

Rewarding ways to lend a hand

There are so many ways to get involved as a volunteer; whether you're looking for a regular commitment, or more flexible opportunities. We'll also support you with the learning and tools for the job. **Here are just a few ways volunteers are helping out at our places in the South West. Find out more at nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer**

Volunteers at Tyntesfield



©National Trust Images/Rob Storchard

Tales of Tyntesfield

Volunteering can be a way both to learn and to share. If there's a National Trust place you love, and you'd love to learn more about it, then perhaps becoming a room guide could be for you?

Our volunteer room guides at Tyntesfield have taken their role to the next level, with the development of new storytelling volunteers to share some of the lesser known histories of the residents of the house. The volunteer team have worked with a professional storyteller to design and develop these new tours, and will take these new skills to support training and developing new storytelling volunteers this year.

Bryony Darke, Assistant House Manager at Tyntesfield, said: 'The volunteer team I've worked with have been invaluable in developing our new tours. Their creativity and knowledge has been inspirational. They're honestly awesome, I love to sing their praises.'

The January 'play hard' tours, which are focused on the family that lived at Tyntesfield, will follow the footsteps of Janet Gibbs (wife of Tyntesfield's Victorian owner, Antony Gibbs) and Nancy Gibbs (daughter of Antony and Janet). The tour has been developed using Nancy's teenage diaries which give an intriguingly different view of daily life in the house.

The February 'work hard' tours are focused on the servants that worked at Tyntesfield and will follow the footsteps of Hemmings the butler. He was a footman in Janet and Antony's time but worked his way up to butler and the tour tells the story of his progression.

Find out more at nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield

A passion for playing

Simon Arnold, a volunteer for the National Trust, completed a challenge in September to play nearly all of the working pianos or organs in Trust buildings in the South West. All to raise money to help keep music alive in these historic places.

Simon's challenge 'Pachelbel's Progress,' saw him head off to play at a total of 15 places over 11 days in September, not a small task. The repertoire was chosen to reflect the spirit of each place, with pieces including 'Greensleeves,' 'Moonlight Sonata' by Beethoven, 'The Charleston,' 'Clair de Lune' by Debussy and 'The Entertainer.'

Simon said: 'I'm very passionate about music and want to keep it alive through my playing - this is why I completed this challenge. Music has been part of my life since I was a child and is still something that I do every day in my retirement, especially as I already volunteer to play at six National Trust places.'

Simon Arnold at Cotehele



©National Trust/James Breslin

From this I am hoping to raise enough money to restore some of the most impressive musical instruments in the National Trust's collection, including Killerton's pipe organ which is in need of a new pedal-board to bring it back to full fitness and also a 200 year old Broadwood grand piano.'

Denise Melhuish, House and Collections Manager, Killerton said: 'Simon has been volunteering with us for four years and his passion and dedication to this is inspiring.'

Money raised from the challenge will be put towards conserving musical instruments of all kinds owned by the National Trust in the South West. If you'd like to support Simon on completing his challenge you can visit his JustGiving page - justgiving.com/nationaltrustmusic

If you'd like to help us look after wonderful places and share them with visitors, there's lots of opportunities at: nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/volunteer-in-the-south-west

Stourhead's volunteer Hero

At Stourhead, one of our welcome assistants, Helen Stratton brings her dog, Hero, an eight-year-old Golden Retriever, to help to encourage visitors to explore the areas where dogs are always welcome and to explain the reasons why some restrictions are necessary within the garden. Helen and Hero are regular walkers on the estate, know it well, are aware where livestock is and have become very valuable volunteers.

Hero is a rescue dog and is now happy in her third and final home. Fortunately she wasn't badly treated in her previous homes - she was just a bit of a handful - but with Helen's training and a lot of love, has become one of Stourhead's favourite volunteers.



National Trust/Charlotte Toop

Hero on duty at Stourhead

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News and events
Spring 2019

South West Edition

Near you

Issue 102

Helping nature spring back

'I remember being enchanted by these creatures as a child, and hugely welcome their return.'

