

Welcome to the Wildside

We have been really busy since our last newsletter working across Wye, Stodmarsh and Ham Street Reserves. Here is a snapshot of some of the work we have been doing...

New community hide at Stodmarsh!

The education area at Stodmarsh is now complete with a new community hide, decorated with fabulous mosaics by local school children.

Over the summer we have had nearly 800 children enjoying learning outdoors at Stodmarsh!



Summer Fun! Pond pirates, time travellers, butterfly bombastic and bird bonanza – just a few of the fun sessions which tempted families along to Stodmarsh and Wye NNRs for fun in the sun in the school summer holidays.



At Wye NNR we have been equally busy and over 700 school children have been wowed by the beautiful landscape and wildlife! We have also hosted visits at **Ham Street Woods**. All three reserves have curriculum linked education packs

which are free to download from the website.

Celebrate Wye's Woods!

Our June event with Butterfly Conservation and Wye Community Farm attracted nearly 200 people who learnt about making charcoal and spinning wool, went on orchid and butterfly walks, and got creative making butterfly kites and much more!



J'aime bien Wye! We had a special visit this summer from a French school whose students came to compare the chalk grassland at Wye NNR with the French Parc Opal.

English teens too!

We joined forces with Groundwork and NACRO to help teenagers get some practical conservation experience. A path was cleared, trees trimmed and a bonfire made, all with much enthusiasm!



Awesome autumn and winter events!

Our first autumn event was a bat evening at Ham Street Woods. We're now looking forward to our winter events. To find out what is happening visit www.naturalengland.org.uk/wildside or contact Joanna Carter on 0300 060 4645 or email joanna.carter@naturalengland.org.uk





New image library for Stodmarsh

One of our volunteers has created a picasa album for what has been happening at Stodmarsh lately. It is regularly updated, so take a look on the Wildside website to keep up with Stodmarsh news! If you are interested in creating a photo album for Wye or Ham Street email wildside@naturalengland.org.uk

Wildside goes techno! Listen to our audio trails and podcasts!

We now have audio trails, self guided walks, reserve leaflets, spotter guides and much more available on the web for download. We have developed these so that they are also useful for people who can't access the reserve, so have a listen and see what you think!

New interpretation at Ham Street Woods!

We are installing some new interpretation at Ham Street Woods and a new community notice board! So look out for these new additions that are soon to appear.

Big thank you to volunteers!

Our merry band of volunteers have given the reserves a real boost! We want to say a huge thank you to the volunteers for their dedication. If you are interested in volunteering at one of our fortnightly volunteer groups please contact our Outreach Officer.

New shelter at Wye NNR and a free cup of tea! No excuse not to walk now!

So we are encouraging greener methods of travel but what have we done to help? Well, we have constructed a walkers' shelter which should help you rest your legs! You can walk to the reserve following the North Downs Way National Trail and if you do,

you can claim one free cup of tea in the Devil's Kneading Trough restaurant! Check out the offer on the Wildside website under sustainable travel.

So what happens now the project is coming to an end?

The project might be finishing, but our work is carrying on! Our Outreach Officer, Joanna Carter, will continue offering free visits to schools and organising events for all the community. The fabulous web resources produced by Welcome to the Wildside, such as the education packs and audio trails, will still be available to all on the Natural England website – and our onsite interpretation and new facilities will be there for years to come!



For more information:

If you are interested in booking a school or community group visit, or coming along to an event, or for more information, please contact:



**Natural England, International House, Dover Place,
Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU**

Email: Wildside@naturalengland.org.uk

Phone: 0300 060 4645

Web: www.naturalengland.org.uk/wildside

