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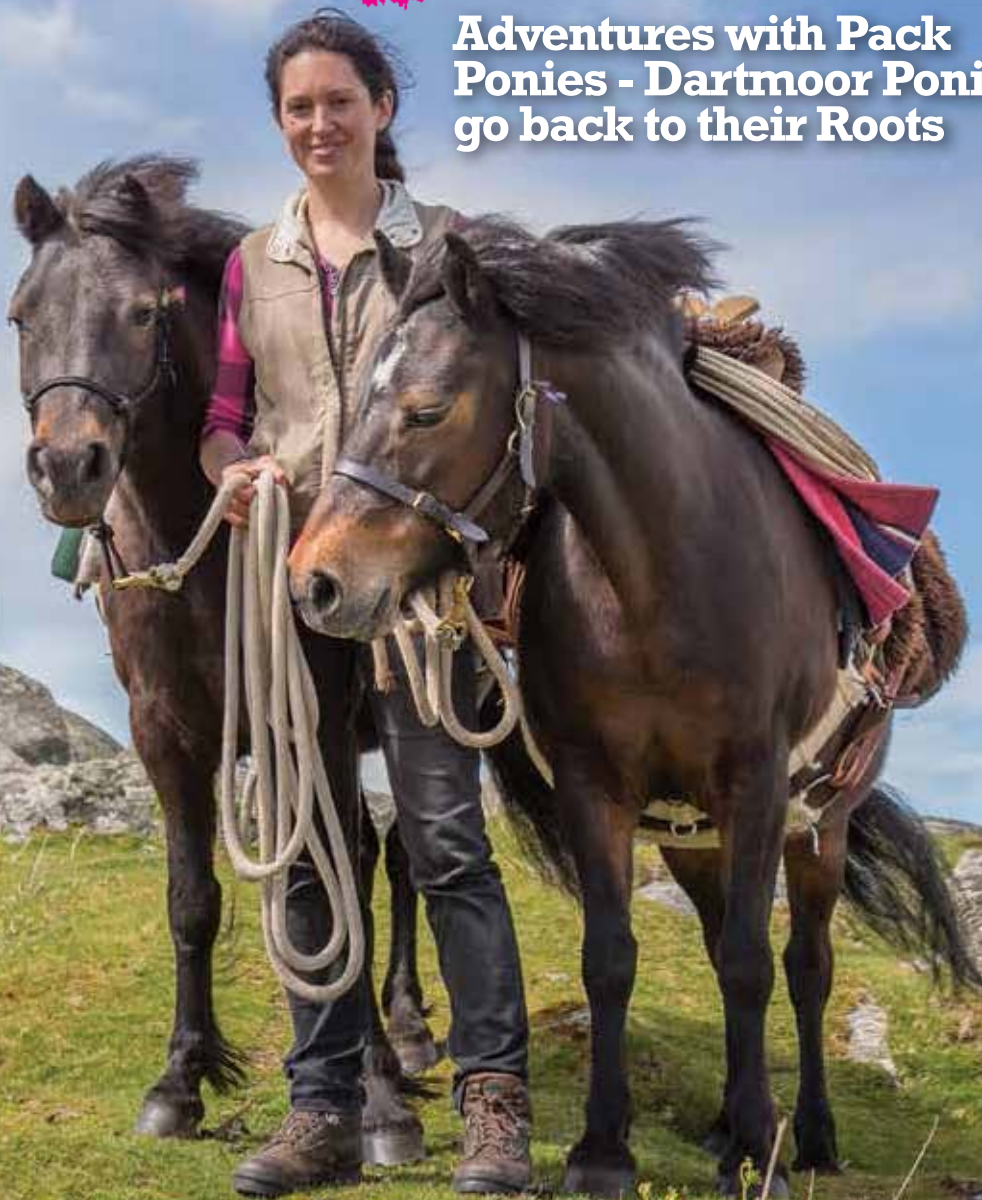


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Visit Dartmoor Limited,
Wykeham House, Station Road,
Okehampton, Devon EX20 1DY
01837 659224

PUBLISHERS

Jenny How
jenny@visitdartmoor.co.uk

Simon Lloyd
simon@visitdartmoor.co.uk

David Guiterman
david.guiterman@btinternet.com

EDITOR

Jenny How
jenny@visitdartmoor.co.uk

ART DIRECTOR & DESIGNER

Simon Lloyd

ADMINISTRATION

Jenny How
jenny@visitdartmoor.co.uk

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Jenny How
jenny@visitdartmoor.co.uk
01837 659224

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There is no substitute for instruction by a trained and qualified provider of outdoor activities - Active Dartmoor recommends that participants should seek the professional services from the providers listed in this magazine.

Main cover photograph © Malcolm Snelgrove



Welcome to Issue 13 of Active Dartmoor magazine

As usual we have packed it with lots of excellent articles for your enjoyment, everything from the regular walking, cycling, and riding that we know you all love, to some slightly different content!

Sailing on Dartmoor. Who knew? Our roving reporter David Guiterman spent a day with The Dartmoor Club, learning the ropes and rules of model-sailing.

We are always happy to support new tourism businesses starting up on Dartmoor, but this one in particular has captured my heart. Dartmoor Pack Ponies ticks all the boxes for me; a Dartmoor Hill Farm looking to diversify, using ponies from a herd up that has run

semi-wild up here on the north moor for generations, and creating a new way to encourage people out onto Dartmoor with experienced, qualified guides.

We were delighted to welcome work experience student Megan Smith to the office earlier this year, when she bravely took on the project of creating an article from scratch. She did a fabulous job, interviewing Polar Explorer Antony Jinman, writing it up, and being very involved with the design of her page. We wish her great success in her future career.

I hope you enjoy this issue, have a great summer out and about on Dartmoor!

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NEWS

News from around the Park

Be an Otter Spotter this summer

This summer 100 otter sculptures will be 'released' in and around Dartmoor to create a unique public art trail for visitors to enjoy; the first to be held in a National Park, combining art with a protected landscape.



PHOTOGRAPH © SUZY BENNETT

The otter sculptures have been decorated by local and national artists and are wonderfully varied, from the most beautiful pieces of fine-artwork, to fun otters like the 'Dartmoor Ranger', Globetrotter and 'Jail Otter' [who has escaped from the prison].

You can spot the otters at visitor centres, hotels, holiday parks, cafes and tourist attractions as well as at shops and businesses in the towns around the edge of Dartmoor.

Complete one of the many trails or try and spot all 100! Each Moor Otter has its own code and if you can spot 20, by noting the codes, you could win one of the many fantastic prizes for our 'otter spotters'.

As well as making a magical art trail, alongside the beauty of a National Park, we will be selling all of our otters in an auction, to raise funds to support our popular Junior Ranger programme and fund vital conservation work.

The trail and online auction start in early June, pop into a Visitor Centre to pick up a trail booklet, then collect your 'otter spotter' badge and be entered into the prize draw once you have seen 20 otters.

Or go to the Moor Otters website to see the trails: www.moorotters.co.uk

Dartmoor National Park's summer exhibition

National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown. Runs until 22nd August
Honey-farmers and hide-tanners, sculptors and soap-makers, potters and painters - Dartmoor National Park has one of the most talented artisan communities in the UK.

To celebrate this rich creative culture, Dartmoor National Park Authority is this summer hosting an exhibition of photographs showing Dartmoor's finest artists, makers and producers at work.

Taken by photographer Suzy Bennett, the collection of intimate portraits takes us behind the studio walls of the moor's most celebrated artists, including Lord of the Rings illustrator Alan Lee, internationally acclaimed sculptor Peter Randall-Page and Luke Shepard, a facial sculptor who teaches London surgeons the art of reconstructive surgery.

The exhibition is being held to promote The Dartmoor Artisan Trail, a new arts, craft and food trail being set up by Suzy, to allow visitors to see Dartmoor's traditional craftspeople in action. Guided tours and walks will give visitors the opportunity to watch artisans at work, try skills for themselves and buy products at source, while a self-guided map will enable independent visitors to choose their own itineraries.

For Moor information

Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centres are staffed by knowledgeable local people who are keen to help you make the most of your time on Dartmoor. Centres are open daily throughout the holiday periods and can be found at Princetown, Postbridge and Haytor.

Drones on Dartmoor

There has been a steady rise in complaints regarding public use of these aircraft operating in close proximity to livestock, horse riders and others enjoying the commons of Dartmoor. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), sometimes known as drones, by the general public is not permitted on Dartmoor common land under National Park bylaws.

Whilst public use of drones is not permitted in the National Park, drones are becoming a frequently used alternative for film companies wishing to obtain aerial shots. They are also used professionally as research tools. As professionals these users must have a formal UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) qualification accredited by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority).

The CAA provides training for its qualified pilots along with strict operating procedures which aim to prevent damage to property and injury to the public. Commercial/ professional operators must provide the National Park Authority with copies of their Public Liability Insurance and Aviation Insurance cover. They may also be asked to provide flight plans for their operation to ensure that there is no potential conflict with other activities taking place in that area.

When film companies seek permission to film on Dartmoor commons they are asked about any planned use of drones at their chosen location. They are then provided with relevant landowner contacts should they possess the required CAA certification and insurances. The landowner will then make the decision to give permission to film or not.

For more information www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Model-aircraft-and-drones/Flying-drones/



Camping in the National Park

Now that summer is here people are starting to think about dusting off the tent and finding somewhere to spend a weekend camping. Dartmoor offers many camping style opportunities, especially if you are looking for something a bit wilder, but it is very important to remember that on Dartmoor you can't camp anywhere you like.



PHOTOGRAPHS © DNPA

There are friendly farm campsites, rustic camping barns, isolated bunk houses and fantastic hostels, together with huts and pods where you can view Dartmoor's dark night skies and enjoy its peace and tranquillity.

Designated campsites are a must for large tents and associated equipment. A comprehensive list of these is available from National Park Visitor Centres. Look out for small farm campsites if you want a remote, more intimate feel with basic facilities.

More visitors each year are enjoying the National Park in their motorhomes and campervans, but the vehicle size may mean some roads are off limits. Please don't rely on satellite navigation systems to get you to your destination. Although it is convenient to pull into a layby to admire the view and have a cup of tea, overnight sleeping in vehicles at the roadside or in car parks is not permitted.

If you are prepared to put all you need (tent, sleeping bag, food etc) in a backpack and head out well away from roads, settlement and 'civilization' it is acceptable to backpack camp for one or two nights in some areas of open moorland using a 'no impact' approach. This does not mean you park your car and camp nearby, but really head out into the moorland to experience a truly self-sufficient night under the stars.

Planning and preparation are essential for this type of activity. This includes having the right equipment, fitness and navigational skills to survive safely 'well away from civilisation' for a couple of days, and crucially knowing where you are permitted to camp. This is the only type of camping permitted on the open moorland. However it is not permitted on all open moorland in the National Park and so checking the National Park interactive map (www.dartmoor.gov.uk/camping) is essential to find out where you can pitch.

Walks with your dog

You and your four legged friend can enjoy a variety of different walks on Dartmoor - through woodland, around reservoirs or across the open moor. It's great exercise for your dog, but at certain times of the year we would ask you to keep your dog on a lead.

It is also best to keep your dog on a lead when passing close to any grazing livestock (ponies, cows, sheep) as your dog can scare or frighten farm animals. However, if cattle or ponies approach you and your dog, consider letting your dog off the lead for your own safety.



Helpful advice for dog walkers

- Always control your dog, so that it does not scare or disturb cattle, sheep or ponies
- When walking your dog on Dartmoor, please keep it on a short lead during the lambing and bird breeding season (1 March – 31 July)
- Regular worming of your dog keeps it healthy and protects Dartmoor's livestock
- Please ensure that you clear up after your dog and dispose of poo bags responsibly. Visit www.dartmoor.gov.uk for more information to help you and your dog have a safe and enjoyable Dartmoor walk.

GET OUTSIDE ENJOY AN ADVENTURE

BY DANIEL GROVES
ADVENTURE AND LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER

The silence was almost absolute — with only the faintest of soundtracks coming from the River Tavy a few meters to my right. The sound was disturbed only by the occasional rustle of clothing as I fidgeted a little in the breeze to stay warm; stood gazing up at the night sky watching the stars twinkling over my glowing tent.





I've always loved shooting tents glowing under a starlit sky; for me this is what adventure is about. You're finally away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, away from Facebook, Twitter and other social media. It's just you and your thoughts; you and your friends.

It's the solo adventures I enjoy the most; you get a sort of solitude that's hard to find in the rest of life. You have time to think about what's important, to generate ideas and to enjoy a disruption-free environment where you can do something you love whether that's reading a new book, walking endlessly, or swimming in a river.

For me this time is all about the photography: shooting adventures, settings, places and things to help inspire someone — *anyone* — to get out there and enjoy an adventure of their own. For me the pinnacle shot that makes me think adventure is a glowing tent in a new landscape under an alien sky in our wild places.

Dartmoor is the perfect place to enjoy these adventures. It's legal, it's accessible and it's got so much space. Nine times out of ten I'll turn up somewhere and not see another soul all night: there's not many places left where you can enjoy such a privilege. Adventures don't have to mean being out all night, they can be as simple as a walk with good friends. ▶



Moor camping guidance and safety on Dartmoor

At last, high summer is here, the children are on holiday and it's time to explore and enjoy. For many people August provides an ideal opportunity to dust down the tent and set off somewhere for a few days camping and Dartmoor is an obvious destination, what with its huge open spaces, hidden valleys and tumbling streams all away from the crowds and with an enviable view of the night sky thanks to precious little street lighting. Backpacking (with a lightweight tent and walking well into the moor) on Dartmoor is a wonderful way to explore this very special place and if you choose public transport to get there as well then you really have sussed how to enjoy a low-impact, low-cost staycation.

However, for the Ranger and Voluntary Warden Service illegal camping and use of motorhomes and campervans becomes a really big challenge during the main summer months and at other times throughout the year. The majority of the people that we meet are not aware of the rules around this recreational activity.

So with this in mind I will do my best to explain the situation, as there are a few important rules that you need to follow. These include: choosing your spot sensibly and not pitching your tent on farmland or moorland enclosed by walls, keeping at least 100 metres away from the nearest road, being anywhere within sight of roads or houses, avoiding anywhere near watercourses or reservoir catchment areas, staying clear of all archaeological sites and only staying on same site for two nights. There are also a few commons and areas where camping is simply not allowed under local byelaws. These include Spitchwick, Haytor Down, Holne moor, Roborough down, Whitchurch down, Plasterdown, Lydford high down and Cadover bridge.

The rules on the use of motorhomes and campervans are however quite specific. You are not allowed to park up overnight on the side of the road or in any car parks therefore you must go to an authorised site, be that a large commercial site or a smaller farm site.

The guidance for large family frame tents generally is the same as for motorhomes and campervans. If you are looking to get away somewhere quieter there are lots of smaller farm sites that will accommodate you at very reasonable costs.

Alongside the earlier backpacking guidance please also be aware of other important information. Please leave any vehicle used in a recognised car park and let somebody else know your plans in case of any emergency situation. Please do not have an illegal camp fire but use a proper camping stove and place on a rock whenever possible to help minimize any potential fire risk whilst taking any litter with you. During August you can venture out on to the north moor and enjoy that fact that the moor's military ranges fall silent so there's no need to look out for the red flags. However where ever you go on Dartmoor don't touch or tamper with any strange or metal object. It may be dangerous so leave it alone, mark and note the location then inform the authorities.

The Dartmoor National Park Authority and landowners welcome all types of camping within the guidance and rules given. For further information on how to safely enjoy summer on Dartmoor visit www.dartmoor.gov.uk, go to Visiting – plan your visit – camping or motorhome. This will help you find out more about the different types of access to Dartmoor countryside including camping areas, campsites, camping barns, youth hostels and bunk houses by viewing the Camping Code of Conduct and the Where to camp on Dartmoor map. Alternatively you good pop into one of our three award-winning visitor Centre's at Princetown, Postbridge and Haytor and speak to an advisor. ■

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DARTMOOR IN A DAY

By Mark Bullock

My first thoughts when I saw Justin advertise the Dartmoor in a Day (DIAD) event were: Who in their right mind is going to sign up for this? For a start you could do it on your own on any given weekend; for another thing, 31 miles over wild open moorland is quite hard – you're not going to set any marathon PB's here. Who'd be bonkers enough to sign up to it?



PHOTOGRAPH © MALCOLM SNELGROVE

When he then proceeded to sell out all the available places in the day and a half after entries were opened, and after I had got past the 'well what the heck do I know?' feeling, I was intrigued to see how it would run, and whether it would be a success.

I had run across Dartmoor myself twice at this stage. Purely for recreation, with mates. The second of those times I'd helped a close friend to use it as a medium term goal in his quest to train towards his long term aim of entering some Ultra races. If you're interested, there is a blog post from me, and a better one from him, including a short YouTube he made of the run, here: www.notinside.org/blogs/2016/4/7/blood-sweat-and-tors

Then Justin asked me to be one of his Running Guides for his DIAD event, leading his customers across the National Park, I was tremendously flattered to be a part of things, but still curious to see how it would work in practice. I've lead lots of groups in the outdoors over the years, but had never been a 'running guide' before. I knew the way, and I knew I could do it, but how would we manage the various fitness levels of a group of people, over such a long and demanding track. As hinted at earlier, it's relatively easy as a runner to know how long you'll take to run a marathon. But on this ground, I expected a lot of folk to be surprised at the extra challenge. At 31 miles from Okehampton to Ivybridge, it had taken me roughly double the time that a road marathon of 26 miles would.





The event itself was a joy. The ground was quite wet underfoot, after some heavy rain, but that didn't seem to dampen spirits. I spent time chatting to the people in my group, eager to find out their motivations. Nowadays there are lots of contrived Tough-Mudder-esque challenge events out there, and quite a few people said they wanted something more organic, more holistic, more natural. A few confessed to having had it on their list for some time, but needed the extra commitment of putting a date in the diary; and a good portion said they were attracted to having qualified leaders to do all the navigating for them and ensure they didn't get lost.

As the day wore on though, the real reward became more and more apparent. DIAD is a linear event, and that's a huge part of its success. It means you physically cross an entire National Park, all of it, on foot. You get to see huge wide open vistas of Moorland, rolling panoramas literally as far as the eye

can see. It can feel remote, and barren, and a little wild. Not wilderness exactly, but certainly a bit isolated. It is in these locations that Dartmoor really shines, and a sense of community spirit builds. Sharing the views with your group members, taking photos, swapping stories, getting to know a few other like minded folk – that was what made DIAD 2016 such a success. The Moor lends itself so well to this natural challenge, and enjoying its landscapes with other people is the simple reason so many signed up, and that the event will grow in Autumn 2017. I now wonder why I ever doubted it! ■

Dartmoor in a Day is run by Justin Nicholas of Climb South West and further details and booking information can be found here:
www.climbsouthwest.com/events/dartmoor-in-a-day/



ANTONY JINMAN THE AD INTERVIEW

by Megan Smith



Antony Jinman is a renowned polar explorer, the twelfth Brit to ski to both poles as well as solo skiing to the geographical South Pole.

After leaving his military career in his early 20's Antony began to pursue an adventure lifestyle leading expeditions and adventure tourism holidays. In 2010 he achieved his dream of reaching the North Pole.

Antony is passionate about sharing his experiences through education and works hard with schools to promote polar science through his 'Education through Expedition' initiative. Based in South Brent, Antony has a deep love of Dartmoor. We caught up with him to ask him not only about his amazing polar expeditions, but also about his love of the local landscape.

What made you decide to become an explorer?

'My interest in exploring began in primary school when we were learning about the Antarctic. I have always been fascinated by the wildlife and have always wanted to see a penguin in the wild. Being from Plymouth, I am also greatly inspired by Captain Scott and his Antarctic expeditions.'

What training do you do?

'I do a lot of training, I have a gym at home and focus a lot on core fitness. I have quite an active lifestyle anyway and enjoy running, horse riding and walking my dog, all of which help me keep fit.'

What do you eat while you're on an expedition?

'My food on an expedition consists of mostly dehydrated food. A normal breakfast would be dehydrated muesli. I normally burn up to 6,500 calories a day while on an expedition, so I often eat superfoods such as coconut milk to boost my calories. I do still enjoy some comfort foods - crisps and Oreo biscuits are my favourite treats.'

What's a typical day like on a polar expedition?

'It depends which pole I'm at. In the North Pole it's like a labyrinth,



PHOTOGRAPHS © ANTONY JINMAN

the sea ice you ski on is constantly moving and shifting, so it can be very different one day to the next. In the South Pole the surroundings stay very similar; you're just continuously skiing uphill in a lot softer snow, the two are very different.'

How do you combat boredom while on a solo expedition?

'I talk to myself of course but I also enjoy listening to audio books. An audio book can last for a couple of days, so if I listen to a series it can last me a couple of weeks. I try to avoid listening to music as I find myself counting how many songs I have listened to and it gets on my nerves.'

What's your favourite memory of the poles?

'One of my favourites has got to be when I reached the North Pole on 22nd April 2010 which also fell on World Earth Day, skiing across the Arctic Ocean was such



a great experience. Another great memory is reaching the South Pole exactly 102 years after Captain Scott. It happened by chance, as my expedition took less time than expected, but it is a very special memory.'

I understand your grandparents had a smallholding on Dartmoor. What are your memories of spending time with them?

'I have very fond memories of spending time with them, bottle feeding lambs in the spring and getting stuck in snow drifts during the winter. I also completed the Ten Tors challenge in 1996 despite it being cancelled due to snow.'

What are your favourite things about the moor?

'I love the differences in seasons that are seen on Dartmoor. The changes in colour of the bracken throughout the year and how it all turns green in the summer. I like the fact you don't have to venture too far from home to find a proper wilderness. I also love the history of Dartmoor.'

What do you regard as your greatest achievement?

'While many people might think my expeditions alone are great

achievements, I think it's what you do with the experiences that builds you as a person. I am working very hard to give back to my community and currently am working on a project taking 10 children on a trip to Finland. I have also worked heavily in education and have worked with over 800 schools doing science workshops. I would regard my Honorary Doctorate in education for my work with schools as my greatest achievement.'

What's the toughest thing you've had to face whilst on an expedition?

'When I fell through the ice in the North Pole. I had no dry suit on and the water was about -30 degrees, I definitely questioned what I was putting myself through at this point and thought about going home.'

What are your tips for people wanting to explore Dartmoor for the first time?

'I'd say "be prepared" - if you're planning on going for a walk, plan your route in advance. Don't underestimate nature is another important one, and always check the weather before you go out. But most of all "don't get lost."'

What are your plans for the future?

'I'd love to someday own a smallholding on Dartmoor. I have also recently got into horse riding and would love to maybe own some horses in the future and be a competent enough rider to ride out on the open moors.'

Do you foresee a time when you'll have to stop exploring?

'Never! There will always be places I want to travel to and visit. The travelling life is the best education you can get; you learn so much about the world and about yourself, there is no way I want to stop anytime soon.' ■

“I'm Megan Smith and I am a year 13 sixth form student at Callington Community College. I am hoping to go to university and study Magazine Journalism and Production and began working with Active Dartmoor to gain some insight into how making a magazine works in the real world. I have thoroughly enjoyed writing the Local Hero article in this issue, having the chance to meet Antony and put my own page together has been an exciting experience. The opportunity has encouraged me to continue aiming for a career in the magazine industry.”



Yachting on Dartmoor?

Words & Pictures by David Guiterman

Do you love the idea of going sailing; the wind in your hair and all the excitement of being in the great outdoors and even enjoying what can be a highly competitive sport? If all this appeals to you but you're not so keen on getting wet, cold, constantly heaving on ropes or ducking to avoid the mainsail boom whacking you on the head, there is now an opportunity to enjoy the former without the latter.

It was a crisp, clear November day. There was a light steady breeze; just perfect for sailing. I had to try it for myself. I had an invitation from the Dartmoor Radio Sailing Club to join them for a morning. It was time to get on the water.

The Dartmoor Club (the only one in Devon and Cornwall with its own lake) was started by a number of dedicated sailors who had come to that time in life when it was more attractive to separate boat from sailor. There is now a thriving membership who sail a variety of model yachts on a lake just above Cadover Bridge on West Dartmoor. A better location is hard to imagine; set in wonderful walking country. A family can combine sailing and walking. There is something for everyone.

Many such sailors hail from the world of ocean sailing; quite a few are still active racing sailors. A number had to give up full-size sailing but still have the urge to experience the thrill of yachting without having to be athletic. Even active sailors go model sailing when full-sized boats are laid up for the winter.

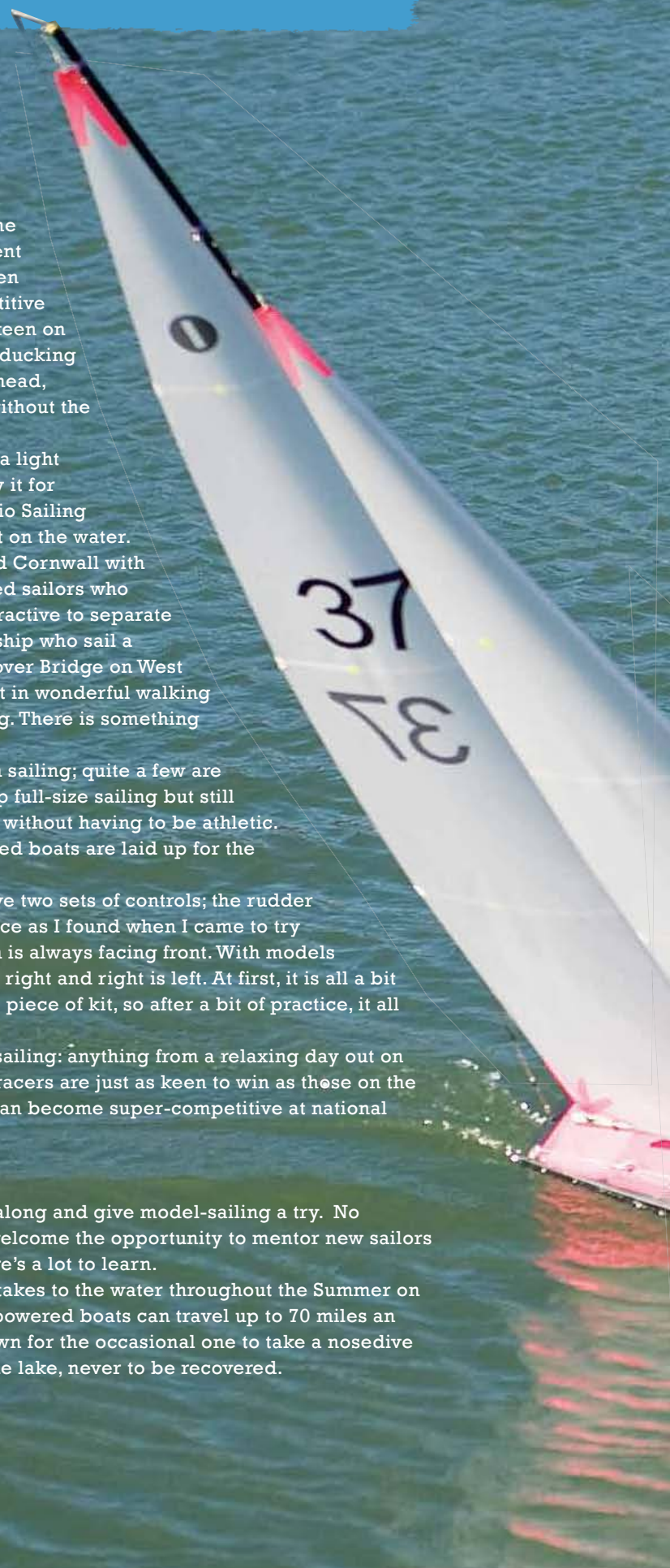
Model yachts, like their full-sized brothers have two sets of controls; the rudder and the trim of the sails. There is one big difference as I found when I came to try it for myself. In the full-sized yacht, the helmsman is always facing front. With models however if your boat is coming towards you left is right and right is left. At first, it is all a bit confusing. Fortunately, the human brain is a smart piece of kit, so after a bit of practice, it all comes naturally.

