

HELP US TO #RENATURE  
SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

## South Downs News

# WORK AND PLAY IN YOUR NATIONAL PARK

This month:

- **Biodiversity bounces back** Learn more about the amazing recovery of protected species thanks to the efforts of a five-year project to help conserve lowland heaths.
- **Tremendous!** Find out more about the 11,000 trees that are being planted this winter across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex.
- **Brilliant news for Butser** Find out about the £240,000 investment to improve the visitor experience.
- **Christmas walks** Discover some of our favourite festive ambles that are guaranteed to invigorate.

As always please send your comments and ideas to us at [newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk)

## Big win for nature as heathlands bounce back

**It's a wildlife oasis rarer than the rainforest and home to some of Britain's most endangered reptile, amphibian and bird species.**

Now, five years on from the start of an incredible conservation effort, the future of heathlands in the south of England is looking much brighter.

The Heathlands Reunited project has successfully conserved and enhanced 23,825 hectares – or 18,000 football pitches – of lowland heath. An independent scientific assessment has revealed that the initiative has been “significant” in restoring the ecological condition of the habitat.

The £2m initiative started in 2016 after backing from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is now coming to its conclusion.

The project has seen amazing biodiversity success stories, including the return of the woodlark to key sites, recovery of the endangered field cricket, Dartford Warbler and Natterjack toad, and new habitat for the UK's rarest reptile, the majestic sand lizard.

The project focused on heathland at 41 sites, stretching from Bordon, in Hampshire, to Pulborough in West Sussex. The need was profound because less than one per cent of former heathland remains in the National Park and what was left



was very fragmented, leaving animals and plants vulnerable to extinction in these isolated “island” habitats.

Heathlands are, in fact, ‘man-made’ and only exist because our ancestors used them to dig peat for fuel, harvest heather and graze animals, unwittingly creating a unique mosaic of habitats which many plants and animals now can't survive without.

Half a decade on and the project partners are celebrating some big achievements, including:

- Conserving almost 600 hectares of heathland by significantly increasing conservation grazing by cattle.
- A total of 366 hectares of heathland has benefited from conservation works to improve its condition, including scrub clearance, heather mowing, and bracken control, aimed at creating and connecting heathland.
- Woolmer Forest, a Site of Special Scientific Interest in Hampshire and home to 12 out of 13 of Britain's native reptiles and amphibian species, has significantly improved and is now in “favourable condition” for wildlife.

- Supporting the reintroduction of the iconic field cricket to expand the number of surviving colonies, as part of the Back From The Brink project.
- A survey of heathland sites in the district revealed the number of Dartford Warblers spotted went up from 36 in 2016 to 132 in 2021.
- Supporting the restoration of heathland for the reintroduction of the Natterjack toad next year at Woolmer Forest. It follows the purchase of 20 hectares of the Blackmoor Estate last year by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust – supported by fundraising, as well as Section 106 funds from the National Park Authority.
- After several years of absence, RSPB Pulborough has two successful breeding pairs of woodlark and has also seen an increase in the number of churring nightjars.
- A total of 349 events have taken place, with over 16,000 people participating in a range of activities.
- Nearly 115 volunteers have dedicated almost 50,000 hours to help look after the heaths.
- Reconnecting communities to their local heathland through the National Park's first Sculpture Trail and a makeover to the 65-mile long Serpent Trail.

The project was delivered by 11 partners – Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Forestry England, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council, Lynchmere Society, Ministry of Defence, National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, South Downs National Park Authority, and Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Andrew Lee, Director of Countryside Policy and Management at the National Park Authority, said: "We all know biodiversity is under unprecedented threat, but Heathlands Reunited is one of the success stories, showing how much can be achieved if we make space for nature. Seeing animals such as the woodlark, sand lizard and field cricket flourish once again is truly inspiring.

"I would like to thank each and every partner, volunteer and member of the public who has been part of this wonderful project. The fight to protect our heathlands will never be over, but I can safely say that our heaths are in a much better place than they were five years ago. The biggest thing we can all do to help them survive is to continue caring for them.

"The success of this project is the perfect springboard for our ambitious plan to 'ReNature' the South Downs, underlining how nature recovery at a landscape scale can tackle both the biodiversity and climate crisis. Crucially, it's only possible because of people working together to make a difference."

