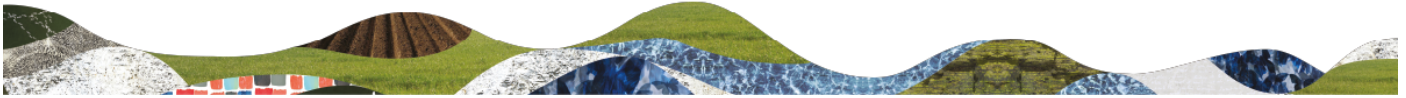


SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

SOUTH DOWNS NEWS



WORK AND PLAY IN YOUR NATIONAL PARK

This month:

- **Wild Chalk returns!** Get involved with our exciting online celebration of the stunning and wildlife-rich chalk grasslands of Sussex and Hampshire.
- **Meet Ian and Vanessa** As Margaret Paren steps down after 10 dedicated years as Chair, find out about the new Chair and Deputy Chair elected to lead the National Park Authority.
- **Explore arts and heritage** Learn more about the venues re-opening as lockdown measures ease.
- **Beautiful butterflies** Find out 10 of our rangers' favourites!

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

Go wild for chalk grassland this July!

Ranger talks, Stone Age re-enactments, virtual walks through wildflowers and a fun "meet the sheep" session will be among the highlights as the South Downs National Park celebrates our amazing chalk grasslands this month.

Wild Chalk returns for 2020 – and it's all going online with an action-packed line-up of films, quizzes and activities that people can enjoy on their mobile phones, tablets or laptops.

The South Downs National Park Authority and Brighton & Hove City Council have joined forces to put on the six-day virtual event, which aims to help people learn more about one of the rarest and most unique habitats on the planet. It builds on the success of the live events that have taken place at East Brighton Park for the past two years.

Wild Chalk 2020 kicks off on Sunday, 19 July, with a day dedicated to our incredible "busy bees". The Festival will be launched by Professor Dave Goulson, head of biology at the University of Sussex and author of "The Garden Jungle", who will give us some tips on what we can do to help bees, followed by a Facebook live with National Park Ranger Sophie Brown from the top of the South Downs showing bees using pollinator corridors across farmland.

Back in the city, Brighton & Hove City Ranger Sally Graham-Macleod will talk through creating an urban bee



bank, before the day rounds off with a storytelling session from modern-day bard Ben Fairlight.

Each day will have an exciting theme focusing on a different aspect of chalk grassland.

People are also being invited to take part in a daily quiz challenge to be in with the chance of winning a "Wildlife Explorer Pack" prize.

Laura Warren, Events and Engagement Officer for the South Downs National Park, said: "Wild Chalk is one of our most popular headline events and the inevitable impact of COVID-19 has meant we've had to do things differently this year and be quite imaginative in our approach.

"We've taken elements from the visitor event and transformed them into a fun and educational package that will work well online. This virtual event is a first for

us, but we're really looking forward to engaging with people across the South East.

"There's something for everyone and all ages, whether you want to tune in for the whole week, or just want to dip into one of the films or activities that appeal to you.

"Our big aim is simply to inspire people! We want people to learn more about chalk grassland and what we can all do to help care for this delicate landscape. It really is a very special habitat, with some of the highest insect and plant diversity you'll find anywhere in Europe. We're so lucky to have it on our doorstep in Sussex and Hampshire."

The themes and highlights for the day will be:

Sunday, July 19 – Busy bees, including bee expert Dave Goulson and a ranger chat with Sophie Brown.

Monday, July 20 – Amazing Grazing, including "Meet the Sheep" with Brighton & Hove City Council Ranger Paul Gorrington.

Tuesday, July 21 – Flower Power, including Dr Dan Danahar and National Park Ranger Jan Knowlson exploring the flowers of Sussex and National Park Ranger Maddy Crews exploring the chalk grassland blooms of Hampshire. Also download a colouring sheet and gets tips from our artist Emily in a live colouring-in session!

Wednesday, July 22 – Chalk Talk, including Aimee Felus, of The Aquifer Partnership, making a model of a chalk aquifer and exploring how chalk filters and cleans the water we drink.

Thursday, July 23 – Prehistoric South Downs, including a Facebook Live with Neolithic re-enactor Will Lord demonstrating fire lighting, flint knapping and hide tanning from his Stone Age camp.

Friday, July 24 – Beautiful butterflies, marvellous moths, including Robert Foreman, of Sussex Wildlife Trust, opening a trap to discover which moths inhabit the South Downs.