You are now ready to join the world of model-sailing: anything from a relaxing day out on the water to a bit of serious racing. Model yacht racers are just as keen to win as those on the open ocean. Tactics are the same. Model sailors can become super-competitive at national level; it's high-adrenaline stuff!

How to get started

The club is open to anyone who would like to go along and give model-sailing a try. No previous experience is needed. Club members welcome the opportunity to mentor new sailors and will even let you practice on their boats. There's a lot to learn.

The club includes a powerboat section which takes to the water throughout the Summer on Sundays and on Friday evenings. These electric-powered boats can travel up to 70 miles an hour which calls for quick reflexes. It's not unknown for the occasional one to take a nosedive and bury itself in the sediment at the bottom of the lake, never to be recovered.





Owning your own model yacht

You can pick up a popular International One Metre class boat, second-hand, for about £300; new, they cost around £2700. Model shops sell the equally popular Dragon Force boats which, coming with everything ready for the water, are a good way to get started. Dragon Force RG65 boats cost between £130 and £140.

Club details

Sailing takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, all-day.

The Dartmoor club charges £50 per year which includes Model Yachting Association membership. Membership includes third-party liability insurance. It also entitles you to race anywhere in the UK. The club has its own insurance scheme. Just think what would happen if the wind were to take your model yacht and blow it against somebody's car. You see the need for the insurance!

Contacts

Email the Club Commodore, Steve Watts; herbiewatts@hotmail.com or the Publicity officer, Tom Eaves; thomaseaves500@btinternet.com
Dartmoor Radio Sailing Club website;

<https://sites.google.com/site/dartmoormodelyachts>

Model Yachting Association website;

<http://mya-uk.co.uk>



DARTMOOR PONIES HIT THE TRAIL!

An exciting new venture for a Dartmoor farming family with Dartmoor Pack Ponies

By Jenny How

Steve Alford and Robyn Petrie-Ritchie will be the sixth generation to take on the Alford's herd of Dartmoor ponies, and have just launched an exciting new venture using ponies from their herd – Dartmoor Pack Ponies. Steve's parents Diana and Crispin Alford run a hill farm in the National Park near South Zeal, breeding sheep and cattle as well as the famous Cawsand Dartmoor pony herd which they inherited from Diana's father, John Holman. The entire family is involved in running the family farm, hill farming on Dartmoor is definitely not for the faint hearted!



PHOTOGRAPH © ROBYN PETRIE-RITCHIE

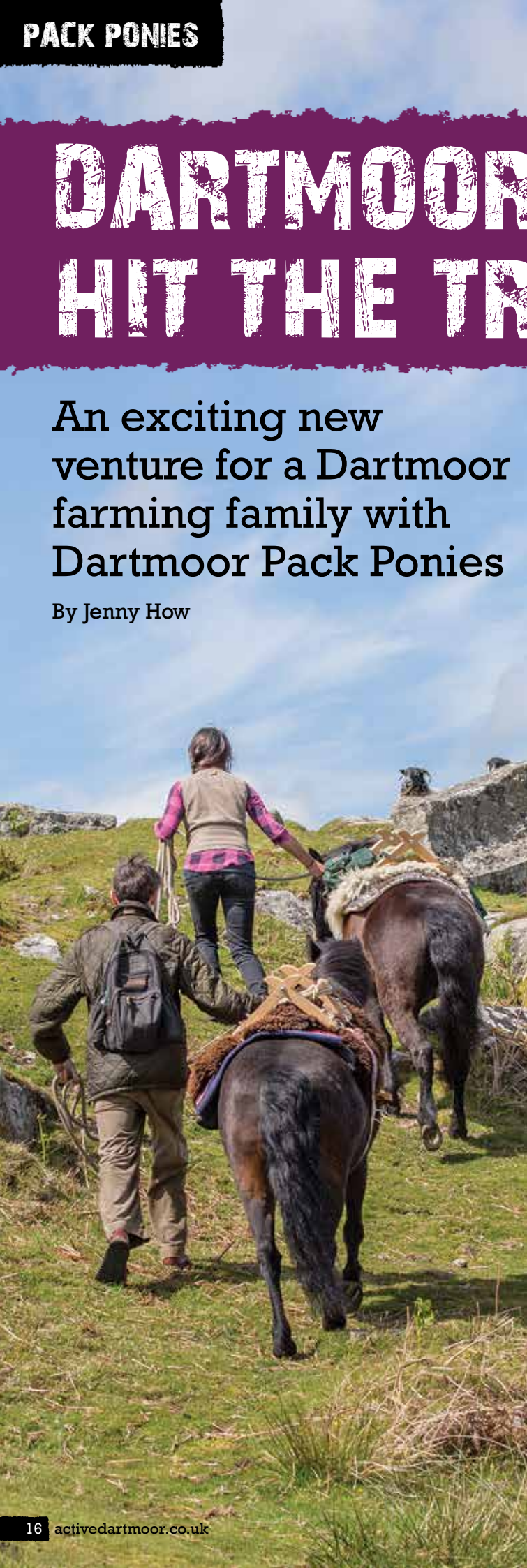
Active Dartmoor went along to meet this Dartmoor family, and learn more about their lives as hill farmers, their ponies, and their new Pack Pony business.

What made you decide to start up Dartmoor Pack Ponies?

There are many difficulties in keeping the ponies on Dartmoor today and little financial incentive. Many families have already made the decision to replace their ancient pony herds with other livestock which have a more secure market.

However, we are always encouraged by the comments made by visitors to Dartmoor of how lovely it is to see 'proper' Dartmoor ponies running on their homeland.

With so much of Dartmoor's history having been carried on the backs of these wonderful ponies we decided that their original use could be a great way to share Dartmoor with others and retain our herd. Two of our ponies have kindly agreed to carry provisions so that visitors can enjoy all that Dartmoor has to offer!



PHOTOGRAPH © MALCOLM SNEELGROVE



PHOTOGRAPH © MALCOLM SNELGROVE

Can you give us some history about the Cawsand Herd of Dartmoor ponies?

Diana's family remembers being told that their ponies breeding went back as far as 1879. In those early years the family name would have been Cottle. The family were from South Zeal and they always kept ponies on the moor. This would have been well before the formation of the Dartmoor Pony Society's log book which began in 1925.

What can visitors expect on a Pack Pony walk?

A number of scheduled walks will take place over the summer months with one of our expert, qualified guides, focusing on a variety of interests including archaeology, botany, wildlife and later on foraging and mindfulness. The two Dartmoor ponies are cared for, trained and handled by Robyn, a well-known animal behaviour expert with a research masters gained through Plymouth University.

Walks will range from relatively easy, gentle half day walks, to more strenuous and demanding full day treks. Our sweet natured Dartmoor ponies Petal and May will carry our provisions so that everyone can enjoy a well-earned rest for lunch.

What can you tell us about the Dartmoor Pack Ponies that you use?

Petal and May were both born and bred right here on Dartmoor. Cawsand Beacon, where many of our walks take place is saturated with the history and heritage of these ponies and the rest of their herd. They are sure footed, clever and gentle, very patient and so ideally suited to this work.

The lovely 8 year old Petal was bred up through the New take Scheme and is by the very famous sire Pantmanr Just So, (pictured, photo by owner Joanne Parker Bloss) who has just won the Veterans Championship at Windsor Horse Show.

These ponies are extremely beautiful but have maintained their hardy Dartmoor roots.

Gentle natured, 17-year-old May is out of one of our foundation mares; Storm Queen from the Cottles Queenie line. She and Petal both carry some of some of our family's oldest blood lines. Like us, they have a family history rooted to this particular part of Dartmoor.



PHOTOGRAPH © JOANNE PARKER BLOSS

You mentioned that there are many challenges to keeping ponies on Dartmoor, can you explain what you mean?

I think it's important that the traditional native Dartmoor pony is maintained out on the moor. People like to see the 'proper' Dartmoor ponies, not just the little coloured Shetlands and mixed 'hill ponies'. Everyone should be able to breed to their chosen market as we do with other stock. The difficulty is, there is no control of stallions like there is for rams and bulls, so you can't turn the registered breeding mares out on the moor without the risk of them getting interbred with the mixed 'hill ponies', so we have to try to cope with that problem. We keep our breeding stallion on the farm, and run a vasectomised stallion out with the mares to fend off neighbouring stallions.

Fortunately, now there are increasing numbers of farmers starting to take similar measures, either gelding, removing or vasectomising stallions and therefore breeding numbers more suitable to fit the market demand.



PHOTOGRAPH © ROBYN PETRIE-ITCHIE

Where can people learn more about Dartmoor Pack Ponies if they would like to join you on one of your treks?

To find out more about our ponies and our walks please visit

www.dartmoorpackponies.co.uk

Bookings can be made via email or by telephone

dartmoorpackponies@outlook.com

Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

(01647) 231 238 or 07752382750

Facebook page. **www.facebook.com/DartmoorPackPonies**

Do you offer accommodation for Dartmoor Pack Pony guests?

We work very closely with Visit Dartmoor, who are the Tourism Delivery Partner to Dartmoor National Park. They have a fantastic selection of every type of accommodation from camping to luxury hotels, self-catering cottages to B&Bs. **www.visitdartmoor.co.uk**

How do you see the future for Dartmoor Pack Ponies?

We hope to expand our range of walks to include wild camping expeditions, working with other trekking businesses on Dartmoor and collaborating with outdoor adventure specialists who use Dartmoor as their training ground. If we can raise the profile of this wonderful native, endangered breed of pony while we are doing those things, then we will be very happy!

A heart felt thank you to Active Lifestyle Photographer and Visit Dartmoor Ambassador Malcolm Snelgrove for the lovely images of Robyn with ponies Petal and May. We had a fabulous Saturday afternoon out at Shilstone Tor in the sunshine for this shoot, and are pleased to announce that Malcolm will be working with the Pack Ponies on the Gems of Dartmoor events he runs with Paul Rendell. **www.malcolmsnelgrove.com**

Endurance riding on Dartmoor

Words and Pictures by Helen Newton

Rocky, my 9-year old grey Arab horse and I spend a great deal of time training for a little known equestrian sport called Endurance Riding.

It could be described as fell running on horseback, requiring extremely fit horses and riders to cover distances of up to 100 miles in one day.



We are lucky to live right on the edge of Dartmoor National Park which provides the ideal training ground for this fantastic sport. Endurance GB, which is the main governing body for the sport, has a very active group in the South-West who organize several events throughout Devon and Cornwall, including a couple of training (often called pleasure) rides and one competitive ride on Dartmoor each year.

At these competitions the welfare of horses is paramount. They are subject to vet checks at the start, throughout the ride, depending on the distance, and at the end. The aim is to have a sound fit horse at the end of the day having successfully completed the distance you set out to do.

My main aim for this season is to ride 50 miles over 2 days at the Golden Horseshoe ride held in Exmoor National Park. Serious training for this began in January. Dartmoor has a great variety of terrain with steep ascents and descents that are ideal for conditioning a horse (and rider) and getting them fit. Even simply walking up the tors will prepare a horse for much more on less challenging terrain, but less challenging is not our aim, 50 miles on Exmoor is our goal.

After several weeks of steady work up and down our local moorland paths we tested our fitness at the Endurance GB training ride held at Meldon on north Dartmoor. Just over 12 miles to complete, but across soggy ground, through rain, mist and fog, it was a real endurance test. Rocky did very well to cover the course at 6 mph and was still happy at the end, so I was happy too.

The plan now is to continue our training and take part in a couple of longer distance competitions before the main event. Wish us luck and maybe see you again in a future issue of Active Dartmoor. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy these views of our magnificent moors as seen through the horse's ears. ■



PHOTOGRAPH © JANEANNE LE MEISSURIER

EDITOR'S NOTE - Delighted to announce that Helen and Rocky completed the 2017 Exmoor Golden Horseshoe Ride in fine fettle and at a good speed. Congratulations Helen, a wonderful achievement!

A NEW ACTIVITY TAKING DARTMOOR BY STORM!