While the project has now officially comes to its conclusion, the Heathlands Reunited partnership will continue and the fight to save and restore heaths goes on under the Heathlands Reunited Wealden Heath SAMM project. This community-focused project brings together 12 like-minded organisations to raise awareness and encourage sustainable use of these sites through public engagement events and activities. The project focuses on the Shortheath Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Wealden Heath Special Protection Area (SPA) which sit in, and are on the boundary of, the South Downs National Park. Visit

[www.southdowns.gov.uk/help-your-heaths](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/help-your-heaths)

## When you wish upon a star!



### When you wish upon a star, your dreams come true, so they say.

Why not start 2022 with a big bang by putting yourself in the running for a prize in our astrophotography competition?

We have three £100 prizes to give away, as well as three £75 runner-up prizes, so there's never been a better time to capture the dazzling beauty of the night sky!

The deadline for competition entries will be midnight on 12 January, 2022.

Our 10 Dark Sky Discovery Sites are a good place to start stargazing as they offer good public access and great sightlines to explore the wonders of the stars.

Dan Oakley, Lead Ranger and Dark Skies Lead, said: "We're really excited to be holding our second astrophotography competition after the success of last year's contest where we had well over 150 incredible images to judge. The South Downs National Park is still one of only 17 International Dark Sky Reserves in the world, so it's a very special status. If you haven't seen a South Downs skyscape on a clear night, I would encourage you to! It really is an awesome spectacle and develops a powerful sense of connection with the universe that we live in. It doesn't matter if you're accomplished astrophotographer or a total novice, we're keen to see a range of photographs that show off the spectacle of the big universe out there."

Here are some top tips from Dan to help you make the most of stargazing in the South Downs:

- Check the phase of the moon to plan your trip
- Take a blanket or mat to lie on and wrap up warm.
- Take some snacks and a hot drink
- Take a compass or use the one on your smart phone
- Download a star gazing app
- Allow time for your eyes to adjust – this takes around 20 minutes so preferably put your mobile phone away (at least when not taking pictures if you are using it to photograph)
- Leave no trace – remember to take any rubbish home with you.

For entry details and to download an application form visit [www.southdowns.gov.uk/AstroPhotoComp](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/AstroPhotoComp)

## Major investment to improve visitor experience at Butser



**The highest point on the South Downs ridge and one of the most visited hills in southern England will be significantly improved for walkers and wildlife, thanks to new funding of £240,000.**

At 271m, Butser Hill is one of the crown jewels of the South Downs National Park, visited by over 80,000 people every year who come to enjoy its panoramic views of coast and country and the enchanting wildlife.

Now a major investment by the National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and National Grid will see a raft of improvements, including new trails, resurfacing pathways, enhancing views and restoring ancient chalk grassland.

One of the focuses of the five-year project will be the dramatic chalk scarp slope called Grandfather's Bottom. Invasive scrub vegetation will be removed to accentuate the drama of the South Downs landscape and enhance chalk grassland that is home to several rare species, such as the chalkhill blue and Duke of Burgundy butterflies. Around 380m of path and steps also will be resurfaced.

Other highlights of the work will be:

- A new walking route will be created on Hillhampton Down, taking visitors into and around a yew wood – an iconic tree in this part of the South Downs.
- Also at Hillhampton Down, scrub will be removed to improve the chalk grassland and encourage wildflowers and butterflies, close to where visitors are walking and preventing encroachment on archaeological features.
- The municipal feel of the summit's car park will be reduced, with a new surface installed. The makeover will blend with the surrounding downland landscape and make the car park a more pleasant environment for visitors and those who have limited mobility.
- New views will be opened up with the removal of diseased ash trees and a new arrangement of parking spaces will encourage views of the landscape away from the existing electricity pylons.
- New interpretation on site to help people better understand the area's rich history and status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, having been a settlement during Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

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Trevor Beattie, Chief Executive of the National Park Authority, said: "Butser Hill is one of the iconic gems of the western side of the National Park and this major new funding will improve the visitor experience even further.

