

## Welcome to the e-newsletter for Citizens Panel members

We're very interested to learn how Covid-19 has influenced your interaction with the South Downs National Park. If you've got a minute to spare, please click on the link below:

Take part in our **quick poll** here

To find out more about what's happening in the National Park, please sign up to our monthly 'South Downs News'  
<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/join-the-newsletter/>

Image 1

001\_intro\_copyright\_Rhian White

Welcome to our new style e-newsletter for Citizens Panel members.

Much has happened since our last edition and we hope that you and your loved ones have remained safe and well during these testing times.

Covid-19 has affected us all in a multitude of ways. To find out more about the impact of Covid-19 on the National Park please visit our website:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/coronavirus-covid-19-update/>

In this edition:

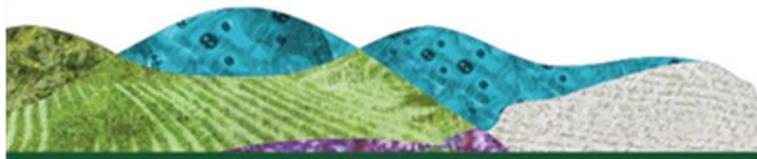
- Our woodland guardians
- Hello from MEL Research
- Meet Ian Phillips, new Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority
- Introducing our new Partnership Management Plan

002\_woodland\_2\_copyright Sam Moore

**Our woodland guardians**

Landing page image: 002\_woodland\_copyright SDNPA

## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK CITIZENS PANEL NEWS



### Accompanying text for Image 2:

A majestic tawny owl in full flight, a rare barbastelle bat and a gorgeously-cute hazel dormouse are the stars of a new series of films celebrating the woodlands of the South Downs.

The National Park marked World Environment Day on Friday 5 June with three films that showcase the trees, animals and people who make woodlands such beautiful, enchanting and life-giving places.

- The first video is a treat for wildlife-lovers, with stunning close-up footage of birds, mammals and insects.
- The second focuses on the Guardians of the Woodland – a unique insight into the people who help manage woodlands and ensure they remain special places.
- The third film is a fascinating account of forester Nina Williams, who recalls how her lifelong passion for woods came from her childhood adventures at Kingley Vale’s 2,000-year-old yew forests.

Nick Heasman, Countryside and Policy Manager at the South Downs National Park Authority and who narrates the films, said: “It’s wonderful to be able to share these films with the public and we hope they inspire and educate people about just how amazing our woodlands are.

“When people think of the South Downs they think of its rolling chalk grasslands. But follow the Downs west and pasture gives way to some of the richest and most diverse woodland in the country.”

“Trees actually cover almost a quarter of the National Park – more woodland than any other National Park in England or Wales.”

To see the woodland wildlife film go to <https://youtu.be/uVqggsxxAEk>

To watch the Woodland Guardians film see [https://youtu.be/Sz\\_S4RETNm8](https://youtu.be/Sz_S4RETNm8)

To see Nina Williams’s video visit [https://youtu.be/ymgljGLz\\_pk](https://youtu.be/ymgljGLz_pk)

Image – 003\_MEL

**Hello from MEL Research**

**Meet Sophi Ducie,  
Associate Director**

Image 4 -

004\_Chair\_copyright  
SDNPA

**Meet Ian Phillips, new  
Chair of the South Downs  
National Park Authority**

Image 5 –

005\_PM \_copyright SDNPA

**Introducing our new  
Partnership Management  
Plan**

## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK CITIZENS PANEL NEWS



### Accompanying text for Image 3:

We have a new research agency running our Citizens Panel for at least the next three years. As one of the UK's leading social research and behavioural insights consultancies, MEL Research bring with them fresh and exciting ideas as to how we can maximise engagement with our Citizens Panel.

*"We are really pleased to be working with South Downs National Park Authority. Over the next three years we hope to grow the Citizens Panel by getting more people who access the area to get involved and help shape the Parks future."*

Please ensure that you add the email below to your safe list:

[southdownspanel@melresearch.co.uk](mailto:southdownspanel@melresearch.co.uk)

### Accompanying text for Image 4:

As the new Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to thank you for participating in our Citizens' Panel. I was appointed as a Member of the Authority by the Secretary of State in 2013 and I have learned much about the Park's people and places since then. Over the past few years, I have been able to apply my professional background as a landscape architect and planner together with my long-standing love of the Downs environment to contribute to the work of the Authority and to support the efforts and enthusiasm of our staff and volunteers. I am mindful of the Park's primary purpose to conserve and enhance its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, but I also want us to encourage more people to be aware of the Park and to make use of it, whilst respecting its role as a home and workplace for many. I see our Citizens' Panel as a vital bridge to provide a dialogue between the Park Authority and a wider audience, and I look forward to our conversations helping to guide our future directions.

Ian Phillips

### Accompanying text for Image 5:

Tackling climate change, helping nature flourish, supporting the rural economy, creating a National Park for all and providing a green health and wellbeing service are among the priorities of an ambitious five-year plan launched in April 2020 by the South Downs National Park Authority.

Ten key outcomes have been outlined in the new Partnership Management Plan, which sets out a bold collective vision for the future of the National Park.

The 73-page masterplan focuses on bringing together environmental organisations, land managers, farmers, community organisations, businesses and volunteers to make the South Downs National Park an even better home for people and nature.

## SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK CITIZENS PANEL NEWS



Dozens upon dozens of partners from across all areas of work have committed to helping to deliver the shared objectives, including the RSPB, Sussex Police, Historic England, Parish Councils, Visit Hampshire and Forestry England, to name but a few.

Andrew Lee, Director of Countryside Policy and Management at the South Downs National Park Authority, said: “With such a large population in and around the South Downs National Park, there’s a wealth of resources to draw upon and everyone can play their part, no matter how big or small. This wide-reaching plan is that launch pad to increase ambition, deepen the partnerships, respond to the challenges set out in last year’s Protected Landscape Review and deliver more for nature and people.”

And Andrew added: “Now, more than ever, this important landscape is needed by both nature and people and, together, we are ready for the challenge.”

Please visit our website find out more about the Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-work/partnership-management/>

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### **Poll Questions**

**Q1. Since lockdown at the end of March 2020, have you visited the South Downs National Park more often, less often, or about the same amount?**

- More often
- Less often
- About the same amount

**Q2. In the South Downs National Park, have you done any of the following as a direct result of Covid-19? Select all that apply:**

- Visited quieter/less populated locations
- Visited sites at off peak times of the day
- Visited new sites for the first time
- Travelled to sites nearer home
- Travelled to sites further from home
- Not made any specific changes
- Other (please specify)

**Q3. How important has being outside in the natural environment become to you since Covid-19?**

- It is as important as it always has been
- It has become more important
- It has become less important