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Park Life



NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK

News from the New Forest National Park Authority

Autumn/Winter 2017

FREE!

Over 1,500 give views on Forest recreation

Over 1,500 individuals and organisations had their say on managing outdoor recreation in and around the New Forest National Park.



Find out more...

Visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/futureforest to stay up to date with the latest news.

The Future Forest consultation was run by all the main organisations with a remit for caring for the Forest and helping people enjoy it.

The eight week 'call for views' asked people to complete an online survey in which they suggested which of the topics identified in 2010 should be prioritised in the future – and explained why. There was also an opportunity to say what new things should be done. In total over 7,000 comments were made, many of these touching on multiple subjects.

A series of drop-in sessions were also held in New Forest towns and villages, and part of the National Park Authority stand at the New Forest Show was dedicated to the consultation.

The Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the Verderers asked the National Park Authority

to conduct the Future Forest consultation on behalf of the statutory bodies.

The aim of the Future Forest process is to:

- provide the best recreational experience for local people and visitors
- protect the very thing people come to see – the spectacular, yet fragile landscape which is a haven for many rare wildlife species
- ensure limited resources are spent wisely.

Now that all the consultation responses have been received the next steps are:

- Autumn/winter 2017/18: Complete a full analysis of the comments and use these to inform a draft update to the Recreation Management Strategy.
- 2018: Public consultation on the draft update.

Championing the health benefits of National Parks

The New Forest and England's nine other national parks have teamed up with Public Health England to create a 'natural health service'.

The new accord will build on work already being carried out to encourage people to experience the many health benefits of getting out and active in National Parks.

For many people, quiet time spent in National Parks is the key to their mental and physical wellbeing. Whether it is a long walk, leisurely bike ride, bird spotting or any number of other pursuits, spending time in the great outdoors is officially good for us.

But recent research showed that six million people in the country are not even managing



to take a 10 minute brisk walk once a month. As Public Health Minister Steve Brine said at the recent launch of the National Parks and PHE accord: 'Physical activity helps to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions, including heart disease, type two diabetes, some cancers and mental health problems.'

There are already several examples in the New Forest of the 'natural health service' at work. This includes doctors at Fordingbridge Surgery referring patients to a local healthy walk group to help them alleviate stress, recover from illness, improve physical fitness or overcome mental health problems.

Two adventure playgrounds!

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amazing animals

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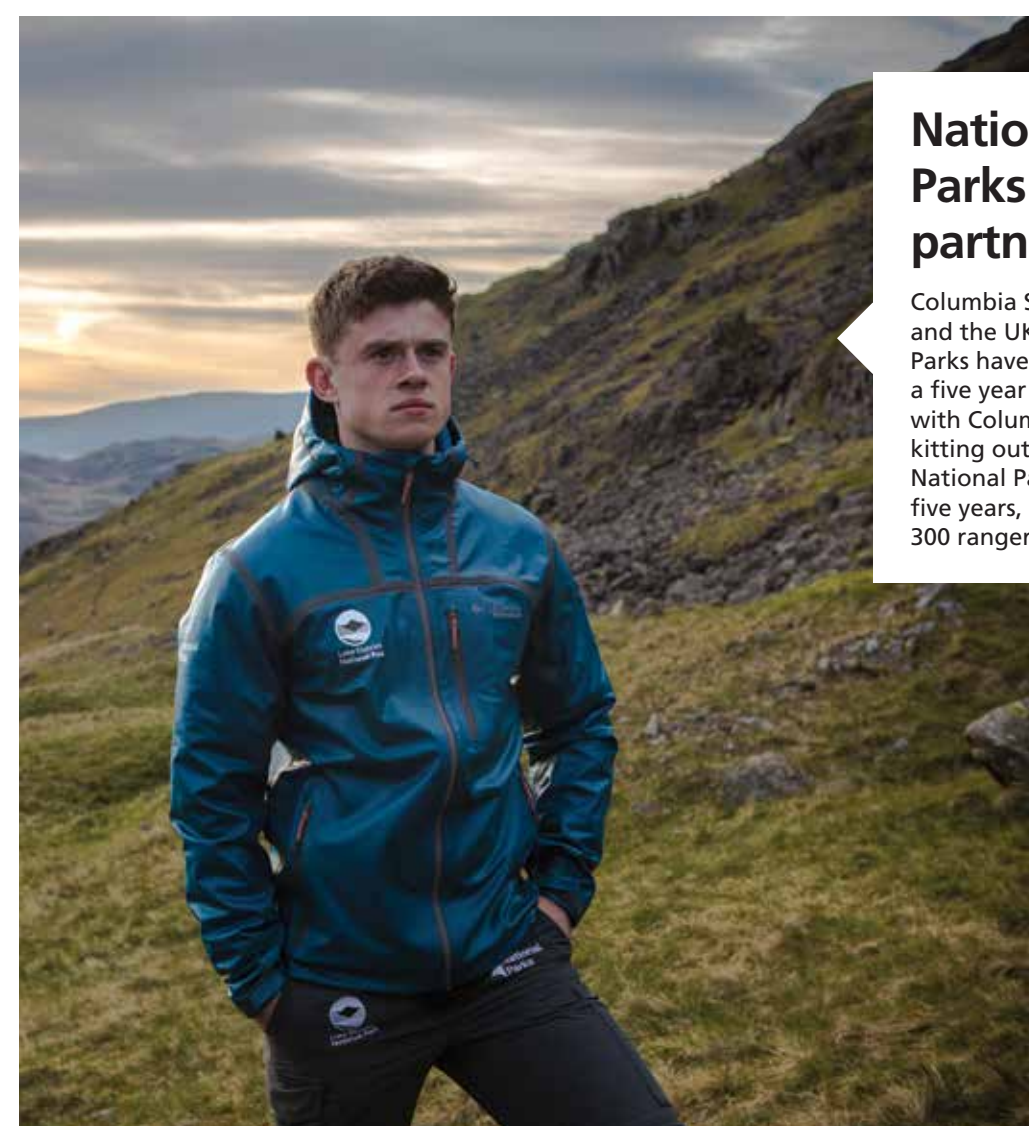
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News in brief



