

From: Kate Dobbin Kate.Dobbin@southdowns.gov.uk  
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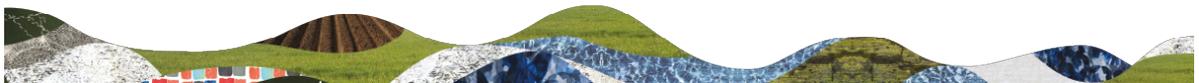
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June 2020

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**SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK**
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

SOUTH DOWNS NEWS

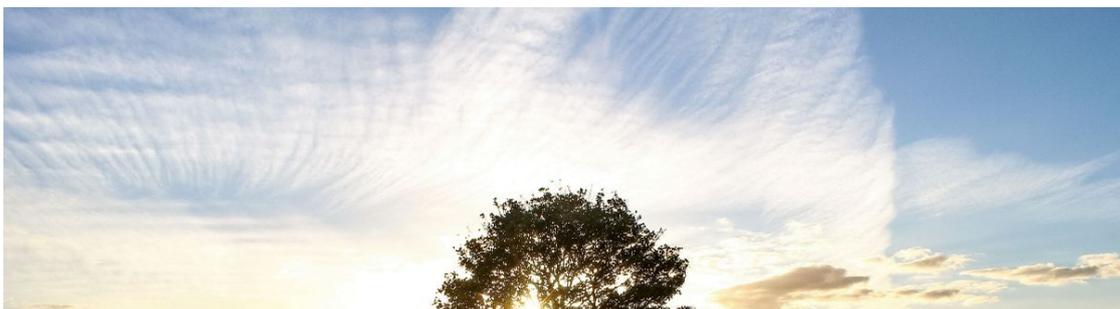


THIS MONTH:

- **Where is your tranquil haven?** Our 2020 [photo competition](#) launches this month and, for the 10th anniversary, we're also opening out the contest to budding young photographers.
- **Helping the recovery** Find out more about the National Park's new COVID-19 Recovery Fund and how [your organisation may be able to benefit](#) from support.
- **Tree-mendous!** A [fundraising campaign](#) to plant 5,000 trees raises £52k in just six months.
- **Connect with nature as a family** [Sign up to a free activities programme](#) to learn about wildlife.

As always please send your comments and ideas to newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk

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Annual photo competition launches!

The South Downs National Park **photo competition** is now open, with a first [prize of £250](#) on offer to the amateur or professional photographer who best captures this year's theme of 'My tranquil haven'.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the National Park, the photo competition is also being extended this year to include a [youth category](#) for **budding young photographers**.

For the main adult category, judges will be looking for images that showcase the **tranquil beauty** of the South Downs – whether that be a stunning landscape, woodland, or piece of history.

[Find out more and enter our photo competition](#)



COVID-19 Recovery Fund gets go-ahead

A **COVID-19 Recovery Fund** of £375,000 has been approved by the South Downs National Park Authority to help [support local communities](#) and step up the National Park's role as a '**natural health service**'.

The fund, from earmarked reserves, will be used to help support projects across the National Park as organisations and businesses make steps to move into the **recovery phase** of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also help to [maximise opportunities for people to connect with the National Park](#) and its many health and wellbeing benefits.

[Find out more about the Recovery Fund](#)