"Chalk grassland is an internationally-important wildlife habitat, so I'm pleased this work will further enhance the biodiversity, the dramatic views and also help people get closer to nature. The project fits seamlessly into the National Park's long-term plans for nature recovery and creating better places for both people and nature. I hope it will also inspire people to find out more about the area's rich history and ways we can all care for this treasured landscape."

Councillor Edward Heron, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs, said: "Butser Hill is a much-loved landmark and a top attraction for visitors to Queen Elizabeth Country Park. I'm delighted that we can confirm the go ahead for this exciting improvement scheme. The project will help more people to enjoy this special site, whilst also preserving and enhancing its ecological and biological importance."

Funding has come from the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI). LEI is part of National Grid's Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project, which makes use of a provision from the regulator, Ofgem, to reduce the landscape and visual impact of existing high-voltage electricity infrastructure in English and Welsh AONBs and National Parks.

Environmentalist and broadcaster Chris Baines, who chairs the independent Stakeholder Advisory Group for National Grid's VIP project, said: "We're delighted to be working with stakeholders to provide funding for this important project at Butser Hill in the South Downs National Park. We very much look forward to watching their progress as they work to help to make this historic and exceptionally beautiful area even more enjoyable to visit."

The work will be carried out by Hampshire County Council, which owns and manages the site, supported by National Park Rangers and volunteers.

Butser Hill is a 239.7-hectare biological and geological Site of Special Scientific Interest south-west of Petersfield in Hampshire. It is a National Nature Reserve and a Special Area of Conservation.

The hill is internationally important for its ground-hugging plant communities, including mosses, liverworts, and lichens and also for its chalk grassland plants, such as cowslips, which provide food for caterpillars that later metamorphose into butterflies.



A chalkhill blue butterfly

## Thousands of trees to be planted this coming winter



**More than 11,000 trees will be planted across the National Park this winter to help nature recovery and tackle climate change.**

Thirty sites across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex will be receiving new trees as part of the Trees for the Downs campaign, which is now entering its third year having gone from strength to strength.

The first batch of trees, seven oaks and a range of hazel and field maple whips, were planted earlier this week at the Goodwood Estate, near Chichester. A further 300 disease-resistant elms will be planted on the estate in January to help create a new wildlife corridor.

The Chair of the National Park Authority, Ian Phillips, joined the Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper, and the Duchess of Richmond and Gordon for a tree planting ceremony as part of “The Queen’s Green Canopy” to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year. They were ably assisted by children from The March Primary School on the cold, frosty morning as the team dug holes and carefully planted the saplings.

As well as Goodwood, 29 other sites across the region will see significant planting, including restoring trees that have been lost to Ash Dieback and Dutch Elm Disease. Sites include schools, farms, recreation grounds and historic parks.

The supply of new trees has only been made possible thanks to the tremendous public response to the Trees for the Downs campaign, which launched at the end of 2019.

So far, almost £200,000 has been raised by the South Downs National Park Trust, the official independent charity for the National Park, which has set its sights on raising £260,000 to be able to plant 100,000 trees in total.

More than 8,000 trees were planted across the South Downs last winter and this new batch will bring much-needed new habitat for wildlife, help to restore soils and give amenity value to local communities.

The Trust is working with the National Park Authority’s woodlands team to deliver the tree planting project.

Ian Phillips, Chair of the Authority, said: “The South Downs National Park is, somewhat surprisingly, the most wooded of all of England’s National Parks and we recognise the important benefits that trees bring to the landscape, nature, the economy and people.

“We want to extend and promote the role of trees in our National Park through sensitive and practical planting and good management – in town and country. I would therefore like to thank all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the South Downs Trust’s Trees for the Downs campaign.



“This aims to plant 100,000 new trees in the South Downs over five years as an investment in a more sustainable future and we are well on the way to achieving this.”

As well as scores of public donations, the Trees for the Downs campaign has received backing from a range of regional organisations and businesses, including Aspinall of London, Boltini Trust, Chalk Cliff Trust, Civen Foundation, Friends of the South Downs, Jude’s, Nyetimber, South East Water and the Swire Charitable Trust. The disease-resistant elms have been pioneered by Hillier. The Trust hopes to plant further trees in phases over the next three years, until 2025, and applications are open for future round of planting.

