



# The Sandstone Ridge Trust

## SRT VISION

## Quarterly E-Newsletter SPRING 2015

*To improve and enhance Cheshire's Sandstone Ridge landscape for the benefit of local people and wildlife.*

### A word from our Chief Executive Ian Marshall

It is my pleasure, as Chief Executive, to share with you the latest news of the Sandstone Ridge Trust. This newsletter, combined with our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, shows the wide range of work and activities that we carry out with partners and communities up and down the Ridge.

I am extremely fortunate to be appointed the first Chief Executive of the Trust. This special landscape is not unfamiliar to me, having worked on the Life EConet Project (1999-2004) and Sandstone Ridge EConet Partnership (2005-09) and helped put together the successful HLF bid for Habitats and Hillforts in 2007. In a sense therefore, I feel as though I'm "coming home".

My priority over the next 12 months is to develop with partners and local people a new five year vision for the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge, building on the Trust's themes of landscape-scale improvements for wildlife, improved understanding of cultural heritage and increased awareness and access.

I would be delighted to hear from you, and your suggestions of the ways in which you feel you, your organisation or business could support our endeavours to look after this special landscape. Please email me at [iansrtceo@gmail.com](mailto:iansrtceo@gmail.com)



**Archaeological  
Field Walking  
Service**

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**RRS Volunteers  
Wanted!**

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**Harthill Hub**

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**Ancient Tree  
Survey Workshop**

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**SRT Funding  
Project Launch**

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**New SRT Base**

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**New Membership  
Scheme**

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In September 2014 SRT joined forces with partners and the local community in a three day activity packed celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sandstone Trail and re-introduction of the rare White Faced Darter to Delamere. Activities were built around the wildlife, archaeology and heritage of the Ridge.



To view gallery visit:

<http://www.chesterchronicle.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/communities-put-best-foot-forward-7928754>

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD-WALKING

In 2013 the Trust ran a series of archaeological field-walking training sessions and now have a team of experienced walkers on stand by ready to survey, with non-invasive techniques, any fields on the Ridge or nearby that are of historical interest. Any landowners who would like to have the team walk their fields, or archaeologists who need a team of volunteers for their research, can contact trustee Peter Winn at [peter@winnbrookcottage.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:peter@winnbrookcottage.freeseerve.co.uk).

## RIDGE ROCKS AND SPRINGS PROJECT – VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

In 2014 the Trust received £49,300 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting new project, 'Ridge Rocks and Springs – A Sandstone Legacy', aimed at exploring the geology and water supply of the Ridge in relation to settlement, industry and environmental changes. Volunteers will research lost quarries and wells, seeking out their stories and recording them for posterity.



The project is now approaching the second phase of a three year programme and the team are looking for additional volunteers. No previous experience is required. Volunteers are invited to attend training days, presentations and workshops and have access to continuous support.

For more information, to find out how you can get involved or to sign up to the RRS newsletter visit: <http://thesandstoneridgetrust.co.uk/rocks-and-springs>, <https://www.facebook.com/SRTRRS> or email Gary Ball, SRT Project Coordinator at: [srtcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:srtcoordinator@gmail.com)

## HARTHILL HUB

In June 2014 the Trust contributed funds towards Phase 1 of the 'Harthill Hub Project', a community driven regeneration initiative then led by The Earth Skills Project (TESP). The first phase focussed on access and increasing footfall into the village by improving the visual appearance, infrastructure, signage and ease of access for those with mobility issues, for Harthill and the surrounding footpath network, in turn "making Harthill a walking destination and a place to visit."

Phase 2 involves the redevelopment of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Harthill Church as a Sandstone Trail visitor centre and community hub for meetings, events, exhibitions and educational visits.

**For more information Email Harthill Hub Director Chris Fox at [info@harthillhub.org.uk](mailto:info@harthillhub.org.uk)**



**Photo top right** - Celebrating the launch of the Harthill Hub Phase 1 (left to right) Chris Fox, TESP; Sam Geoghegan, TESP sponsor; Denise Heayns, Cheshire West and Chester Council's Project Officer; John Heselwood, then Chair of the Sandstone Ridge Trust; and Sarah Dobbins, Cheshire West and Chester Council's Rural Localities Officer.

## ANCIENT TREE SURVEY TRAINING SESSION - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 - Peckforton

By popular demand the Trust have scheduled a follow up ID and recording session aimed at building on the highly successful introductory event jointly led by the Trust in 2013. The session is now full however, due to the interest generated, contact details are being taken with a view to running an additional session later in the year. To register your interest or for more information contact Peter Winn at :

[peter@winnbrookcottage.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:peter@winnbrookcottage.freeserve.co.uk).



Data collected will appear live on The Woodland Trust website: [www.ancientreehunt.org.uk](http://www.ancientreehunt.org.uk)

### NEW SRT BASE

SRT are in the midst of negotiation to secure a new base in Harthill. Details will be announced shortly.

### SRT FUNDING SCHEME LAUNCH

The Trust is about to launch a new "small projects grant scheme" for community-led projects that promote the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and natural beauty of the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge. Full details, application and conditions, will be posted on the SRT website and Facebook in the near future. A notification will be sent to contacts.

### COMMUNITY SPACE

This space is dedicated to you, the community. We would love to hear and share your news ...perhaps your interest, a historical find, a local event or a photograph from the Ridge. Please email [karensecretary@gmail.com](mailto:karensecretary@gmail.com) for more information.



### NEW SRT MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

SRT have been exploring options for maximising benefits for our supporters. A new membership scheme is currently under discussion. We would welcome your suggestions.

Please email [karensrtsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:karensrtsecretary@gmail.com)

Web: <http://thesandstoneridgetrust.co.uk>



<https://facebook.com/TheSandstoneRidgeTrust>



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