



# Park Life

News from the New Forest National Park Authority

Spring/Summer 2017



## Volunteer force marches ahead to transform the National Park



members create and sell charcoal while restoring its community woodland in Lyndhurst, won Best Project in the UK National Park Volunteer Awards.

Derek Tippetts, Trustee and Honorary Treasurer at Pondhead Conservation Trust said: 'It is a fitting recognition for all our volunteers who have worked so hard on this community woodland restoration project. Since our first conservation event in October 2014 they have provided nearly 7,000 volunteer hours and the difference they have made is clear for all to see.' It's not only outdoor tasks where people are rolling up their sleeves.

Volunteers have helped scan nearly 4,500 historical documents, photos and maps to begin the mammoth task of transferring

the fascinating contents of the Christopher Tower Records Library, based at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst, into an online archive which will soon be available for anyone to access.

New Forest National Park Authority Volunteer Coordinator Richard Austin said: 'There's a real tradition of volunteering in the New Forest and it's great to see new people coming forward to take part. They tell us they volunteer because they love the New Forest; they learn new skills – often while enjoying the fresh air; and they enjoy meeting new people. It can be really life-changing.'

An annual Volunteer Fair is held in January each year – this year around 700 people came to find out about opportunities to work with over 40 different organisations.

Find out how you can get involved at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteer](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteer)

## Introducing a ranger's 'apprentice'

A new four-legged apprentice is helping the National Park Authority ranger team.

You can follow Cooper the cocker spaniel on his own twitter account where he will take you through his puppy training and New Forest adventures.

Research shows an estimated 25% of homes in the South East have dogs with thousands walked each day in the Forest.

Cooper's owner Dawn Rayment, New Forest National Park Authority People and Wildlife Ranger, said: 'This is a great opportunity to show the highs and lows of training a forest friendly puppy.'

'As owners we have a lot more to take into account in the New Forest such as the ponies, cattle, pigs and sheep all roaming free on the land and

also our ground nesting birds of which some are very rare in the UK. So it's important to train our dogs to remain close by and be able to recall them at all times when walking in the Forest.'



## Volunteers surveying World War II archaeology at the Ashley Walk bombing range

They're all ages, of all interests and abilities but with one thing in common - they're on a mission to change the New Forest – for the better.

New recruits are coming forward in their hundreds to join an existing army of volunteers at work to enhance the National Park's unique landscape and heritage.

Over 500 volunteers are boosting the ranks and have devoted a staggering 13,000 hours of their time last year as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund scheme called Our Past Our Future, involving 11 organisations led by the National Park Authority.

As part of the scheme, amateur naturalists spent 60 hours of their time surveying wildlife with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to create 2,000 new wildlife records for 143 species. Species recorded include the rare woodland Barbastelle bat; nine protected or notable birds including bullfinch, cuckoo, firecrest and kingfisher; and 10 of the 24 UK bumblebee species. Their results will help inform how habitats are managed.

Volunteers have helped plant nearly 10,000 trees to restore native woodland with the National Trust at its Foxbury site

near West Wellow in the north of the National Park.

Others helped with an archaeological dig at historic Buckler's Hard, focused on locating and identifying buildings recorded on old maps of the shipyard held by the Beaulieu Estate.

There are personal stories of individuals going beyond the call of duty. Brian Matthews, of Lymington, spent an astonishing 400 hours in 2016 helping to pull up the invasive Himalayan balsam plant which is choking New Forest rivers and streams, receiving an Our Past Our Future Volunteer Award for his dedication.

And it's not just formal volunteering with the scheme which is making a difference.

An estimated 400 people turned out one spring weekend to clear litter from New Forest woodlands, heathlands and beaches in advance of the visitor season as part of a nationwide Spring Clean initiative.