Alex Raedar



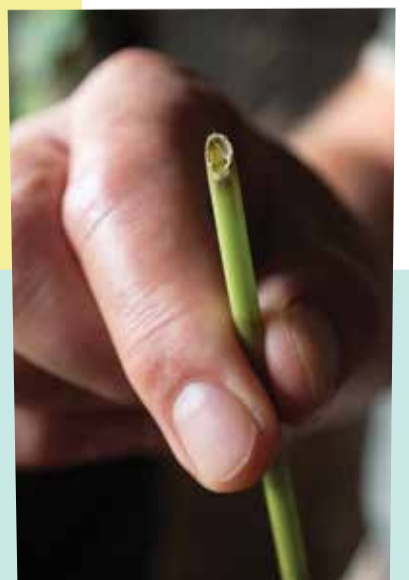
We've released 150 water voles at six carefully chosen locations on the Holnicote Estate on Exmoor, Somerset – where they were last seen in the 1980s.

Alex Raedar, National Trust Conservation Specialist, tells us: 'They were once a vital part of the Holnicote ecosystem, and could be again. This ambitious project not only brings back to its rightful home a much-loved small animal, which sadly became locally extinct due to human activity, but also adds to the whole wealth of wildlife and enjoyment of this wild and stunning estate.'

The new arrivals will be closely monitored to see how they are settling in, with rangers, special 'vole-unteers,' students and the public joining forces to monitor their numbers.

They will use simple field signs to record the voles' presence and behaviour, from actual sightings and 'plopping' sounds as they dive in, to droppings, vole runs and burrows as well as grass blades nibbled off at distinctive 45 degree angles, see picture, right.

Find out more about our work to create space for nature by searching 'National Trust South West Nature'. The water vole reintroduction is part of our Riverlands project to restore and revive five rivers across England and Wales - search online for 'National Trust Riverlands.'



Clockwise from beach picture
• **View over Bossington and Porlock.** ©National Trust Images/ Ross Hoddinott
• **Grass nibbled at a 45 degree angle by water voles.** ©National Trust Images/ Steve Haywood
• **Alex Raedar, Conservation Specialist.** ©National Trust Images/ Steve Haywood

Main image
• **Water vole.** ©National Trust Images/ Steve Haywood

Step into spring in the South West

We'll begin to see borders and gardens returning to life as spring flowers slowly start to emerge. Find out what to look out for and when over the coming months.



©National Trust Images/John Miller

Hellebore



January
Winter stems such as salix, and cornus and hellebores.

Top places to see:

- Winter stems such as salix and cornus at **Dyrham Park**.
- Hellebores at **Lanhydrock**, **Killerton** and **Godolphin**.

©National Trust Images/Emma Weston

The daffodils at Killerton



February
Daffodils, camellias, snowdrops and magnolia.

Top places to see:

- Highly perfumed Daphnes will be in flower at **Coleton Fishacre**, **Lanhydrock**, **Cotehele** and **Killerton**.
- Swathes of snowdrops at **Kingston Lacy**, **Lacock**, **Prior Park**, **Tyntesfield** and **Trengwainton Garden**.

©National Trust Images/T Halstone

©National Trust Images/William Shaw



Border of hyacinths at Tyntesfield

March
Daffodils and hyacinths.

Top places to see:

- Daffodils at **Saltram** with over 90 varieties of flower in the Lime Avenue, **Barrington Court** where drifts line the avenue and spill into the orchards and **Stourhead** with 25,000 blooms in spring.
- Camellias at **Greenway** including the Camellia Festival, **Trelissick** and **Dunster Castle**.
- Hyacinths at **Coleridge Cottage** in the wildflower meadow and **Dyrham Park** naturalised in the Nichols Orchard.

Snake's head fritillary



©National Trust Images/William Shaw

April
Magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons, continuation of spring bulbs, beginning to see bluebells. Herbaceous borders showing first signs of emerging plants. Forget-me-nots, tulips, snakes's head fritillary and wild garlic start to show.

Top places to see:

- Magnolia at **Overbeck's**, **Glendurgan** and **Kingston Lacy**.
- Tulips at **Lacock Abbey** in the Botanic garden, **Coleton Fishacre** and **Newark Park**.

