



Christmas has arrived and we hope you are all enjoying the season's festivities. The year has flown for the ranger team with a huge events programme, school guardianships and not forgetting all of our ongoing property maintenance. The winter brings some quieter months where we carry out safety checks on our bridges, cut and tidy the car parks and look at our event plan for next year. This also gives us time to reflect on some of our highlights from 2011!!

During the spring one of the Dartmoor ponies gave birth to another speckled foal at Wembury Point, which over the year we have watched grow. Sadly we will soon say goodbye to the ponies as they go back to the moors where the foal can mature in its natural setting. Do not worry however, for there will be new arrivals soon that will continue to help manage the Point, controlling the re-growth of Blackthorn and gorse which subsequently allows the native wild plants to thrive.

Throughout the year we have continued to run our Guardianship scheme with Wembury Primary School at Mill Meadow. The year 6 children have enjoyed activities such as den building, bug hunts, pond dipping and many more. The scheme is a superb way for children to learn more about nature, the work of the National Trust and of course the abundant wildlife on their doorstep. The ranger team are very grateful to the children for all their help and hard work throughout the programme. We hope we have made little rangers out of all of you!

Throughout the summer there were many successful events, from countryside skills workshops to family bug hunts and canoe adventures. One of my personal favourites was the New Barton Farm Cookout where people could see exactly how our food is produced from field to plate. The award winning butcher from Moostone Meats ran butchery demonstrations and a local chef cooked up some delicious meals using wonderful local produce. This was a great day out for all the family and we look forward to working with Tim and Charlotte Jakins of New Barton Farm to make it even bigger and better in 2012!

The rangers have also noticed a little Christmas magic around at Wembury. In particular we would like to say a huge thank you to our litter fairy at Wembury Car Park!! The team truly value your local help and support and for anyone who would like to get more involved with the National Trust at Wembury please get in contact with our Volunteer Ranger Dave Bassett on 07979667673.

We hope you enjoyed 2011 as much as us and have your own National Trust highlights!! From the team we wish you a very merry Christmas a happy new year and look forward to seeing you in 2012!

Holly Cummings
Countryside Intern