

SOUTH DOWNS NEWS

HELP US TO #RENATURE
SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

WORK AND PLAY IN YOUR NATIONAL PARK

This month:

- **Step back in time** Walk in the footsteps of a renowned archaeologist and a talented artist as we introduce two new audio trails at Seven Sisters and Petersfield.
- **Creatures of the night** Find out about a National Park fund that is helping to restore an important bat roost – and discover how your community group could apply for funding.
- **Sky's the limit** With summer storms never far away, we celebrate our amazing clouds!
- **Competition** Win a ticket for two to enjoy sumptuous South Downs fizz – at 450ft!

As always, please send your comments and ideas to us at newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk

Walk in footsteps of renowned archaeologist

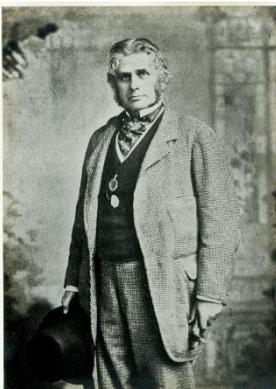
He's often considered the founding father of modern archaeology and his collection of 50,000 artefacts continues to reveal fascinating details about past lives and cultures.

Now people can find out more about Augustus Pitt Rivers and his work by enjoying a new immersive walking experience in the South Downs National Park.

The audio trail, based at Seven Sisters Country Park, walks in the footsteps of Pitt Rivers, who spent time in the South Downs during the 1860s and 1870s. He was fascinated by the many hillforts between Chichester and Beachy Head and spent time excavating sites at The Trundle, Highdown, Cissbury Ring, Devil's Dyke and Seaford Head among

many others, notably discovering and recording Bronze Age burial mounds, prehistoric tools and Roman pottery hidden for millennia in the chalk landscape.

Pitt Rivers even raced to Seaford Head to excavate the Iron Age fort there after hearing a rumour the site was to be blown up to create sea defences.



Some of the artefacts Pitt Rivers collected from the South Downs are now part of the collection at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford.

Meanwhile, over on the western side of the National Park, another "In Their Footsteps" audio tour is also being launched this month, revealing the life and times of artist Flora Twort. Moving to Petersfield at the end of the First World War, Twort was an accomplished artist and moved in circles that included well-known painters such as Stanley Spencer. She retained a deep passion for Petersfield throughout her life and left a collection of nearly 1,000 paintings and sketches, beautifully portraying the people, culture and landscape of the historic market town. Many of her works were displayed in The Royal Academy, and today her collection is proudly on display at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery.

All aboard the Rambler!



Explore the National Park and do your bit for the planet as the South Downs Rambler bus returns for the summer holidays and early autumn!

Taking in a range of breathtaking views and key attractions between Winchester and Petersfield, the Rambler bus will run every Sunday until 24 September, as well as the August Bank Holiday Monday.

It comes as people are being encouraged to leave the car at home and use public transport to explore the South Downs Way.

The bus takes a scenic view from Winchester to Petersfield railway stations and back again – via the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium, views at Cheesefoot Head, the gardens of Hinton Ampner, the Iron Age fort at Old Winchester Hill, the luxurious Langrish House Hotel and a number of traditional pubs and villages.

Andy Gattiker, National Trails and Access Lead, said: “The Rambler Bus is a great way to see the Hampshire side of the South Downs in a relaxed and sustainable way. People can make a real day-out of it and we all know children, in particular, love a bus ride!

“It’s ideal for families who perhaps haven’t seen much of the South Downs Way before, right up to seasoned ramblers who might want to see the Downs from a different perspective.

“Every driver on the South Downs Rambler has considerable local knowledge and will be delighted to offer guidance.

“Sundays have been chosen as it’s the perfect day to relax and unwind. So leave the car at home for the day and create some great memories on the South Downs!”

The bus has been funded by Hampshire Community Rail Partnership and Cross Country Trains and is operated by Bluestar.

