

Newsletter | Spring 2025

PGW for YP



Beaver fever!

The spring edition of Purbeck Goes Wild (PGW) newsletter for Young People living in Purbeck. Use #PurbeckGoesWild on socials to contact us! In this edition we bring you beaver fever, your young environmental leaders & young birders club. But first, let's talk beavers! Two breeding pairs recently travelled from Scotland to be released into the wild at Little Sea, Studland, under the first government issued license in the country. To find out how and why, read the brilliant article Helen Ffitch wrote in the [Swanage News](#)

In this edition

- Spring nature to spot
- FREE 'Big Days Out'
- Career corner – countryside ranger
- Environmental Leaders
- FREE young birders club
- Wylder App



World Ocean Day –
Clean Green Family
Day 8th June @ Knoll
Beach



Photo: Cathy Lewis

Nature to notice this spring



Wild garlic

Photo: Becky Eddy

Edible wild garlic has a very strong aroma and carpets the floor with their white flowers - Becky found these in the woods around Old Harry Rocks



Listen out for cuckoos in
spring!



Gorse

Tune your eyes into the yellow flowers that smell like coconut in the sunshine. Quietly watch these prickly shrubs - they are a hive of activity for birds - shelter, nests & food



Blossom

Photo: Pete Christie

This blossom is the chiff chaff's playpark. Look out for the white hawthorn blossom now, then pale & bright pink blossoms later in spring. Stand under them and their petals may flutter down like snow!

Hares



Photo: Mike Wenham

Catch the annual display of boxing hares each spring during mating season. Look out for them in fields across Worth Matravers - early mornings or at dusk on clear days are best

Bluebells

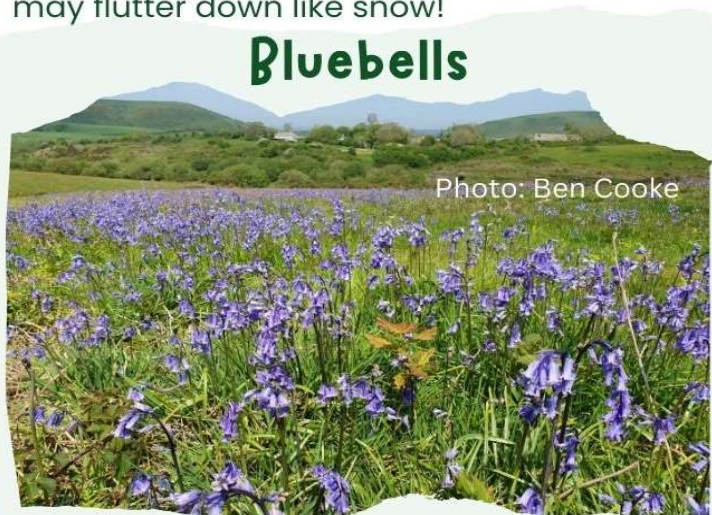


Photo: Ben Cooke

Explore woodlands around Durlston, Corfe Common (pictured above), Langton Matravers, Kingston & Wareham for blankets of bluebells

Spotted anything interesting on your adventures? Share with us at jill.bailey@nationaltrust.org.uk

With farmer Jake from Wessex Wild



Photos: Jill Bailey

Photo: Zoe Hunter

15 students from the Purbeck School sixth form have been working towards their Level 3 Environmental Leaders award over the past 2 terms (first time this has been done in Purbeck), delivered by the National Trust. They have been working on real projects – tracking the grazing pigs across the Purbeck Heaths, creating arty pigs and dogs (more on that later), tree planting and creating instagram reels to inspire other young people to enjoy the outdoors. Purbeck is leading the way for nature, conservation and nature recovery for the country and it needs more of you to get out and enjoy it, care for it and want to help restore it too! This course is one way of doing that...

This accredited award develops the key skills of self-belief, teamwork, communication, problem solving & self organisation plus gives successful participants 8UCAS points.



Q. What's your biggest gain from the course?
'I've gained greater life skills'
'It's been productive, fun, practical and doing some volunteering at the same time'
'the projects are of real value & this makes us stand out.'
'I have proof of real project work that's outside the norm'

Q. What's been the best element of the course?
'it's another part of my life that's not to do with home or school'
'contributing to the community around us'
'to know I'm making a real difference'
'it feels of real benefit to others, not just a selfish activity'
'the independence of planning the project ourselves'

A career in the life of...



...a National Trust countryside ranger – Adam

My interest in nature came from spending a lot of my childhood outdoors, on my parent's farm. I stayed at school to do my A-levels, then studied ecology and conservation at University. Once graduated, I started a 12-month traineeship with Dorset Wildlife Trust's warden team, where I acquired many practical skills and qualifications. After the 12 months, I stayed for a further 4 months as an assistant warden. Once that short contract was up, I landed my current role with the National Trust, firstly on a 6-month contract which later became permanent.

Adam's best bits...

- Best thing I've seen:** beavers being released!
- Best bit of my job:** tree inspections - I get paid to walk around looking at trees & nature
- Muckiest bit about my job:** wading through swamps!
- Best spot for lunch:** has to be the top of Dancing Ledge

How to become a ranger...