**Enjoy a day out on Dartmoor?
Want to try something new?
Then '365ing' may be just for you!**

By Anthony Francis-Jones

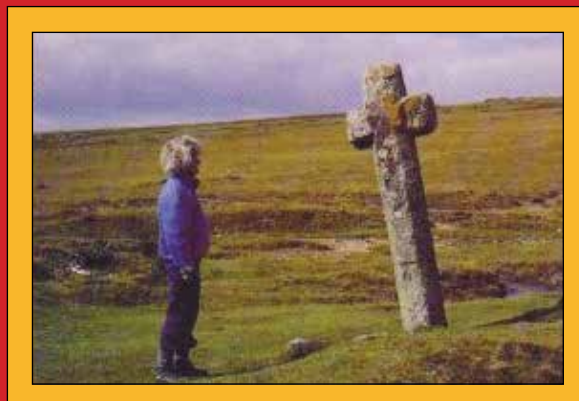


Back in 1990, John Hayward, a lifelong fan of the moor, noticed that the Dartmoor National Park was exactly 365 square miles in size. He set off on a mission to visit every one of them and made notes and sketches about what he found within them. This became 'Dartmoor 365', a fascinating book of history, folklore, and items of interest that can be found in each of the square miles of the national park. The book was popular at the time but missed by many until recently. Anthony Francis-Jones, creator of the Dartmoor 365 facebook group, comments, "I found 'Dartmoor 365' in the DNP shop in Princetown and bought it as a curio. I thought I knew the moor well from many days spent camping, walking and training Ten Tors groups but as I read it I realised just how much I had missed by not stopping to look more carefully at the area around me. I became hooked and wanted to share my passion more widely by creating a facebook group to share the joy of 365ing." The group now has over 4000 members of all ages who pick numbered grid squares from the book and venture off to find what they contain. Many take photographs or make drawings and share these and their experiences on the group's Facebook page. The book has a blank grid inside the front cover allowing one to colour in each square as you visit it and even a bonus square should it be a leap year!

Sheron Vowden is a keen '365er' and has visited many of the squares more than once. "I love 365ing because the more squares you visit the more you want to track down those elusive things mentioned in the book. You will find out about things you never knew existed and it will take you to a variety of places from open wilderness to quaint villages. It opens your eyes more to what is around you. Of course as you get nearer completing all 365 squares it becomes a mission to colour in the last few so you can say you have covered them all become a little fitter at the same time."

'365ing' is suitable for all ages and abilities as squares cover easily accessible villages as well as more remote places on the moor such as Cranmere Pool (square G9) or Childe's Tomb (P10). Ever wondered what the Hairy Hands (K11) are? What legends surround Crazywell Pool (P7) and Ephraim's Pinch (K13)? What do Swell Tor Quarry (N6) and London Bridge have in common? Who was Jay of Jay's Grave (J16) and what are Sett Makers Bankers (M5) or the Miol Stone (K16)? Then 365ing is for you! ■

DARTMOOR 365

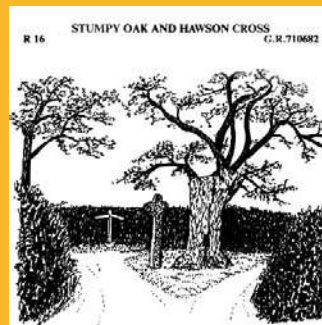
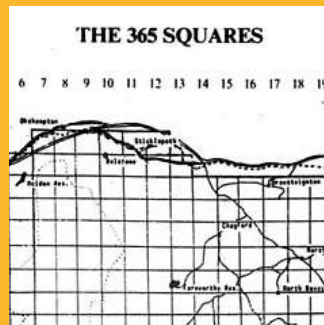
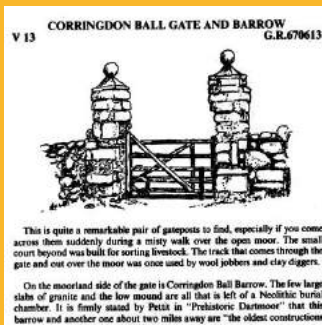
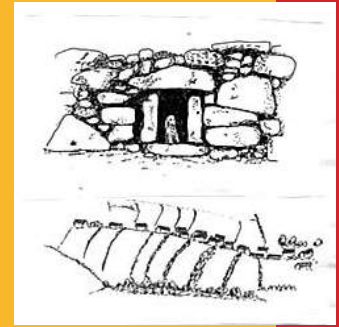
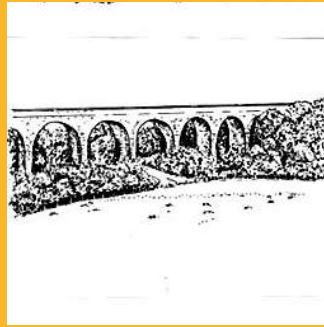


John Hayward

The book is available at all DNP shops as well as many local bookshops and Internet sources.

Facebook group: "Dartmoor 365"

www.facebook.com/groups/296555273885240



PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS © ANTHONY FRANCIS-JONES, CLIVE SPITTLE, DAVID MAINE, HELEN NEWTON, JOHN HAYWARD, KARIN BROOKS, PETER BROOKS, PHIL CORNISH



PRESERVING DARTMOOR

Words & Pictures by Keith Ryan

Dartmoor Preservation Association was founded in 1883 to protect Dartmoor, which it does by campaigning, conservation and communication. It has a team of volunteers who work both on the moor and in the office at Princetown.

Practical conservation work is done throughout the year, with some restriction during the bird nesting season. The projects range from cairn restoration, which achieved a national award recently (the Marsh Award for Community Archaeology, 2011), to investigating lost stone rows and circles. The work is often done in association with Dartmoor National Park Authority, English Heritage and Natural England. Current projects include Bronze Age settlements on Raddick and Leeden Hills, Grimspound, Venford Reservoir medieval farmstead, Stannon stone row, High House Waste (one of three DPA properties) and Dendles medieval farmstead. On Roborough Common, the archaeological features of Plymouth (Drake's) Leat (1591 AD) and Devonport Leat (1803 AD) have been cleared of scrub for walkers to enjoy; this was commissioned by the

Commoners Association. Much of the outdoor work is "rough gardening", cutting scrub, mainly gorse, with a lot of invasive bracken in the summer. Another project, however, actually promotes bracken in a specialised habitat, to encourage rare Fritillary butterflies to breed.

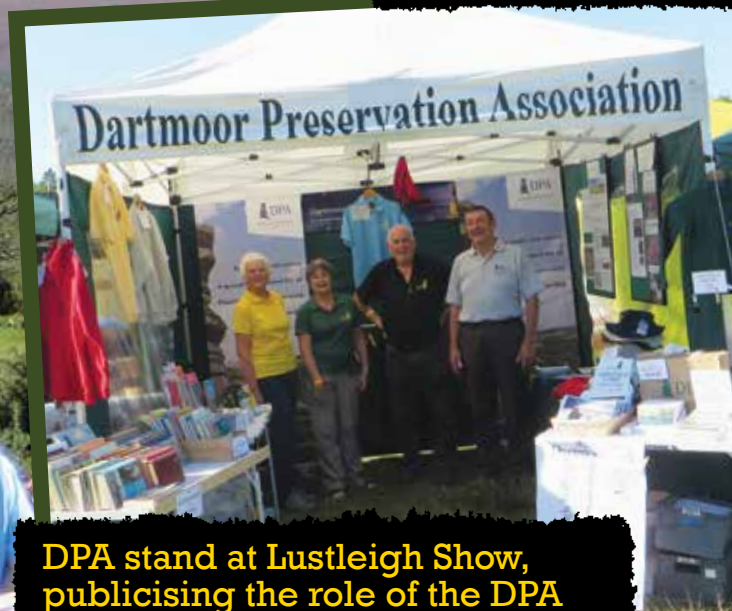
Our volunteers range from students, naval cadets and corporate groups to pensioners who enjoy the free, outdoor "green gym" – they all embody active Dartmoor! New volunteers are always welcome and do not have to be members, so you can try before you buy. The activities are often recorded on the DPA Blog: <http://dartmoorpreservation.wordpress.com> ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

More details can be found on the DPA web site at www.dartmoorpreservation.com/events/forthcoming-events.



Work party on Plymouth Leat, also known as Drake's Leat, Roborough Common removing gorse and bracken.



DPA stand at Lustleigh Show, publicising the role of the DPA and fund-raising for the charity by selling books, maps, leisure wear and other items.



Using a Spanish windlass to safely bring down a tree blown over and 'hung up' in another tree in Princetown churchyard.



Walkers on the first free DPA short walk on 25th January 2017, gathered at Crazywell Cross.

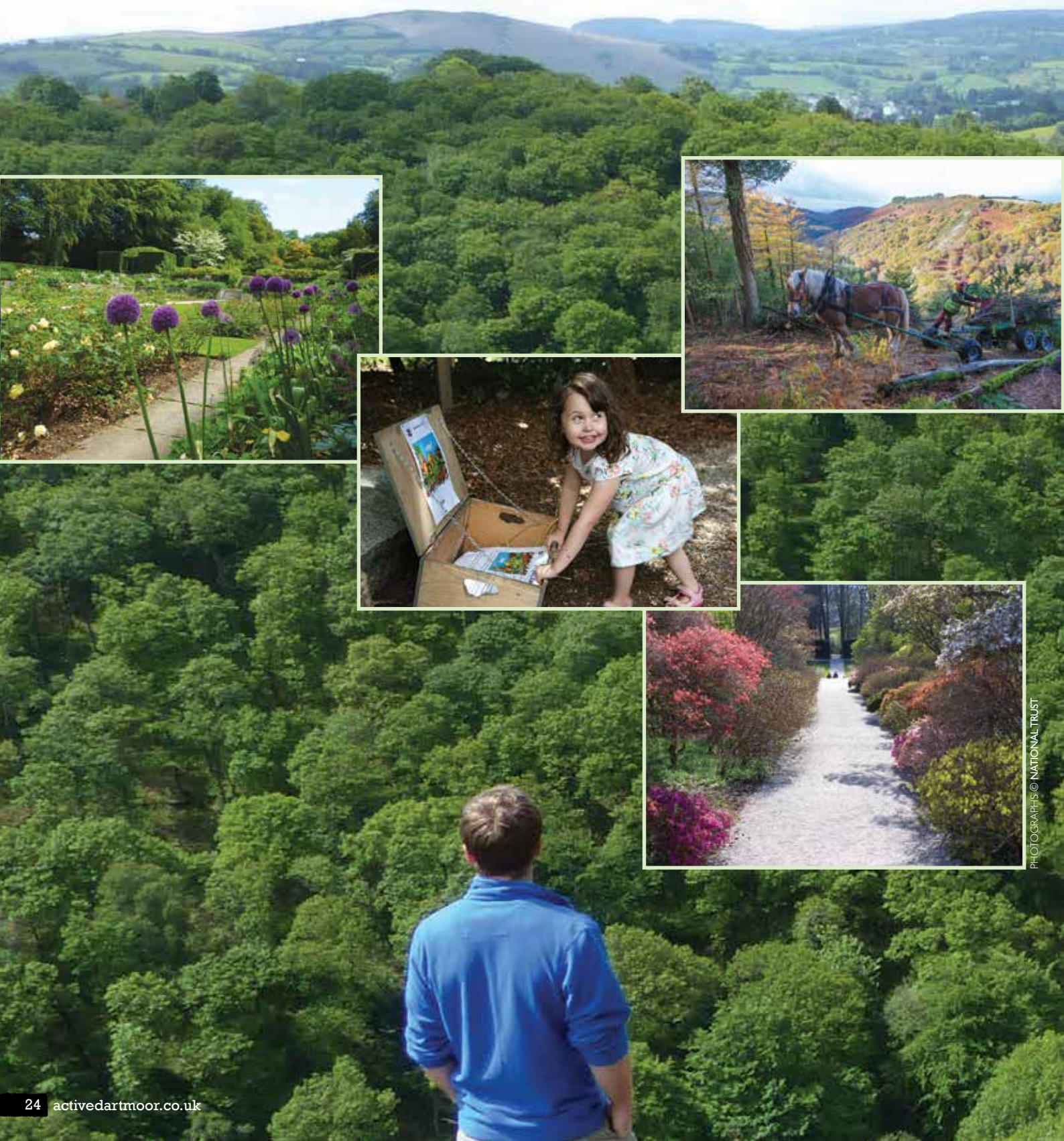
Castle Drogo

Walks, Castle, Café



National
Trust

Perched above the Teign Gorge looking out over Dartmoor stands a windswept country home that looks as ancient as the landscape it's set in: Castle Drogo. However this remarkable building, built by Sir Edwin Lutyens for self-made millionaire Julius Drewe, is only 100 years old - the last castle ever built in England.



PHOTOGRAPHS © NATIONAL TRUST

PHOTOGRAPHS © NATIONAL TRUST



The castle has suffered from structural problems ever since it was built resulting in major leaks and water damage throughout the building. By 2012 water was also starting to rust the steel infrastructure making the need to save the building urgent. Following a massive fundraising appeal, the building project was begun in earnest in 2012 and now, 5 years later the project is entering its final phase.

To make the castle watertight, the asphalt across the roof is being removed and replaced with a waterproof system. To install it all the parapets and structure above roof level have to be dismantled and rebuilt – 2600 granite blocks weighing 680 tonnes. Each individual block of granite is numbered so that it can be put back in the exact same place. The walls are being cleaned and repointed using lime mortar and the 913 windows containing approximately 13,000 panes of glass are being removed, stripped down, rebuilt and then reinstated.

For 2017 the rooms within the castle have been redisplayed to tell the stories of the Drewe family and the building work. In the Drawing room displays of family objects such as war medals and a teddy bear tell the story of how the lives of the five Drewe children changed over time. In another part of the castle art and design group Mdesign have brought to life the stories of the building work 100 years ago and now through interactive displays.

Surrounding the castle there are miles of footpaths through the Teign Gorge as well as around the garden and grounds to explore. A gentle stroll from the castle will take you to Sharp Tor where there are sweeping views down the gorge and out of Dartmoor. A longer walk will take you into the ancient woodlands and along the River the Teign.