Meanwhile Pondhead Conservation Trust, whose

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Follow Cooper's exciting journey and pick up some doggie tips at [twitter.com/doggieranger](https://twitter.com/doggieranger)

# New era for New Forest Marque – the sign of true local produce



**A local produce scheme supporting New Forest food producers and craftspeople is heralding a new era with a funding boost and new manager in post.**

The New Forest Marque has received a £25,000 grant from the New Forest National Park Authority to help manage the scheme, boost membership, and increase its profile with consumers.

The scheme currently has 135 members ranging from award-winning cheese producers to sausage makers, strawberry growers to wood turners and chocolate makers. They are backed by hotels, pubs, shops, cafes and B&Bs who take pride in selling local produce and supporting the New Forest National Park landscape.

An audited scheme, consumers can be assured that the Marque logo is the sign of true local produce.

Newly-appointed Marque Manager Claire Lee (pictured) said: 'Our members have a real passion for their products and are dedicated to their trade and this shows through in the quality of the delicious food and unique crafts from our members, which are outstanding.'

Members receive training, advice and promotional benefits for their business, as well as the chance to work with other members.

The Marque scheme also has an education programme, attending events and schools to teach about local produce and promote healthy eating and cookery skills.

New Forest National Park Member and Marque Director John Sanger said: 'It's vital we support the New Forest Marque and these local businesses as many are small scale producers who are closely linked with the landscape. Through their husbandry and care for the environment, they ensure the New Forest National Park remains a special place into the future.'

'The directors and Marque members would like to thank Jane Overall who has been managing the scheme on a voluntary basis for the past 18 months. Jane will carry on as our Chairman as we move into an exciting new era for the Marque.'

Find out where to buy Marque produce at [newforestmarque.co.uk](http://newforestmarque.co.uk)



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## Tell us your thoughts to win

You could win dinner for two at Cambium restaurant, Careys Manor, Brockenhurst.

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# Help shape the future of the Forest

**The New Forest National Park is amazingly rich in wildlife and has the highest concentration of designated wildlife sites of any of the English national parks.**

It's one of the last protected areas in the south of England where we can escape into unspoilt countryside and enjoy the outdoors away from busy modern life.

But Forest organisations are asking if more should be done to look after this precious area for future generations.

And are the recreational facilities and opportunities of the high standard people rightly expect in a National Park?

Until the 1970s people could drive off the roads and camp freely in the sensitive heaths and ancient woods – and the damage was clearly visible.

There are now designated car parks and campsites, waymarked cycle routes, ranger teams that work together at visitor hotspots, new codes of conduct and many other ways in which visitors are helped to enjoy the Forest without inadvertently harming it.

The designation of the New Forest as a national park demonstrated that it is still a landscape of international importance, but also that it needs to be looked after very carefully if it is not to become steadily degraded by ever-increasing modern day pressures.

Sixteen million people now live within a 90 minute drive of the Forest and we already have over 13 million day-visits a year. In response to housing needs assessments, neighbouring local authorities are now planning to build around an extra 50,000 homes in the next 15 years, which if approved, could mean another 110,000 people living on the edge of the National Park.

The National Park Authority and other organisations with responsibility for looking after the Forest believe it is time to take another look at how we can all continue to enjoy this spectacular area and protect what people come here to enjoy.

New Forest National Park Authority Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre said: 'It's time to begin a fresh debate and work together to find practical solutions for how we all use the Forest for recreation.

'We're looking to achieve a "win-win-win" by putting the conservation of the New Forest first and protecting it for future generations, with the right facilities in the right places whilst enabling local businesses and communities to thrive.

'It may not be easy because different people have different interests, but I am confident that enough people care about this place to ensure we can all take a step back and look at the bigger picture. I hope that everyone who participates in this consultation will first ask themselves the question "What is best for the Forest?"

'I am really pleased that the National Park Authority has been asked to organise this

discussion and I hope as many people as possible will take part and help shape and protect the National Park for future generations.'