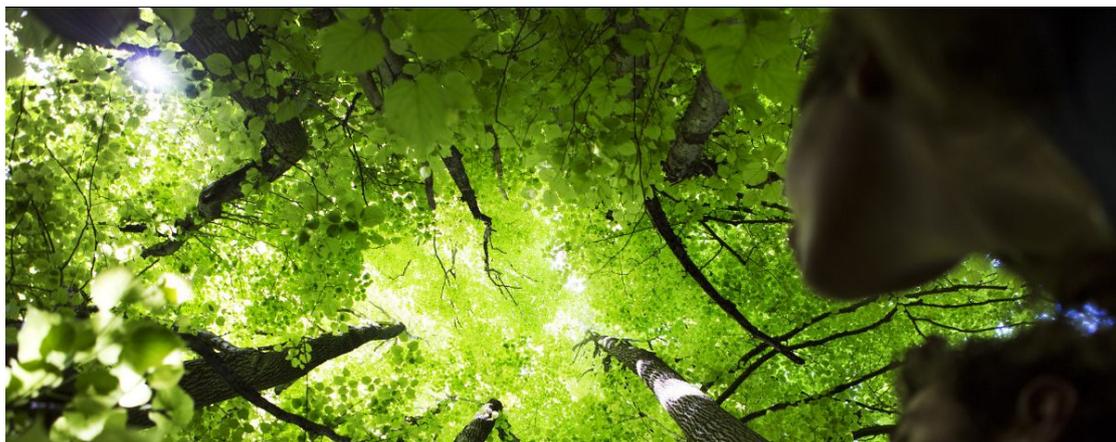
Celebrating our magical woodlands for World Environment Day

A **majestic tawny owl** in full flight, a rare barbastelle bat and a gorgeously-cute hazel dormouse are the stars of a **new series of films** celebrating the [woodlands of the South Downs](#).

The National Park marked World Environment Day earlier this June with three films that showcase the trees, animals and people who make woodlands such beautiful, enchanting and life-giving places.

The [first video](#) is a treat for wildlife-lovers, with stunning close-up footage of birds, mammals and insects. The second focuses on the **Guardians of the Woodland** – a unique insight into the people who help manage woodlands and ensure they remain special places.

The [third film](#) is a fascinating account of **forester Nina Williams**, who recalls how her lifelong [passion for woods](#) came from her childhood adventures at Kingley Vale's 2,000-year-old yew forests.





Meet the Woodland Guardians



National Park introduces inspiring scheme

TO CONNECT FAMILIES WITH NATURE

An **exciting new initiative** has launched to help connect families with the joys of nature through **fun learning activities**.

Whether at home, in the local park, or in the area of the National Park near where they live, families will be able to do a [range of nature-based activities](#) and work their way towards a **Family John Muir Award**.

The South Downs National Park Authority has teamed up with conservation charity John Muir Trust to run the prestigious internationally-recognised environmental award, which is focused on connecting with and caring for wild places.

[Sign up your family to the John Muir Award](#)



Tree-mendous! Campaign to plant 5,000 trees goes from strength to strength

An [inspiring campaign](#) to plant **5,000 trees** across the South Downs National Park is edging closer to smashing its fundraising target – and now [expressions of interest](#) for planting are being taken.

Trees for the Downs was launched during National Tree Week at the end of November and, in just six months, £52,000 has been raised from donations and gifts.



Saying a big thank you

Daniel Greenwood, Volunteering Development Officer, has a **special message** for [volunteers everywhere](#).



Stay safe on the coast this summer

Walkers are being urged to [stay safe](#) along the **Sussex coast** this summer.

People are being reminded of the serious risk the unstable cliffs pose to those getting too close to the edge or walking at the base of the cliffs, and beach walkers who get cut off by the tide.

Get creative for nature!

A new **environmental art competition** has opened for children and young people.



Sussex Green Living and the South Downs National Park Trust have joined forces for “Clean Up & Create”, a competition for five to 16 year olds in Sussex and Hampshire.



[Find out more and get involved!](#)



South Downs tourism sector pulls together for recovery preparations

The South Downs National Park Authority is working with partners on [recovery plans](#) to help revive the region’s **important tourism sector**.

Over 360 people from the Sussex tourism sector have virtually come together to discuss the myriad of challenges facing the sector, including restoring consumer confidence, finding innovative revenue streams, adapting to social distancing measures and the use of technology in tourism.

With many venues and sites only re-opening when it is safe to do so, the focus has been on ensuring the sector continues to get the support it needs and is able to “**survive, revive and thrive**”.

The strong collaboration comes as a [new report underlines the value of the visitor economy in the South Downs](#).