National Parks partnership

Columbia Sportswear and the UK's National Parks have announced a five year partnership, with Columbia kitting out over 2,000 National Park staff for five years, including 300 rangers.



Litter heroes

Around 10,000 pupils at more than 40 schools have been encouraged to be 'litter heroes' and not drop litter thanks to assemblies held by the National Park Authority education team.

New members

The National Park Authority has 22 members with overall responsibility for making decisions and we have appointed several new members this year:

- Minstead Parish Councillor Richard Taylor
- Hampshire County Councillor Mel Kendal
- Hampshire County Councillor Neville Penman
- Wiltshire County Councillor Richard Clewer
- Patrick Heneghan
- Prof Gavin Parker.

Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre welcomed the new members. He also paid tribute to member Sally Arnold who passed away and thanked those who stood down: former Chairman Julian Johnson, John Pemberton, Andy Moore, Judith Webb and Ken Thornber.

Ensuring water works

A campaign to help protect homes, businesses and watercourses in the Forest from flooding and pollution is asking for your help.

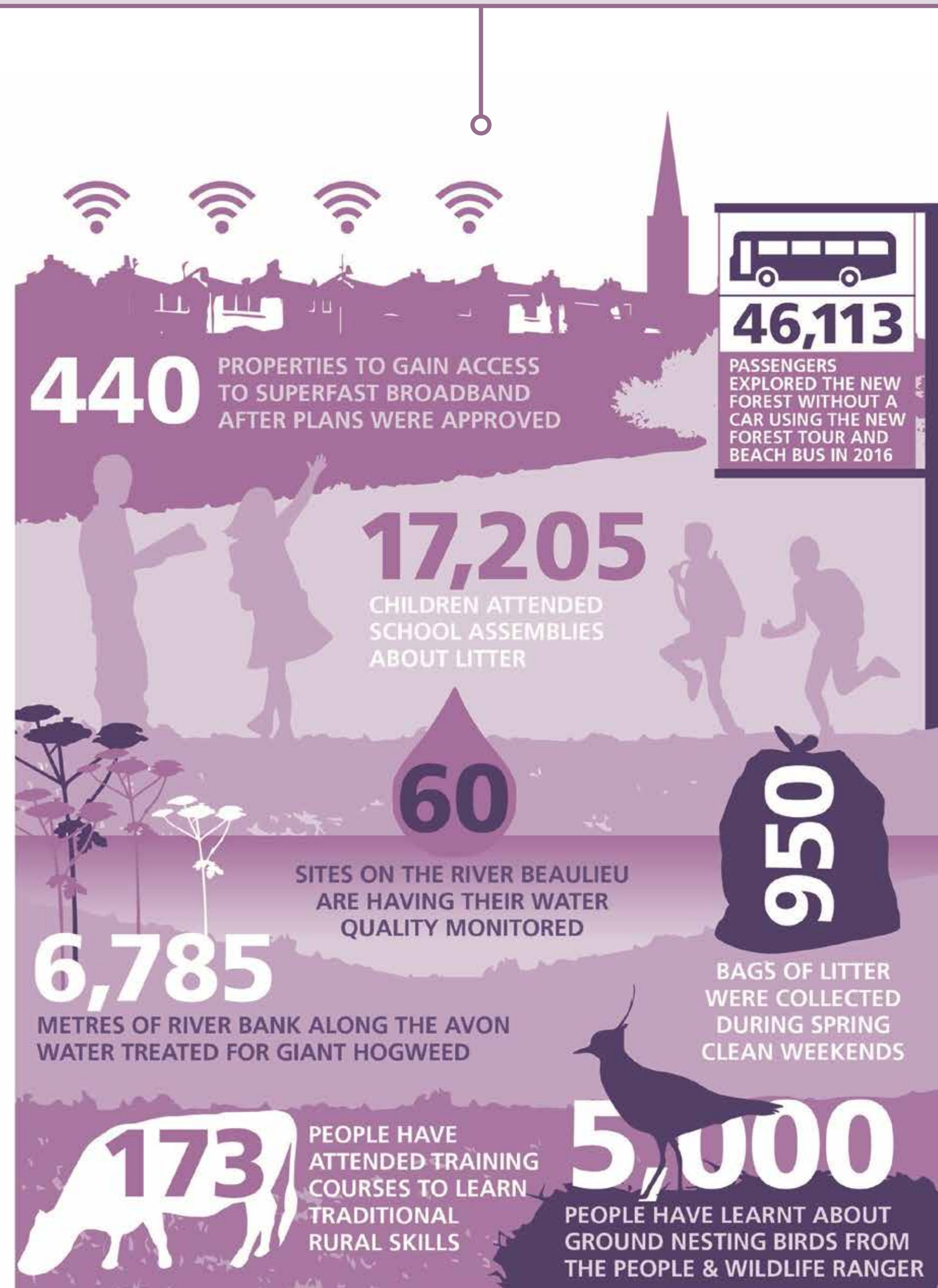
Southern Water is working with the National Park Authority to raise awareness of simple changes in disposing of fat, oil and grease and items like wet wipes to reduce blockages in pipes.