The first step is to draft an update to the Recreation Management Strategy for the New Forest, published in 2010. Much has already been achieved and many of the actions in the Strategy are still relevant. However, new developments need to be taken into account, some actions will need to be updated and some should be prioritised.

**Here is the consultation timetable and how you can get involved:**

**19 June to 13 August 2017:** An initial 'call for views' to ask people about the overall rationale for managing recreation across the whole of the New Forest and guide the development of revised and prioritised actions.

**Autumn/winter 2017/18:** The update to the Strategy is drafted to reflect the feedback

**2018:** Public consultation on the draft update.

For the latest news about the review, sign up for email newsletters at [newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk)

## Caring for the Forest

Communities are growing and changing around us in response to requirements for new homes. The way the Forest has been supported will also be undergoing change in response to Brexit. So this edition of Park Life comes at a really critical time for the Forest.

Yet there seems to be a greater feeling of partnership than ever, with organisations working together to protect and improve this treasured landscape (see pages 6 and 7 for a £4.5m Heritage Lottery Fund scheme involving 10 partners and page 4 for a £19m Higher Level Stewardship Scheme).

This is a time for people to really come together to put the Forest first and we hope that you will be inspired by some of the articles on these pages

to take action – support local producers by buying New Forest Marque goods; join the growing army of volunteers; learn more about how we can protect the Forest by attending an event (page 9); catch up with our National Park rangers; or read our information sheet for new residents (page 4).

Whatever your interests, we hope you will get involved and join us in caring for this beautiful place.

**Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre**  
Chairman, New Forest  
National Park Authority



# Forest conservation scheme makes great strides

The New Forest Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme has enjoyed an award-winning winter as it continues to improve and enhance the Open Forest. The 10-year scheme is a rare opportunity to protect the New Forest's fragile habitats, fascinating history and ancient practice of commoning for the future.

## Thousands of children receive a Forest education

More than 3,000 youngsters learnt more about nature on educational visits to the New Forest last year.

In total, 3,385 children from 50 schools and colleges visited the National Park for free in 2016 to learn about rivers, how to care for the Forest and the impacts of tourism.

The visits are run by education officers from the New Forest National Park Authority and the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst and funded by HLS.



## New Forest archaeologists scoop national award

A high-tech approach funded by the HLS scheme, which identified over 3,000 historical sites in the New Forest, has been judged the UK's number one archaeological innovation of the last half century.

Laser mapping technique 'Lidar' was named as Current Archaeology magazine's Archaeological Innovation of the Last 50 Years, with the New Forest's heritage mapping project chosen as the best example.

## Welcome for new residents

New residents can find out why living in the Forest is special thanks to a 'welcome home' leaflet, with tips and information about living here backed up by a wealth of details online.

Parish councils, estate agents and community groups are helping distribute the leaflets. Find out more at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/residents](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/residents)



Gemma Stride, Higher Level Stewardship Scheme monitoring officer

## Monitoring helps conservation project protect New Forest

Monitoring of wetland restoration within the HLS scheme has been increased to extend its benefits for rare species and habitats.

So far, the scheme has returned more than nine miles of streams to their natural meandering routes, protecting the New Forest's internationally-important wetlands by slowing water flow.

Monitoring work is being expanded to gather an even greater range of scientifically robust evidence concerning the effectiveness of its various restoration techniques. The work will shed more light on the environmental benefits of the scheme and any improvements that could be made in the future.

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# Grandstand views of the Forest

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Choose from three scenic routes – red, green and blue – where you can hop on and off or switch routes where you like, all on the same ticket. Take your bikes for free and listen to audio commentary that brings the culture and characters of the New Forest to life. By going car-free you're also helping to care for the New Forest environment.

You can enjoy a free ferry ride from Southampton to Hythe, as well as great discounts at attractions like Exbury Gardens, New Forest Wildlife Park and Beaulieu National Motor Museum.

The Tour runs hourly, seven days a week from 8 July to 10 September.

