



**National
Trust**

I can't believe that August has gone by and we are already into September, it only feels like yesterday I was writing the update for the August parish newsletter. This month we are finishing our path cutting schedule and we start building up to our winter work programming mainly focusing around scrub cutting, woodland works and footpath maintenance.

During last month we have been working hard in and around the Wembury beach car park area. We have continued with our ongoing path cutting and strimming around the car park to ensure we keep the vegetation under control to allow, ease of access and to ensure the site looks tidy and presentable all year round. The Ranger team has been out renewing all the cleft chestnut rails around the car park as the previous fencing had reached the end of its lifespan and was deteriorating rapidly. We have used a different technique which will hold the rails more firmly and so hopefully stop vandals from breaking them. Unfortunately this summer we have seen a big increase in vandalism at Wembury beach and car park mainly fences and signs which have been broken to burn on a fire on the beach. Please could visitors be vigilant and if you do spot any vandalism please inform the police as this does cost us a lot of money which reduces our funds for our conservation and improvement works. Likewise we are also seeing an increase in fly tipping so please report this if you witness anyone fly tipping.

We have been working hard to remove the Ragwort from Wembury Point to ensure the health and well-being of our pony herd. Ragwort has a bitter taste to horses but as the plant naturally wilts it loses the bitter taste and becomes more palatable to the grazing animals whilst retaining its toxic properties which can cause irreparable liver damage. The ponies are doing well on site and will be moved into the top radar field for part of September and then back down onto the slopes in October. The mares and foals will be going back onto the moors at the end of September / beginning of October for their vet checks and for the foals to get their Pony passports. Other mares will be brought down to the site to maintain the numbers in the pony herd to continue the great grazing work they are doing.

The Beach Fun events at Wembury went well. Thank you to all who came and joined in and to the Devon Wildlife Trust Marine Centre wardens for the rockpooling sessions. It was great to catch some little eels in the meadow stream and to find a Gem anemone when rockpooling.

I have been receiving a few enquiries regarding dogs on the beach, BBQs and Fires and events so here are some bullet point reminders:

- Wembury beach is a dog free beach from 1st May – 30th September. The beaches further west along the Coast Path, Langdon and Wembury Point are dog friendly.
- Fires on the beach are not permitted. BBQ's are allowed as long as they are not causing a nuisance to other visitors, the café or the holiday cottage and the BBQ and all associated rubbish is taken home.
- Events that will be run from Wembury beach (or any South Devon National Trust area) need permission from the National Trust and preferably 6 months notice provided to ensure that all required documentation is in place prior to the event.

We have several other events coming up in September and October. All these events are Free with no need to book (Car parking charges apply to non members at South Milton and Wembury):

Saturday 10th September - join the Rangers and the AONB team at their annual **Big Night on the Beach** event at **South Milton Sands**. Beach activities from 4pm – 9.30pm. Remember to bring a clean jam jar to decorate into a lantern.

Saturday 17th September – **Beach clean at South Milton Sands**. Come and help the rangers clean the beach as part of the Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach clean. 11.00 – 12.30.

Sunday 18th September – **Beach clean at Wembury**. Come and help the rangers clean the beach as part of the Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach clean. 11.00 – 12.30.

Saturday 1st October – **Wonderful woodland event – Wembury woods**. Woodland activities for all ages including building a den, cooking on a campfire and learning how to coppice. 11am – 4pm.

For further information please look on www.nationaltrust.org.uk

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

Lorna Sherriff
Area Ranger

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