Town and parish councils, community groups, clubs and other organisations are being asked to get involved to help spread its important messages.

Contact communications@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

Protecting the Park together

All National Parks have a Partnership Plan for their area, to help guide the work of partners with a remit and interest in the protected landscape. In 2015, over 50 partner organisations in the National Park came together and helped shape the New Forest's Partnership Plan. It contains 90 actions across the themes of 'protect, enjoy and prosper'. The first progress report and this infographic show some of the achievements so far and recognise there is still much to do to help the Forest thrive.



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Six figure boost for New Forest inclusive cycling scheme

Hundreds of young people will be able to enjoy the New Forest using specialist bikes thanks to £300,000 of National Lottery funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

The PEDALL – Happy, Healthy, Active project, supported by the National Park Authority, will provide opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the health benefits of cycling in the New Forest.

The project will help tackle the lack of exercise and associated health problems among young people with disabilities. This can include poor physical fitness, poor mental wellbeing and social isolation, which all contribute to a reduced quality of life.

This grant allows the PEDALL project to expand its work helping young people transform their lives through outdoor exercise. Since the scheme was established in 2011 more than 100 families have attended sessions across the Forest.

Over the next three years, the grant will allow the team to run an expanded range of sessions for young people with disabilities and families using a fleet of specially adapted cycles. Heidi O'Neil, whose sister Amy Galpin has taken part in inclusive cycling sessions, said: 'The PEDALL project offers Amy a huge amount of support and encouragement with her cycling. I have to say she enjoys these sessions immensely and the feedback from our carers is that the team are fantastic. Amy and I both really appreciate it the difference this scheme makes.'

The PEDALL – Happy, Healthy, Active project is a partnership between the New Forest National Park Authority, Southlands School, Oaklodge School, Hythe and SCARF (Supporting Special Children and their Relatives and Friends).



Amy Galpin (right) takes part in an inclusive cycling session at Beaulieu Heath

LOOKING FOR GRANT FUNDING?

Funds are available for New Forest projects that look to enhance the landscape, promote sustainability and improve countryside access.

Visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/grants for more details.

Festival helps people discover art in New Forest National Park



Carnival of Crows paint a traditional wagon at Forest Arts Centre

With painting, sculpture, drama and art, there was something to suit all tastes at the New Forest Arts Festival this summer.

Over 60 events took place between 10 and 25 June, encouraging visitors and residents to explore new parts of the Forest, find out about its heritage and engage in the National Park's rich creative community.

Events included an outdoor performance of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at Blackwater Arboretum, workshops at Buckler's Hard ancient shipyard and a family theatre performance at Rockbourne Roman villa.