[www.thenewforesttour.info](http://www.thenewforesttour.info)

## THE FUN WAY TO THE BEACH

Climb aboard the Beach Bus to discover the New Forest's hidden coastline and attractive countryside this summer. The

Beach Bus runs from Hythe Ferry to the seaside market town of Lymington, stopping at popular attractions as well as the beach. You can also enjoy great discounts with your ticket, including a free ice cream at Lepe Country Park.

The Beach Bus runs hourly, seven days a week from 23 July to 2 September.

[www.thebeachbus.info](http://www.thebeachbus.info)

## MEET THE TRAVEL CONCIERGE

For great ideas on things to do or see in the National Park this summer, talk to our friendly Travel Concierges. They run a pedal-powered mobile unit full of information on car-free experiences and the best places to visit. Stop by and say hello from 8 July to 10 September at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst and outside Brockenhurst Railway Station.

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel\\_concierge](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel_concierge)



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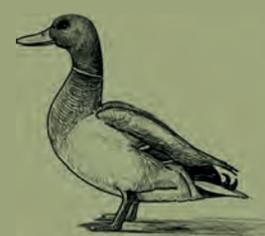
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# Successful first year for landscape partnership scheme



## Protecting the Forest's freshwaters

Ponds and saltmarshes, small rivers and streams, the New Forest is home to some of the most important areas for wetland wildlife in the UK and Europe.

The freshwaters of the Beaulieu River catchment support some outstanding wildlife, including declining species such as the eel and the common toad.

To raise awareness and help protect this important habitat, monitoring and practical work is underway as part of a Forest-wide landscape partnership scheme.

Water quality at 60 sites in the Beaulieu River catchment is regularly monitored by 35 volunteers for the Living Waters project. Led by the Freshwater Habitats Trust on behalf of the New Forest Catchment Partnership.

Two leaflets for homeowners, landowners and businesses have also been produced, showing how people can help lower phosphorous levels in the Forest's freshwater habitats by following best practice for septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants. To download the leaflets, please visit [newforestnpa.gov.uk/catchmentpartnership](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/catchmentpartnership)

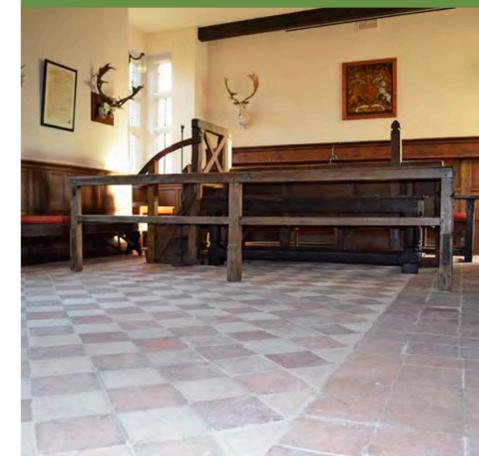
Amanda Harris water sampling at Dibden Bottom for the Living Waters project.

A Heritage Lottery Fund scheme to restore lost habitats, develop Forest skills and inspire a new generation to care for the Forest is celebrating a year of successes.

Achievements include 9,500 trees planted at Foxbury inclosure, 1,500 metres of hedge restored and 173 people trained in traditional rural skills.

Led by the New Forest National Park Authority with 10 key partners, the Our Past Our Future landscape partnership scheme involves 21 projects.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved, visit [newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership)



## Restoring the past

Home to the historic Verderers' Court, the Verderers' Hall in Lyndhurst is a fascinating piece of Forest history and plays an important role in the commoning community. The Hall is an active court where New Forest Commoners and others make presentments on matters related to commoning in the Forest for the Court's consideration.

Through the Our Past, Our Future scheme, restoration work managed by the Forestry Commission has taken place to preserve the Hall for future generations. Repairs have included relaying the quarry tile flooring that dates from 1904 or earlier, renovating the stained glass windows and providing improved access for visitors. Two short films about the Our Past Our Future scheme and the Verderers will also be featured.

The newly refurbished Hall will become more available to community and volunteer groups as a free of charge facility, and will have a public open day in autumn 2017.



## Step outdoors and help discover stories of historical pathways

Volunteers and communities are invited to help investigate the history behind the rights of way in the New Forest and create five new trails to help rediscover more of the Forest's past.

With 310km of public rights of way, including 75km of bridleways and byways, the National Park has an important travel network, but little is known about their origins or historical importance.

The project is not about creating new rights of way but using parts of the existing network within the Forest to highlight points of interest and their fascinating history.

The selected routes forming the five new trails will have clearer signage, some information boards (if appropriate) and leaflets, with guided walks led by local communities and volunteers.

Volunteers are being recruited to help research historic documents about existing rights of way, collect stories and memories of the routes from historic publications, and walk the proposed trails.

If you would like to take part, contact Gareth Owen on 01590 646652 or email [Gareth.Owen@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.Owen@newforestnpa.gov.uk)



Bill and Audrey Clark of Highcliffe hedgelaying at Godshill

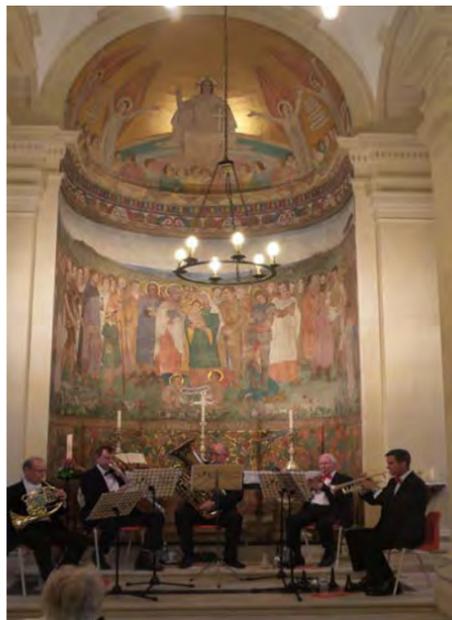
## Try something new

Interested in learning a new skill or getting outside more in 2017? Then why not volunteer for the Our Past, Our Future scheme? Over 500 volunteers supported the scheme in 2016, contributing more than 13,000 hours.

There are a variety of roles on offer, each encouraging volunteers of all ages and abilities to get involved. Opportunities last year included physical field work, such as a week-long excavation at Buckler's Hard and conservation work, including removing invasive non-native plant species, and research, surveying and helping out at events.

To find out more about the projects within Our Past, Our Future scheme or how to get involved, visit [newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership)

# Explore your creative side this summer



Southampton Brass Ensemble performing at Thorney Hill Church in the 2016 Festival



Brockenhurst College students performing A Midsummer Night's Dream at the New Forest Arts Festival launch



Cartoonist Simon Chadwick's workshop at Lymington Library

Returning for a second year, the New Forest Arts Festival is set to bring a whole host of exciting new events to get you feeling inspired in the Forest.

Taking place between the 10 and 25 June 2017, the theme for this year's Festival is trees and woods, taking inspiration from the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest.

Last year 3,800 people took part in 40 events, including a drama performance in a treehouse, an art exhibition in a castle and a jewellery show in a pub. Residents and visitors of all ages and abilities discovered the Forest's rich creative community and explored new parts of the National Park over the two week event.

Not only does the Festival provide an opportunity to discover new and unusual spaces within the Forest, it also gives artists and groups a platform under which they can promote their work and find like-minded people.

The Festival is a partnership between the National Park Authority, Hampshire Cultural Trust, New Forest District Council, SPUD, Forest Forge theatre company, the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst, Forest Arts in New Milton, hArt, and St Barbe Museum in Lymington.



Find out more about the Arts Festival at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival)

To stay up to date with the latest news and events, visit the Festival's Facebook page at [facebook.com/newforestartsfestival](https://facebook.com/newforestartsfestival)

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# NEW FOREST EVENTS CALENDAR

See the Forest from a new angle with our exciting events for all all ages and interests!

