

SOUTH DOWNS RENATURE FESTIVAL 2026

19–28 June



Looking to make a difference?

Take a pledge to complete one or more of these seven simple actions to support nature and combat climate change:

- Create a home for nature
- Give nature a helping hand
- Conserve water and energy
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, and repair
- Shop local
- Opt for car-free days
- Get creative in nature

How you can help!

PROGRAMME

Restoring Balance, Enhancing Nature

The South Downs National Park is home to breathtaking landscapes, rare habitats and precious wildlife. But this spectacular haven for animals and plants needs our help!

Five years ago, we set out on an ambitious journey with our ReNature Campaign, aiming to transform 13,000 hectares (over 20,000 football pitches) into habitat for wildlife by 2030. Our vision is simple: nature everywhere, for everyone.

The annual ReNature Festival celebrates the progress made so far, shining a light on the inspiring efforts that are helping us reach this milestone. A chance for people of all ages to learn more, get involved,

and experience the incredible wildlife, habitats, and landscapes of the South Downs; from our iconic heathlands and chalk grasslands to our treasured dark skies, to name just a few. Whether you're discovering new ways to support nature or sharing your own experiences, there's something for everyone.

This year we are highlighting the importance of balance between people and nature.

Be part of it!



HELP US TO #RENATURE
SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

WHAT'S ON?



Please note that all events are weather dependent and are subject to cancellation at short notice – please check SDNPA social media on the day.

FRIDAY 19 JUNE

▶ 20:30-22:15 SUNSET NATURE SAFARI

Witness the breathtaking sunset at Ambersham and Heyshott Commons and be the first to greet the nocturnal wonders as they emerge at dusk. Join SDNPA Ranger Jake, Apprentice Ranger Holly, and Queen of Darkness Elinor for an unforgettable evening, embracing the darkness!

[Book a place here](#)

THURSDAY 25 JUNE

▶ 9:00-15:00 VOLUNTEER TASTER SESSION

Join SDNPA Rangers at Mill Hill Local Nature Reserve near Shoreham for tree-popping and scrub clearance on the chalk grassland bank. This is an opportunity to lend a hand towards nature conservation efforts and learn more about the work we do to enhance biodiversity. Email volunteering@southdowns.gov.uk to book a place.

▶ 20:30 WALK WITH THE NIGHTJARS

Join the heathland rangers on a guided night walk to encounter the most mysterious creatures on our heaths. The walk will be approximately 1.5 km and we'll be setting off just as the sun sets so please bring a torch and binoculars if you have some.

[Book a place here](#)

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

EXPERIENCE THE SEVEN SISTERS DAY

▶ 10:00-15:30 EXPERIENCE THE SEVEN SISTERS DAY

Join us at Seven Sisters Country Park for a day discovering and celebrating some of our wonderful habitats and wildlife, in and around the eastern end of the National Park.

The event is drop-in, with some activities requiring booking – see details below.

Activities include nature walk sessions, a bird-spotting walk, a mindfulness session, an archaeology walk, a nature photography session, and a willow weaving session. You can also have a go at our amazing giant jigsaw, colouring sheets, water quiz, and discover lots of information about the National Park.

BOOKABLE ACTIVITIES ARE:

▶ 10:00-12:00 THE BIRDS OF CUCKMERE HAVEN

Join SDNPA Ranger and bird expert Tim Squire for a fun session of bird spotting in Cuckmere Haven and Seven Sisters, and discover more about the biodiversity found at this special place.

[Book a place here](#)



© SDNPA/Tim Squire



© SDNPA/Sam Moore



► **10:00-14:00 RENATURE SCYTHING EVENT**

Discover the traditional skill of scything with SDNPA Ranger Lawrence. Learn how to wield this magnificent tool safely and find out why this manual method is actually one of the best ways to mow and manage awkward areas of chalk grassland for nature.

Book a place here

► **10:30-12:00; 12:30-14:00 NATURE WALK: POLLINATORS, WILDLIFE SPOTTING AND RECORDING**

Join Biodiversity Educationalist Dr Dan Danahar for a fascinating guided walk through the landscapes of Seven Sisters. Discover the vibrant life of the reserve as we explore blooming wildflowers, buzzing pollinators, and the rich diversity of insects with a special focus on butterflies that call the grassland home.

Book a place here (two sessions available)

► **12:00-14:30 ARCHAEOLOGY WALK: THE DOWNS THROUGH THE AGES**

Join Archaeologist Gary for this fascinating walk around the Cuckmere, with its rich history hidden in the passage of time. A journey into the history of this extraordinary chalk landscape.

Expect about two-and-half hours of easy riverside walking, pausing to admire earthworks and ideas about what they might mean.

Book a place here

► **12:00-15:00 WILLOW WEAVING CRAFT: BIRD FEEDERS**

Guided by artist Mandie Molyneux, learn how to weave your own willow bird feeders. This fun and creative hands-on event is perfect for nature lovers of all ages. No experience is necessary - Mandie will guide you through the process step by step.

Book a place here (two sessions available)

► **11:00-12:15 GUIDED MINDFULNESS IN NATURE**

Join Brenda, the Stress Less Coach for a calming outdoor mindfulness experience designed to help you slow down and reconnect with nature. Step away from the busyness of everyday life and spend time improving your wellbeing through nature-based mindfulness practices in the beautiful surroundings of the South Downs.

Book your place here

► **13:00-14:30 NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Join award-winning young photographer Felix for this relaxed nature photography session. Perfect for those looking to develop their skills and learn how to capture the beauty of the natural world with confidence. Whether you're photographing wildflowers, wildlife or sweeping landscapes, Felix will share practical tips and creative insights to help you elevate your images. Some of the winning photos from our annual photo competition will be on display, and Felix will also share some of his own portfolio.

Book your place here

RENATURE COMPETITION!

We've got two family tickets to give away for a day out at the amazing wildlife park.

All you need to do is share an image of you doing your bit for nature – whether it be some wildflowers in your garden, creating a "bee hotel" or even just out and about spotting wildlife. **It's totally wide open!**

Simply share your images with us via email newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk or on Instagram with the hashtag **#ReNature2026**
Deadline is 31 July 2026. **Good luck!**



WIN
A Family Ticket
to Marwell
Zoo

© Paul Collins

SUNDAY 28 JUNE

DISCOVER YOUR HEATHS DAY

► **11:00-16:00 DISCOVER YOUR HEATHS DAY**

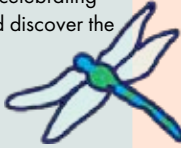
Join us at Hogmoor Inclosure, Bordon with our community partners for a day of free family fun celebrating our amazing heathlands. Have a go at crafts, face painting, bug-hunting, archery sessions, and discover the fascinating story of our heaths through the ages.

Meet Raven Tor, Graenwulf, Red Fox Archery and explore the Craft Fayre.

► **11:30, 12:30, 13:30 HEATHLAND STORIES**

Join storyteller Janet Goring for fun and engaging children's storytelling sessions during the event! Book on the day or drop in.

Please
walk or cycle
if you can!



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