Artists and art organisations benefited from a £6,000 boost thanks to a small grant scheme funded by New Forest District Council and the National Park Authority. Many of the events within the Festival were free or discounted thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding, making them accessible for families of all ages, children, adults with learning disabilities and older generations.

The theme for this year's Festival was trees, linking to a new 'Charter for woods, trees and people' being developed nationally in recognition of the role trees and woods play in our lives (see page 12).

The Festival is led by a steering group made up of 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, Coda Music Trust, Forestry Commission, Go New Forest and St Barbe Museum in Lymington. Exbury, the Minstead Trust and Furzey Gardens, the Countryside Education Trust at Beaulieu, and Buckler's Hard also took part.

Minstead students taking part in an African drumming workshop at Furzey Gardens



Families enjoyed a host of tree themed activities at the Countryside Education Trust's Tremendous Tree Trail

Find out more at newforestnpa.gov.uk/artsfestival

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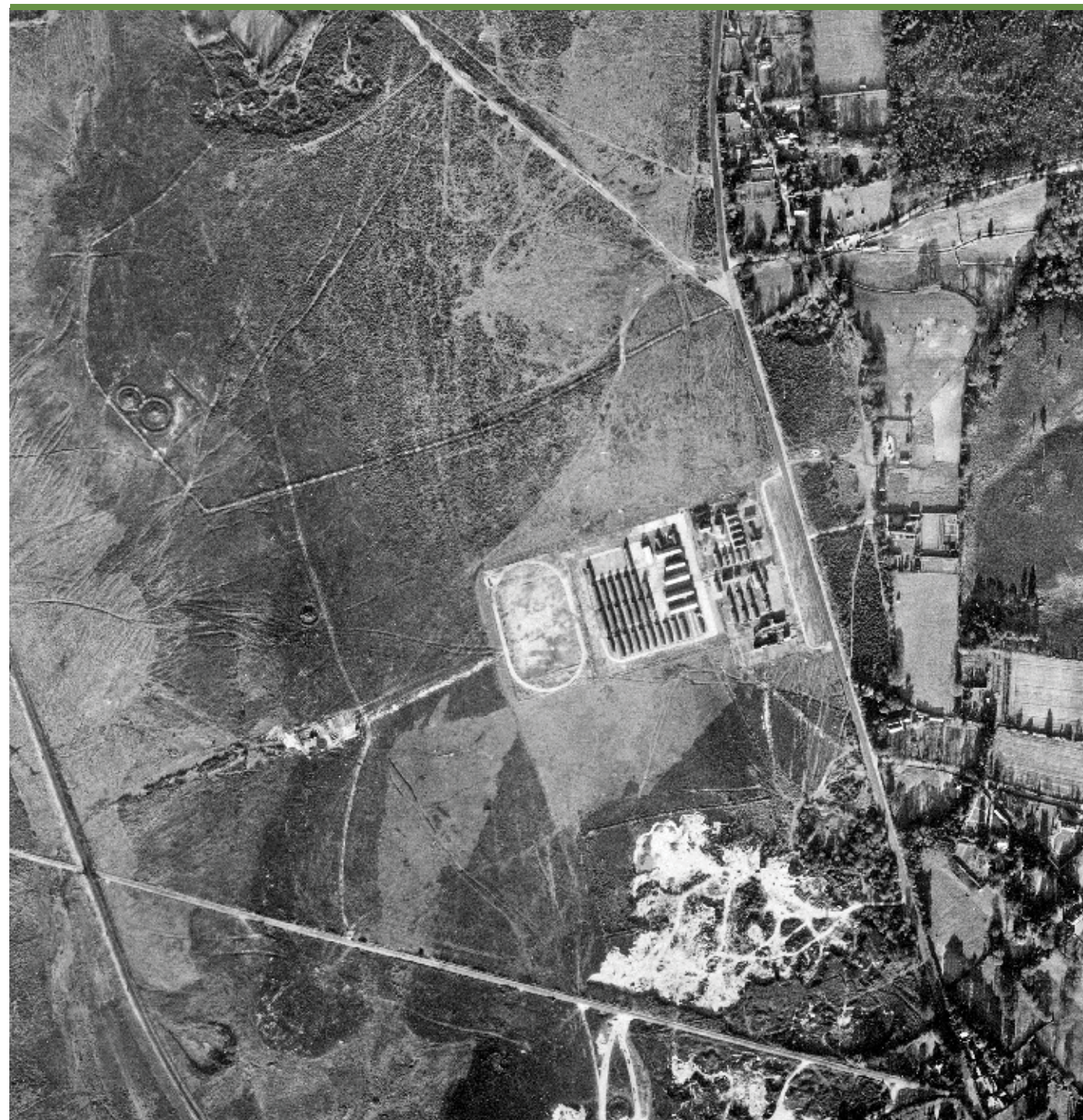
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Preserving the Forest's past



Setley POW Camp aerial photograph, December 1946



Setley POW Camp scrap book, 'Lager' means 'camp' in German

Former POW Hans Strehlau (left) and camp official Gordon Forsey (right) reunited at Setley POW camp in 2016

Piecing together the past

Newspapers written at a German prisoner of war camp in the New Forest have been translated for the first time thanks to a crowdsourcing website.

