



February 2011
News from the National Trust
Article written by volunteer ranger Katy Holvey

With the festivities over with and January well under way, the National Trust Rangers have been working hard. As well as maintaining gates, moving ponies and otherwise looking after our countryside property, we've been running a number of exciting events.

Our first event of the New Year, Get Out of the Office and Learn to Coppice, took place on Wednesday 5th January. National Trust Rangers were able to pass on coppicing skills and at the same time help people to burn off the Christmas overindulgence! The event took place in an area of Wembury Woods that is currently being brought back into management by coppicing. The coppicing process involves cutting down hazel quite close to the ground in order to promote re-growth. This also lets sunlight reach the woodland floor which allows the growth of woodland flowers such as bluebells and primroses. It turns out that it's quite hard work too, and everyone was happy to stop and have a lunch of locally produced beef burgers. After lunch the coppiced wood was cut into lengths and left in piles to create homes for insects and creepy crawlies, so as well as teaching skills the day's work will increase the wood's biodiversity.

For the first time in South Devon, the National Trust South Devon Coast and Countryside is holding a community Art & Photography Competition in March for people of all ages to get involved with. Our ambition is for this exciting new event to raise awareness of the fantastic coastline and countryside the National Trust manages across South Devon and encourage people of all ages to get out and explore the secluded beaches, striking sea cliffs and tranquil estuary woodlands that little bit closer with a pencil, paintbrush or even a camera in hand. The event will be held in the Kingsbridge Market Hall on 18th and 19th March and we would love to get as many local people involved in submitting entries and helping to create a fascinating gallery in the Market Hall. The theme for all the artwork is *'time well spent'* and the subject is restricted to scenes of, or within the National Trust South Devon countryside properties from Wembury Point though to Dartmouth.

Get involved with one of our events:

Countryside Art Exhibition – 1 January – 4 March 2011

An art competition open to all ages living in the South Hams area. Showcase your talent on the theme of 'Time Well Spent' illustrating amazing National Trust landscapes. All work will be exhibited in Kingsbridge. Adult £5, Child £0

Devon Hedges. Learn to lay a hedge – Sunday 6 February

Discover the wonders of Devon hedges and help keep them alive and thriving by traditional cutting and laying. This day will give you a good introduction to hedge laying and includes a NT South Devon skills certificate. Adult £10 & Child £5

Orienteering Family Fun – Tuesday 22 February

Learn in a fun way the basics of orienteering with the National Trust Rangers on the coast at Bolt Tail. Discover how to navigate using landscape features, a compass and map co-ordinates. Finish with an exciting orienteering challenge. Adult £5 & Child £2

Booking is essential for all these events. For more information and to book a place please contact south.devon@nationaltrust.org.uk or telephone 01752 346585.

Please stop and have a chat to the team if you see us out working or if you have any comments about the work of the National Trust. For further information please call Lorna Sherriff on 01548 562344 or email lorna.sherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk