



**National  
Trust**

With all the warm dry weather we have had it has been great to get out and enjoy the coast and beaches. Unfortunately we have seen some antisocial behaviour occurring particularly at Wembury beach and Wembury Point with fires being lit, using wood broken away from fences or nearby trees and on a few recent occasions lots of beer bottles had been smashed up around the fire site and down onto the beach. With all the dry vegetation it is vital that fires are not lit anywhere as these can easily spread and become out of control quickly in the current conditions.

The ponies at Wembury Point are doing an excellent job at grazing the rough grasses and scrub re-growth to ensure the important maritime grassland habitat remains in a great condition. The ponies are wild, coming down from a farm on Dartmoor. We have a variety of breeds with a large proportion of pure bred Heritage Dartmoor ponies with the others being Dartmoor x British spot pony, with the youngest foal being born mid July. A few regular walkers to the site have spoken to me about noticing an increase in visitors feeding the ponies which can cause distress (and sometimes even death) to the ponies as their stomachs are not able to process the foods being fed to them. If you see this happening on a regular basis please do let me know. Another concern for the ponies is the amount of dog mess that is being bagged and left on the site as we are worried one of the ponies could accidentally ingest one of the bags. It is a dog owners responsibility to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it appropriately. If there is not a bin nearby it should be taken away and disposed of appropriately at home. Thank you to all the responsible dog owners who do this already.

We hope you all have a wonderful August and enjoy the school holidays.

Check out our other events coming soon (for further information go to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events)):

Throughout the summer holiday we will have pop up events happening at Wembury beach and South Milton Sands when the weather is nice and we have volunteers available to help us. These pop ups will be for a few hours and have 50 things activities to undertake. We will post these on Facebook the day before so please do follow us to keep updated.

**15<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm – 9.30pm – Big Night on the beach – South Milton Sands.** This family favorite is back again, celebrating the end of summer with family activities and the spectacular sundown parade. You'll also have the chance to try out watersports, rockpooling, crafts, and beach games, with storytelling, bird watching and more too. In partnership with the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this event is not to be missed. Wear clothing that is suitable for the weather, taking into consideration that the beach may get cooler after dark. The event is free to attend, but small charges apply for some of the taster sessions

**16<sup>th</sup> September, 2.30pm – 4.30pm – MSC beach clean – Wembury beach.** Come and help the National Trust Rangers and Devon Wildlife Trust Marine centre Wardens clean Wembury beach as part of the Marine Conservation Society Great British beach clean. Be part of this national event and do your bit for protecting the beautiful beaches and marine life. Please bring a pair of gardening gloves, shoes suitable for getting wet and clothing appropriate for the weather. The event is free but please register on the Marine conservation society beach clean website ( <https://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch> ) so we know how many will be turning up.

For information regarding the work of the South Devon National Trust team please call Lorna Sherriff on 01548 562344 or email [lorna.sherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lorna.sherriff@nationaltrust.org.uk)