[Please visit our website for the latest advice on getting out safely in the National Park](#)

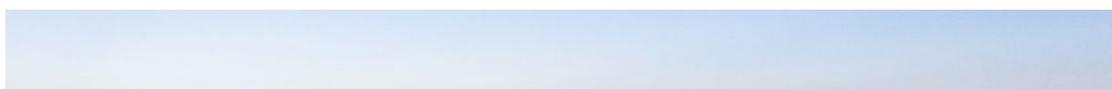
Coming soon! Virtual Wild Chalk

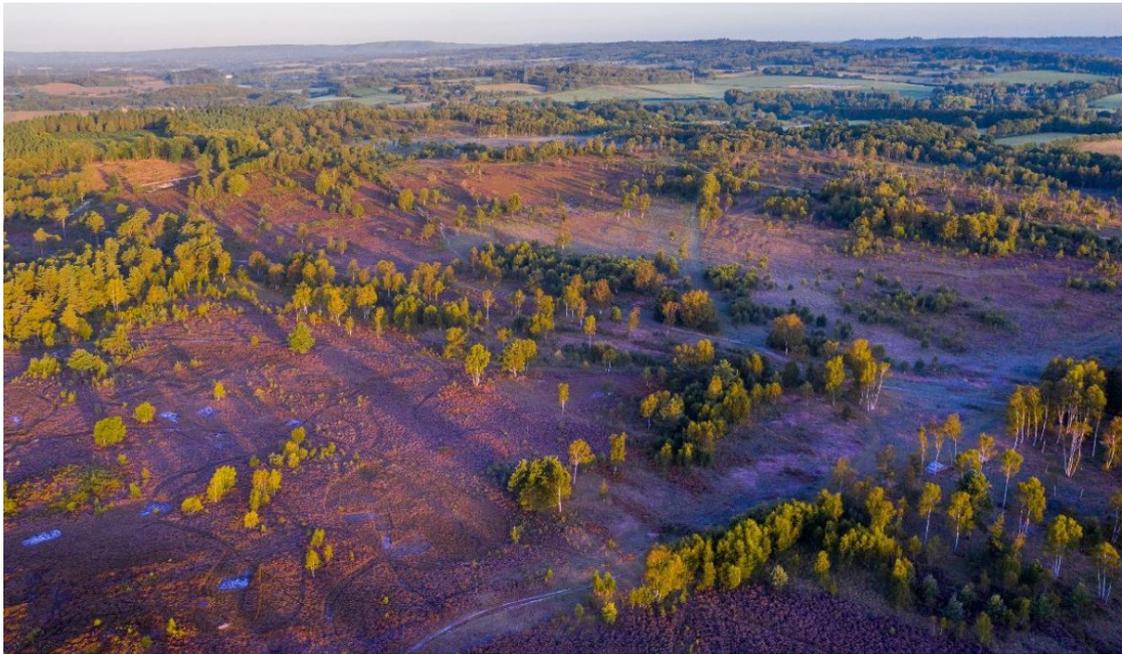
Chalk grassland is one of the most unique and beautiful wildlife habitats on the planet.

With its blanket of colourful wildflowers and incredible butterfly diversity, it's such a special part of the South Downs National Park. So we're pleased to be bringing a six-day celebration of chalk grassland from Sunday 19 July.

The **virtual event** will be packed with videos and quizzes for people of all ages to have fun and learn more about this rare habitat. The event will be a remote-based version of the real Wild Chalk event that started in 2018 at East Brighton Park.

Details of the virtual Wild Chalk event will be announced in the next newsletter. Please also follow the National Park's social media channels and check out www.southdowns.gov.uk where the programme will be published.





Let's work together to prevent wildfires

With a potentially hot summer on the way, Katy Sherman, Engagement Officer for the Heathlands Reunited project, looks at the **dangers of wildfires** and [how we can prevent them](#).



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Save the Bees!

With a hot summer on the way, it's important to take steps to protect our bees. Find out more about the South Downs National Park Authority's Save the Bees campaign.

Help reverse the decline of bees in the South East and create a haven for pollinators in the South Downs National Park. Support our Bee Lines campaign by visiting www.southdownstrust.org.uk/beelines/ and donate.

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