## APRIL

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 12 April 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

Enjoy a date with nature at the Reptile Centre, with fun activities for the whole family. Come and see the 'live' video of birds on their nests as well as the reptiles and amphibians.

Free event. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601.

### EASTER TODDLE

Tue 18 April, drop in between 10am-1pm,  
Blackwater Car Park SU268 047

Look out for babes in the wood on this fun activity trail for very young children and their families. All paths are wheelchair and buggy-friendly.

£1 suggested donation per child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required.

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 19 April, 10.30am-4pm  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for details.

Free event. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601.

## MAY

### NEW FOREST WALKING FESTIVAL FRINGE: RAMBLE WITH A RANGER

Sat 6 May, 10am-12pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

Explore Woosons and Mark Ash, one of the oldest woods of the New Forest, with a Forestry Commission Ranger.

£5.50pp. 12 years +. Not suitable for dogs. 5 miles. Booking required online: [forestry.gov.uk/newforestevents](http://forestry.gov.uk/newforestevents)  
Enquiries: 0300 068 0400

### WALKIES WORKSHOP

Mon 8 May, 10am-12pm,  
Burbush Hill car park near  
Burley SU200 018

See 21 April for full details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

## JUNE

### WALKIES WORKSHOP

Wed 7 June, 10am-12pm,  
Longdown car park near Ashurst  
SU360 088

See 21 April for details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

### WALKIES WORKSHOP

Sat 17 June, 1pm-3pm, Beaulieu Heath car  
park SU358 004

See 21 April for details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

### WILD PLAY DAY AT THE BEACH

Thu 20 April, drop-in between 10am-3pm,  
Hurst Spit, Milford on Sea S2293 913

Try crabbing, beach art, seashore scavenging and much more. 'Swap some screen time for wild time out in the New Forest.' Wear some old, warm clothes. Wellies recommended!

£1 suggested donation per child. Parking charges apply. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). No booking required. Enquiries: 01590 646600

### WALKIES WORKSHOP

Fri 21 April, 10am-12pm

Deerleap car park near Ashurst SU353 094  
Join in our dog-friendly activities including temptation alley and weave poles, while learning tips on being a forest friendly dog owner.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601



### WALKIES WORKSHOP

Sat 27 May, 1pm-3pm,  
Wilverley car park near Sway SU254 010

See 21 April for full details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 31 May, 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for event details.

Free event. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601.



### NEW FOREST ARTS FESTIVAL

Sat 10 - Sun 25 June,  
various times and locations

Celebrate the New Forest's landscape, culture and arts community at exciting events across the forest! Experience a wide range of art in unusual spaces, including a tree house, beach hut and arboretum.

Visit: [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival)



## JULY

### NEW FOREST OPEN ART EXHIBITION

Sat 15 July - Sun 8 Oct,  
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

See our popular annual showcase of the best of the creative New Forest.

### WALKIES WORKSHOP

Mon 17 July, 10am-12pm,  
Godshill Cricket car park SU180 151

See 21 April for details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601



## AUGUST

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 2 August, 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for details.

Free event. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required.  
Enquiries: 0300 067 4601.

### FUN IN THE FOREST

Thu 3 August,  
drop in between 10am-3pm,  
Puttles Bridge car park, Brockenhurst  
SU271 029 (or short walk from Whitefield  
Moor car park SU275 027)

Join New Forest Rangers for bug hunts, scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Wear old clothes and wellies.

No booking required. £1 suggested donation per child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Enquiries: 01590 646 600

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 9 August, 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for event details.

Free event. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601.

### FUN IN THE FOREST

Thu 10 Aug, drop in between 10am-3pm,  
Anderwood car park near  
Burley SU249 058

Join New Forest Rangers for bug hunts, scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Wear old clothes.