Skills

- Communication
- Self organisation
- Ability to inspire & engage others
- Motivation
- Problem Solving
- Teamwork

Experience

- Volunteering with conservation charities National Trust / Wildlife Trust
- Apprenticeships – Durlston
- Residential Volunteering at RSPB Arne

Qualifications

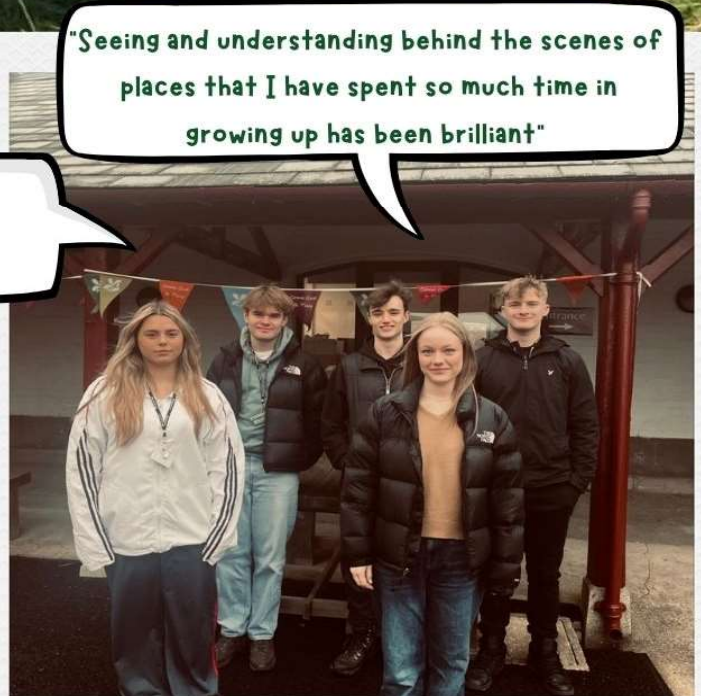
- Diploma/Degree in environmental / conservation science
- A levels, T levels
- GCSE English, Maths, Science

'I've loved being in an amazing environmental workplace where everyone is lovely and kind'

"Seeing and understanding behind the scenes of places that I have spent so much time in growing up has been brilliant"



I'm a Heath Tiger Beetle



Year 12 Purb Sch work experience students with the National Trust, Feb 25

Download the Wylder App for the spring challenges & event info

(Here's a sneak peak...)



Come and join us for a Picnic in the Castle!

Wed 2nd July 6-8pm



Watch a bird

Puffins & nightjar experiences



Launches 05.04.25

Purbeck Goes Wild Spring Challenge

Are you looking for new ways to explore Purbeck with your family this spring?

The Purbeck Goes Wild family spring challenge has been created exclusively for families living in Purbeck. We've handpicked a selection of the National Trust's '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾' – a perfect way of making the most of where you live this spring.

Begin your challenge!

SCAN to download the Wylder app!

When the challenge launches on 5th April, simply find the challenge on the free Wylder App and enter PIN 0504 to unlock the Purbeck Goes Wild Spring Challenge.





Clean Green Poster Competition

We are running a poster competition for schools in Purbeck, with prizes for different year groups. These will be used to make a display for our Clean and Green Family Day event on 8th June @ Studland Beach.

· Year 7 + tell us why you think we need to protect our oceans & some of the ways you think we can do that
Parents/carers - email over a photo or scanned copy of the poster to Claire on Claire.Meaden@nationaltrust.org.uk (no people in the photo pls) and tell us what year you're in and the school (pls don't include any personal information about your child).

DATES TO NOTE: World Earth Day - 22nd April Dawn Chorus Day - 7th May
Outdoor Classroom Day - 8th May World Ocean Day - 8th June



BIRDS^{OF}

POOLE HARBOUR

Poole Harbour Young Birders Club

Birds of Poole Harbour are launching a new club to help **young people** engage with the birds and wildlife in their local area.

We'll be bringing like-minded people aged **13-18** years old together with events, resources and more, all completely **free** of charge.

The Birds of Poole Harbour team will be leading **free monthly events** including:

- Guided Bird ID Walks
- Bird Ringing Demos
- Conservation Talks
- Wildlife Cruises



If you'd be interested in joining or know someone who might, please visit our website (www.birdsofpooleharbourbookings.co.uk/young-birders) to find out more and sign up! This project has been kindly funded by the **Cameron Bespolka Trust**.



Scan to sign up

Next young birder club events:

9th April - Osprey Project Talk & Carey Nest Tour

Sun 11th May - Dawn Chorus Birdsong ID Course

Arty dogs & pigs competition time – win a goodie bag

The Purbeck Heaths are some of our most important nature habitats for mammals, reptiles, insects and birds. Rare African birds, like this nightjar, migrate over to us in February every year to build nests on the ground and have chicks then fly back to Africa in August. To raise awareness of the disturbance dogs off leads can have to their nests, there will be a series of arty dogs going out on to the heaths. As well as arty pigs! The painted pigs are to remind us all not to feed the pigs – it's so tempting because they're so cute but it can make them aggressive – and we need them to do their job of rooting the ground for their food to create more bare earth for reptiles to bask in.



Photo: Steve Smith



Photo: Zoe Hunter

COMPETITION – Find the 16 arty dogs & pigs out on the heaths (trail ready from 11th April) painted by students @ Purbeck School, Stoborough & Wareham St Mary Primary Schools. Follow the map with the blue and red dots to find them. Note down the letter on the back of each of them and rearrange the letters to find the name of a rare heathland creature we have here in Purbeck!



TRAIL READY FROM 11TH APRIL

 (it features in this newsletter)
Send your answers to Jill.Bailey@nationaltrust.org.uk
Closing date May 31st – all correct entries will go into a draw.