For further details and for the timetables visit

www.southdowns.gov.uk or
www.easthampshirerail.co.uk

The free tours are downloadable as an app on mobile phones and connect landscape and focal points to the stories of the Pitt Rivers and Twort.

The East Sussex walk, in the footsteps of Pitt Rivers, comprises a 6.5km/4-mile circular route exploring the sweeping parkland and iconic coastline at Seven Sisters Country Park. The Hampshire tour, exploring the work of Flora Twort, starts and finishes at Petersfield Museum and comprises a 1.5-mile circular route, including an optional extended walk around the picturesque Petersfield Heath.

The two new tours are the latest in the “In Their Footsteps” series, with guided walks already in place for other key figures in the National Park’s heritage, including Virginia Woolf and the world-renowned Bloomsbury Group, the great naturalist Gilbert White and artist Ivon Hitchens.

Anooshka Rawden, Cultural Heritage Lead, said: “These brand new tours give people the chance to walk in the footsteps of eminent thinkers and artists who were inspired by the landscape and nature of the South Downs.

“Pitt Rivers had a huge impact on the emerging discipline of archaeology. In the South Downs, his meticulous records of sites such as Cissbury, Highdown and Seaford Head set the foundations for archaeological discoveries in Sussex by subsequent generations of archaeologists. Flora Twort was a talented artist who really captured 20th century life in Petersfield through the decades, particularly the poignant changes in the town’s streetscape, and seeing her work is as much a history lesson as it is an appreciation of her amazing creativity.

“I hope people enjoy these guided tours.”

People can download the app from their phone’s app store, either by searching “In Their Footsteps” or following the below links:

Google Play store: <http://bit.ly/InTheirFootstepsGoogle>

Apple store: <http://bit.ly/InTheirFootstepsApp>

The development of the tours was funded by the South Downs National Park Trust.



Market Day at Petersfield - Flora Twort 1939 - Copyright Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Bats to benefit from National Park funding



Restoring a nationally-important bat roost, the story of a town's "lost railway", improvements to a nature reserve and a new community eco-shelter are among the exciting projects to benefit from a National Park fund.

A range of inspiring initiatives across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex have been awarded grant funding from the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF). The dedicated community fund is a partnership between the South Downs National Park Trust, the official independent charity for the National Park, and the South Downs National Park Authority.

A grant of £10,000 was awarded to Sussex Bat Group and Vincent Wildlife Trust to renovate and maintain a barn in West Sussex that is a vital haven for the greater horseshoe bat (undisclosed location due to extreme sensitivity of site). Once a cave-dweller, this bat species is now very rare in the UK and tends to roost in old buildings, such as churches and barns. During the last century, greater horseshoe bat numbers fell by over 90 per cent in Britain. It's hoped the work will be a step closer to helping **greater horseshoe bats** return to their former ranges in southeast England.

Just under £4,000 was awarded to a project at **Benfield Hill Local Nature Reserve**, in Brighton, to support the reserve's 30th anniversary celebrations. The grant will help provide two educational boards at the site, including information on chalk grassland habitat and wildlife.

Meanwhile, an initiative to create a new community eco-shelter in Petersfield will benefit from a grant of £10,000. A traditional wooden shelter, complete with a green roof, will be built at the **community garden on the Adhurst Allotments** to help encourage school visits and youth volunteering.

Just under £7,000 has been awarded to help produce four educational boards depicting the history of **Steyning & Bramber Railway stations**. The Steyning Line connected Horsham with the port of Shoreham-by-Sea, with

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

connections to Brighton, for over 100 years until it closed in 1966. A route that was important for agricultural and industrial transportation, the line served the cement factory at Beeding and the brickworks at Southwater. It was also an important connection during the Second World War. It's hoped the education resources will help residents and visitors learn more about the railway's heritage and its impact on the area.