No booking required. £1 suggested donation per child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Enquiries: 01590 646 600

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 16 Aug 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for event details.

Free event. Suitable for all. Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

### SUMMER WILD PLAY DAY

Wed 16 Aug, drop in between 10am-3pm,  
Whitefield Moor car park, Brockenhurst  
SU275 027

Create forest art, sail leaf boats, explore with scavenger hunts and much more... 'Swap some screen time for wild time out in the New Forest'. Wear old clothes and wellies!

No booking required. £1 suggested donation per child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Enquiries: 01590 646 600

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 23 Aug 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for event details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601

### FUN IN THE FOREST

Thu 24 Aug, drop in between 10am-3pm,  
Wilverley Inclosure car park,  
Brockenhurst (signed to Scout Camp)  
SU253 006

Join New Forest Rangers for bug hunts, scavenger hunts, colouring and crafts. Wear old clothes!

No booking required. £1 suggested donation per child. Suitable for all (children must be accompanied by an adult). Enquiries: 01590 646 600

### WILD WEDNESDAY

Wed 30 Aug 10.30am-4pm,  
The Reptile Centre, Lyndhurst SU271 071

See 12 April for event details.

Free event. Suitable for all.  
Dogs welcome on leads. No booking required. Enquiries: 0300 067 4601



# 'Buddy' scheme helping preserve Forest traditions

Experienced commoners across the Forest are teaming up with young and new commoners to pass on their knowledge in an innovative mentoring scheme.

The free scheme, organised by the New Forest Land Advice Service and the Commoners Defence Association, created six pairings in June last year.

'It's a fantastic opportunity to widen your knowledge and I'd encourage anyone interested to get involved.'

Tony, Jacqui and their daughter Emma Vanderhoek (aged 19) from Totton, own land in Fordingbridge and are amongst the current 'students', learning from long-term commoner Ann Sevier from Blissford, Fordingbridge.

The New Forest has a long and proud history of commoning: the system whereby even today certain people have the right to release animals onto the Open Forest and collect firewood. It has given the Forest its mosaic of grazed habitats and influences many aspects of the local communities.

Jacqui said: 'We'd been practising commoners since June 2015, but through the mentoring scheme we've gained a huge amount of knowledge. We've had regular talks with Ann and we've met up on her property, our land, the Open Forest and even the pub.'

The training they received included helping Emma halter train their newest foal before it is put onto the Forest with their current ponies; a useful skill to have for bringing them in over winter and giving them regular health checks.

The scheme is part of the New Forest Rural Skills Project, one of 21 projects within the Heritage Lottery Funded Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme, led by the New Forest National Park Authority and 10 other organisations.

Tony said: 'There are always things you can learn and the scheme has been superb in helping us feel more confident in what we are doing. It's a fantastic opportunity to widen your knowledge and I'd encourage anyone interested to get involved.'



Tony Vanderhoek (pictured above) with his daughter Emma.

Each pairing lasts one year, with the next open evening taking place early this summer, ready for a June start. To find out more about the scheme or becoming a 'student', contact Richard Austin on 01590 646661 or richard.austin@nflandadvice.org.uk



## A Lepe into the future

Gateway to the National Park to be transformed.

Work has started on a £2.7m programme to provide Lepe Country Park with more modern facilities, including a new glass-fronted visitor centre, enhanced landscapes, more play equipment and better car parking.

The scheme will highlight nature's gifts with over a mile of beach, pine fringed cliffs, wild flower meadows and stunning views across the Solent.

During the build, visitors will notice a new layout to the beach car park and new signage will help identify where to park and safe crossing areas.

The play area will be revamped in March and open in time for the Easter holidays and the café will remain open during the build, still offering a full menu.

The new building is due to open in spring 2018, with the full project due to be completed later in the summer.

For regular updates look for Lepe blog at [hants.gov.uk](http://hants.gov.uk) and search for LepeCP on Facebook.