For all the details about Wild Chalk 2020 please visit www.southdowns.gov.uk and check out the National Park's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The wonders of chalk grassland

- Chalk downland is a big part of what makes the South Downs special.
- Over 30 different species of butterfly can be on the wing at any given time above the South Downs National Park's chalk grasslands.
- The late naturalist David Bellamy described them as "Europe's rainforests".
- Since the Second World War, the UK has lost around 80 per cent of its chalk grasslands. In the South Downs they now cover just 4 per cent of the National Park's area, yet they remain one of the richest areas for wildlife. The SDNPA is working with a range of local partners to protect what remains and reverse this process of decline.

New Chair and Deputy Chair are elected



Devil's Dyke – a place that inspired new Chair Ian Phillips

A landscape architect with a long-standing passion for the natural environment has been elected as the new Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority.



Ian Phillips was elected at yesterday's Annual General Meeting, succeeding Margaret Paren who had been Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority since the Authority's inaugural meeting in April 2010.

Ian paid tribute at the meeting to the tireless work and dedication of Margaret, who was one of the early campaigners for the creation of the South Downs National Park and was awarded the OBE in 2012 for services to the environment.

Ian said: "Margaret's commitment to the South Downs National Park has left a legacy that will endure and, on behalf of the Authority, I thank her for the energy and enthusiasm that has helped to shape the evolution of England's youngest protected landscape. It is a real honour to be elected as Chair and a privilege to help shape the Park's progress as part of such a highly-motivated and enthusiastic organisation of staff and Members. I look forward to working with the Park's many supporters and friends."

Ian was a national appointment to the Authority in 2013 and, after serving on the Planning Committee, was elected Deputy Chair last year. A chartered landscape architect and town planning consultant, he has decades of experience in the local government, environmental, not-for-profit and private sectors and also served as Vice President of the Landscape Institute for four years.

Growing up in Brighton gave him opportunities to explore and enjoy the South Downs landscape and this experience became a major influence in his decision to pursue landscape architecture as a career. He is passionate about connecting people with the landscape and sees the vital role that the National Park plays, sitting at the heart of the green infrastructure of the South East.

He now lives in Farnham with his wife and twin daughters and enjoys photography, interesting food and travelling.

Ian added: "I have felt a close affinity with the Downs ever since my early childhood visits on an open-top bus to the Devil's Dyke. As Chair of the National Park Authority, I want to progress the vision of a 'People's Park' by working with our existing communities and engaging with new audiences. The South Downs is a living, changing landscape and I see our role as helping to manage the inevitable changes that will affect this precious landscape, so that the new is as highly valued as the traditional."

Stepping down as Chair, Margaret said: "It has been a great privilege to have been involved with the South Downs National Park since its establishment in 2010. It was born in the midst of austerity and now, in its 10th year, faces the enormous challenges created by COVID-19 and its aftermath. I am confident that the Authority will continue its work of enhancing this wonderful landscape, while offering its full support to the communities of the National Park in this difficult time. I offer the South Downs my heartfelt good wishes for the future."

The Annual General Meeting also saw the election of Vanessa Rowlands as Deputy Chair.

Vanessa was appointed by the East Sussex Parishes in June 2019 and has lived in the Cuckmere Valley for the past 16 years.

With a background in the creative arts, she is passionate about the region's world-class museums, galleries and historic towns and villages. A keen environmentalist, Vanessa is a supporter of sustainability and the conservation of natural habitats.

