



# Park Life!

Northumberland National Park News

September 2011



## Heritage Open Days in the Park

This year, the special buildings and heritage of the North Tyne and Redesdale are yours to explore for FREE in September as part of the nationwide Heritage Open Days scheme. There are guided tours of Elsdon Pele Tower, three Historic Bastles of the Otterburn Ranges, the Mitford family chapel at Horsley, the Catcleugh Navvy's house and free entry all weekend to the award-winning Bellingham Heritage Centre. Download a [leaflet](#) from our website/events .



## Cycling Central

If you like your bike, give it a treat in the wide open spaces and quiet roads of the National Park. Check out the routes and services offered by market towns [Wooler and Haltwhistle Cycle Hubs](#). Try out four great new trails centred on the North Tyne capital of Bellingham at [Bellingham Cycle Routes](#) or sign up for a brand new cycle challenge or a family fun cycle on the [Bellingham Blast](#) weekend 24-25 September.



## Make My Play!

A brand new, [1.5 acre children's play park](#) has been created by the Falstone community for the experts to try out this summer. Tucked away behind the village hall in this pretty spot with its tearooms and riverside walks near Kielder is a place where children of all ages and abilities can stretch their limbs and imaginations.



## Natural Gifts

Two new businesses in the National Park are making beautiful, natural things for the home and for gifts. Visit [Slate and Nature](#), Gerard and Jeanette's picturesque riverside studio in Redesdale where they reclaim materials to design and create a wide range of products.



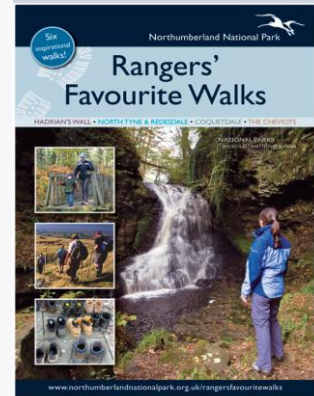
[Les Welton Windsor Chairs](#) is a new small business enterprise set up by a former forestry worker in Stannersburn near Kielder Water in the North Tyne Valley. Supported by a National Park grant to source the initial timber, Les has a growing order book for his hand-made chairs, made to order. Tel: 01434 240340.

Your comments on this newsletter are welcome. Please email the Editor at [communications@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:communications@nnpa.org.uk) or Tel: 01434 611542



## Wild Reserve

Beautiful wildlife can be seen all year round at the Greenlee Lough National Nature Reserve by Hadrian's Wall. [Download a new guide.](#)



## Six New Walks

A book of six inspirational family walks are now available from National Park visitor centres. Or [download](#) a copy direct.



## Calling all Educators

Please help us make a better place for learning at Hadrian's Wall by doing a 15 minute [survey](#). Read background to [The Sill project](#) and our Heritage Lottery bid.



## Inspiration for Adventurous Walkers

Author and walk guide Geoff Holland of [www.cheviotwalks.co.uk](http://www.cheviotwalks.co.uk) has launched a new book with [Trailguides](#). 'Walks on the Wild Side' contains unique 9 to 14-mile walks designed to tempt inquisitive and adventurous walkers.



## Shows and Farmers Markets

Rural shows and farmer's markets provide a real taste of local life and the wide range of food and crafts produced in the Northumberland countryside. Look out for walking stick dressing, terrier racing and very good local meat, cheese and heather honey. Times and dates are listed on the [National Park website](#)



## Voluntary Park Ranger Guided Tours

Our voluntary rangers are very knowledgeable and passionate about the National Park. Their programme of free guided walks run to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and take in some of the most interesting and beautiful sites from Hadrian's Wall to the Breamish Valley. Details are on the [VR walks programme](#).



## Hadrian's Wall Bus

The comfortable AD122 bus runs daily to 30th October from Newcastle to Carlisle, linking railway stations on the route to all the main sites along Hadrian's Wall. A trip full of wonderful scenery. Download a [timetable](#).



## Heritage At Risk – Call for Volunteers

Weather, rabbits and careless people are all taking their toll of the National Park's 424 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Could you help us to survey, monitor and conserve them? If you would like to volunteer, email our HAR Officer [natalie.ward@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:natalie.ward@nnpa.org.uk). Full training, fabulous views and lots of fun on offer.



## Tales of Mystery and the Unexplained

[Otherworld North East](#), the professional team dedicated to applying scientific techniques to ancient buildings and their ghostly legends, is studying Thirlwall Castle, Low Cleughs Bastle and Catcleugh Navvy's Hut this year. If you know any curious tales or have experienced unexplained phenomena at any of these sites, please email us at [enquiries@nnpa.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nnpa.org.uk).

More ideas at: [www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/visitorsguide](http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/visitorsguide)

## Looking for Funding?

Although the National Park Authority has faced cuts to administration this year, our funds for sustainable development and local enterprise are still available. Our [Funding Guide and Bulletin](#) give straight-forward advice to help you make the most of opportunities.



## Two Countryfile Awards

Readers of BBC Countryfile Magazine have voted Northumberland in the top three of the country's Favourite National Parks out of 14 in Britain. The Hadrian's Wall Path which runs across the park's southern end was voted Britain's Greatest Walking Trail.



## Heritage Courses

[Learn to photograph](#) the beauty of the Roman landscape at Vindolanda with celebrated outdoor photographer, Roger Clegg. First course: 13 September. Or discover how to make the most of your local history by story-telling with the [Talking Bones](#) workshop at Housesteads Farm.