



## **Terrific Turnout for Local Litter Pick**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 25 volunteers of all ages picked up a whopping 55 bags of rubbish in Harperley Woods, Tanfield Lea Park Woods and surrounding areas. Organised by Tanfield Lea Countryside Group (TLC) these local residents of Tanfield joined forces to look after their local woodland, to make it better for nature and better for people.

12-year-old students Thea Caine and Angel Chambers, from Tanfield School, took part in the litter pick and encourage others to join in future events. Thea said "I don't know why people drop litter, there is absolutely no need. Litter is harmful to our environment, dangerous to wildlife and destroys the natural beauty of an area". TLC hope by raising awareness of the problem this will encourage people to take more responsibility and take any litter home with them.

Established in 2008 Tanfield Lea Countryside group have gone from strength to strength and have raised a fantastic £55,000 for their local area. Sarah Donnelley, former Tanfield

student, is now the secretary of TLC and says "It was such a lovely spring day to be out with fellow litter pickers as part of the Big Spring Clean. A chance to get some fresh air, meet new people and help improve our local area for people and wildlife.

TLC work to improve the local environment in a whole host of ways by organising practical conservation activities such as this litter pick and pulling Himalayan Balsam.

Bringing the community together through events such as a dawn chorus walk, pond dipping, seasonal crafts, geocaching and teddy bears picnics, all of the events aim to increase awareness and understanding of our natural world.

The groups' mission is to maintain and regenerate the ancient woodland and countryside, to protect and enhance its wildlife, habitats and biodiversity and to encourage community participation, enjoyment and education.

TLC chair and founding member Ron Kelly explains why he set up this group: "I started TLC because we need to look after our wildlife and countryside before it's too late. I truly believe that educating and inspiring our local community we can make a difference and help make our world a better place."

The group meets on the last Friday of every month at 6.30pm at Tanfield Lea Working Mens and Community Club, West Street, Tanfield Lea, DH9 9NA. Everyone is welcome.

TLC continue to host a whole range of events from family fun to guided nature walks and woodland management days.

To find out more and how you can get involved and our upcoming events, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/tanfieldleacountrysidegroup/>