

NORTH WESSEX DOWNS LANDSCAPE TRUST

Increasing awareness of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and securing its long-term protection and enhancement.



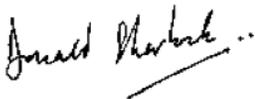
In compiling our newsletter for this autumn we are faced with a lack of events and activities to report on, for obvious reasons. However, we are taking the opportunity to introduce our two new trustees who joined us this summer and to emphasise the on-going availability of grants via the North Wessex Downs AONB Sustainable Development Fund. More information on these topics in the following pages.

One positive of the lockdown was the ability to walk, run or cycle in our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As a result, the North Wessex Downs AONB has seen a surge in popularity, which is a silver lining to an otherwise very dark cloud.

Several parish and borough councils have generously donated to our work. If you wish to protect this much-enjoyed privilege then **please donate as an individual or an official body to enable us to continue our work for this unique landscape.**

www.nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk/get-involved/donation

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families good health in the months to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Donald Sherlock' with a flourish at the end.

Donald Sherlock, Chairman

Registered charity number 1168708



The NWD AONB covers 668 square miles, taking in 173 parishes and stretches from Swindon and Didcot in the north to Devizes and Basingstoke in the south, Calne in the west and Reading in the east. It is the third largest AONB in the country. Over 80% of the world's chalk streams are in the south of England and the AONB includes the rivers Kennet, Lambourn and mighty Test amongst others.



Meet Our New Trustees

Susie Brew

Having lived in London and worked in a management consulting firm, Susie moved 15 years ago to Wiltshire in the North Wessex Downs AONB. During this time, she has volunteered as a parish councillor and secretary of the Wilton Windmill Society. She is currently coordinator for the Pewsey Community Area Partnership and the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership.

Peter Lemon

Peter has been managing farmland and the environment in the NWD AONB for the past 55 years. He and his family instigated the restoration of the 1821 Wilton Windmill, resulting in the only flour-producing windmill in South West England. He has been instrumental in the introduction of essential land management changes over the last half a century.

We are delighted to welcome Susie and Peter on to the board of trustees, they both will bring with them a great knowledge and experience to different aspects of our work, for which we are very grateful.

Sustainable Development Fund



As mentioned earlier, the North Wessex Downs AONB Sustainable Development Fund remains available for qualifying environmental and community projects within the NWD AONB. With the pandemic, undertakings have taken longer to prepare and process, so sadly we have no completed projects to highlight for this edition. However, there are several schemes in the pipeline and we would welcome further applications to add to the growing list of successful projects as illustrated above.

For further information, guidelines and application details, please go to:

www.nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk/our-work/grants-funding

“Receiving the SDF grant made all the difference and we were able to get on with planting last winter”

Dr. Jemma Batten

Black Sheep Countryside Management
Marlborough Downs Space for Nature
Historic Clumps Renewal

Covid Tourism in the Vale of Pewsey

Throughout Covid-19, the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership has been extremely busy, keeping up with all the changes, making sure The Vale was kept at the top of people's minds for when lockdown finished and ensuring our members had the latest Government advice available, on top of all the 'business as usual' stuff.

Our members – the accommodation providers, shops, pubs and other organisations – have been (like the rest of the country) on a roller-coaster. It was heart-breaking to see them all temporarily close in March but an absolute joy to see most of them reopening during June and July. They have all worked incredibly hard to reinvent themselves, delivering new ways of working often with new services and products; it has been amazing to be part of this.

It is so important that we have a thriving economy, particularly in such a rural area where jobs can be difficult to come by. If the economy is doing well, then it has a positive effect on the community - providing better prospects, attracting younger people to work here and generating a sense of civic pride.

Our challenge now is finding funding to deliver a number of projects we have in the pipeline in readiness for when we can say we are post-Covid. Like everyone, we are very much looking forward to that day!

Susie Brew
Coordinator, Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership