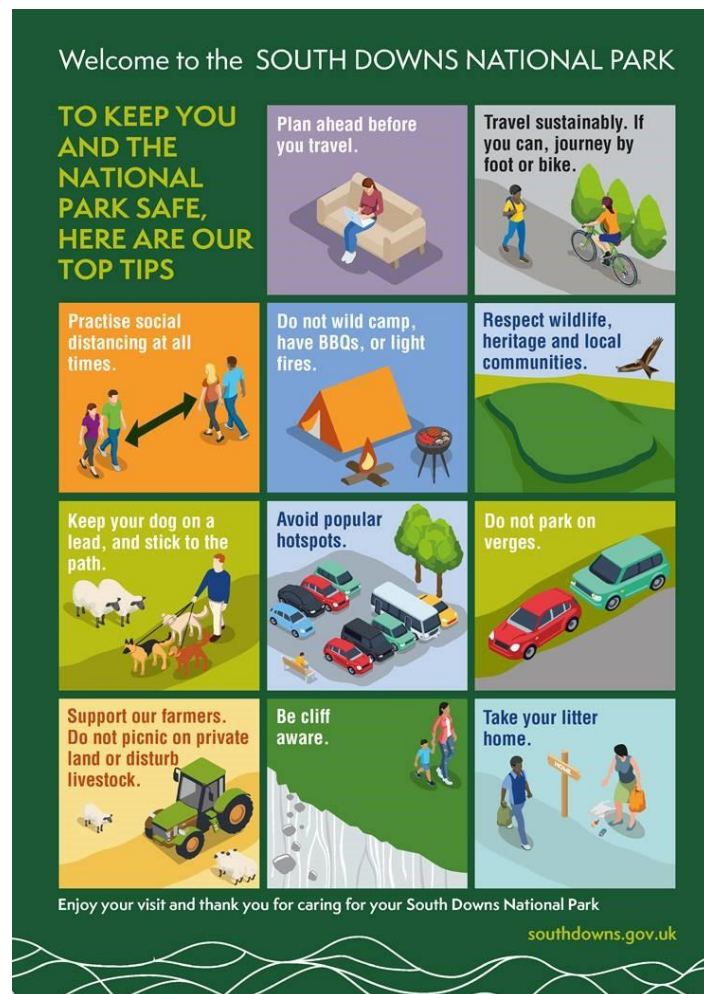


Vanessa said: "It's an honour to be elected Deputy Chair and, as I take on this role, I'm reminded of the history of National Parks and why they were created – as precious landscapes that needed protecting and the wider public having the right to enjoy them. Post pandemic, our national landscapes must play a central role in the nation's green recovery, putting nature at the heart of the economy. We must restore biodiversity through nature recovery and shape landscapes like the South Downs to be resilient to climate change. Lockdown has clearly shown the powerful effect nature can have on mental health. We must do all we can to make sure the South Downs National Park plays a major role in what should be the Natural Health Service, encouraging those who may have taken their first walk in the countryside for many years to come back regularly and note the positive effect it has had on their wellbeing."

Margaret was presented by staff and Members with a beautiful stained-glass artwork that captures the history of the past 10 years.

Trevor Beattie, Chief Executive of the Authority, added: "On behalf of the Authority, we want to say a huge thank you to Margaret for all she has helped us to achieve. We now look to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead with the leadership of Ian and Vanessa, who both bring significant knowledge, expertise, and acumen to the Authority."

Enjoy your National Park safely this summer



As communities emerge from lockdown and more people get outside to enjoy the outdoors, the Authority has produced a colourful and informative graphic to help everyone enjoy the National Park safely and responsibly.

The top tips graphic is being shared on our social networks and with partners and will be used for interpretation at key visitor sites in the National Park.

Emily Summers, Interpretation and Place Officer for the National Park, said: "We know that many people have been desperate to get out and reconnect with the outdoors."

"With this in mind, we've produced this helpful graphic so that people can get the best out of their experience, while respecting and caring for our wonderful wildlife havens."

COVID-19 information for the public

For the latest updates regarding COVID-19 and visiting the National Park please see our dedicated web page www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/

We did it! The sweet success of Bee Lines



An inspiring campaign to help save bees by creating a new network of wildflower corridors has smashed its target of raising £75,000.

In just over a year of fundraising, people, community groups, businesses and organisations from across the South East have pulled together to raise the incredible amount and give a welcome boost to nature.

Now the South Downs National Park Trust, the official independent charity for the National Park, is offering a huge "thank you" to all those who have helped to make "Bee Lines" a soaring success.

The Bee Lines initiative launched in May last year with the aim of raising £75,000 to help farmers and other landowners create new wildflower corridors – essentially a "road system" for insects – that will link fragmented habitats and encourage pollination.

The money raised will now go towards helping to restore pollinators such as bees and butterflies, which have declined nationally because of habitat fragmentation that has seen their foraging grounds reduced in size and number.

Although fundraising is still open for donations, Bee Lines will now move to its delivery phase, with talks under way with various landowners about potential sites for wildflower planting. An online application process for farmers and landowners to express interest in funding will open in the coming months.

Nick Heasman, Countryside and Policy Manager for the South Downs National Park and who is leading the project, said: "It's a great honour to announce that we did it!



"The Bee Lines fundraising has truly been an incredible effort and I'd like to thank each and every donor who has made it possible.

"It's been a particularly testing time for many people in the past few months and it's nice to be able to share this

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY positive news. I think the support we've had underlines the great affection people have for the South Downs National Park, as well as recognition of the increasingly important role this haven will have in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss."