To donate visit [www.southdownstrust.org.uk/trees-for-the-downs/](http://www.southdownstrust.org.uk/trees-for-the-downs/)

The planting sites this winter are:

### **Hampshire**

Thompson’s Wood, Marwell Zoo  
Churcher’s College, Petersfield  
Longmoor – MOD  
Chilcomb – MOD  
Hanger’s Croft – Selborne  
Park Farm, near Clanfield  
Lancen Farm, near Winchester  
Coulters Dean, Buriton  
Preshaw, near West Meon

### **West Sussex**

Goodwood  
Hollycombe School, Milland  
Stansted Park, near Westbourne  
Noor Wood, Tortington Common  
Leconfield Estate, Petworth  
Brinsbury College, near Pulborough  
Parham Park, near Pulborough  
Wild Heart Hill, near Worthing  
Findon Place, near Worthing  
The Sanctuary, near Worthing  
Cissbury Fields, near Worthing  
Chanctonbury Forest Garden, near Steyning  
Broadbourne Chicken Farm, near Steyning  
Lancing College

### **East Sussex**

Ditchling Recreation Ground  
Peacehaven Community Orchard  
Hodder Farm, near Peacehaven  
Centenary Park, Peacehaven  
Long Man Parish  
Old Mansion Close, Eastbourne



## Ranger report: Saving an enigma



**Ranger Tim Squire gives an update on efforts to save the grayling from local extinction.**



The grayling is one of the hardest butterflies to spot. Not only is it one of our most rare and declining butterflies, but it also has what is referred to as 'cryptic colouration', meaning it's a real master of disguise.

The National Park Authority has been working alongside Butterfly Conservation to save this important species.

The grayling is a rare species by any measure on its usual habitat of acid grassland and lowland heath but it was also once widespread on the chalk. However, the "chalk variety" of the grayling now survives in just a single colony in the UK, here on the South Downs. This colony, in a valley in East Sussex, was down to maximum day counts in the low twenties. Recent conservation work to improve the habitat has led to a small increase in the past two years and this summer saw a high count of 49.

This is obviously still a perilous situation for the grayling butterfly. A species cannot survive with such a small population at only one site, but the early signs are encouraging.

So just how have we managed to create more favourable conditions for the grayling? This insect survives only on the very hottest chalk grassland slopes that have short turf and areas of bare ground where they can bask in the sun and lay their eggs on tiny tufts of sheep's fescue grass that sprout up. With a recent crash in the rabbit population, bare ground, or rabbit scrapes, have had to be created artificially by the ranger and volunteer teams. There have also been ponies on site to graze the thick tor grass that crowds out the finer grasses and chalk grassland flora. The farmer now has his own herd of Exmoor ponies to help keep the site in good condition.

Hopefully, when dispersing, butterflies will hop over the top of the hill and find suitable habitat to start a second colony. In the other direction lies Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve. Grayling used to be present here but were lost earlier this century. The National Park is working in partnership with Natural England and South East Water, which owns the reserve, to complete major works removing large areas of gorse. I'm hopeful that this charming butterfly will return here too one day ☺



**For 40 years, they've been dedicated custodians of the precious South Downs landscape.**

And now, as the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service marks its 40th anniversary, a poignant film has been produced to showcase the amazing breadth of volunteering in the National Park.

From coppicing, wildlife surveys, laying hedges to public engagement, the Volunteer Rangers are one of the cornerstones of conserving the special qualities of the South Downs.

From humble beginnings in 1981, coming into being three decades before the National Park was created in 2010, the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service has grown to around 300 volunteers today.

The touching film has been released to coincide with International Volunteer Day on Sunday (5 December).

Ron Wilder, a former RAF Wing Commander from Petersfield, has dedicated many years of his retirement to the Volunteer Ranger Service and said his proudest moment has been helping to re-introduce water voles to the River Meon in Hampshire.



He said: "Seeing evidence of them four or five generations on from the ones we originally re-introduced is a very satisfying moment. We've also seen an increase in other wildlife because the water vole helps support the overall balance of biodiversity.

Grandmother Sathi Sivapragasam, from Hove, said: "I've always been interested in nature because of my gardening.