A bit further down the gorge in Fingle woods the walk up to Wooston castle takes you up a steep climb, but it's worth it as when you reach the top, you can stand in the newly cleared Iron age hill fort and take in the views down the gorge just like the people living there thousands of years ago would have done.

After all that walking you then have the perfect excuse to refuel with a hearty lunch or a delicious slice of cake in the Drogo café. The café, shop, garden and gorge are open daily 10am-5.30pm (closed 24-26 December).

The castle will be open daily from 6 March and, as well as the chance to see inside the castle, there will be the rare opportunity for those with a head for heights to climb the scaffolding viewing tower. Standing at 15-metre high the viewing tower allows visitors to take in a bird's eye view of the roof.

For more information visit nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-drogo



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We're also pretty good at cooking. Having great ingredients helps, but on Dartmoor you'll discover innovative cookery by award-winning chefs using quality local produce and you can even learn to cook at one of the UK's top cookery schools in Ashburton. Our producers sell at Farmers Markets as well as in local shops and farm-gate sales. Wherever you visit on Dartmoor you will see evidence of our ancient traditions on our unique landscape still being used today in our humane farming methods.

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FOOD MAP

Visit Dartmoor Taste of dartmoor



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- 7 **Buckfast Abbey**
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Belstone

The Cosdon Run is described on the Okehampton Running Club's website as, *"Short, snappy and steep; this race covers 3.2 miles over high moorland and rough, unmarked terrain."*

Cosdon Hill Race

Written by David Guiterman



PHOTOGRAPHS © DAVID GUITERMAN

For several years I had watched the runners from the safety of manning the plant stall at the Belstone Village Fair.

I had seen them disappearing over the horizon to return a while later still looking surprisingly chipper. I always had a good reason not to take part: the weather was either too hot or too wet; there was always some excuse. This year everything was perfect; I had run out of excuses, so I took the plunge, paid my £5 entry and lined up with the runners at the start.

Then it was off down the easy slope to cross the river Taw by the wooden bridge, followed by a gruelling steep uphill plod along a well-trodden path. Once at the head of Ladybrook, the path disappeared. There was no obvious single route. Cosdon Beacon was out of sight. This is where local knowledge was essential. I set off over rock and tussock in what I knew to be the right direction.

While only part way up, I started to meet the first of the runners coming down. They all gave me a cheery wave and wished me luck. I finally reached the top, gasped a hello to the marshals and set off back down again.

Serious runners took the direct route down, going as fast as they could and paying little heed to the ankle-twisting terrain. I chose to go slightly further north where the going is easier but carries a small distance-penalty.

Once again, local knowledge played its part; one of the runners who was well ahead of me took the wrong route. This was why, when a local lad, back at Belstone, asked me if I'd come last, I was able to proclaim, "No way!" My time; 1 hour 1 minute. The current record, held by James Best, stands at 29 minutes and six seconds; so he could have done the run twice in the time it took me to do it once! ■

Race date	Sunday 9th July 2017
Starting time	2:30pm
Venue	Belstone Village Green, Belstone, Okehampton
Entry fee	£5.00
Telephone	07885 678671
Website	okeyraces.com/cosdon-hill-run



MAMIL WATCH

Chris McGuire

You probably know that Dartmoor has long been home to some of the most diverse and interesting wildlife in the UK. For generations enthusiasts have flocked to the moorland in the hope of catching a glimpse of a rare bird or perhaps a camera-shy land-dweller. This pilgrimage of passionate naturalists is all part and parcel of the National Park's charm. Recently, a new (and incredibly exotic) species has joined the local fauna. Visitors to Dartmoor, if they're very lucky, might now spot the brightly coloured, (occasionally) swiftly moving M.A.M.I.L.

The Middle Aged Man, Or Maiden, In Lycra is a remarkable new arrival in these parts. Here's our exclusive guide how to spot one of this cycling species.

APPEARANCE: No two MAMILs look the same. They do, however, have some distinctive common traits to look out for. MAMILs are always seen in Lycra, their tights, jersey and shorts come in a whole host of extremely bright colours that make MAMILs extremely easy to make out, even at a great distance – a positive boon for a spotter. Expect vivid pinks, greens and yellows. Be careful looking at a MAMIL for more than a few seconds can lead to retina damage.

No matter what colour plumage the MAMIL chooses, there's a common thread in the MAMIL's appearance. They wear Lycra sized to the physique they'd like to achieve, rather than the body they actually have. This usually means their seams are permanently stretched to breaking point. In fact, the sound of ripping shorts is a good sign that a MAMIL might be close by.

FEATURES: If you're ever unsure whether you're looking at a MAMIL or not, be sure to look out for the one feature all MAMILs share. Badly shaven legs are the trademark of all MAMILs – male and female – razor marks are a sign of status among this species.

LOCATION: A Dartmoor MAMIL's natural home is on the roads that wind their way through Dartmoor. You'll see flocks of them throughout the most beautiful parts of the National Park's scenery. A special red-faced example is often discovered ascending steep hills. These MAMILs are notable for their distinctive cry of 'INEEDADRINK' or 'IWANNAGETOFF'. If you're especially lucky you might catch a glimpse of the MAMIL marking its territory – it does this by falling off its bike sideways, usually into a bush.

Another good place to spot a MAMIL is in the immediate vicinity of a coffee shop. Groups of MAMILs flock around these establishments, where they imbibe lattes and mocha-choca-chinos while sunning their (often pasty white) legs. Don't worry, MAMILs (even in large groups) tend to be friendly. Perhaps begin an interaction by complimenting their bike?

SEASON: MAMILs are rarely spotted on Dartmoor in anything other than good weather. Spotters are advised, if the weather is bad, that there is still a chance of seeing a MAMIL by venturing to one of Dartmoor's excellent country pubs. MAMILs can often be found in these establishments, clad in their distinctive Lycra, enjoying a carvery – note these MAMILs are rarely accompanied by a bicycle.

CONSERVATION: Despite their often eccentric appearance, MAMILs are a key part of the Dartmoor eco-system – please treat them with respect. Spotters are asked not to feed MAMILs, as most of them are on special training diets – often consisting of bacon rolls and fizzy drinks. Drivers are urged to watch out for MAMILs ensuring they are given plenty of space when overtaking. The National Park asks drivers to be patient if stuck behind a flock of MAMILs. Such occasions do give drivers the chance to study the Dartmoor MAMIL in detail, along with the beautiful Devon scenery. ■



You don't have to be a MAMIL to get on a bike in Dartmoor. What better way to explore the National Park than on two wheels? Why not go to visitdartmoor.co.uk to find out more about cycling in the National Park? It's a great form of eco-friendly tourism!
NB: Lycra is optional.



GROUP EFFORT

Words & Pictures by Graham Wilson

The southern edge of Dartmoor is home to tiny rivers tumbling off the high moors of Dartmoor. Within these river valleys are ancient woods, wildflower meadows and a farming way of life with echoes of long ago. High up above, the moors look down. Sometimes they seem to smile when the sun is shining and occasionally they can look menacing with heavy winter rains. From this great arc above the A38 dual carriageway, there is a rich network of tiny lanes, little used by motorists. Some of these lead up onto the open moors while others connect the villages in a peaceful meandering way. This is home to the National Cycle Network created by Sustrans where cyclists can go on tour with their bikes happy in the knowledge that they will find beautiful places, little traffic and periodic coffee stops. Sustrans is expert at this and has created nearly 16,000 miles on the Network across the UK. The southern edge is also where Ivybridge and South Brent are located.

We are fortunate on Dartmoor as we have routes on the NCN as it is known all around the moor. There is a safe family friendly route leading from Plymouth to Tavistock known as Drakes Trail that is 20 miles long. This is NCN27 and continues north along little moorland lanes with big views to Okehampton. A route under creation is NCN28 where the Stover Trail is already built. The first section leads from Newton Abbott to Bovey Tracey and it also is ideal for families with young children. NCN28 will eventually lead to Moretonhampstead and Okehampton. For the more adventurous, the Dartmoor Way is a 95 mile challenging route that circles Dartmoor and has a separate High Moor link across the centre. The Dartmoor Way is not for the faint hearted with plenty of hills and more stunning views for experienced touring cyclists. Finally NCN2 links these together with connections to Plymouth and Totnes.

Locally Sustrans has teamed up with PL21 Transition Town Initiative from Ivybridge and Sustainable South Brent. Local volunteers take out small groups for taster rides. These are usually at weekends but there are some evening rides too. Families are encouraged, people with electric bikes are welcome and these rides are often more like micro adventures. The most recent were in February with a visit to meet the residents at Hannahs and a Dark Sky evening ride on the Dartmoor Way to Cornwood. ■



FURTHER INFORMATION

Sustrans and National Cycle Network:

www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/national-cycle-network

Dartmoor Way:

www.dartmoorway.co.uk

PL21 Transition Town Initiative:

pl21.weebly.com

Sustainable South Brent:

sustainablesouthbrent.org.uk

Hannahs:

www.discoverhannahs.org/ivybridge





For beer enthusiasts and casual drinkers alike, traditional craft ales are in the spotlight right now, and the moor's own Dartmoor Brewery has embarked on an ambitious growth plan to ensure that it keeps pace with demand,

The brewery started life in 1994 at the Prince of Wales pub in Princetown, before moving to a new purpose-built brewery complex in the town as its beers gained popularity. If clear fresh air is a key ingredient in the production of fine ales, Dartmoor Brewery has a distinct advantage as the highest brewery in England, at 1465ft above sea level, with hundreds of square miles of spectacular countryside extending in every direction.

The brewery's flagship beer, increasingly appearing in pubs all over the country, is the award-winning Jail Ale - a full-bodied, deep golden brown beer with a well-rounded flavour and a rich, moreish aftertaste. Jail Ale has been honoured with a number of top awards in the Premium Bitter category. Other fine ales in the Dartmoor Brewery stable include the popular Legend, the well-named Dartmoor Best, and a light golden and aromatic Dartmoor IPA.

You'll find Dartmoor ales on tap in great pubs all around Dartmoor, the South West, and beyond. The beers also

Dartmoor Brewery Rides High on Craft Ale Revolution

make frequent guest-appearances at some of the region's key beer festivals, and the Jail Ale flagship recently picked up an award from South Devon CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) at the hugely popular Tuckers Maltings Beer Festival.

The Princetown brewery complex is benefiting from a £400k extension,

part-funded by the South West Growth Fund, including an expansion of production space and a new state-of-the-art boiler system integral to the brewing process.

The extension increases the floor space of the brewery by 40%, and provides additional processing space to ensure "grain to glass" quality control and beer consistency. It is this consistency which is central to the strategy implemented by new MD Richard Smith, who is adamant that every glass of Dartmoor Ale, whether tasted in its Dartmoor homeland or



Only top-quality hops and local malts are used by Dartmoor Brewery



further afield, will deliver the same quality drinking experience and sense of its Dartmoor provenance and top-notch ingredients.

Richard commented: "The craft ale sector is booming, and with our well-established local ales and our new brewery extension, we are well placed to grow our share. Dartmoor is our birthplace, our home, and the inspiration for our ales, and our new brewery extension really outlines our commitment to growing our production here on the moor. Good news for our business, our commercial partners, and for those who love our ales."

Dartmoor Brewery is privately owned, and under the same ownership as the historic Two Bridges Hotel in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, and The Bedford Hotel in the historic Devon market town of Tavistock.

Cheers! ■



Dartmoor Brewery Head Brewer Ian Cobham (left) and Managing Director Richard Smith



Dartmoor Brewery's busy brewery complex in Princetown

PHOTOGRAPHS © DARTMOOR BREWERY

Tamar Valley Centre

Tamar Valley Centre at Drakewalls near Gunnislake

Tamar Valley Bat Trail Walk

Matt Parkins heads down from Dartmoor to explore the heritage and wildlife of the beautiful Tamar Valley

Dartmoor stands proudly over Devon as an iconic landscape of the southwest, but nestling in a nearby valley along the Cornish border, is the equally spectacular river Tamar. In the past the valley has been famous for its industry. At one time the largest copper mines in Europe dominated the landscape, both above and below ground. Later in its history the Tamar was famous for the production of top quality fruit and vegetables that were transported by rail to surrounding towns and cities, and as far as London. Today the heritage features of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty play a big part in the conservation of a very special species of bat. It's a rarity in the UK but the greater horseshoe bat has a stronghold in Devon and uses 11 maternity roosts in the county, so there is a new county-wide conservation project which aims to protect them and their precious habitats. The Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project is a 5 year partnership project of 19 organisations led by Devon Wildlife Trust and is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as other funders.

To find out a bit more about the fascinating link between the heritage and the wildlife in the area I joined the Tamar Valley Walking for Health group for a gentle 3 ½ mile (5 ½ km) guided walk. As the walkers gathered at the Tamar Valley Centre we were joined by Anna David from the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project who would be on hand to explain the bat-friendly features around the landscape. Toni, our volunteer walk leader and Jean, the back-marker introduced the walk, described the easy-going route and handed back to Anna who explained that "though the walk is not actually in Devon, the colony of greater horseshoe bats in the valley regularly fly and forage on this side of the Tamar". She went on to illustrate how the landscape is "one of the best with its woodland edges, orchards and pasture. These features all attract the insects that the bats feed on and they are also known to use the healthy hedgerows and even the river itself as navigation tools". The heritage of the valley is also important as she suggested the caves, mines and old farm buildings can make excellent bat roosts. "They often prefer the disused mine shafts as they stay warmer than natural caves".



Anna David explains how the bats roost and forage around the Tamar Valley



St. Andrew's churchyard at Calstock provides many good features for bats



PHOTOGRAPHS © MATT PARKINS

The walk began with a downhill stroll along the hedge lined lane where we stopped to learn about another species of bat that would feed there at night. "There are three distinct species of pipistrelle and one bat can eat up to 3000 midges in one night!"