Chalk grassland with a colourful blanket of wildflowers is the perfect habitat for pollinators and was once very extensive across the South Downs. But the past century of human impact has seen this habitat reduced to just four per cent of the total area of the National Park, creating fragmented areas that make it harder for pollinators to move through the landscape.

Nick added: "To say bees are amazing is an understatement. They are vital ecosystem engineers, quietly working away year after year to pollinate a third of food crops and 90 per cent of wild plants. But these pollinators have been in trouble for many years and Bee Lines is our way of fighting back, helping populations to recover and become more resilient to human impact and the effects of climate change.

"We're now excited to be able to start sowing the seeds of making the South Downs an even bigger and better hub for pollinators."

The South Downs National Park Trust would like to thank:

- **The Sussex Community Foundation**
- **The Worshipful Company of Grocers**
- **Joan Cullen Charitable Trust**
- **William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust**
- **Forest Holidays**
- **The South Downs National Park Trust's Founding Patrons**
- **All other supporters**

For more information on Bee Lines visit www.southdownstrust.org.uk/beelines/

Bee Lines in the South Downs is supporting the nationwide initiative "B-Lines" run by Buglife. For more information about this, visit www.buglife.org.uk/b-lines-hub.

Plant conservation charity Plantlife will also be supporting the project by providing landowners with advice on establishing and enhancing wildflower habitats.



Pic by Roger Kiernan

Museums and venues re-open as lockdown restrictions ease



A huge thank you to everyone who has taken care when enjoying the National Park over the last few weeks by following Government guidelines.

As lockdown eases this month, a larger number of businesses, museums, pubs and accommodation providers will be re-opening over the coming weeks. Our absolute priority remains the safety of our visitors, as well as the 117,000 people who live in the National Park, and it's important to remember that social distancing remains in place.

Anooshka Rawden, Cultural Heritage Lead for the National Park, welcomed the re-opening of museums and said they had been working extremely hard to be able to provide an enjoyable and safe experience for visitors.

"Now, more than ever is a time to support cultural heritage in the South Downs given the impacts of COVID-19 on our creative and cultural organisations," she said.

"Please plan your visit in advance, remembering that many venues require pre-booking. I hope people enjoy getting back to our treasured museums and discovering more about our wonderful heritage."

Some of the museums and galleries within the National Park and close to the boundary that are re-opening include:

- Weald and Downland Museum (6 July)
- Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft (16 July)
- Gilbert White and The Oates Collection (4 July)
- Butser Ancient Farm (4 July)
- Chawton House (4 July)
- Hinton Ampner (6 July)
- Petworth Park (gardens re-opened 15 June)
- Uppark House (gardens re-opened 15 June)
- Pallant House Gallery (5 August)
- Towner Art Gallery (22 July)

Please check the websites of venues for further details on re-opening arrangements.

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Fundraising appeal launched to help secure heritage sites

Allie Parsons, from Sussex Archaeological Society, outlines a new £1m fundraising appeal as the organisation looks to mark its 175th birthday.

One of the best views of the South Downs, short of hiking the South Downs Way, is to be had from the top of the castle at Lewes.

From its high stone keep overlooking the town, a stunning panorama sweeps from Mount Caburn and Firle Beacon in the west, over the wetlands of the Ouse Valley and across to Kingston Ridge.

You don't have to like history, although Lewes Castle is a great example of an early Norman fortification, to decide the long climb to the top of its towers has been worth the effort.



Sadly, only the rooks who perch on the battlements have enjoyed the view this summer. The castle, along with other historic properties cared for by the Sussex Archaeological Society, has been closed since the coronavirus lockdown at the end of March.

Its narrow walkways and spiral stairs make social distancing difficult and it is unclear when it will be able to reopen to visitors.

The archaeological society, one of the oldest in the UK, has been hit hard by a dramatic fall in income, just at the start of the tourist season. Last month it launched an appeal to raise £1 million to ensure it can survive as an organisation and reach its 175th anniversary next June.

Also now at risk of permanent closure in Lewes, unless funds can be raised, are medieval Anne of Cleves House, the Museum of Sussex Archaeology in Barbican House and Bull House, the society's headquarters and former home of eighteenth century revolutionary and writer Thomas Paine.

The society normally welcomes more than 160,000 visitors a year to its sites, which include Michelham Priory, near Hailsham, Fishbourne Roman Palace, near Chichester, and the mysterious South Downs chalk figure, the Long Man of Wilmington.

It also looks after significant archaeological and historical collections, from the Stone Age onwards, and supports research into local history and landscape archaeology, the study of the ways in which people in the past constructed and used the environment around them.

