



## NEWS RELEASE

**The Conservation Volunteers, the community volunteering charity. Join in, feel good!**

### **Walk the Wharfe 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Community volunteering charity The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), who run local community projects across West Yorkshire, have just completed another season of footpath reparation in Boston Spa.

Over the past three years, volunteers and staff from TCV Hollybush in Leeds have been helping Boston Spa Parish Council improve footpaths and access to the riverside walk. In total, the volunteers have barrowed 71 tonnes of stone, by hand, to make repairs to 377 metres of pathway.

Set alongside the river, the path meanders through beautiful woodland and is a favourite spot for dog walkers, runners, local residents and visitors. The improvements have included installation of timber rails, construction of steps and barrowing all that stone for long distances to relay the footpath.

#### **TCV Project Officer, Michael Bird, said:**

*"It's always a pleasure to work on the footpaths in Boston Spa. The riverside location is a great place for our volunteers to visit and passers-by are incredibly friendly and positive about what we are doing. The work can be hard, but the sense of achievement volunteers get by making such a visible and useful impact is totally worth it."*

The work, commissioned by Boston Spa Parish Council, will continue. However, the improvements are already being enjoyed and the TCV team have received many positive responses from locals. A particular highlight was a bag of doughnuts given in thanks and to help the volunteers keep going!

Hollyvols do a variety of tasks, including: work within schools and the corporate sector building wildlife gardens & wellbeing areas; constructing pond dipping platforms in local nature reserves; creating fruit and vegetable gardens and clearing scrubland to support habitat management. See below for further information.

TCV is being supported in this project – by Boston Spa Parish Council in conjunction with Leeds Community Foundation.

If you'd like to be a part of this project or would like to know more about the work TCV Hollybush does, please contact [hollybush@tcv.org.uk](mailto:hollybush@tcv.org.uk) or visit the website at [www.tcv.org.uk/hollybush](http://www.tcv.org.uk/hollybush).



## ENDS

### Media contacts

For media enquiries about The Conservation Volunteers, please contact [c.powell@tcv.org.uk](mailto:c.powell@tcv.org.uk)

### About The Conservation Volunteers, The Community Volunteering Charity

Every day TCV works across the UK to create healthier and happier communities for everyone - communities where our activities have a lasting impact on people's health, prospects and outdoor places.

TCV works together with communities to deliver practical solutions to the real life challenges they face.

- **TCV transforms people's health:** being active outdoors improves people's mental and physical well-being and brings people together
- **TCV transforms peoples' prospects:** helping people get back to work and improve their economic well-being
- **TCV transforms outdoor spaces:** empowering communities to take responsibility for improving their environment

Our vital work includes:

- **Green Gyms:** Benefits both the health and wellbeing of participants and the people who enjoy these well-managed outdoor places in the heart of their community.
- **Natural Talent:** Supports the development of a wide range of skills from core numeracy and literacy through to hands-on conservation experience.
- **Community Builder:** Encourages people to take an active role in the creation and development of local outdoor spaces that reflect their community's unique needs.

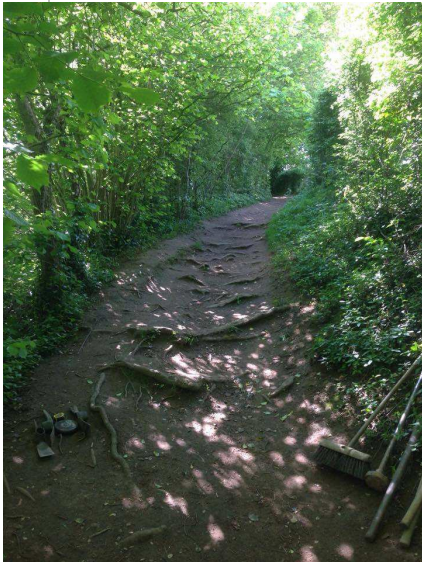
We support:

- Over **11,000** volunteers each year to face the challenges of being indoors, inactive or isolated
- Over **130** Green Gyms to improve people's health and wellbeing
- More than **2,000** community groups across the UK to transform outdoor spaces
- Over **18,000** individuals each year to gain skills, qualifications and move into employment through our ETS programmes.

For almost 60 years we have adapted our work with volunteers to reflect the changing needs of communities in the UK and, by giving people a sense of purpose and belonging, we have empowered them to take control of their lives and outdoor spaces for the benefit of all.

Whilst our activities vary, our inclusive approach has remained consistent; bringing people and places together to create happy, healthy and connected communities for everyone.

**Before**



**After**