"Volunteering made me bring my life forward. It's just lovely working together as part of a team."

Kirsty Ferris, who hails from Littlehampton and is also a Youth Ambassador for the National Park, said: "Volunteering is a way to be in nature and you also learn lots of skills you can use in other jobs or hobbies. You're also helping your local environment in a very direct way."

Keen wildlife photographer Roger Kiernan (pictured above), who lives at the eastern end of the National Park in East Sussex, said: "Most people don't realise that they don't need to go to Africa on safari. There's a whole safari under their feet and in the bush alongside them!"

See the video [here](#).

# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! 🎅



**Snow-capped peaks, crisp fresh air, crunchy leaves underfoot, and stunning vistas to soothe your soul.**

For many of us, an invigorating Christmas walk is a family tradition that cannot be missed, as part and parcel of the festive celebration as turkey and tinsel.

And the South Downs National Park, with mile upon mile of sumptuous scenery, is the perfect place to enjoy a festive amble, dusting off those Christmas cobwebs after one too many mince pies!

So wrap up warm, pack a flask of tea, perhaps a few leftover sandwiches, and enjoy some of the most inspiring landscapes in England.

As we count down to the big day, Allison Thorpe, who leads access and recreation for the National Park, shares a few of her favourite festive walks across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex.

Allison says: "Whether you're looking for a blustery walk with all the family, a quiet romantic stroll, or a walk with the dog, the South Downs National Park is an amazing winter wonderland where you can gaze in awe at the sheer beauty of the landscape, often blanketed in frost or snow.

"While nature is in its winter slumber, there's still some great wildlife watching to be had and the sight of a robin, deer, or starling murmuration is particularly joyful.

"Why not round off your walk with a trip to one of the many fantastic inns and eateries in the National Park, enjoying some delicious local fare, raising a Christmas toast with spicy mulled wine or an ice-cold glass of South Downs fizz?"

And Allison added:  
"As always, we encourage people to plan ahead and give all farmers a festive thank you by sticking to the Countryside Code and keeping dogs on leads.



"Wherever you go, we hope all visitors are able to recharge their batteries this Christmas and feel rejuvenated by the great outdoors."

Here are some of Allison's favourite Christmassy walks:

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### Stanmer Park

Records of Stanmer Church go back to 1232. In 1838, the third Earl of Chichester, Henry Thomas Pelham, decided to demolish the old church and build a new one on the same site.



Covering approximately 5,000 acres, Stanmer Park has a wealth of history to be discovered.

The church, the village and the manor house stand on sites of much earlier versions of themselves, with some of the building materials being reused in the current buildings.

The recently restored walled garden – **One Garden** – is a collaboration between Plumpton College, Brighton and Hove City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority. The onsite One Kitchen serves fresh food made from produce grown on site and the wider Plumpton Estate, while the shop sells fresh produce, deli items and Plumpton Estate wine, cheese and meat.

Our walks leaflet suggests a **5.5 mile circular route** through the semi-ancient Stanmer Woods, home to old and gnarled beech trees.

### Arundel

Arundel has it all.

A fairytale castle, a tranquil lake, and a beautiful market town with more than a dozen cafes, pubs and restaurants. A



mainline train station. A heated **lido** (which reopens for festive swims over Christmas). The list goes on!

**Visit Arundel** has lots of information about all of the upcoming festive events and activities taking place this Christmas.



### Alice Holt Forest

The Forestry England-managed **Alice Holt Forest** is a must-see for lovers of woodland.

Come the winter, the trees have completed their transition with the forest floor turning into a patchwork of orange, ochre and gold.

With five trails of differing lengths and distances, there's plenty for families along with those looking for something a little more challenging to while away those wintry days.

If looking to head to a pub to warm up after, **The Jolly Farmer** and **The Bluebell** are right on the edge of Alice Holt. Both pubs are dog-friendly and serve-up tasty, seasonal food.

**For more of Allison's favourite seasonal walks click [here](#).**

## Tis the season to support local!



### The South Downs is undoubtedly a treasure trove of local talent and artisanship.

Whether it be world-class sparkling wine, delectable locally-sourced food, or hand-made crafts, this region is a glorious grotto of potential gifts for all ages and interests.