The newspapers, written by World War Two soldiers, include hand-written illustrations, songs, puzzles, football match reports and lessons to 'brush up your English'.

They were written at Setley Plain Prisoner of War (POW) Camp 65 near Brockenhurst between 1945 and 1948, and were collected by German camp leader Max Mueller who later settled in the New Forest.

The camp was built in 1941 to hold Italian prisoners of war. From 1944 the camp went on to hold German prisoners, and continued to do so until 1947/8.

During the war years, lorries were often seen taking prisoners to and from their designated jobs in the Forest overseen by a single guard. POWs worked on the fields, in sawmills and even in the gardens of local residents.

Mr Mueller's family kept his collection of documents for 70 years, before they were brought to light through the National Park Authority's New Forest Remembers World War Two project.

The crowdsourcing MicroPasts project run by University College London and the British Museum was used to translate the items. Through its website, an online community of archaeologists, historians and enthusiasts are accessing

dozens of World War Two documents and helping to translate them for a digital archive.

So far two newspapers have been fully translated into English, which offer new insights into life at the POW Camp and the thoughts and feelings of the prisoners.

The first newspaper translated highlighted the dilapidated state of the camp when the Germans arrived and the poor condition of the first wave of inmates. On 31 May (year to be established) 361 new inmates arrived via Brockenhurst railway station. Many of them were very thin, not having a good meal for some time. The translation reads: 'we could blow the Lord's Prayer... through the cheeks of many of them.'

The work conducted by the men is also highlighted, including levelling roads, working in local gardens, forestry and farming.

The second newspaper, recently translated, reveals a very well received 'variety performance' in May 1947 held on the Isle of Wight. Jugglers, comics, acrobatics, music, song and dance all seemed to feature, with prisoners of war and locals all coming together for the evening entertainment.

Find out more...

The next newspaper will soon be available on the MicroPasts site for translation. To help translate the German newspapers visit crowdsourced.micropasts.org

To view all the original documents from this collection visit newforestheritage.org



Setley Camp sketch

Donated items shed light on WWI in the Forest

Fascinating items from World War One have been donated to the National Park's online wartime archive. The items donated to the New Forest Remembers project included two photograph albums, medals and a training scorecard. They were gifted by Paul Simmons, grandson of Arthur George Simmons who joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1917. He was posted to RFC Beaulieu at East Boldre, a training airfield that later became RAF Beaulieu. Following a severe crash landing (his second) at East Boldre in 1918, Arthur was discharged.

Paul Simmons said: 'I want them to be preserved for the nation, and to have these items come back to the New Forest, to where it all happened, is superb. There's a lot of

history in these items and I am sure they will be put to good use.'

Digital copies of the photographs and documents are being uploaded to the New Forest Remembers online portal and the full collection has been deposited at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst.

You can contribute written accounts and photographs direct to the online archive at newforestheritage.org

New Forest Remembers is run by the National Park Authority and was funded and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Exxon Mobil at Fawley.



Arthur George Simmons in 1917 (RFC Collection)