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# New Forest Building Design Awards

Distinctive and attractive buildings make an important contribution to the National Park's unique character. Now the best new developments over the past three years have been recognised in the New Forest National Park Authority's second annual Building Design Awards.



**Naboths Vineyard at Minstead** (architect Robert Davis Design)  
Individual building category winner.

Judges said the simple design and traditional material epitomise the character of the New Forest.



**The Cottage, Redlynch** (Pell Stevens Architects, nominated by Redlynch Parish Council) – winner of the extension category. The detail of the extension compliments the character of the main cottage.



**The Boltons, Lyndhurst** (Archadia and Hanover Housing) - best larger development. Commended for its attention to detail and respect for its location close to the village centre.



**Woodis, Setley** (also designed by architect Robert Davis, Romsey) - certificate of High Commendation. The building is clad in timber to mirror the woodland surrounding the property.



Left to right: Robert Davis (architect of Naboths Vineyard and Woodis), Mo Chawdury & Jane Sweet (owners of The Cottage, Redlynch), Ewan Green (Archadia architects) & Michael Mintram (Hanover Housing) for The Boltons, Lyndhurst, collect their awards from National Park Authority Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre.

## Reviewing planning policies for the National Park

Last autumn more than 800 people attended community drop-in sessions to find out more about proposed planning policies which will shape the future of the New Forest National Park.

Hundreds of people submitted their views on proposed policies that will be used to guide future planning decisions within the National Park.

These include proposals for where housing could be built; how the natural and built environment will be protected; and how the New Forest's economy can be supported.

We are now considering the consultation responses received and the results of additional evidence base studies, including further work on brownfield sites and flood risk.

A revised version of the Local Plan will be published for a final period of public consultation in autumn 2017 before it is submitted to the Government for independent examination in early 2018.

Find out more about the Local Plan and the next steps in its production at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/localplan](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/localplan)

Find out more at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/buildingawards](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/buildingawards)



# Celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Charter of the Forest



Many people are familiar with the origins of the New Forest, designated as a royal hunting forest by William the Conqueror around 1079, with forest laws and harsh punishments for breaking them.

But how did living in the Forest transform from a strict feudal system to the free society we enjoy today?

In many ways this long march to freedom for Forest dwellers across England began in 1217 when the 'Carta de Foresta', or Charter of the Forest, was reissued by the nine-year-old King Henry III.

This bill of rights meant 'free men' became less restricted in how they could make use of the forest. They now enjoyed rights such as:

- pannage (pasture for their pigs)
- estover (collecting firewood)
- agistment (grazing)
- turbary (cutting of turf for fuel).

On 6 November 2017 it will be the 800th anniversary of the Charter and the occasion will be marked by

the creation of a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People, led by the Woodland Trust.

The New Forest National Park Authority is one of 50 organisations across the UK collecting people's tree stories which will help form the new Tree Charter ([treecharter.uk](http://treecharter.uk)) and reconnect us with our woodlands and forests.

**In the New Forest there are a number of events planned or already underway to celebrate the charter's impact:**

**Tree of the Year competition**

Nominate your favourite New Forest tree by 14 May and then vote for the your favourite from the shortlist this summer. [newforestnpa.gov.uk/treeoftheyear](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/treeoftheyear)

**Exhibition at the New Forest Show and the New Forest Centre**

Visit this fun and family-friendly exhibition revealing the story of the Charter and how its impacts are still felt today. (New Forest Show 25-27 July or New Forest Centre, 14 October 2017 - 14 January 2018 at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst).

**Arts Festival**

Two weeks of artistic events on the theme of 'trees' – full details at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival)

**Walking Festival**

The fifth annual walking festival will feature a number of tree-themed walks in the company of experts. Book from July at [newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival)

More events will be added throughout the year, so for the latest on the Tree Charter visit [newforestnpa.gov.uk/treecharter](http://newforestnpa.gov.uk/treecharter)

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