Continuing the walk, the group got chatting about the vast views and expansive environment. One of the walkers said "I live on the other side of Dartmoor but wanted to explore the Tamar Valley. I've heard so much about it". Anna stopped again to talk about how the hedges are managed, explaining that "some are cut to leave thicker, taller sections to encourage biodiversity and provide a good stock of insects for the bats to feed on." The next stop was St Andrew's churchyard where she stood under the lych-gate to demonstrate how "Bats might use this roof while foraging. They need to rest and digest their food – you might even find bat droppings on the ground. Bats also roost in old farm buildings, particularly barns with slate roofs. The slates absorb the sun's energy, then the bats can benefit from a little extra heat".



Walk leaders make sure the walk is the right pace for everybody



The walk went on at a pleasant pace and Toni told us “this is one of the longer walks in the programme and it really shows off some of the most interesting parts of the valley”. As we descended a track through beautiful oak woods, snapshots of the river emerged between gaps in the branches and redundant stone chimneys rose above the treetops.

Dropping right down to river level, the route took us along the banks of the Tamar to the village of Calstock, lying below a mighty railway viaduct. Once we reached the slipway Anna explained how the hillside across the river would be an ideal foraging habitat. “With the orchard, hedges, woody edges and cattle pasture it’s perfect for horseshoe bats”. And then the walk was over. The bus to take us back up the hill to the start point was due in 20 minutes ... just long enough to take in the view and try out a locally made ice cream. A feast for the eyes and a tasty way to finish the day.

So, walking for health? I certainly felt good, with friendly company, fine views and lots of fresh air. I even learned a bit about bats too.

If you are interested in joining a Walking for Health group anywhere around the Dartmoor area, search for your nearest one at www.walkingforhealth.org.uk

For more information on The Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty go to www.tamarvalley.org.uk and you can find out about the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project at www.devonbatproject.org ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on The Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty go to www.tamarvalley.org.uk and you can find out about the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project at www.devonbatproject.org



Man-made features around the valley can provide shelter for bats



The banks of the river Tamar are a perfect place for greater horseshoe bats

PHOTOGRAPHS © MATT PARKIN

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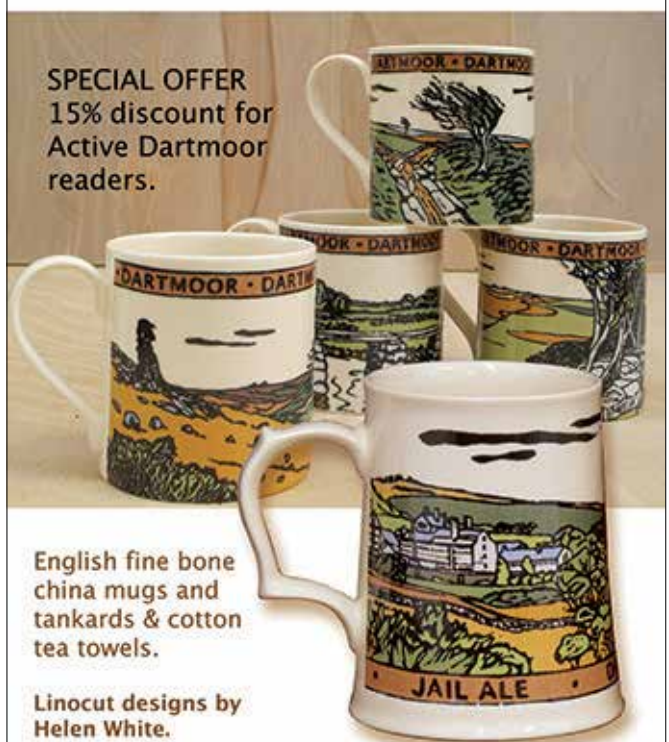
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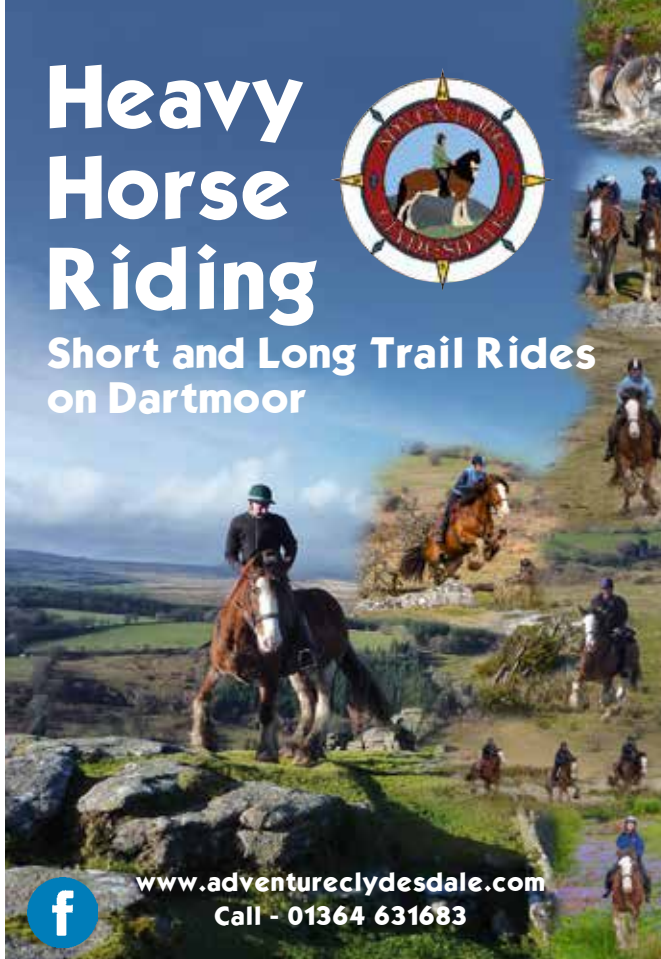
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FROM 'JOBBOY' TO 'JOB'



Fi Darby is Blonde Two of the successful outdoors blog Two Blondes Walking. She is an Ordnance Survey GetOutside Champion and as well as running Two Blondes and her own freelance blog

writing business Fi Darby Freelance, does voluntary work with young people on Dartmoor and around the UK. Until very recently a secondary school teacher, Fi is now enjoying working from home and having more time to spend outside.

From 'Jobby' to 'Job'

Life can turn on a dime. At least it can if you are American; over here on Dartmoor, life is more likely to turn on a tor or even in a splodge of sheep poo (ankles on the other hand turn in rabbit holes). Two big changes have recently happened in my life and I put them both down to my love of Dartmoor and all things outside.

The Jobby

Firstly I feel that I must explain the title of this article. I am perhaps better known in Dartmoor circles as Blonde Two from Two Blondes Walking. Together with my walking partner Lucy Atkins, I have been writing daily blog posts for

Two Blondes for over four years now. All about the outdoors, our love for it and our work with young people. The blog and all the people we met through it didn't take long to become a huge part of my life. Such a huge part in fact that it was taking up as much time as a job (I already had one full-time teaching job) and paying as little money as a hobby – hence the 'jobby'!

The blog has been great and has got me out onto Dartmoor so many times over the last few years I have lost count. In order to write about the outdoors, you need to get out into it and Dartmoor is the perfect place to do just that.

So time rolled on, I wrote three children's books about Dartmoor and whilst my enjoyment of the pressures of teaching faded, my love for the outdoors and writing grew. Lucy and I were chosen to be part of the first cohort of Ordnance Survey GetOutside Champions, we were thrilled to be representing Devon and Dartmoor and our blogging lives really took off.

Wild Swimming

A more recent addition to my (already long) list of things to enjoy on Dartmoor is outdoor swimming. This started last summer after we were asked to review a copy of Sophie Pierce and Matt Newbury's book, 'Wild Swimming Walks, Dartmoor and South Devon'. Two trips up to Sharrah Pool on the Dart with my family and I was hooked. I am lucky enough to live in Torbay so I can visit the sea on one side and the pools and rivers of Dartmoor on the other. January sunrise in the sea is a sight to behold; a November dip in the Dart is a revitalising experience.

When my teaching career came to an unexpected halt I found myself in need of a way to earn money. That's when I started freelance writing and found that clients liked my work. Perhaps even better was my newfound freedom. If I get up and work at 6 in the morning, I can be on Dartmoor by lunchtime with a day's pay on its way to my bank account. After all these years I am working from home and the 'jobby' has finally become a job. ■

Stories should all have a moral shouldn't they. This one has two:

1. Stick at the things you love, for me this was the outdoors and Dartmoor.
 2. Spend as much time outside as you possibly can.
- The inspiration for life is out there for the finding.



EAST DART WATERFALL

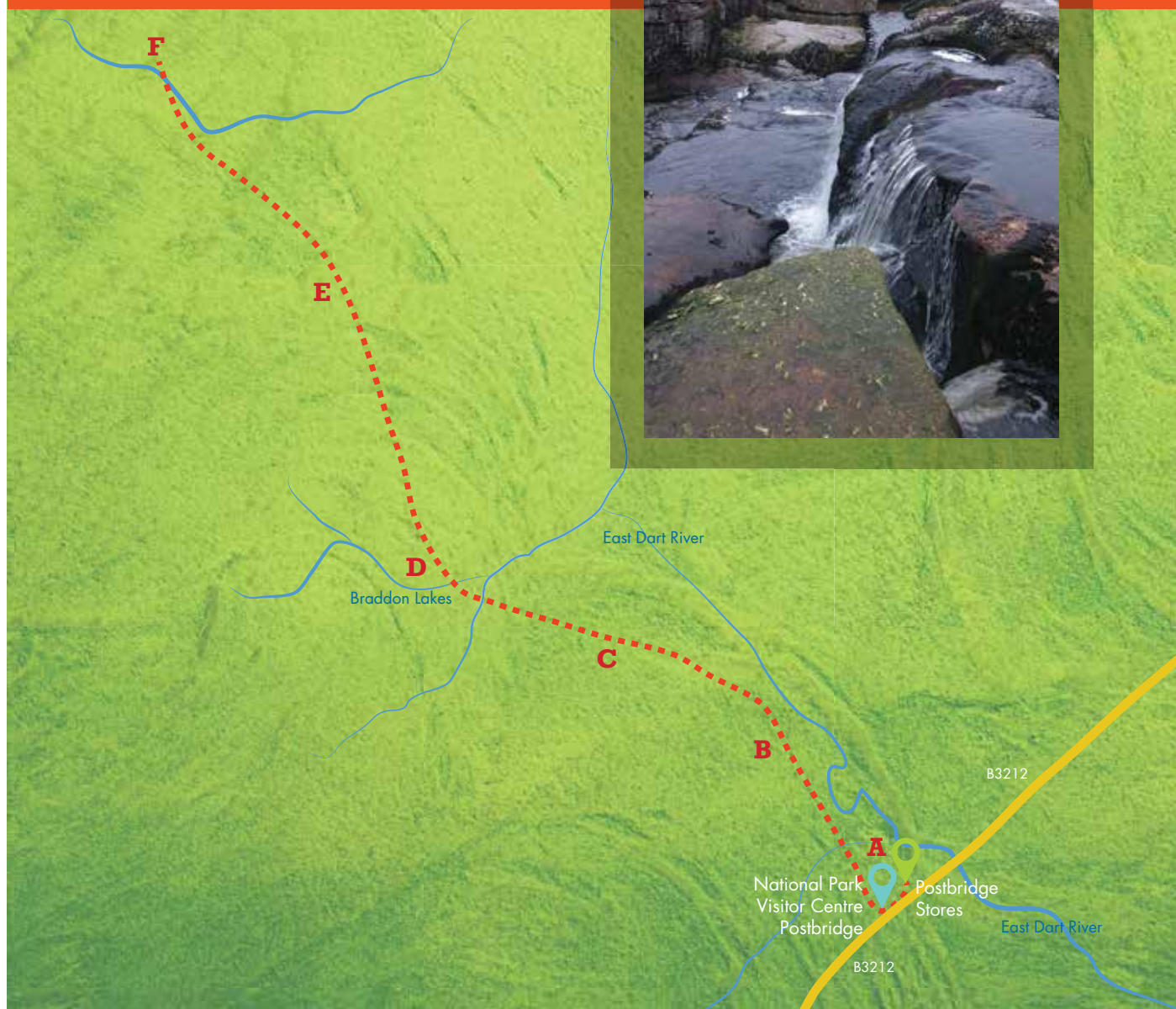
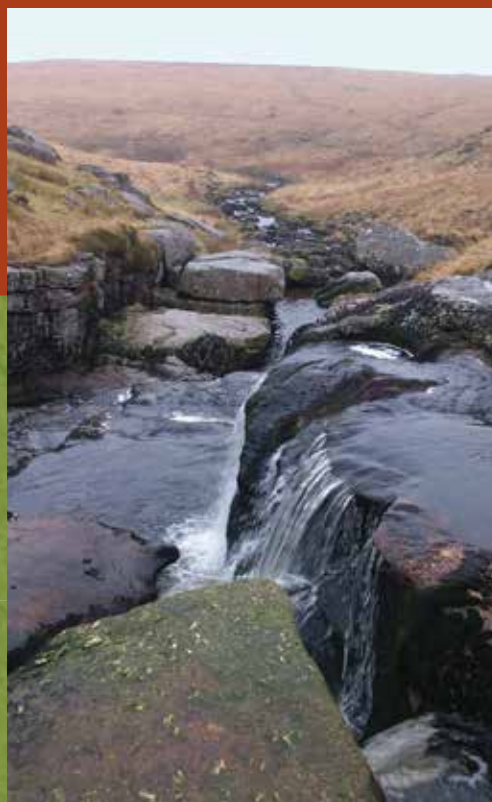
Dartmoor's rivers have long been close to my heart. One place I have dipped rather than swam is the East Dart Waterfall. It is a lovely spot and features in my second book, 'Dart the River'. I thought I would share it with you:

Location

The East Dart Waterfall can be found about 5 kilometres below the source of the East Dart (the East and West Dart join at Dartmeet). It is a beautiful spot and (if the river isn't in flood) one of the possible crossing points for the East Dart. For somewhere that feels so remote, this waterfall has relatively easy (but mostly uphill) access from Postbridge.