Vanessa Rowlands, Chair of the National Park Authority, said: "Volunteers and community groups are the lifeblood of the South Downs National Park. They give so much time, energy and dedication that benefits this treasured landscape, its communities and wildlife, but they often lack funds.

"This is where the Sustainable Communities Fund can make a real difference. We're pleased to be able to award these grants to a variety of really inspirational projects that will aid nature recovery, celebrate heritage and create wellbeing opportunities for people of all ages.

"I look forward to seeing how these projects progress over the coming years!"

Daniel Hargreaves, Bat Programme Manager, said "Greater horseshoe bats were once considered extinct in southeast England, to discover a maternity roost in the South Downs National Park is incredibly exciting. It demonstrates that vulnerable species can bounce back if the habitat is suitable. This vital funding has helped secure this important roost and created a safe haven for the bats."



More information about greater horseshoe bats, the Sussex Bat Appeal and ways to donate can be found at www.vwt.org.uk/sussex-bat-appeal

Applications for future SCF funding are being welcomed. For more information on the Sustainable Communities Fund and to find out about applying for a grant visit www.southdownstrust.org.uk/scf/

About the Sustainable Communities Fund:

Any partnership or other not-for-profit organisations which include social enterprise, community interest companies, voluntary organisations and 'for profit' organisations (these projects cannot be for financial gain to the business) can apply for funding if they believe their project is bringing social, environmental, economic or cultural benefits to a community within the National Park.

Application forms are not available for download as we encourage an initial conversation about your project - please contact the External Funding Co-ordinator, Victoria Crespi, on 07471 997344 or grants@southdowns.gov.uk

Join “Shaun the Sheep” for National Park adventure!



Walks at Seven Sisters Country Park and the tranquil village of Buriton are two of eight new national “Shaun the Sheep” routes promoting the Countryside Code.

Ordnance Survey has teamed up with Natural England and the South Downs National Park to introduce two walks that are perfect for all ages.

With Shaun the Sheep guiding the way, the walks are a great chance for young children to learn about map reading and how to behave in the countryside.

It comes as Ordnance Survey marks National Map Reading Week this month and encourages children to get outdoors.

Earlier this year Shaun the Sheep was unveiled as the champion of the Countryside Code, encouraging people young people to “respect, protect and enjoy”.

National Map Reading Week offers the chance to brush up on your map reading skills, whether you are exploring from home, on day trips or at holiday destinations across the country.

A recent survey revealed 54% of parents admitting the most exposure their child has had with maps is via video games and 61% of children unable or unsure of how to find their home on a map.

OS has created a fun way to check your knowledge. The mapping experts have produced the OS Map Reading Challenge to test parents and kids on their knowledge of map symbols, scale, and how to read contours.



You can complete the [OS Map Reading Challenge](#) and download [your 'OS Badge' here](#)

For more information about the walk at Seven Sisters and Buriton, near Queen Elizabeth Country Park, visit this [web page](#) and the OS Maps App is also available to download for free on mobile phones. An A5 leaflet of the Countryside Code can be found [here](#).

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National recognition for two wonderful projects



Two initiatives in the National Park were recognised at a glittering ceremony at the Houses of Parliament to highlight inspiring projects that help people and nature.

Amid fierce competition from across the UK, Chris

Pavia was over the moon after picking up the runner-up spot for the New Perspectives category at the annual Campaign for National Parks Awards.

The prestigious awards are run by the charity to highlight initiatives that go the extra mile to help wildlife and encourage people to connect with protected landscapes.

Echoes Within the Earth was led by Chris, who was the first choreographer with Down's Syndrome to make a dance piece for national touring.



Inspired by Chris' childhood experiences of woodland in the South Downs, the emotive nature-based dance routine was performed at Seven Sisters, Petworth Park and Gilbert White's House and delighted scores of young people.

The performance of *Echoes* has recently completed touring some locations in Europe and is due to perform in Greenwich Park this month, sharing the message about discovery and connection to nature.

