

## Holiday Cottages

### Did you know that we have two holiday cottages on Dartmoor?

The Lodge at Parke and Warcleave Cottage near Chagford. Holiday cottages are an important source of income to the Dartmoor portfolio as well as giving visitors to Dartmoor a comfortable place to stay. We are currently looking at how we can work closer with the holiday cottages team, Stephen Jones, supervisor and Larry and Chris the two caretakers so we can provide visitors with more information about Dartmoor and ensure that they feel part of the Dartmoor team.



## 10 Tors 2014

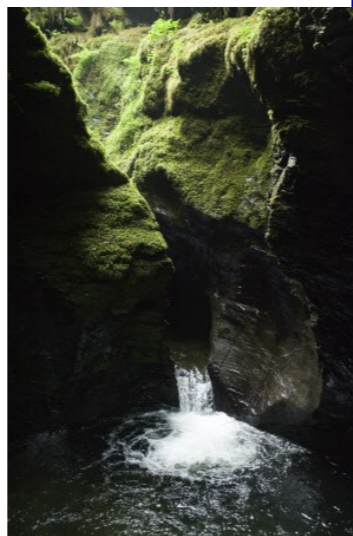
All three National Trust Wild Tribe and all three Torquay Boys Grammar School (with whom we train) 10 Tors Teams got successfully around the 10 Tors Challenge on the weekend of 10-11 May. It was terrible, terrible weather but every one managed to complete their walks. The National Trust 55 mile team had to run the last mile to beat the Army time cutoff of 5pm – they made it by seconds. Try running a mile with a 20lb pack after you've walked 54 miles! They were all smiles after they had finished – an awesome team – one of the highlights of my life seeing them finish before the cut off. Adrian Colston.

## Your shout

This is your space to shout out! If you have a brilliant idea, or want to share your knowledge or skills or about your favorite place on the moor we would love to hear from you. It is also a space for you to ask questions, maybe about the outdoors programme or one of our places.

### Where does the Devil's Cauldron get its name?

The team at Lydford Gorge get asked why the waterfall is called the Whitelady to which we know the answer. However no one knows why the Devil's Cauldron has its name. Maybe it could just be its appearance, a dark, bubbling mass of water, but who thought to name it that? All answers and suggestions welcome.



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National Trust on Dartmoor



# DartmoorNT

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## A Dartmoor roundup

To be honest there is so much going on Dartmoor within the National Trust at the moment I hardly know where to start.

We recently heard from the Heritage Lottery Fund that our Stage 1 application for funding for Fingle Woods with the Woodland Trust had been successful. We are now working hard to produce a Conservation Plan and an Activity Plan for the woods. Wildlife survey work is underway and as I write our in house Biological Survey Team are on site all this week. Some interim trails are up and we have erected a number of directional signs made from trees felled by the winter storms.



Rangers go red

We have also appointed Antony 'AJ' Bellamy as our Lead Ranger for South Dartmoor following Gus Fergusson's retirement earlier in the year. AJ is a great addition to our Ranger team and he brings lots of skills we can use across the whole patch.

We have refreshed our Dartmoor blog <http://dartmoornt.org.uk> - this is a place (along with my blog!) where you can find regular updates on what we are up to across the Moor.

A new Parkrun – a free 5km timed run – has been launched at Parke and the newly opened cycle trails at Plymbridge are proving popular.

The peregrines at Plymbridge have just hatched two youngsters and the Peregrine Watch volunteers are keeping a close eye on them. The bluebells on Dartmoor this spring have been spectacular especially in the Deer Park at Whiddon. Pearl bordered fritillary butterflies have had a good season in the Teign Valley and in Hembury Woods.

Lydford Gorge looked spectacular also during the April floods as did Holne Woods on the Dart. Our new Trampler (a vehicle which allows people with disabilities to access the countryside) has proven popular and allows people to get to the White Lady Waterfall at Lydford.

Finch Foundry celebrated 200 years as a forge and 20 years in Trust ownership earlier in the spring – balloons and cake were the order of the day.

### Adrian Colston, General Manager

My blog – A Dartmoor blog <http://adriancolston.wordpress.com> where you can read much more detail on all these stories and many more – updated daily!

My Twitter account @NT\_AdrianC – updated even more frequently.