Safety

Whilst this is a relatively easy walk it does not always follow defined paths. We recommend a map and compass and learning how to use them before you set off. The rivers on Dartmoor can rise very quickly; be wary of this as you approach the East Dart and don't take any risks. If you are ever intending to swim or dip, don't go alone and again, be aware of changes in river levels.



FOOT FILE

LENGTH: 6.5 kilometres (return)

HEIGHT GAIN: 175 metres

TIME: 2 hours (return)

SUITABLE: This walk is mainly uphill on the way out and over rough terrain. Basic navigation skills are required as not all sections have visible paths.

START/FINISH: Postbridge car park SX 646 788

TERRAIN: Mixed terrain, uphill, usually wet underfoot, some stream crossings, open moorland.

BRING: OS Explorer OL28 Dartmoor, compass, full waterproofs, walking boots, hot drink, whistle and torch. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Tricky but there are buses in the summer. Check times on National Rail Enquiries.

PARKING: Postbridge car park, voluntary charge. Pop into the Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centre while you are there and buy a copy of our children's book 'Dart the River' which features the East Dart waterfall.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS: Wistman's Wood, High Moorland Visitor Centre (Princetown), Warren House Inn (pub), Bellever Forest.

A Leave the car park (SX 646 788) on the path behind the visitor centre and toilets.

B Follow this path north west for nearly a kilometre until you reach more open moorland (SX 64289 79324).

C Keep following the path uphill and north west as it skirts around some walled boundaries and passes an ancient settlement (Roundy Park on your map).

D Cross the streams at Braddon Lake ('lakes' on Dartmoor are often streams) the ground will be wet here (SX 63489 79674).

E Continue heading north west until you meet a stile in the boundary wall below a rocky outcrop (SX 63224 80476).

F Climb the stile and continue north west for around 1 kilometre until you reach the waterfall (SX 62739 81039). Take some time to explore before you head back; this is a beautiful and wild spot.

If you enjoy walking then we recommend learning basic navigation skills. This summer the Two Blondes are running three Dartmoor navigation workshops:

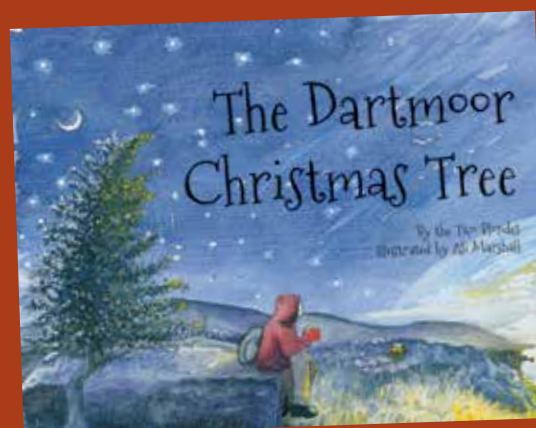
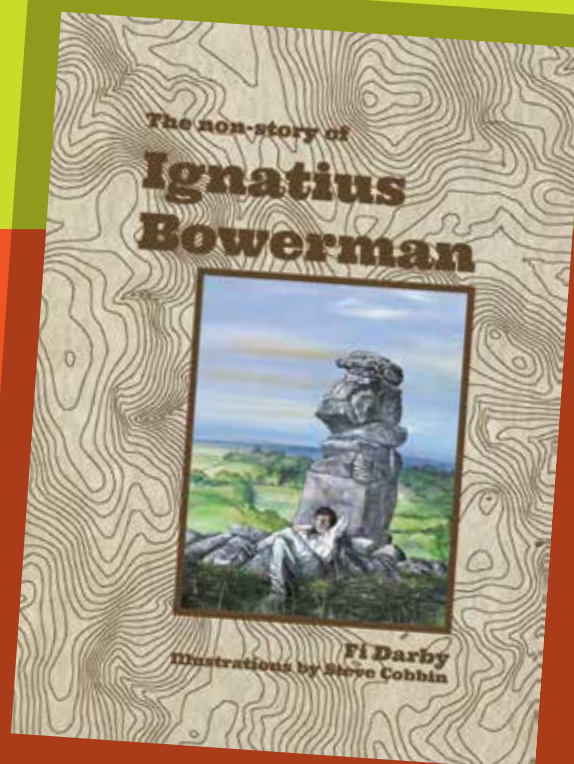
Saturday June 3rd Navigation for beginners (over 18s only)

Saturday July 1st Navigation for beginners (over 18s and ladies only)

Saturday September 2nd Navigation consolidation (over 18s only)

Contact us on admin@twoblondeswalking.com or visit our Facebook page for more information.

Our three children's books, 'The Non-Story of Ignatius Bowerman', 'Dart the River' and 'The Dartmoor Christmas Tree' are available from local bookshops, Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centres, our shop www.twoblondeswalking.com, Visit Dartmoor or Amazon. ■





Moor Than Meets The Eye, A Landscape Partnership Scheme.

By Mark Allott.

Moor than meets the eye...a Landscape Partnership Scheme bringing people together to understand and conserve Dartmoor and tell the story of its people and landscape over 4,000 years.

Through the scheme, we are discovering more about Dartmoor's wildlife, engaging people in its industrial and internationally important Bronze Age archaeology, equipping people with the knowledge and skills to care for this protected landscape and improve physical and intellectual access to its heritage.



Over the past two and a half years, some of our project partners have been upgrading or creating new shared use trails, researching the nature and wildlife in wooded valleys and making Dartmoor's rich industrial landscape more easily understood. Here's a selection of some of our work:

Come and see the Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group volunteers' hard work at Brimpts Farm near Dartmeet, where a new display room greets visitors and explains tin mining on Dartmoor, before self-guiding you around the remnants of surrounding mines.

Helping communities develop heritage projects, Parishscapes has helped reveal and develop an artistic response to the historic Granite Tramway near Haytor, once used to transport granite to

London for the construction of some famous buildings including London Bridge. The end of May and early June also sees the start of work to conserve the Ten Commandment Stones on Buckland Beacon. Come and see a master stonemason in action whilst enjoying panoramic views from the south of the moor to the south Devon coast.

If you love Dartmoor, you'll love Fernworthy, near Chagford, where newly surfaced trails around one of Dartmoor's more remote reservoirs have improved access for all by providing a range of walking opportunities around Bronze Age archaeology. Fernworthy boasts a rich abundance of wildlife and points of archaeological interest such as ancient stone cairns, hut circles and submerged clapper bridges. New interpretation panels help visitors understand how people lived around 4,000 years ago in this remote landscape. Other marked trails lead you around the reservoir and into the neighbouring forest. Those seeking a more challenging walk can strike out for the high moor and Whitehorse Hill, the site of one of the most significant Bronze Age archaeological finds in recent years.

Bringing route planning and features of the landscape through the eras together is our Heritage Trails web-app: <http://maps.moorthanmeetstheeye.org/heritagetrails/>

Here you can access the Historic Environment Record featuring historical information and photos, plan routes and view others already submitted to help you explore and understand Dartmoor's rich landscape features. One unexpected benefit has been to aid our volunteers' research in one convenient portal.

With so much to see and learn about in this protected and iconic landscape, we're looking forward to the next two and a half years helping to tell the Dartmoor Story.

For more information about the Scheme, its events and activities and opportunities to get involved in telling the Dartmoor Story, please visit www.moorthanmeetstheeye.org

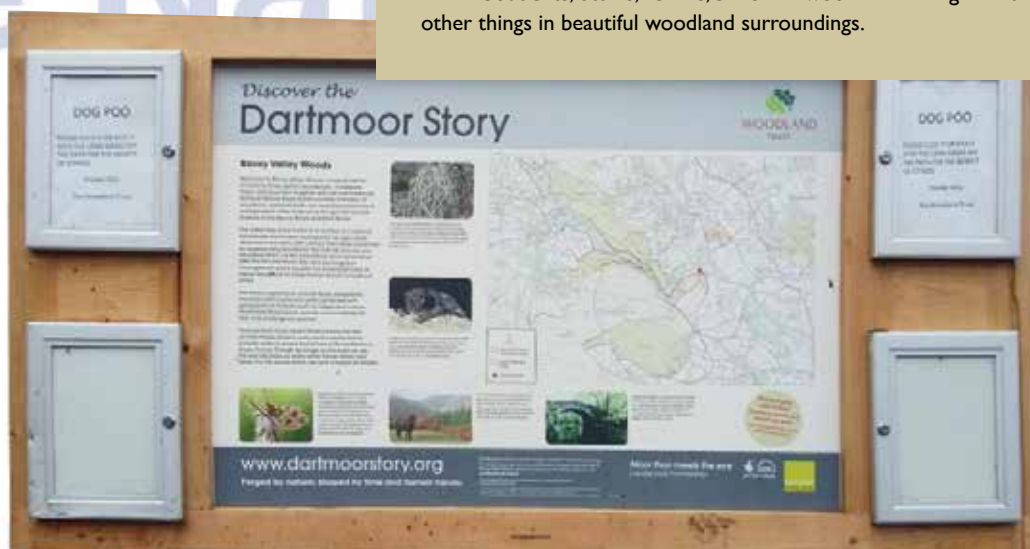




Devon County Council recently completed the latest phase of the Wray Valley shared use trial and a new bridge at Stewards Wood near Moretonhampstead, extending walking and cycling access along the old Victorian railway trackbed. Volunteers are carrying out historical research on the impact of the railway and how the Wray Valley communities evolved around it.



The Woodland Trust and Natural England have created new trails and boardwalks in Pullabrook Wood and around the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve near Bovey Tracey, to help people get closer to nature in the beautiful Bovey Valley. Aligned with scientific research and a jam-packed events and activities programme, visitors are gaining a unique understanding and engagement with the natural environment. Come and learn about bats, otters, lichens, birds and woodland management amongst other things in beautiful woodland surroundings.





DON'T GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC ENJOY DARTMOOR!

By Richard Drysdale
Visitor Services Manager,
Dartmoor National Park

My cycling career has been somewhat varied but has gone through various iterations; a road bike at school with a rack and school bag that weren't compatible, an early version mountain bike at college (giving away my seniority!), then a better mountain bike and a better rack when I cycled through SE Asia for seven months, any number of cheap hybrid bikes for cycling in London to now having a mix of a road bike, a much better hybrid and a mountain bike for making sure that I can enjoy the sheer variety of cycling that Dartmoor offers. And that is why I love cycling on Dartmoor!

On my twitter profile (@dartmoorrichard) I write that that I have 'one of the best commutes in the world', and over the last ten years there has been nothing to change my mind on that. Whilst my confidence on the occasional icy road has diminished, I cycle year round and always get a buzz when I set off from home in the morning to commute to work and whilst home is uphill in the evening, it's a great ride and I always have the ponies or cattle to 'cheer' me on as I wind my way uphill.

When I first moved to Dartmoor from London I was 'frightened' of the lanes and would rather take a main road and battle with the cars and trucks but that soon changed. If you're new to cycling or the area, then take some time to acclimatise on the lanes and the open moorland roads, it really is a different type of cycling. Cycling down a lane where you might have sheep, cattle, ponies, tractors, potholes, horse-riders or cars round any corner means that you should always be vigilant, responsible and respectful. Know your braking distances, ride single file when you have a vehicle wanting to go past or round bends, alert horse riders or walkers when cycling behind them and show all other road users that cycling really is a fantastic way (the best way?) of enjoying Dartmoor.

Acclimatised and enjoying your Dartmoor cycling? Then make sure you also enjoy Dartmoor's hospitality. Whilst you might not want to take the cream tea challenge more than once or twice on any particular ride there are some fantastic cafes, pubs and other places to eat as you cycle round. Great energy for that next climb, or a well-deserved treat and a chance to share your days cycling highlights with your friends or family.

Not sure where to go on Dartmoor? Check out Visit Dartmoor for cycling suggestions (www.visitdartmoor.co.uk/things-to-do/cycling) or the National Park (www.dartmoor.gov.uk/cycling) for some cycling safety tips or on the moor drop into an award winning National Park Visitor Centre for information, maps and leaflets.

So get out there and enjoy Dartmoor's wonderful rural lanes and high moorland roads, challenging bridleways or the traffic free trails and quiet forest tracks. There really is something for everyone. ■

Roving Reporter David Guiterman headed out to Brimpts Farm to do a bit of exploring and to see what's on offer at the farm

Diversification rules at Brimpts Farm

On the west side of the East Dart River Valley just above Dartmeet lies Brimpts Farm.

When you motor off the B3357 along the farm drive you will discover more than just a traditional Dartmoor beef farm. Andy and Gabrielle Bradford have turned the farm into a complex of accommodation, conference facilities, camping pods and tea rooms.

There are walks to suit every taste. Much of the land has been used extensively over the last few hundred years for the extraction of tin. For those interested in this industrial archaeology, Brimpts has produced a guided on the history of mining in the area.

I chose to experience the 'Biodiversity Walk', which took me past the farm's new pod-camping project. Each of the attractive pods is built of traditional material which fits in beautifully with the Dartmoor landscape.

