

Wild Purbeck

NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREA

Summer 2013

Time has flown over the last three months with lots of events taking place across Purbeck. Dorset Wildlife Trust, National Trust and RSPB have all been busy attending or organising events. We have attended



Julie & Briony at "Wild About Brownsea"

many with the Wild Purbeck stand, some of you may have seen us at Brownsea, Wareham or Church Knowle asking people where the "Wild is in your Wild Purbeck". This has been very popular with many of you saying there is more than just one special place for you in Purbeck. The NIA is working towards ensuring that Purbeck continues to have all these wonderful places by working in partnership,

sharing knowledge and information to deliver real enhancements to the natural environment and conserve these "Wild" places for all.



Stonehill Down © Tony Bates

Land Management & Advisory

The first quarter of this year has been very busy for projects under this theme. Wetland Birds surveys (WeBS) have been carried out which monitor non-breeding waterbirds in the UK with 7000 bird sightings recorded so far in Purbeck. This information will be used to highlight possible important sites for these birds. FWAGSW have been visiting farmers advising on Higher Level Stewardship Schemes ahead of upcoming deadlines. Behind the scenes, meetings have been taking place with various partners including the Durlston Grazing Partnership. Grazing is

important in the management of habitats and key to this is getting stocking levels and timing correct to ensure the right grazing regime is implemented. The Land Management Advisory Service is working to deliver guidance and information to landowners and farmers about different management techniques. Workshops will form part of this guidance and there are plans to run these across the lifetime of the NIA project. One planned for summer is a Lulworth Skipper workshop for farmers with coastal land and is being run in partnership with

Butterfly Conservation. Much of the work carried out on land management needs information that is gathered by surveys and in addition to the WeBS counts there have been arable plant and farmland birds surveys carried out on farms across Purbeck. Surveys help us to monitor wildlife and how it is coping with different types of management and can help to better inform us on how to possibly improve the habitats.

More information on the WeBS counts can be found on the British Trust for Ornithology website <http://www.bto.org/>



What's On

Tuesday 6th - Wednesday 7th August - Dorset Wildlife Trust's "**Creepy Capers**"
Wareham Library

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th August - **The Big Sleepout, RSPB Arne**

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th September - **Raptor Weekend, RSPB Arne**

July - September - **Cyril Diver Survey Days**

for info contact David Brown david.brown4@nationaltrust.org.uk

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th September - **Dorset County Show**

For more details please contact Julie Turner julie.turner@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Did you know?

- So far the NIA volunteers have clocked up more than 5000 volunteer hours.
- Partner organisations have delivered over £130,000 of in kind benefits
- Purbeck boasts to have all six native reptiles. Do you know what they are?
- Arable plants are a threatened group of wild plants in the UK. More information and help on identification can be found on [Plantlife](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)
- Each £1 invested by the government in NIA's is resulting in £5.50 in additional support from projects.

Community at the Centre

There have been numerous events over the last few months with great turn outs at all of them. Wild About Wareham saw more than 600 of you through the door and Wild About Brownsea welcomed over 250 visitors to the island. Bioblitzes' have been taking place across Purbeck with Dorset Wildlife Trusts' **Community Gateway** project. This project has been delivering various public engagement activities and training opportunities including



Planting for Butterflies at "Wild About Wareham" © Martin Franks

Know your Seaweeds and Shore Things surveys, helping people to discover this

wonderful resource on their doorstep. In April garden centres all over Purbeck took part in a Wildlife Gardening Weekend with two centres running children's activities and free garden wildlife advice and how to encourage it. Artists have been appointed to both the primary and secondary schools for the **Past Arts** project in Purbeck. Exhibitions scheduled for spring 2014 have now booked spaces and there are two guided walks planned of the Swanage Arts Trail and a public landscape drawing event by the National Trust. There are many walks, talks and numerous other activities that will be delivered across the lifetime of the project. We shall keep you updated here as dates are

confirmed.

Warehams Children Centre has been supported by the Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB and Jurassic Coast Team in developing a "Wildlife Garden" which was showcased by holding an Open Day with lots of activities and a mini bug hotel created. Parent volunteers have now formed a Garden Gang to help manage the garden.

Wild Purbeck Education Service are going to be delivering free twilight sessions offering training for teachers focusing on how to use nature, wildlife and geology of Purbeck in the new curriculum which will be launched in 2014. Partners are working together to develop education materials for these training events.



Wild Purbeck NIA stand at Open Farm Sunday © Martin Franks

Over 80 volunteers have now taken part, in the Cyril Diver Project from first-time naturalists to national experts. Clocking up 500 volunteer days

Building Resilience through Research & Planning

The Cyril Diver project has so far had over 80 volunteers taking part in re-surveying Studland, from first-time naturalists to national experts. They have clocked up 500 volunteer days - an absolutely fantastic effort



Carrying out Visitor Survey © Martin Franks

that exceeds all expectations. This has also involved pupils from a local school recording small mammals in the area. The survey days will be running across the coming months and if you wish to find out more you can contact David Brown on (01929) 452308

david.brown4@nationaltrust.org.uk

Surveys have been carried out across 21 sites in Purbeck for the **Visitor**

Management Strategy with 382 questionnaires being undertaken, as well as drive by car park counts. This information will be used to help inform us in developing and implementing improved visitor management opportunities across Purbeck. There will be further surveys taking place across Purbeck in July & August so please take part if you get asked.



Wild About Wareham © Martin Franks

Community Gateway has engaged with 3000 people so far in the project

Green Economy

Many of the projects under green economy are currently in the planning stages and will be looking to begin in the coming months. This will include delivering training needs for landowners with Kingston Maurward

College and various workplace opportunities with NIA partners.

Conservation Produce will be researching the venison market and looking into the supply of venison and how the connected markets operate. It is hoped that this

current niche product becomes a more common sight on our plates.



Sika Deer © Tony Gill

The Wild Purbeck Partnership comprises of Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Dorset County Council, Country Land and Business Association, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Kingston Maurward College, National Farmers Union, Natural England, National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. This project has been supported by Defra, DCLG, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England'



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