A warm welcome at the Inn

In the heart of the Heddon Valley, Hunter's Inn is now owned by the National Trust. Every overnight stay, pint and meal bought here will help to look after the wildlife in the area and contribute to improved access for visitors. Rob Joules, General Manager in North Devon said

'People love this valley and wildlife thrives here. As a result of buying Hunter's Inn, we can do more to make people's time here special, and do even more to support wildlife such as the high brown fritillary butterfly and habitats that are seeing huge declines elsewhere.'



Hunter's Inn, Devon

©National Trust Images/Mel Peters

New year, new challenge?



Stonehenge Landscape, Wiltshire

©National Trust Images/John Miller

This year we've launched a new series of walks taking in 12 of Wiltshire's sites - the Wiltshire Landscape Walking Challenge.

The walks average around 7 miles each, totalling 84 miles if all are completed. They take in some spectacular landscapes including Cherhill and Calstone Downs (Marlborough), Cley Hill (Warminster), Dinton Park (Salisbury), Windmill Hill (Avebury) and Figsbury Ring (Salisbury).

These walks aim to encourage people to explore the outdoors more and spend their leisure time with friends and family. Lorretta Waters, National Trust Area Ranger, said 'Life's so hectic now with more pressures than ever, so it's important to take some time to step into the peace and calm and enjoy the natural world.'

The challenge element comes from completing all the walks before the 31 December 2019. Take a 'selfie' at each site to show you've completed the walk, and you can enter a draw to win a Cotswold Outdoor voucher for £300.

A Wiltshire Landscape Walking Challenge pack costs £12 and consists of a map holder, 12 printed walks, tips and instructions, a free drink from the café at Avebury and a chance to enter the competition.

For more information visit: nationaltrust.org.uk/wiltshire-landscape

Making space for wildlife

Belted Galloway cattle



©National Trust/Paul Harris

One of the rarest butterflies in the UK, the Duke of Burgundy, can be spotted as well as the elusive pasque flower and greater horseshoe bats.

The National Trust's herd of Belted Galloway cattle is helping the wildflowers to thrive. They act as

It's long been recognised that nature needs our help, with many species in serious decline. The Stroud landscape project is aiming to do something about it by creating more spaces for nature and making the network of wildlife sites in the heart of the Cotswolds bigger, better and more joined up.

With the town of Stroud at the centre, the project extends as far as Crickley Hill in the north to Wotton-under-Edge in the south. The area features calcareous grasslands and ancient beech woodlands.

natural lawnmowers, keeping the grass at just the right height to encourage wildflowers and insects. Last summer, the rangers gave them a hand by collecting the seeds from native flowers and grasses which have been spread on to nearby fields. You'll be able to see the fruits of their labour in the next few years when the fields should be full of colour from yellow rattle, cowslips, knapweeds and orchids.

Standing by my darling's side

Launching this year at Mompesson House, Salisbury, 'Standing by my darling's side.' It will tell the untold story of Jinny Townsend, resident of the house, who kept an almost daily diary from the age of 15 in 1859 until 1882, writing up to just a couple of months before her death. Jinny's diaries provide a valuable description of the daily life of the young ladies who lived in Salisbury at that time detailing everything from skating parties, sketching, afternoon walks around the Close, to Jinny's eventful romance with future husband Willie.

©National Trust/John Howes



Powerful voices - listen in



©National Trust/LOW PROFILE

'For Me, For Her, For You' is an audio artwork by artists LOW PROFILE in collaboration with sound artist Neil Rose. Artwork has been created in response to our Women & Power series of events and exhibitions during 2018 marking the 100 year anniversary of the passing of the Representation of the People Act (votes for women) and the long struggle for women's suffrage.

The seven-track audio work weaves together interviews, songs and recorded messages about inspirational women with new sound work.

The artwork has been shaped with the involvement of members of the public, National Trust volunteers and women based in the South West. The artwork also features three new commissioned songs by emerging singer songwriters selected by the artists for this project through an open call.

You can find out more about this project and listen to the artwork by searching online for 'National Trust for me for you for her'.