. This has meant supporting a major local project called the Valley of Stone to protect the quarry heritage of Rossendale.

The Heritage Lottery Fund enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about the nation's diverse heritage, including buildings, museums, and natural heritage.

Alan Rhodes was pleased to see how keen and

committed the team were. "In order to achieve their competence the candidates had to be tested on the final day of the course, when they stripped down and rebuilt a section of wall totaling 2.5 square metres within a seven hour period. This is by no means an easy feat and the fact that the six trainees achieved this was very rewarding.

## Second Wave of Training Now Available.....

The Valley of Stone project has secured funding to run a second Level 1 certificate in dry stone walling. The trainer will again be master craftsman Alan Rhodes – but there are some changes to the course. "Now, the course is run over 2 weeks rather than 3 – which should make it

easier for people to attend."

The course will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 with the test on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Help with transport is available and anybody who wishes to take part or who would like more information should contact

Dominic Cooper at Groundwork Pennine Lancashire on 01254 306575.

### Stop Press....

The training course is now fully booked.



## Last chance to learn about video editing.....

The CAR Video Unit, based at the Mary Hindle Centre, Bury Rd is training volunteers aged 13 to 25 to use video cameras and editing equipment.

They are producing 12 short films based around the Valley of Stone activities. Some films being shot will include activities by Horse & Bamboo Theatre which is creating a theatrical interpretation of

Rossendale's quarrying heritage and Mid Pennine Arts which is working on a specially commissioned sculpture trail.

Paul Lydiate who runs the video unit and has worked on BBC documentaries said:

"Thanks to short films being used increasingly on websites, filming skills are becoming increasingly sort after and the hands

on training we provide is a real help to those seeking careers in the media. Former trainees have gone on to study at the country's most prestigious film schools and have even found work at the BBC."

If you are interested in taking part then **act now**. Contact Paul on 07731679916 or e-mail paul@carvideo.org.uk

*"Selecting the successful candidates was a genuinely hard job because of the sheer number of candidates."*

## Horse and Bamboo select artists for project

Artists have been selected to help culturally and environmentally regenerate Rossendale's unique quarry and tramway heritage.

The Theatre's role in the project is to commission five selected artists to produce a piece of creative work in their chosen format. This could be a piece of writing, film or photography, music, sculpture or painting.

After receiving more than 45 applications, Bob Frith, artistic director of the theatre said: "We were all astonished by the response to the Valley of Stone commission; so many brilliant artists – and in such a range of art forms. Selecting the

successful candidates was a genuinely hard job because of the sheer quality of the applicants."

Their work will go on exhibition at The Boo on Bacup Rd in December. Each artist will also lead a small scale community based project in their particular art form to enable local people to explore what living in Rossendale, the local landscape and the rich history of stone masonry means to them. The selected artists are Waterfoot based Valley Artists including Joanne Claxton, Julie Southworth, Pam Hunter, Pan Holden, Susan Laughton and Suzanne Worrall; Jill Randall who lives in

Bacup and works at Prospects Studios in Waterfoot; Ailis Ni Riain, a composer that live in Walsden; Emma Hunter a Lancashire based visual artist and Tracey Holland, an artist who works with photography and film.



## Heritage outreach & conservation continues.....

The Valley of Stone project officially launched its heritage outreach project at the beginning of April. We deliberately picked a late start date as we wanted the worst of the weather to be over. But as you can see from the picture on the left, the snow did not dampen anybody's spirits! With Guided Walks 3 out of every 4 weeks you're bound to find a walk that suits you! Visit [www.valleyofstone.org](http://www.valleyofstone.org) for the current walking programme.

Heritage Outreach can take many forms, we have a dedicated project officer

who can deliver an interesting talk and slide show to your group or work with your group to deliver heritage outreach themselves.

Heritage Conservation work also continues. Very soon, work will start on Facit Chimney, conserving the chimney for generations to come.

Volunteers are also getting stuck in – helping to clear Cowclough Rake – which provides the access route to Thurns Head Quarry.

Students from Whitworth High have gained accreditation to the John Muir explorer award. Helping to restore quarry man's huts in Thurns Head Quarry, these huts can be seen from the new access trail around the quarry. New way-markers and interpretation boards finish the route



Valley of Stone  
Guided Walk Launch



Volunteers conserving  
Cowclough Rake

Yes, I am interested in the Valley of Stone project. Please send me:

More information on volunteering with project

Name:

Address:

Daytime Contact No:

E-mail:

- Updated future newsletters
- Oral History
- Heritage Conservation
- Heritage Outreach
- Horse & Bamboo Theatre
- Volunteer Guides
- Video Production & Editing

Please tick as appropriate