Continuing down through their woodland to the East Dart River, I looked across the water and up to the looming craggy shape of Yar Tor. Look at the size of the granite boulders in the river and wonder how they got there. Certainly they will never move again until we have another Ice Age. I breathe in deeply knowing that the air is pure, as indicated by the luxuriant growth of lichens festooning many of the trees.

Halfway round, you can either take a shortcut back to the farm buildings if the thought of sitting down to a home-made Devon cream tea becomes too great, or you can continue with the rest of the walk and be rewarded by panoramic views over a wide area of Dartmoor.

Then it's back to the farm and into the tearoom for that absolutely delicious cream tea!

For more information please visit www.brimptsfarm.co.uk
Tel; 0845 0345968
(free phone). ■



Hello, I'm "Tinner" Richard Tuckett, I worked at Brimpts, in the mines, back in 1800.

"How did mining change here, and why?"

Burrator... so much

Burrator has been supplying the residents for Plymouth with drinking water since 1898. The reservoir and its surrounding area are owned by South West Water, managed by the charity South West Lakes Trust, and it lies within the Dartmoor National Park boundary.

South West Lakes Trust aims to protect and preserve the natural environment (terrestrial and historical) for the public, provide educational opportunities, and promote public access and sustainable recreation. We aim to provide a balance between the lakes' primary purpose as a water supply and safe access and enjoyment of these beautiful places for the public.

The Burrator catchment contains a wealth of archaeological remains: bronze age hut circles and burial cairns, medieval farm ruins, and remains of the tin working industry. The site is of huge conservation importance and is home to a wealth of flora and fauna. In addition the area provides a unique resource for geographical and geological studies. There is so much to do here throughout the seasons:



Come and visit the Burrator Discovery Centre (PL20 6PE) that opened in July 2014. Lots of information and interactive exhibits explaining what was here pre-reservoir, how the reservoir was constructed, and introduces the railway, farming, tin working, and much more. The Centre is open every week Tuesday-Thursday and alternating days at weekends (see www.swlakestrust.org.uk for specific days). Our volunteer visitor guides are on hand to help you explore the centre, provide information on different walks, and answer any other questions.



"WOW, what a fab resource. We saw it in the early stages and the finished centre is so successful as a staging post for events. My children via school helped with the designs on the totem pole in the entrance, which they love having that link. I cannot speak highly enough of this building, steeped in history but brimming with up to date thinking and tech. A stunning location and backdrop for many an event I have attended."

"Thanks to the arboretum easy access trail, all of the young adults from Dame Hannahs are able to enjoy nature and the outdoors, despite the variety of wheelchairs they have ... Being in the outdoors provides a multi-sensory experience for everybody so thanks to the arboretum we are all able to enjoy this!"

Explore the Arboretum, enjoy walking along the boardwalk and get close to the wildlife that thrive in this wetland habitat. If you turn left through the gate you will find our 1.5km easy access trail, restored in April 2014.



PHOTOGRAPHS © SOUTH WEST LAKES TRUST

more than just a Dam!

Go back through time and imagine what life was like being a farmer here before the reservoir existed. There are many farm ruins around the reservoir however three have their own artistic illustrations which were revealed in September 2014, after the consolidation works had been completed: Leathertor Farm, Lowery Barn and Longstone Manor.

In addition we have a series of 5 themed self-guided walks on the old farms, tin working and the railway, available in the Discovery Centre.

"The evening talks began when we moved to the area, and were invaluable to us in giving an insight into the heritage and the amenity value of the Burrator area and the wider Dartmoor landscape. The walks have been excellent and informative and sometimes physically challenging, and we keep a folder of the trail leaflets for visitors."

Come and learn more about the area by attending one of our evening talks, guided walks, exhibitions, family wildlife watch sessions, or school holiday family activity drop in days.

"As a family we have found attending the family sessions & fun days to be a fun way of learning about our environment. The activities are always well thought out & everyone is always very welcoming. The minimal charges do not go unappreciated either. We always look forward to coming and enjoying the facilities & surroundings & offering these sessions has encouraged us to do it more often."

For more information please ring 01822 855700, e-mail: heritage@swlakestrust.org.uk or pop into the Discovery Centre ■

"Burrator is an idyllic place to visit, there is lots of history and many features that have been retained. It is a place like no other. I would recommend the volunteering to anyone such a great experience."

Get involved! Join in with one of our practical volunteering days carrying out a wide range of conservation and archaeological projects. No experience necessary, just lots of enthusiasm! There are also some indoor volunteering opportunities too.

THE TWO RIDGE WALK, WIDECOMBE

Words & Pictures by David Guiterman

This walk takes you along two ridges running parallel

to one another, and as seen in the photos they could hardly be more different. Bonehill is a series of tors, whereas Hameldown is relatively smooth and the view from the top is one of the best on Dartmoor.

FOOT FILE

Short walk 2 miles; missing out Grimspond 7 miles; full walk 8 miles; total height gain approx. 482m (1590 ft).

For information on the Hampden Bomber or to book a guided walk see John Lowe's website; www.hameldownboys.com John can also be contacted on his mobile 07967 887 368. Guided walks start from Natsworthy Gate on Friday and Sunday mornings at 9:30 (weather permitting) and cost £5.00 per person.

Photo credits: thank you to John Lowe for permission to use his photo of the North face of the RAF memorial and to Keith Ryan for the image of Hameldown Cross in 2008.



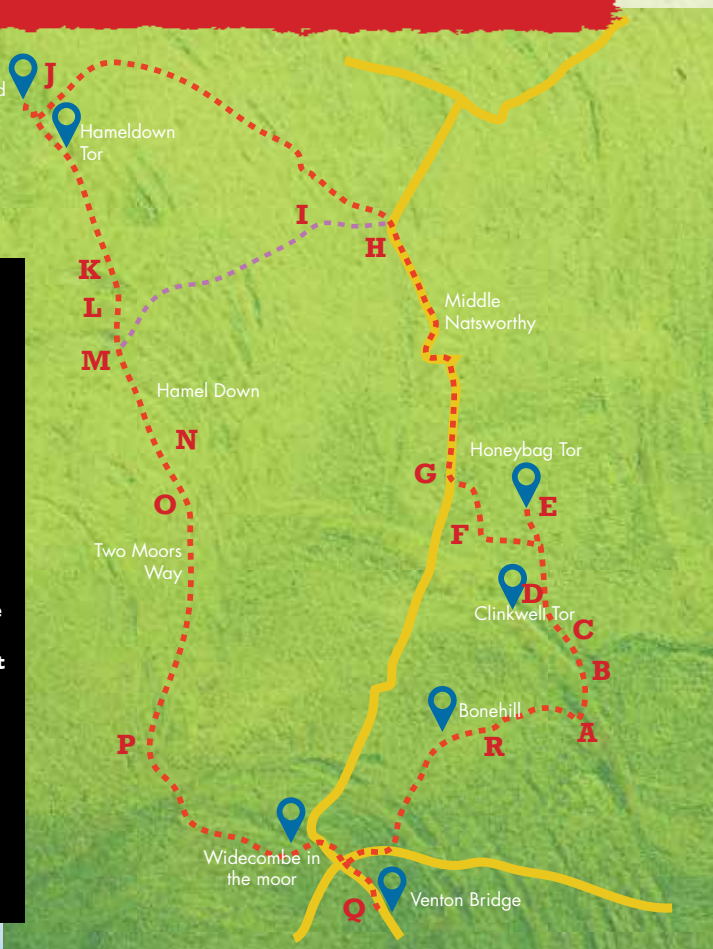
Chinkwell Tor

A Parking can be limited at Bonehill, so it pays to arrive early in the day. Head North to Bell Tor.

B Bell Tor offers a great view of the South Hams framed by the rugged granite.

C Chinkwell Tor: The map shows several Bronze Age hut circles both to the East and West. You need a bit of imagination to see them as to people who came later and wanted to build walls, the huts were just piles of useful stones.

D Descend the slope from Chinkwell Tor and walk west downhill to a stone engraved 'Slades Well'. This is just the first of several such stones on this walk, each bearing the inscription 'DS'. They were erected by the 12th Duke of Somerset who owned Natsworthy Manor.



Honeybag Tor

E Climb up the largest of the Tors, Honeybag Tor before making your way back towards Chinkwell. From the bottom of the dip head west down the slope. Ahead on the skyline is the second of the ridges, Hameldown.

F You have reached Thorny Lane, where you can turn left and make your way back to the car if you are doing the short walk. For the longer walks, turn right and keep going till you hit the Widecombe to Natsworthy road.

G Turn right on the Natsworthy road, passing Natsworthy Manor on the left. It is now a retreat but was at one time owned by Edward Seymour, the 12th Duke of Somerset.

H Shortly after passing The Manor, you arrive at Natsworthy Gate. This is the start of the path signposted 'Poad Near Firth Bridge' (spelling!) Take this path for the full walk which includes a visit to Grimspound.

(Shortcut - follow the lilac line on the map to join the Two Moors Way that runs along the top of Hameldown)



RAF Memorial Plaque

I After half mile take the left hand to discover the RAF memorial at grid ref. 712807. It commemorates the crash of a second world war Hampden bomber from 49 squadron which on March 21st 1941 was returning to RAF Scampton from a bombing raid on the German submarine base at Lorient.

The inscription refers to the squadron number (49), initials of the four crew members and date of the crash.

RDW; Robert David Wilson, the pilot.
CJL; Charles John Lyon.
RB; Ronald Brames
RLAE; Richard Leonard
Ashburton Ellis whose home was in South Africa.

On the other side of the stone is a commemorative plaque added by The Aircrew Association in 1991.



BBC Countryfile

Robert's mother had found a gatepost at the entrance to the Moor which she arranged to have erected at the point where the cockpit had been found. This was later replaced by the standing stone you see today. The photo shows the stone being filmed by the BBC's Countryfile in 2014.

I am grateful to John Lowe, whom I met by chance at the memorial for this information. He has spent many years researching the background to the crash and now leads guided walks from Natsworthy Gate. (See foot file for details)

Return to the path and walk to Grimspound.

J Grimspound. This is the largest and best preserved of the Bronze-age settlements on Dartmoor. The wall around the outside was probably a double structure with a metre-wide passage inside.

From Grimspound head straight up the hill (compass bearing 150°) to Hameldown ridge and follow the Two Moors Way all along it.



Grimspound

Widecombe in
the moor

Venton Bridge

activedartmoor.co.uk



Hameldown Cross picture taken 2008



Hameldown Cross picture taken 2016

K To the right you will see the medieval Hameldown Cross; highest of all the Dartmoor crosses. It is thought that it was moved from its original position to serve as a bound stone, one of many showing the extent of the Manor of Natsworthy.

Inscribed on its East face were: HC (Hameldown Cross), DS (you know who) and the date, 1854. I was unable to make out any of the inscription other than the 'C' and yet a photograph taken in 2008 shows it all clearly. It demonstrates how fast chemically weak granite can erode.

The Hameldown ridge is home to at least 7 Bronze-age cairns. They are more or less hidden by vegetation but thanks to the Duke of Somerset, many are clearly identified:

L Broad Burrow

M Single Burrow

N, Two Burrows.

It was at Two Burrows, in 1872, that Spence Bate discovered the Hameldown Dagger; one of the most important archaeological finds on Dartmoor. It consisted of an amber pommel inlaid with gold pins and a bronze blade. It was taken to Plymouth Museum for safekeeping but sadly lost in the war.



Hameldown Beacon in the distance

Continue past Hameldown Beacon

O pass a field boundary wall (Grid Ref. 707776) on your left.

P Here the Two Moors Way is joined from the right by Church Way. At the end of the field boundary, turn down to the left and walk into Widecombe.

Q Turn right to reach the village centre. The Rugglestone Inn is signposted.



R Continue East along the Bovey Tracey road, cross the East Webburn River and immediately turn left to walk through Bonehill, and back to your car. ■

Widecombe in the moor

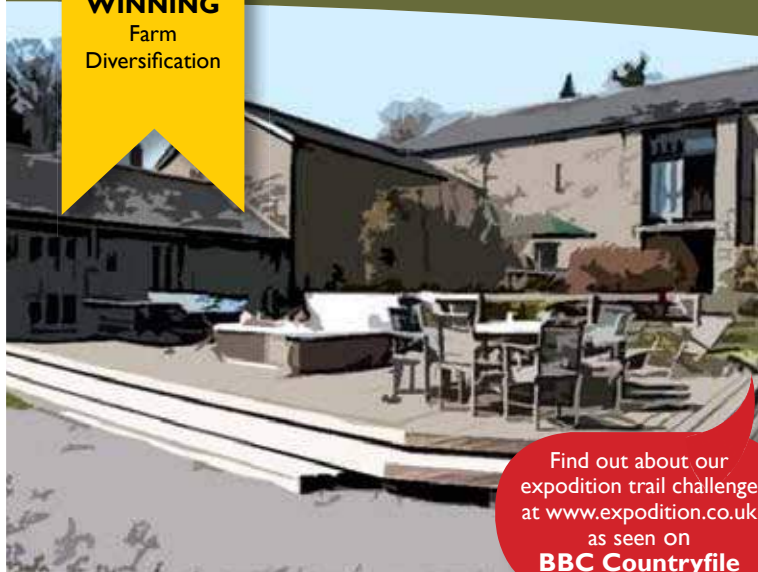
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The most comprehensive list is undoubtedly on the Visit Dartmoor website at:
www.visitdartmoor.co.uk/whats-on

Dartmoor National Park also has a calendar of events at:
www.dartmoor.gov.uk/visiting/vi-eventsguidedwalks

Have fun!!

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