

SOUTH DOWNS RENATURE FESTIVAL 2023

Saturday 22 – Sunday 30 July

PROGRAMME (LIVE/VIRTUAL EVENTS)

The South Downs National Park is home to incredibly beautiful landscapes, rare habitats and wildlife. But even here nature is under pressure and needs our help.

About 25% of the National Park is managed for nature. In 2021, we launched our ReNature campaign with the goal of raising £100m to increase that to 33% by 2030. This will add an extra 13,000 hectares managed for nature. That is an area three times the size of Portsmouth. We don't want to stop there – we want the remaining 67% to be nature friendly too.

Join us this July to celebrate the stunning wildlife found here in the South Downs National Park. From guided walks to volunteering, scything to butterfly identifying – we have something for everyone during our 2023 ReNature Festival.

Please note that all in-person events are weather dependent and are subject to cancellation at short notice.

If you're looking for ways to help nature near you, take the pledge to complete one or all of these seven easy actions to help nature and the climate.

Pledge to help nature:

- Make a home for nature
- Give nature a helping hand
- Save water and energy
- Reduce, reuse, recycle and repair
- Buy local
- Do more car free days
- Get creative in nature

WIN
A year's membership to The Wildlife Trusts or a family ticket to Marwell Zoo.
Register your ReNature pledges online to be entered into the competition



HELP US TO #RENATURE
SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

WHAT'S ON

SATURDAY JULY 22
WILD CHALK DAY

▶ RENATURE FESTIVAL OPENING FILM

V Watch the opening of this interesting festival highlighting the major events and learn about our ReNature story. Watch on South Downs [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

▶ 10:00 – GUIDED WALK AT WATERHALL

L Join Ranger Paul Gorrige for a guided walk at Waterhall near Brighton, there will also be a chance to ask questions and do some tree popping for nature. To book a place, email eventbookings@southdowns.gov.uk.

▶ 10:00 – SCYTHING AT BLACKNEST MEADOW

L Join Blacknest Fields and South Downs National Park Rangers for scything at Blacknest Meadow. To book a place, email eventbookings@southdowns.gov.uk.

▶ 10:00 – SOUTH DOWNS YOUTH ACTION: MEADOW MANAGEMENT

L Are you aged 16-25 and want to make a difference for nature and the environment? Join us in a traditional craft to protect and enhance the meadows and living things that call the Seven Sisters Country Park home. Book a [place here](#).

▶ VIRTUAL – WILDING WATERHALL SHOWCASE

V Watch a new film from the Changing Chalk partnership detailing the restoration of chalk grassland at Waterhall near Brighton. Watch on the [South Downs Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channels.

▶ 15:00 – PAWS ON THE HEATH **L** Do you walk your dog in the areas around Whitehill and Bordon? Join the rangers for an afternoon of fun for you and your four-legged friend. Book a [place here](#).

▶ 20:30 – 23:30 – NOCTURNAL WILDLIFE WALK **L** Join the heathland ranger team to discover how the Wealden Heath Special Protection Area come to life at night. Book a [place here](#).

L In-person **V** Virtual (Facebook/Instagram)

SUNDAY JULY 23
HEAVENLY HEATHLAND DAY

Iconic species of the day:
Sand lizard; Dartford warbler

▶ SHORT FILM: HEATHLANDS IN 360 **V**

Get up close and personal with a 'habitat rarer than rainforest' in this immersive film. Watch on the [South Downs Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channels.

▶ 10:00 – GUIDED WALK ALONG THE SERPENT TRAIL AND SUSSEX BORDER PATH **L**

Join the Heathland Reunited team for a guided walk along the Serpent Trail. Book a [place here](#).

▶ MEET THE DARTFORD WARBLER **V**

Watch this short video of the rare Dartford warbler here on the heath. The arrival of spring brings an explosion of insect life and with their brood already in the nest, these warblers are busy foraging for bugs to feed their young. Watch on South Downs [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

▶ GUIDED NIGHTJAR WALK **V**

Watch an interesting guided nightjar walk on the heathland. Watch on South Downs [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

MONDAY JULY 24
WONDROUS WOODLAND DAY

Iconic species of the day: Tawny owl

▶ 10:00 – YOUTH VOLUNTEERING **L**

Join an exciting day out with South Downs Youth Action, an opportunity for young people aged 16-25 to volunteer at the Weald and Downland Living Museum. Book a [place here](#).



Dartford Warbler © Bruce Middleton



Sand Lizard © Bruce Middleton

▶ **TREES FOR THE DOWNS/WOODLAND CREATION PROJECT FILM** **V** Watch on the South Downs **Facebook** page.

TUESDAY JULY 25 CLIMATE CHANGE DAY

Iconic species of the day: Round-headed rampion, redshank

▶ **BUGLIFE FACEBOOK LIVE** **V** Watch Alice Parfitt talking about wart-biter crickets as part of the Changing Chalk Project. Watch on the South Downs **Facebook** page.

▶ **CLIMATE HUB LAUNCH** **V** Our climate hub will be officially launched. Watch out for details on South Downs **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**.

