

Wembury Newsletter for 15th



**National
Trust**

Despite it being a mild winter, the December storms have washed up large amounts of rubbish onto our beaches. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their effort and time in helping keep these beaches clean. The removal and appropriate disposal of litter in these quantities costs the Trust £1000's which is money that could be spent better elsewhere.

There are now fourteen ponies at Wembury Point for the conservation grazing of the maritime grassland and scrub to allow the grassland and wild flowers to recover. Please do not disturb or feed the ponies and ensure all dogs are kept under control as we have recent reports of dogs chasing the ponies. 5 ponies are in foal and will be foaling soon, so keep a look out for some foals in the next couple of months.

Along the footpath at Wembury Point the Rangers have replaced some chestnut fencing and gate latches to improve access. The team and volunteers have also started clearing patches of the invasive Pampas grass originating in South America which is very fast growing and spreads quickly due to it being tolerant of various environments. The Pampas grass lowers the biodiversity of the site as it spreads quickly smothering other plants and is not favored by birds or other wildlife. The aim for this area is to return Wembury point to a natural state with native species. Our most recent volunteering event on Sunday 10th January cleared an area of scrub contributing to this. Thank you to all the volunteers that participated.

From the 12th February Wembury Car Park will be staffed again so can all members remember to bring your membership card when visiting the site. The whole of Wembury car park now has bays marked so please ensure you park within the allocated bays.

For our next event; we will be meeting at East Soar Car Park near Marlborough on Tuesday 16th February at 10am, until 3pm. We will be cutting back young tree stems as part of the woodland management method known as coppicing at Tor Woods near the Overbecks property, a 20 minute walk from the East Soar Car Park. Everyone is welcome and there is the chance to meet the Rangers and other volunteers. Please bring sturdy footwear, waterproofs and a packed lunch. Refreshments will be provided and no previous experience is needed, just come along and have some fun.

On Friday 19th February there will be a RAMM walk with the Ranger event at Wembury beach at 11am until 1pm. We will be admiring the views and wildlife around Wembury Point as shown by the webcam in the RAMM Exeter. Everyone is welcome to come and experience the beautiful South Devon coastline. Waterproofs are recommended.

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

Anna Jones

Volunteer Ranger

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