

Haldon Forest Park

Newsletter Issue 8: Autumn-Winter 2009-2010

Welcome to the Haldon Forest Park Newsletter. There's a change in the air as the seasons roll on towards winter once more. Thankfully, the forest still provides plenty to see and do, so there's no excuse for staying indoors.

See you out there!

from all the team at Haldon Forest Park

This issue...

- Discover a world of benefits
- Devon Organic Festival
- Cycle trail nears completion
- Wrap yourself in the season...
- Bag a bargain this Christmas
- Contact us



Discover a world of benefits

This winter the Forestry Commission launches a new annual parking permit scheme – the **Discovery Pass**.

As with the current annual parking permit scheme, holders will be entitled to 12 months parking at their chosen site at no extra cost. However, there will be additional benefits, including discounts and offers from local and national businesses. A Discovery Pass will be valid for 12 months from the date

of purchase, and cost £20. They will go on sale during the Christmas period, available from the Ranger's Office, the Ridge Café, by post or online.

All our current annual parking permits will remain valid until 31st March 2010. However, as of 1st April the Discovery Pass scheme will take full effect to replace the old scheme. There will be a bigger, better e-newsletter with local and regional information and links to offers and articles. Paper versions will still be available, but if you would prefer to receive the e-version please send an

e-mail headed 'Discovery Pass newsletter' with your name and current parking permit no. to: haldon.rangers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. All current parking permit holders will receive more information about the new scheme at renewal time.

Discovery Passes will be available for other sites across the country, including Cardinham Woods in Cornwall.

In the coming months more information about the scheme will be available online at: www.forestry.gov.uk/pass.

Devon Organic Festival

September marks the start of the main harvest season, so what better way to celebrate than with a festival of all things organic?

The first Devon Organic Festival comes to Haldon Forest Park on Sunday 20th September from 11am-4pm.

The Park will be alive with organic stallholders selling a range of organic products

including food & drink, clothes and bedding, health & beauty products, and woodwork. Lakeham Alpacas of Higher Ashton will also be selling alpaca products and bringing along a few of their furry friends!

A host of free talks and demonstrations will be taking place (see timetable below). Throughout the day you can also join in with fungus forays, face painting, make fruity collages at the Embercombe stall, or make sea salt pictures with the Centre for Contemporary Art & the Natural World.



11.00am	Festival Opening: with a welcome from Rod Hall, of Rod & Ben's.	
11.30am	Talk: Bio Bees	In the yurt
12.00pm	Demonstration: Bread making – hands on demo	At the bread making oven
1.00pm	Talk: Organic Life/authentic life <i>with Tim MacCartney</i>	In the yurt
1.00pm	Demonstration: Bread making – hands on demo	At the bread making oven
1.30pm	Talk: Fungi <i>with David Farley</i>	In the yurt
1.30pm	Storytelling	Meet by giant fingerpost near the café
2.00pm	Demonstration: Bread making – hands on demo	At the bread making oven
2.30pm	Talk: Haldon Forest Park <i>with the Forestry Commission</i>	In the yurt
2.45pm	Storytelling	Meet by giant fingerpost near the café
3.00pm	Demonstration: Bread making – hands on demo	At the bread making oven
3.00pm	Identification Session: Fungi <i>with David Farley</i>	In the yurt
3.30pm	Talk: Organic Life/authentic life <i>with Tim MacCartney</i>	In the yurt

Cycle trail nears completion

This autumn will see the launch of our brand new technical mountain biking experience – the Ridge Ride Trail.

The last piece of the development funded by Devon County Council and Devon Renaissance should be

completed in October. And we plan to celebrate!

We'll announce details nearer the time, but we will have an official launch event followed by late opening to ensure all those keen mountain bikers get a chance to ride it!

The new trail will incorporate rock gardens, berms and steep

descents, and is not for the fainthearted or inexperienced. You will need the right bike and protective equipment if you want to set off on this adventure.

Keep your eyes open for details of the launch in the near future – on the notice boards, the website and on Facebook.

Wrap yourself in the season...



...and get out into the woods with us to enjoy the very best it has to offer!

Set out on a **Fungus Foray** with an expert on Saturday 17th October, 10am-1pm. They'll show you the fascinating world of fungi and help you learn about identification, life histories, and even edibility! Adults only, £5 per person. Booking essential – call 01392 834233.

Join Exeter Mountain Bike Club for a 'spooktacular' **Halloween Ride** on Tuesday 27th October, 5.30pm-7pm. Bring the family for a cycle ride through the dark of the forest and see who gets spooked! Ages 7 years+, must be able to ride a bike. £5 per child, accompanying adults go free. Booking essential – call EMBC on 07880 610077.

Draw in close round the fire to hear some **Halloween Horrors!** on Thursday 29th October, 6pm-7.30pm or 8pm-9.30pm. There'll

be a feast of scary stories followed by a comforting hot drink. Why not get into the spirit of the occasion and come in fancy dress? Ages 6 years+, £5 per person. Two sessions are available for this very popular event. Booking essential - call 01392 834233.

Take a break from Christmas shopping and sing some **Candlelit Carols in the Forest** on Tuesday 15th December, 7.15pm-8.45pm. Join a local band and choir around the fire, and help raise money for charity. £5 per car. Booking is essential to avoid disappointment on this very popular event! Call 01392 834233.

Get stuck in to **Santa's Den Building** on Sunday 20th December, 10.30am – 12.30pm. If you help build Santa's den in the forest he'll come along to inspect it – with gifts to thank all his little helpers! Suitable for ages 5 years+, £4 per child. Booking essential – call 01392 834233.

And if you still have energy to burn after that, why not join in **Rudolph's Christmas Family Ride** on Sunday 20th December, 1pm-3pm? Exeter

Mountain Bike Club are leading this festive ride for all the family, and will be making a carol stop overlooking breathtaking Devon views. Ages 7 years+, must be able to ride a bike. £5 per child, accompanying adults go free. Booking essential – call EMBC on 07880 610077.



More details of events are available from the ranger's office, and the CCANW Project Space.

Bag a bargain this Christmas

Doing your Christmas shopping in the forest? You'd better believe it!

Come to the **Christmas Tree Sales Centre** based in our car park and you can select a quality locally grown tree for your home, from Friday 27th November – Wednesday 23rd December, 9am–5pm. Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Fraser Fir, Noble Fir, and Caucasian Fir are all stocked, and you can choose from a variety of sizes, or from cut and potted trees. Wreaths, festive foliage, decorations, and stands will also be on sale. Their award-winning wreaths have adorned the door of 10 Downing Street several years running, so you can be sure you're buying from the best! Call Dartmoor Christmas Tree Farm on 01803 665064 or 07799 805025 for details.



Throughout December you can also get a good deal at Forest Cycle Hire's **Christmas Bike Sale**. Bikes can be collected any time up until Christmas Eve. Call them on 01392 833768 for details.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all our visitors for their support over the last year, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Contact us

Ranger's office: 01392 834251

General enquiries: 01392 832262

E-mail: haldon.rangers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Write to us: Forestry Commission, Peninsula, Buller's Hill, Kennford, Exeter, Devon. EX6 7XR