Anooshka Rawden, who leads Cultural Heritage in the National Park, said: “I'm so incredibly proud of Chris and so pleased that his work and that of Stopgap Dance Company has been recognised in this way. *Echoes* has been a beautiful and innovative exploration of outdoor spaces.”

Meanwhile, congratulations are in order for Cheriton Conservation Volunteer Group, which was shortlisted for the National Park Nature Award.

Since 2016, a number of dedicated residents have offered their time to help protect and enhance the area's natural beauty and biodiversity, including tasks such as riverbank maintenance, wildflower planting, tree planting and hedge laying.



Well done to all! 😊

Look up and marvel at the spectacular clouds!

The South Downs is blessed with some breathtaking landscapes of rolling hills, cliffs, rivers, streams and forests that are any photographers' dream.

But capturing a great landscape shot is not only about having a stunning landscape in your frame.

The sky conditions, or more specifically cloud conditions, have a big part to play.

Whether it's a stormy, towering cumulonimbus, a wispy cirrus formation or moody stratus, clouds can add extra impact to any picture.

World Photography Day this month focuses on clouds and to celebrate we're sharing six stunning images that showcase these huge masses of water droplets in all their glory!

Can you take a sensational image of the landscape and a dramatic sky for our annual photo competition?

The theme this year is a "New Perspective" and the top prize is £250. There are also categories for mobile phone imagery, wildlife and a youth section.

Entries close at midnight on Tuesday 31 October.

Find out more and submit your entry at www.southdowns.gov.uk/care-for/photo-comp-2023/



A stormy Steyning Bowl by Simon Parsons



Cloud inversion over the Arun Valley by Lloyd Lane



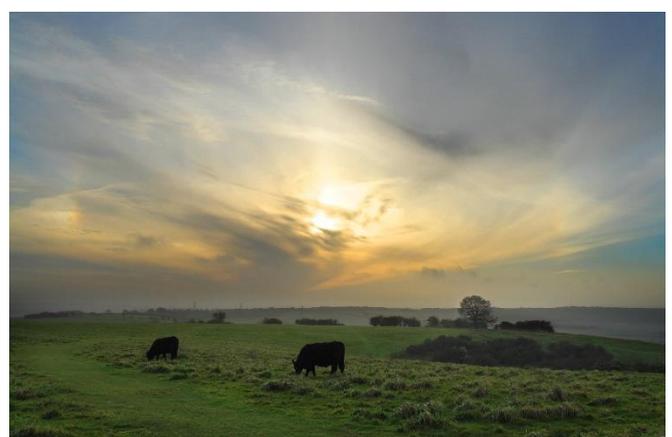
"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" by Gavin Parrott, capturing Belle Tout lighthouse under a rising storm cloud



Sunrise over Stoughton by Chris Doyle



An incredible shot by Bill Brooks of Capability Brown-designed grounds at Petworth Park



The cloudscape at Butser Hill by James Douglas

Pedal power helps planet



Children are being equipped with life-long skills for cycling thanks to a sustainability scheme in the Ouse Valley.

The three-year project, Ouse Valley Climate Action (OVCA), is now well under way after being awarded more than £2m from the National Lottery Community Fund.

Greener travel is one of the focuses of the project and there have been a range of fun cycling activities for young people from the project's base at the Active Travel Hub in Newhaven. The team have started weekly "learn to ride" sessions after school, where younger children can come along and learn to ride, unaided, for the first time.

There was a "bike fix" day, where young people could come and learn, from a qualified mechanic, how to do basic repairs and servicing for their bikes.



Jamie Lloyd, Engagement and Active Travel Officer for OVCA, said: "This has been a wonderful and heart-warming experience for everyone involved and it is great to see children come in on stabilisers and leave, at full speed, on two wheels."