Dartmoor will soon be getting its own web page covering all of our Dartmoor places plus Castle Drogo and Buckland Abbey. The umbrella page will include a map with all of our places pinned to it, clicks and links to more specific information about our places and what to see and do. It will also include articles about the best places to cycle, go running, walking, bug hunting, spot butterflies and discover more about our history.

## Summers out and its time to play

Summer is a great time to get out and play. With our core purpose to look after special places for ever for everyone, our approach is to grow the nation's love of special places in everything we do. We use our marketing efforts to build the strength of relationships between people and special places. Our key focus for 2014/15 is to get people outdoors and closer to nature. Over the summer months we are looking at our play offer linking in very much with 50 things to do before you are 11 ¾. We have a fantastic offer on Dartmoor with our special places. Pooh sticks are great at Lydford Gorge and Plymbridge. There are also great bird watching opportunities at all our places. Plym Valley provides an excellent opportunity to tick off go on a really long bike ride. Over the summer keep a look out for more information about our play offer. If you have any ideas as to how we capture visitors favourite memories of play, maybe a tree where people can hang messages about their memories please contact Catherine Maddern on [Catherine.maddern@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.maddern@nationaltrust.org.uk)

I 🌸 Summer



## Great British walk

### Our walking offer on Dartmoor

One of the key focuses for us in this years property business plan is to get our offer right for walking and cycling. With the walking festival coming up in the autumn now is a great time to review what our offer looks like. We already have a number of downloadable walks such as the sky at night at Teign Valley, Woodland Wander at Plym Valley and Discover Dewerstone Wood. Over the next 12 months we plan to develop our range of downloadable walks across Dartmoor. We need ideas for walks between 1 and 3 miles that are all weather walks (you aren't going to get too muddy!) with interest all year round. Please email [Catherine.maddern@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.maddern@nationaltrust.org.uk) with your suggestions.



Charlie Keene, has recently be appointed as Sport's Development Officer and is based at Plym for two days a week looking at our sports offer which includes orienteering, cycling and running. More information in the next edition!

## Devon Rangers Conference, Mick Jones

With the inception of the Getting Outdoors and Closer to Nature (GOACN) strategy and the move to a far higher profile for the countryside in the NT. The Rangers were recognised as key to the delivery of the plans. With the first signs of change came the renaming of the then Wardens as Rangers designed to give us a more facilitating and outwards looking feel. Unfortunately in some places this change was linked to restructuring of properties and portfolios resulting in redundancies and loss of representative accommodation leaving quite deep scars in the affected Ranger teams.



With the spotlight on the countryside there was a bit of a realisation that the Rangers as the largest discipline in the Trust had quietly been getting on with stuff for years, often in isolation, without being noticed this was partly reflected in very low scores from the Rangers in areas of the staff survey.

To start get to grips with this there were two 'Outdoor and Nature' conferences in 2012 which brought rangers from all over the country together. One of the results of these was to set up the Rangers champions group who, rather than having one person as a head of Rangers, represent rangers and meet with Heelis staff 4 times a year. The work programmes they have started have already made changes e.g. all rangers now have standard role profiles and role titles, ranger development plans have been developed see the 'Communicating the outdoors' page on the intranet.

Part of the role of the champions is to channel feedback to local teams and back to the champion team to help this we now have Devon lead ranger meetings 4 times a year to help communication between staff. The Cornwall Rangers who bore the brunt of the changes earlier were very active in getting together and started the idea of the regional rangers conference to get everybody together once a year, Wessex followed on and in Devon we decided to use one of the lead Rangers meetings as a conference with the support and encouragement of Toby Fox and others. So on June the 16 and 17 all the Devon Rangers will be converging on Fingle Bridge for two days of talks and workshops with an overnight camp. The aim being to help Rangers feel part of the Devon team, to help promote the GOACN programme and learn about a number of other major countryside programmes which are really making things quite exciting over the next few years.

In short the ranger discipline has become recognised as a major player in the future of the Trusts plans there is a lot of work going on to develop people in their roles and realise they are a part of a team and no longer hidden in the shadow of the mansion properties. One clear indication is the new red uniform which all outdoor staff will wear making us clearly identifiable as part of a much larger team.