▶ **20:30 – DISCOVERING THE MOTHS OF SELBORNE** **L** Join Gilbert White's House in conjunction with Alton Natural History Society from around dusk to see how the moth lights are set up and experience the first visitors of the night to the lights. Book a **place here**.

WEDNESDAY JULY 26 WONDERFUL WATERS DAY

Iconic species of the day: Watervoles, otter

▶ **10:00 – LISTENING TO THE LAND: CREATIVE CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS AT SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK** **L** Join a Seven Sisters Ranger, writer-in-residence Alinah Azadeh and Georgina Aboud from the We Hear You Now audio series project for a gentle climate tour and creative workshop around the Cuckmere Valley. Open to all adult age groups

but focused on 16-30 year olds. Book a **place here**.

▶ **10:00 – BALSAM PULLING EVENT AT PULBOROUGH BROOKS** **L** Join National Park Rangers to take action for Nature at this balsam pulling event. Bring your binoculars to help spot any passing wildlife. To book a place, email **eventbookings@southdowns.gov.uk**.

▶ **WONDERFUL WATERS STORY – THE CINDERELLA RIVER** **V** Professional Storyteller Dawn Nelson narrates an original Cinderella story of the Meon river. Watch on the South Downs **Facebook** page and **YouTube** channel.

THURSDAY JULY 27 RENATURE HEROES DAY

Iconic species of the day: Wart-biter crickets

▶ **9:00 – OPEN DAY AT CHURCH COPSE** **L** Join South Downs Rangers for an open day at Church Copse, Clapham. To book a place, email **eventbookings@southdowns.gov.uk**.

▶ **10:00 – DISCOVER THE BIRDS OF CUCKMERE HAVEN** **L** Tim Squire, Ranger for the South Downs National Park Authority and keen birdwatcher, will take you on a walk to discover the birds of Cuckmere Haven. Tim will also explain how the landscape has evolved and is now managed. Bring binoculars if you have them. Book a **place here**.

▶ **10:00 – VOLUNTEER ON THE HEATH** **L** Join the Heathland ReUnited team in Ludshott for a microvolunteering activity with iNaturalist. Book a **place here**.

▶ **11:00 – BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY WALK** **L** Join Neil Hulme in Clapham to explore the wonders of butterflies up close! Book a **place here**.

▶ **HELP NATURE THROUGH MICRO VOLUNTEERING FILM** **V** Discover amazing ways to do more for nature through volunteering. Watch on the South Downs **Facebook** page.

FRIDAY JULY 28 FABULOUS FARMERS DAY

Iconic species of the day: Pipistrelle bat

▶ **WATCH A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FARMER IN THE FARMERS SOCIAL MEDIA TAKEOVER** **V** Watch on the South Downs **Facebook** page.

▶ **SHORT FILM: MEET THE FARMER** **V** Find out about the 'Meet the Farmer' project which gives a unique insight into farming life in a protected landscape; in each video the farmers explain what they are doing on their farm, from the food they produce, the diversity of businesses they run and the way in which they care for and manage the landscape. Watch on South Downs **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**.

SATURDAY JULY 29 COOL COAST DAY

Iconic species of the day: Ringed plover

▶ **10:00 – BEACH CLEAN AT SEVEN SISTERS** **L** Join National Park Rangers for a beach clean and litter picking blitz at the iconic Seven Sisters Country Park. Book a **place here**.

▶ **10:00 – BIOBLITZ AT OLD WINCHESTER HILL** **L** Join Natural England on Saturday 29th July at Old Winchester Hill NNR for the reserve's very first BioBlitz. A great chance to learn about the chalk grassland site, and contribute to understanding of the rich biodiversity that makes this habitat in the heart of the South Downs National Park its home. Some fantastic activities lined up for the day, including moth trapping, guided walks and an evening bat walk. Book a **place here**.

▶ **BIRDING AT SEVEN SISTERS** **V** Watch National Park Ranger Tim Squire, and keen birdwatcher, talk about the birds of the Seven Sisters and how the landscape has evolved. Watch on South Downs **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**.

SUNDAY JULY 30 TAKE ACTION FOR NATURE TODAY

Iconic species of the day: Buzzard

▶ **NATURE AND CLIMATE PLEDGE** **V** Commit to doing something for nature and the climate through our Pledge. Watch out for details on South Downs **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**.

▶ **TAKE ACTION FOR NATURE AND THE CLIMATE** **V** Watch a fascinating overview of the ReNature Festival activities so far and get useful hints on actions to take for nature and the climate. Watch out for details on the South Downs **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** pages.



Pipistrelle bat © CreativeNature_n1



Water Vole © SDNPA/Dick Hawkes



Tawny Owl © D. Middleton



Round-headed rampion © SDNPA



Ringed Plover © Tim Squire



Common Buzzard © Coatesy

L In-person **V** Virtual (Facebook/Instagram)

@SDNPA **f** SDNPA
southdownsnp | southdowns.co.uk