"Encouraging people, of all ages, to travel actively is fundamental to the aims and ambitions of the OVCA project. Surface transport is responsible for 26% of the UK's carbon emissions and converting people to cycling saves money and improves health and fitness. The National Park is easily accessible by bike and this is something we encourage all of our students to do, showing them accessible paths like the Egrets Way shows young people how to access the country side in a safe and sustainable way and our aim is to lead longer rides as the South Downs Way is such an excellent, traffic free route."

To find out more about OVCA's climate action work visit www.southdowns.gov.uk/climate-action-hub/ouse-valley-climate-action-ovca/

The National Park Authority has also set up an information hub where you can find out about local communities that are taking climate action. The hub has a range of useful guides and resources, with more to be added in the future. Visit

www.southdowns.gov.uk/climate-action-hub/

Celebrate the high life!



Where can you enjoy panoramic views of the South Downs from 450ft?

It's the Brighton i360 Viewing Tower, of course!

We've teamed up with the seafront venue to offer you the chance to win a pair of Sky Bar Tickets, with a journey on the i360 Viewing Pod and drink of your choice from the Nyetimber Sky Bar.

The prize covers two adults (over the age of 18).

Celebrating the best of the South Coast, the Nyetimber Sky Bar at Brighton i360 serves local favourites such as Brighton Gin, Folkington's juice and the award-winning Nyetimber English Sparkling Wine.

Grown in the beautiful setting of the South Downs, Nyetimber's English Sparkling Wines are world renowned and make the most of the chalk soils in the region.

Kitty Paterson, from Brighton i360, said: "Step onboard the giant glass viewing pod to discover majestic views of Brighton, the south coast, and the South Downs from 450ft."



"A feat of architecture and engineering, the i360 Viewing Tower is visionary from the inside out, its doughnut-shaped glass pod acts as both a lift and a viewing platform, carrying you up and down the tower while providing unobstructed panoramic views from start to finish. Experience all this whilst sipping your choice Classic, Cuvee Cherie or Rose Nyetimber Sparkling Wine for an experience to remember!"

People signing up to the newsletter during August will be automatically entered into the draw.

Those who are already signed up can email "Celebrate the High Life" to newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk before midnight on 31 August.

Sign up to the newsletter [here](#) and see competition T&Cs [here](#).

Things to do in the South Downs this August

Please follow the links as booking may be necessary. Find these and more events across the National Park and submit your own events at southdowns.gov.uk/events/



The popular Live at Langhams returns

- Head to [Langham Brewery](#) on 12 August for its annual beer and music festival. Part of the month-long MADhurst 2023 celebration of art, music, drama and creativity, the annual Live at Langhams is a much-loved family friendly (and dog friendly!) event. Expect the brewery's usual relaxed style: wonderful live music - pop, rock, soul, jazz and sea shanties from Fate The Juggler, Duck Pond Sailors and many more. This is a free event but there will be a collection for Friends Of The South Downs and the South Downs National Park's ReNature initiative.
- Discover blacksmithing through the ages! Head to Butser Ancient Farm from 18 to 20 August for [a weekend of metalworking](#) in action as over 50 blacksmiths descend on the beauty spot.
- [Petersfield Summer Festival](#) takes place over the August Bank Holiday weekend, with live music from a range of bands, including Superheroes, one of the south's premier rock and soul groups, and leading vocalist Amba Tremain.
- Step back in time at Michelham Priory House & Gardens this August Bank Holiday weekend (26th to 28th August) at the [East Sussex Living History Festival](#). You can travel back through 800 years of time at living history encampments, starting from the medieval period through to modern times.
- Looking ahead to September a fundraising art exhibition inspired by the South Downs landscape is taking place at St Hubert's, Idsworth, from 8 to 10 September. The church will be open from 10am to 4.30pm and entry is free.
- Also looking ahead, three guided archaeology walks are taking place this autumn, one at Cissbury Ring and two at Highdown. Tickets go live for these walks on the National Park [website on 21 August](#) and they always go fast!

Pic credits

P1 Pitt Rivers public domain; P3 Daniel Hargreaves; P4 Ordnance Survey