Survey unearths ancient origins of New Forest town

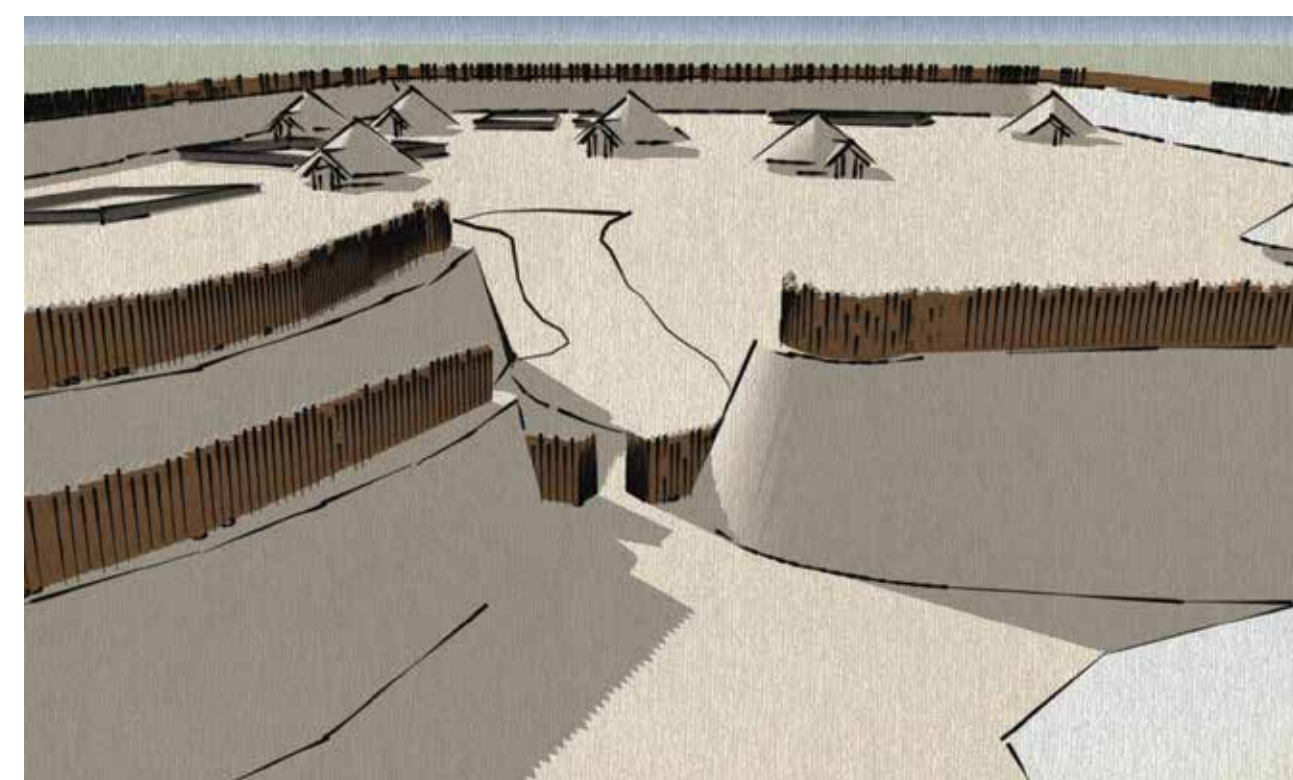
Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of homes that housed some of the earliest inhabitants of a New Forest town. A high-tech survey at Buckland Rings Iron Age hillfort in Lymington has revealed evidence of 2,000 year old roundhouses within the fort's ramparts.

The geophysical survey was led by the New Forest National Park Authority with local volunteers and students from Bournemouth University.

Up to seven pre-historic dwellings were identified, which would have once housed a community of hunters and

farmers that would grow into the modern Lymington. Trading throughout Britain and across the sea, these ancient ancestors would have lived in round wooden buildings caked in a soil-based mixture.

Archaeologists also discovered medieval field systems, helping them chart the evolution of the Buckland Rings community from prehistoric hamlet to modern day Lymington. Buckland Rings is a Scheduled Ancient Monument owned and managed by Hampshire County Council that is open for the public to explore.



Buckland Rings - artist's impression

Inspiring the next generation to love the Forest



National Park rangers welcomed more than 500 teenagers to the New Forest as part of the National Citizenship Service (NCS).

The young people aged between 15 and 17 came to find out more about the National Park and its special qualities.

Rangers used fun and challenging activities to help the participants understand how the New Forest is managed and why it is such an important place for nature.

Craig Daters, New Forest National Park Authority ranger, said: 'We used lots of analogies to explain about aspects of the Forest, such as having a game of rounders, where the bases acted as stages in the successful breeding of a ground nesting bird and the fielders acted as the threats. By seeing first-hand how difficult it was for players to gain a rounder, they were able to appreciate the gauntlet ground nesters face.'

'By asking participants to share things they learnt with their peers, we were able to see what they had enjoyed and how they might protect the New

Forest and other wild places in the future.'

The NCS teenagers came from across Hampshire and took part in activities such as a walk up Holm Hill to appreciate the sense of space and tranquillity, and time spent at Ober Water to reflect upon the day and create their own 'mini' National Parks.

Danni Doran, a lecturer at Brockenhurst College, said: 'We had some great weeks out in the Forest and even when the weather wasn't kind they all got stuck in and enjoyed it. For me my highlight was the afternoon walk and hearing their positive responses about enjoying the peace and tranquillity.'

NCS is a national programme that looks to develop the skills that employers increasingly value: confidence, leadership and independence. It is funded by central government and surveys suggest seven out of 10 of the participants feel more confident about getting a job after attending a course.

In the New Forest, 88% of the young people agreed they enjoyed the session, with 82% agreeing they now understood more about the National Park.