To donate to the society, visit www.sussexpast.co.uk or go to www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/Celebrating175

Thought-provoking art exhibition opens



Steph Fuller, Director of Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, unveils a fantastic new art exhibition this summer.



I'm delighted to be sharing with you the news that we are reopening to the public on 16 July, with a new exhibition, tillage by artist John Newling. The exhibition is very much about place, growing and nature, and includes work the artist has made using leaves collected for him by local families and allotment holders, and some very new work created during lockdown walks. The desire to connect with nature has been very strong for many people during this difficult period, and this exhibition really reflects that need.

Alongside this as always at the museum you can see work produced by the artists and craftspeople who came to Ditchling from the early 20th century onwards, looking for a better and more sustainable way to live their lives in the beautiful South Downs. This includes carving, textiles, calligraphy, printing and metalwork by acclaimed artists including Eric Gill, Edward Johnston and Ethel Mairet.

We want visitors to have an enjoyable and inspiring experience, and to feel safe with us, so we have put special measures in place to ensure this. We have reduced the capacity of the museum to less than a third of normal visitor numbers so there is plenty of room for social distancing, and there will be hand sanitising points, enhanced cleaning and hygiene and a one-way route around the museum. Tickets must be booked online so we can limit numbers. We have received the Visit Britain 'We're Good To Go' consumer mark, the industry standard demonstrating that we have taken account of all the government and public health guidance and put appropriate measures in place.

We will be listening to visitors and taking on board your comments to improve your experience as we all venture out of lockdown. Many thanks to the South Downs National Park and the National Lottery Heritage Fund who are making this possible.

I hope to see you soon.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Online festival for famous ornithologist



Gilbert White & The Oates Collections are celebrating the eminent naturalist's 300th birthday with an online birthday festival.

Gilbert White's House was due to celebrate a year-long programme of events celebrating the 300th anniversary of Gilbert White's birth, with the climax being a large event on 18 July, the day Gilbert White was born.

However due to Covid-19 the event was cancelled so will be celebrated instead on the 18 July 2021 to mark Gilbert White's 301st birthday. The museum based in Selborne, where Gilbert White lived and immortalised through his writing, has decided to mark the 300th birthday with an online celebration.

Festival organiser Kimberley James said: "We wanted to mark the day, in a way that everyone could join in with and really celebrate Gilbert White's legacy. This way people all around the world can join us at a time when the numbers allowed to visit Selborne are so limited."

The festival will be hosted on the museum's You Tube Channel, and will feature speakers such as Laurence Rose, naturalist, author and director of the RSPB's Back from the Brink Project. Other speakers include Mike Pratt, CEO of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Stephanie West from the Natural History Museum on her research tracking Gilbert White through London.

The festival will also feature tours of the house and garden, messages from friends of the museum and a look at the moths found in Selborne.

The festival will begin at 9am on 18 July and run into the evening with content going live throughout the day.

People will be able to follow the action online by following the hashtag **#GW300Online**.

The event is free, but people will be able to donate to the museum, which has been hit hard by the effects of Covid-19 and will be asking for donations through the birthday event. The museum's grounds will be open on 18 July but not the house, which is still awaiting a date for its reopening. Anyone visiting Selborne on the day, will have the opportunity to buy Gilbert White 300 souvenirs and taste beer made from Gilbert White's brewhouse to mark the occasion.

Enjoy a “wine tour” of sun-drenched Sussex



A special celebratory wine collection that gives people a unique taste of England’s premier wine-making region has been launched.

To mark English Wine Week and Sussex Day last month, Sussex Modern has put together three bespoke wine cases that showcase some of the best and most beautifully-crafted wines in the world, delivered to your door. All profits from sales of the wine cases will go towards supporting the 13 arts partners that make up Sussex Modern which, like so many other local businesses and organisations, have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and are making steps towards recovery.

Sussex Modern is a collaboration of 36 destinations across East and West Sussex that celebrate the county’s contribution to modern culture and showcase its incredible landscape.

The launch of the wine collection celebrates the fact that sunny Sussex is the UK’s premier wine-making region, with over 50 vineyards and more wine production than any other county. The chalk of the South Downs National Park is the same chalky seam as the Champagne region – giving the English sparkling wines world-class quality – while the sandier soils of the Sussex Weald produce wines of remarkable fruitiness.

Mark Driver, co-owner of Rathfinny Wine Estate, said: “Each case is a unique experience – evocative of the rolling South Downs, of fresh air, sunshine and picnics, and of good times with family and friends.”

Kat Beer, who leads sustainable tourism for the National Park, which is one of the supporting partners of Sussex Modern, added: “One of the real trends to come out of this pandemic is more people shopping locally and seeing what’s available on their doorstep. Sussex has really made a name for itself for the quality of its wines in recent years and I would encourage wine-lovers to make the most of the wonderful variety of wines being grown here.”

Three different wine cases – sparkling, still and mixed – are available. Visit

www.sussexmodern.org.uk/sussex-modern-wine-case-tasting-notes/

Young photographers invited to join contest



With the school holidays beginning this month, young people across the region are being encouraged to join in the fun of the National Park’s photo contest.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the National Park, the photo competition has been extended this year to include a category for budding young photographers.

The competition’s theme this year is “My Tranquil Haven” and judges will be looking for images that showcase the serene beauty of the South Downs – whether that be a stunning landscape, woodland, or piece of history.

There is also a sub-category for best wildlife image.

There are two categories for young photographers – 10 years and under and 11 to 17. There will be a winner for the main theme of ‘My Tranquil Haven’, as well as best wildlife image, and the winner of each of these categories will receive a Colombia outdoors rucksack and a Colombia beanie.

Those capturing images of the National Park should adhere to the government guidance of social distancing and avoiding busy hotspots.

The top prize for the adult category will be £250, with a runner-up prize of £150 and third prize of £50.

The wildlife photography winner in the adult category will receive £100.

Award-winning photographers Rachael Talibart and Finn Hopson are returning once again to judge the 2020 competition and the panel welcomes acclaimed Lewes-based photographer Carlotta Luke.

Nick Heasman, Countryside and Policy Manager at the South Downs National Park, who chairs the judging panel, said: “Photography has the ability to bring joy to all ages and we’re looking forward to seeing images that really brighten people’s days.”

Entries close on Friday 23 October. Find out more and download the entry form at

www.southdowns.gov.uk/enter-the-south-downs-photo-competition/

Picture “Fields of Wilmington” by Edd Allen.

Ten fascinating history facts for Sussex Day



At the southern tip of England with lofty viewpoints across the English Channel, Sussex has always been a strategic stage where history has played out.

For thousands of years it has been a historical hotspot – a story of invasion, conquest, discovery, innovation, rebellion and romance.

Today this enchanting county makes up two thirds of the South Downs National Park. Its heritage is etched into the breathtaking landscape – from the commanding Norman castles, to the Iron Age hillforts that are among the largest in Britain.

As we mark Sussex Day and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the South Downs National Park, Anooshka Rawden, Cultural Heritage Lead for the National Park, shares 10 fascinating facts from the annals of time.

1. Finds at Boxgrove, near Chichester, reveal that Sussex was home to some of our earliest human ancestors.. A single bone and two teeth from *Homo heidelbergensis* – a possible common ancestor of both ourselves and Neanderthals – alongside fossil remains of lions, bears, rhino, deer and voles revealed a site dating back around 500,000 years. Often referred to as Boxgrove Man, there is actually no evidence that these remains are of a male, but this person saw a landscape of chalk cliffs, which have since been totally eroded into our modern view of a flat coastal plain.

2. Sussex is rich in remains from the Bronze and Iron Ages, in particular the Bronze Age barrows known as the Devil's Jumps, near Treyford, West Sussex, and Cissbury Ring, near Worthing, one of Britain's largest hillforts. Intriguing and beautiful in equal measure!

3. The Romans certainly left their mark on Sussex. The Romans wrote about the inclement British weather and perhaps they were attracted to its sunnier climes? Did you know Sussex was home to the magnificent Roman Palace at Fishbourne – the largest Roman residence known north of the Alps. Much of Sussex appears to have been the home of a group of people we know as the Regnenses or Regni, and after the Roman invasion a settlement known as Noviomagus Reginorum, became

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY modern-day Chichester. The Romans built villas, especially on the coastal plain and around Chichester. The best preserved in the National Park is at Bignor, but you can see the remains of a stunning Roman mosaic floor from Chilgrove in The Novium Museum in Chichester.

4. The name derives from the Kingdom of Sussex, which was founded, according to legend, by Ælle of Sussex in AD 477. In 825, it was absorbed into the kingdom of Wessex and subsequently into the kingdom of England. The name "Sussex" is derived from the Old English Suth-Seaxe which means land or people of the South Saxons – a group of Germanic tribes who settled the region in the 5th and 6th centuries.

5. Sussex is home to one of the most famous battles of all time – Hastings. The victory by the Normans over the Saxons on that October day in 1066 would change the direction of British history forever – even carving out a very different language to the dialect the Sussex folk had been speaking for several hundred years. Did you know that almost a third of English words we speak today have a French source?