As we're in the midst of "golden quarter" for small and medium-sized businesses, our Enterprise team is encouraging people to shop locally if they can.

As well as lovely gifts you can wrap, there are also some incredible experiences in the National Park that would make great presents for loved ones.

Mark Alden, Enterprise Development Lead for the National Park, explains: "It goes without saying that it's been a really tough time for businesses over the past 18 months with the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic.



"However, one of the positives has been the rise in support for local businesses and a renewed interest in local products, experiences and services.

"This is such an important time of the year for small businesses, so it's our hope this enthusiasm to shop locally continues this Christmas and beyond.

"Local businesses really do play a vital role in our local economy and also the wellbeing of our communities.

"We've come up with a few fun suggestions of experiential gifts, playing on the 12 days of Christmas, but this is just a snapshot of what's out there! We hope to inspire people to discover more of the amazing things on offer in the South Downs National Park."

Twelve ideas for experiential Christmas gifts:

1. **Paddle the South Downs**, breathing in the stunning views from Cuckmere Haven to Alfriston.
2. Enjoy an evening under the stars at Iping Common, perhaps with a stay at **Amberfold**, **Halfway Bridge Inn**, or **Night Pastures** and eat or drink at **Comestibles Deli** or **The Hamilton Arms**. More information [here](#) on Iping and Stedham Common.

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3. Enjoy some of the finest fizz in England, with this **Sparkling South Downs** treat for wine-lovers.
4. Calling on angling enthusiasts! Enjoy a "**Bait to Plate**" experience with fly-fishing and dine at a chef's table (pictured left)
5. **Walk in the steps of our ancestors** exploring Black Down, the highest point and a hidden heathland treasure in the National Park.
6. Come and explore the beautiful **Pookles Farm** in Hampshire as you're taken on a wild foraging adventure!
7. One for animal-lovers of all ages! Become a member of **Marwell Wildlife** and enjoy unlimited entry to the zoo.
8. Discover more about some of the finest craft workers and artists Britain has ever produced with tickets to **Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft**.
9. Immerse yourself in the restorative power of the woods by enjoying this **forest bathing experience**.
10. Step back in time and explore the Sussex Heritage Coast with this **guided tour** of Seven Sisters.
11. If you love craft ale and want to know a bit more about how it's done, why not book a guided tour of the 10 barrel steam-heated **Langham Brewery**?
12. See a real working farm in action at **Middle Farm** in East Sussex. Don't forget to try their infamous cider barn!

Many of these ideas are taken from "**The National Park Experiences**", a unique collection of world-class experiences, across 10 National Parks in England. The South Downs Experiences give visitors the chance to learn more about nature and the heritage of the landscape, enjoying local food and drink from this treasured landscape. Please get in touch directly with operator through the links above if you are interested in booking any of the experiences.



# Things to do in the South Downs this December

Please follow the links as booking may be necessary. Find these and more events across the National Park and submit your own events at [southdowns.gov.uk/events/](https://southdowns.gov.uk/events/)



- Unleash your inner Van Gogh with a “Christmas Sparkle” arts sessions at [The Highdown Tea Rooms](#) on 14 December.
- It’s all about fun! Get yourself a drink from the bar, settle down to your canvas and unleash your inner Van Gogh!
- Enjoy carols around the tree with [Liss Brass Band](#) on 22 December.
- Take part in an [outdoor family craft session](#) at Gilbert White’s House to mark the winter solstice on 20 December.
- Join in a [Santa-inspired laser tag](#) at Queen Elizabeth Country Park from 18 to 24 December.
- Experience a cosmic detective story, a journey back in time to see the night sky of over 2,000 years ago, in the [Christmas Star](#) show at the South Downs Planetarium on Christmas Eve.

## YOU SAY:

Do you have a story you want to tell about the National Park? A burning issue that you think needs to be addressed? Or would you like to pen your own article about why you love the South Downs? Please let us know!



To submit a comment for our newsletter please email [newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@southdowns.gov.uk). For a fast and direct response to your questions please email [info@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:info@southdowns.gov.uk)

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Sign up to the National Park’s Planning Newsletter, issued three times a year, by visiting

[www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-newsletter/](https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-newsletter/)

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