The NCS sessions were supported by, Hampshire County Council Countryside Service, Woodlander Coppice, Bashley and Brockenhurst College.



Young people take part in NCS activities in the New Forest

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New Forest Events

Walking Festival 14 - 29 October 2017

D-day remains, wild play activities and fascinating wildlife are just some of the treats awaiting walkers in the fifth New Forest Walking Festival.

Around 80 walks will reveal the history, heritage and wildlife of the Forest during the festival, which includes half term week.

The festival has proved popular with residents and visitors since it began in 2013. More than 2,000 people attended last year's event to gain behind the scenes knowledge of the Forest.

The National Park is a wonderful place to walk during the autumn, with flat, accessible routes that allow walkers of all ages and abilities to enjoy the Forest's fiery foliage.



Walkers near Ashurst during the 2016 walking festival

Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks

Volunteer Fair 28 January 2018

The New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair will be full to bursting with volunteer opportunities to suit all tastes when it returns this January

Visitors will have the chance to join more than 40 organisations working in and around the National Park, helping them to inspire youngsters, record wildlife, restore landscapes and help communities. And don't forget all the benefits volunteering brings to the volunteer too — it's great fun, ideal for making new friends and proven to be good for you!

People of all ages are welcome at the free fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre.

As well as browsing the display stands, visitors can gain further insight into volunteering in the New Forest National Park through talks from local groups.



New Forest Nightstop at the 2016 volunteer fair

Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteerfair

Family Trees 2 December 2017

Families are invited to celebrate a birth, marriage or life of a relative this year with the planting of a community wildlife space in the New Forest.

Anybody looking to celebrate a family member or life event can take part in the Family Trees event.

Registration is free and open to all, with the tree and hedge planting event taking place in Brockenhurst. Anyone who registers will receive a free personalised certificate as a memento, even if they cannot attend the tree planting day.



A family plant a tree at the 2016 Family Trees event

Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/familytrees



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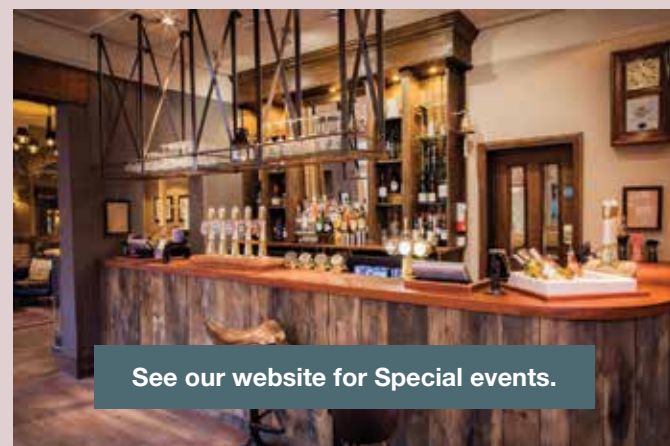
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Planning for the future

Hundreds of people have commented on proposed planning policies which will shape the future of the National Park.

There have been significant changes in national planning policy since the existing Local Plan for the National Park was adopted in 2010. So the National Park Authority is updating its Local Plan to ensure the New Forest continues to be covered by an up-to-date set of planning policies.

During a public consultation on the initial draft Plan at the end of 2016 responses were received from over 400 individuals, interest groups, and parish councils in the National Park. Following consideration of these initial comments, a follow-up consultation was held in summer 2017 on a number of alternative housing sites in the National Park to help meet some of the identified housing need.

A final six-week period of consultation will take place in early 2018, before the draft plan is submitted to the Government for independent examination in Spring 2018.

New Forest National Park Authority Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre said: 'Our planning policies are a key way through which we protect the National Park's special qualities, support the local economy and conserve the distinctive New Forest character of our communities.'

'This draft Local Plan sets out our proposed policies that, once adopted, will be used to guide planning decisions within the National Park.'



Find out more...

To find out more about how the National Park is protected through planning and the latest timetable for the review of the Local Plan visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/localplan

Our affordable housing scheme in Bransgore was short-listed for a national planning award

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Helping commoners thrive



Young commoner Laura Maughan



Sheep breeding course near Cadnam

The New Forest has a long and proud history of commoning: 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.
 The Our Past, Our Future landscape partnership scheme is led by the National Park Authority with 10 key partners and involves 21 different projects. The Heritage Lottery Fund scheme includes several projects to help commoning thrive in an ever-changing world.
 For more information visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership

Businesses unite to reduce animal accidents

Organisations across the New Forest have signed up to a scheme to reduce the number of animal deaths on the area's roads.

The Shared Forest business charter commits member organisations and businesses to helping their staff drive carefully and safely on unfenced roads. Last year saw 63 animals killed by vehicles in the New Forest, a slight increase on the year before. This business-led charter aims to build upon existing measures such as changing signs and mobile speed cameras to prompt reductions in accident rates.