6. The Normans certainly left their footprint on Sussex. The county was of great importance to the Normans; Hastings and Pevensey being on the most direct route for Normandy. The South Downs were a good watchpoint for invaders and castles were built to defend the territories including at Arundel, Bramber, Lewes, Pevensey and Hastings.

7. Sussex used to be the centre of the English iron industry, particularly around the Weald, the area between the chalk escarpments of the South and North Downs. The first blast furnace was recorded at Buxted in 1490 and the industry was at its peak towards the end of Queen Elizabeth I's reign. The furnaces required huge amounts of fuel – and the huge woodlands of Wealden Forest provided that. Over many decades, dense ancient woodlands gave way to pasture and arable farms interspersed by pockets of woodland – changing the landscape to the one we know today.

8. During the First World War, on the eve of the Battle of the Somme on 30 June 1916, the Royal Sussex Regiment took part in the Battle of the Boar's Head at Richebourg-l'Avoué. The day subsequently became known as The Day Sussex Died. Over a period of less than five hours 17 officers and 349 soldiers were killed, including 12 sets of brothers, including three from one family. A further 1,000 men were wounded or taken prisoner.

9. Sussex was at the frontline of UK defences during the Second World War. The threat of invasion was very real. Operation Sea Lion, a major Nazi invasion plan, had identified Camber Sands, Winchelsea, Bexhill and Cuckmere Haven as vulnerable points to breach British defences. The beaches were no-go areas for most people, barbed wire defences stood between the sea and the promenades, and heavy artillery lined our seafronts.

10. The flag of Sussex consists of six gold martlets, or heraldic swallows, on a blue field. It was officially recognised by the Flag Institute on 20 May 2011.

NEXT MONTH – CELEBRATING HAMPSHIRE DAY

Celebrating 10 years with 10 amazing butterflies of the South Downs National Park



"Spending time with butterflies lifts the spirits and reinvigorates that sense of wonder in the natural world."

Poignant words from Sir David Attenborough, who, like so many of us, is enthralled by the sight of butterflies dancing from blossom to blossom in a wildflower meadow.

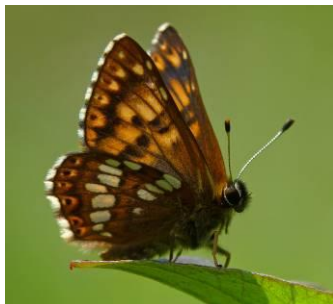
Spring and summer in the South Downs is synonymous with these fascinatingly diverse and colourful insects. Their incredible diversity is thanks to the chalk grassland – a truly unique habitat – that supports a huge medley of nectar-rich flowers. Combine the floristic diversity and all its many hues with these colourful creatures and you have any wildlife photographer's dream!

In fact, over 30 different species of butterfly can be on the wing at any given time above the South Downs National Park's chalk grasslands. The grasslands are just one of the habitats supporting butterflies as heathland and woodland also support a multitude of species and did we mention the South Downs is also a stronghold for the butterfly's close cousin, the majestic moths!

As we gear up for Virtual Wild Chalk – a six-day celebration of our wonderful chalk grassland from 19 July – we asked our Ranger team to name their favourite butterflies from the National Park's grasslands.

And, as it's the 10th birthday of the South Downs National Park this year, here's 10 of their personal favourites!

Duke of Burgundy



Small and orange and brown, the Duke of Burgundy is found only in central and southern England and more isolated colonies in the southern Lake District and the North York Moors. Its recovery in the South Downs has been

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
a major conservation success for the National Park.

A favourite of Ranger Simon Mockford, he says: "It's a stunning butterfly with attitude and will chase off any other species including dragonflies which dare enter its territory!"

Small Copper

The Small Copper is a fast-flying butterfly that, once settled, is unmistakable with its bright copper-coloured forewings. A favourite of Assistant Ranger Sophie Brown, she explains: "I like them solely for the superficial fact that when you first see them, freshly emerged they are so vibrant with such a dainty flight. The one in this picture is a female stuffed full of eggs as you can see by her rotund abdomen."



Small Blue



This dainty butterfly is easily overlooked, partly because of its size and dusky colouring, but partly because it is often confined to small patches of sheltered grassland where its sole food plant, Kidney Vetch,

is found. This majestic insect is a favourite of Assistant Ranger Michaela Pape, who has been enjoying taking photographs of butterflies for over 10 years.