The group is part of the Shared Forest project, which aims to increase public awareness of commoning; both as a modern farming system and as an

important part of the New Forest's cultural heritage.

The business charter was launched this summer by a partnership of major Forest organisations:

- Brockenhurst College
- HH & DE Drew Ltd (New Milton Sand and Ballast)
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority
- Pennyfarthing Homes
- Ramboll UK.

Mark Adams, Executive Chairman of Pennyfarthing Homes, said: 'Pennyfarthing is delighted to be one of the founding members of the group. Local businesses and their employees use the roads across the Forest every day and we have a responsibility to help care for this very special part of the country.'

Commoner mentoring

Experienced commoners across the Forest have teamed up with young and new commoners to pass on their knowledge and to help preserve the Forest's traditional practices. The New Forest Land Advice Service and the Commoners Defence Association set up the first pairings in June 2016. Laura Maughan, 18 (top left), from Cadnam, was among last year's new commoners, and has learnt from experienced commoner Charlie Knight based in Beaulieu.

Laura said: 'The mentoring scheme has helped me develop contacts in the Forest and build relationships which provided a valuable opportunity of work experience on a local farm. It has opened my eyes to the different ways of how commoning works in the New Forest.'

Training the next generation

A programme of training courses is giving the next generation of commoners skills to practise their traditional way of life in the modern world. During the last year 287 people attended 26 courses arranged by the New Forest Land Advice Service, covering topics such as sheep breeding (top right), using pesticides, hedgelaying and managing grassland.

Enthusing others about commoning

A toolkit about commoning is being developed for local primary schools and other educational organisations to help children build a love for the Forest and its uniqueness, as well as understanding the role that commoning plays in the area's past, present and future.

Giving commoners a voice

While commoners' animals feature on almost every New Forest publication, their owners, the commoners, are often invisible. The Commoning Voices project celebrates the commoning community, its people, their knowledge, passion and skills and empowers commoners too to tell their own stories.

Commoner Lyndsey Stride said: 'Through walks, social media and an exhibition we want Commoning Voices to be heard and understood. From five year olds to 80 year olds all commoners have a story or two to tell. We are proud of our community and of the Forest that we and our animals call home.'

Preserving the past

Old photographs, oral histories and other documents from commoners are being saved online to conserve and catalogue the history of commoning. Many of these digitised documents will be made available to the public through a New Forest Knowledge website.

If your business would like to sign up to the Shared Forest charter then visit www.newforestcommoners.com

A year of celebration reaches its climax



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People

This year the 800th anniversary of a pivotal moment in the New Forest's past is being celebrated across the National Park.

The 'Carta de Foresta', or Charter of the Forest, was issued in 1217 by the then nine-year-old King Henry III and enshrined key rights to many Forest citizens.

This charter removed some harsh punishments for breaking Forest law and gave new rights to 'free men'.

Many consider it to be the first written environmental law, recognition that the land (and its resources) should be held in common, protecting the environment and providing for sustainable land use by local communities. If you live in the New Forest or further afield, you have the Charter of the Forest to thank for rights that nowadays we all take for granted.

The anniversary falls on 6 November and will be marked by the planting of a 'legacy tree' in the New Forest and the national launch of a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People. The National Park Authority is one of 50 organisations working with the Woodland Trust across the UK to collect people's tree stories to form the new Tree Charter (treecharter.uk) and reconnect us with our woodlands and forests.

In the New Forest a number of events are taking place this year to mark the anniversary:

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

After a successful time at the New Forest Show, the Charter of the Forest exhibition will be running from 14 October to 15 January at the New Forest Centre in

Lyndhurst. This family-friendly exhibition reveals the story of the Charter and how its impacts are still felt today. On 25 November there will be a special 'Trees and People' event with additional hands-on family activities and a chance to see live performances.

- **Family Trees**

Families will come together on 2 December 2017 to celebrate a birth, marriage or life of a relative by helping to plant a community wildlife space in the New Forest (see page nine).

- **Tree of the Year competition**

Thousands of votes were cast for the New Forest Tree of the Year online and at the New Forest Show to celebrate trees and their importance in people's lives.

The Woodgreen Oak (pictured) was crowned the people's favourite.

- **Arts Festival**

More than 5,000 people enjoyed 60 artistic events on the theme of 'trees' for two weeks in June. (see page nine)

- **Walking Festival**

The fifth annual autumn Walking Festival on 14 to 29 October features a number of tree-themed walks in the company of experts. Book at newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks

To find out more about the Tree Charter visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/treecharter

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