Dark Green Fritillary

The dark green fritillary is actually an orange butterfly with black spots. It gets its name from the dark green hue to the undersides of its hindwings. A strong flier, it can be seen on open, grassy habitats. A favourite of Ranger Jan Knowlson, she says: "I love the Dark Green Fritillary, mainly because they colonised a site I worked on immediately after we had worked hard improving the area. It brought me great joy!"



Small White



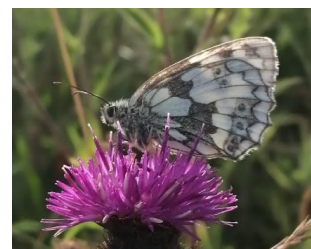
Small white butterfly, also known as cabbage white butterfly, are often seen as a rather dull member of a family of insects known for their fantastic patterns and colours. However, this is a misconception held

only due to the limitations of the human eye. Ranger Chris Lickley explains: "When seen under ultraviolet light female butterfly reflect a lavender hue whilst males show as a brilliant royal purple. The strength of these colours directly relates to the health of the butterfly, the healthiest growing from those caterpillars who ate the most cabbage and kale while they were growing. Eat your veg kids!"

Marbled White butterfly

The Marbled White is a distinctive and attractive black and white butterfly, unlikely to be mistaken for any other species.

Apprentice Ranger Gemma North says: "How beautiful they are! Although if I'm being completely honest I think all butterflies are beautiful!"

**Adonis Blue**

No top 10 of butterflies on the South Downs would be complete without a mention for this iconic species – a true entomological stunner! A firm favourite with all the rangers, the Adonis loves chalk downland, where it

can be found in warm, sheltered spots. The male Adonis Blue has brilliantly-coloured blue wings that gives this butterfly its name, and can be found flying low over vegetation, seeking out the less-conspicuous females that are a rich chocolate brown in colour.

Five ways you can help butterflies

Butterflies play a pivotal role in nature. Pollinators such as butterflies and bees are responsible for at least a third of human food production, and without them, the fruits and vegetables we eat would be much harder to grow.

Gardens can act as important stepping stones between nature reserves and other natural habitats by offering abundant supplies of nectar and food plants.

Here are five ways to help the butterflies flourish with some green-fingered know-how:

- Don't use insecticides and pesticides – they kill butterflies and many pollinating insects as well as ladybirds, ground beetles and spiders.
- Butterflies like warmth so choose sunny, sheltered spots when planting nectar plants.
- Choose different plants to attract a wider variety of species. Place the same types of plant together in blocks.
- Prolong flowering by deadheading flowers, mulching with organic compost, and watering well to keep the plants healthy.
- Try to provide flowers right through the butterfly season. Spring flowers are vital for butterflies coming out of hibernation and autumn flowers help butterflies build up their reserves for winter.

For more information visit <https://butterfly-conservation.org/>

Thanks to Butterfly Conservation and the Wildlife Trusts for additional information on the butterfly species.

Brimstone

The Brimstone is a fairly large, pale yellow butterfly, with distinctive, leaf-shaped wings. This one is loved by Western Downs Lead Ranger Elaina Whittaker-Slark. She says: "The brimstone is my favourite butterfly as its one of the first ones we see in the early spring to tell us spring is definitely on the way. It's also a tough little butterfly

living for a whole year. It's commonly thought that the brimstone gave butterflies their name, due to the buttery colour of the males' wings, as well as when traditional butter makers were first outside churning butter it would be the butterfly they saw."

Grizzled Skipper

This small butterfly, typical of southern chalk downland, begins to emerge in late April to early May, having spent winter as pupae within cocoons of leaves and silk amongst low vegetation. Once on the wing it's easy to

miss, darting quickly between perches and nectar sources – typically Common Bird's-foot-trefoil and Bugle. If you are lucky enough to get a glimpse of one perched on a twig, it can then be easily identified by the checkerboard pattern on its wings. Adored by Ranger Charles Winchester, he says: "It's an often overlooked species, due to it being rare and quite low-key in appearance, but I think it's super smart looking and just a really cool little butterfly."

Orange tip butterfly

The orange-tip is a true sign of spring, being one of the first species to emerge that has not overwintered as an adult.



Ranger Chloe Goddard always loves seeing it and explains: "It's a fairly common butterfly which can be seen across our countryside and often in gardens. I love the bright orange tips on the male's wings which stand out brilliantly from the perfect white of the rest of the wing.

"If the butterfly sits still long enough you'll see that both the male and female have a beautiful and intricate mottled green underwing which is actually made up of a combination of yellow and black wing scales."