



Hello Sherborne & Bibury

We are excited to bring you the latest edition of our community newsletter - a space where we will celebrate the people, events, and stories that make these places so special. Whether you are a long-time resident or a newer arrival to the villages, this newsletter will be your go-to source for National Trust updates, upcoming events, local highlights, and ways to get involved.

In this edition you will find inspiring stories from fellow community members, important announcements, and a calendar full of activities to keep you connected.

Update from Tim Green, Delivery Manager

Hello Everyone,

I'm Tim Green, and I'm really pleased to introduce myself as the new Delivery Manager here in Sherborne. It's been a brilliant start, and I've already had the pleasure of meeting some of you whilst I have been out and about.

I've been very busy getting to grips with the estate and diving into several projects. Here's a quick look at some of what I've been working on:

Getting to know the estate – Meeting the team and learning the lay of the land.

Helping with the Community Forest

Volunteering - Getting stuck in and planting on my first week alongside various community groups and Sherborne School. What a great way to start your new job!

Sherborne Brook Wetland Enhancement

Project – Lining up contractors and starting the application process for the various permissions needed before any works can commence.

Track repair works – Carrying out repairs in West Belt and Quarry Wood as these were worn and rutted quite badly.

Fencing fixes – Tackling any fencing issues I can get my hands on.

Wall restoration –

Bringing in an additional waller to help repair some of the more dilapidated walls.

Sabrina Way erosion –

Speaking with contractors about the deep scouring along the route and how we can address it. We have funding for these repairs, so I will be looking to appoint a contractor soon.

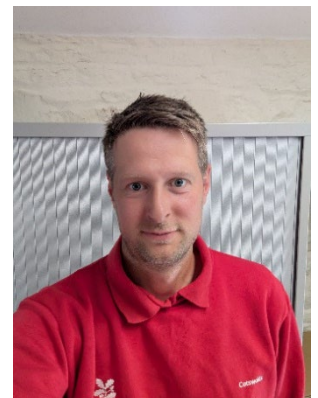
Future fencing plans – Organising fencing contractors to replace failing fences before they become a bigger issue.

Woodchip Path – Helping the team lay the new woodchip path in time for the Sherborne School run.

It's been a busy and rewarding start. If you see me out and about, feel free to stop for a chat - I'm 6' 5" and dressed in red so I'm hard to miss!

Best wishes

Tim



Prefer to receive this newsletter via email?

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list to receive this newsletter by email in the future, please get in touch with sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk

Update from Luke Hunter, Area Ranger

The persistent dry spell through April and May has proved challenging and it has certainly been the driest spring I can remember – much of our attention has been focused on keeping our newly planted avenue and orchard trees alive, a significant undertaking but our pioneering disease resistant elms and rare fruits are worthy of the respect. We have also started to mulch them with chip taken from elsewhere on the estate – mulch helps to retain moisture, suppress weeds and provide a nutrients boost where the trees need it most. If you spot the team out with the bowser near Lodge Park or Sherborne Farm orchard, you'll know we're deep in the watering routine helping to establish trees for present and future generations to enjoy.

Most of our forestry work stops through the summer to protect the interests of woodland flora and fauna – particularly nesting birds. We do hold back a few specialist jobs such as dead wood reductions and particularly challenging ash dieback trees; in these cases, being able to see what is and is not in leaf can be the difference between completing the job safely. Whilst our chainsaws are largely quiet, the clipboards are not - our ash dieback surveys start in June and July which will keep the ranger team busy. We continue to systematically remove the most dangerous trees, leaving what we can to allow for any tolerance or immunity to develop – this also helps ease the pressure on ash dependent species which are facing an uncertain future.



Volunteer efforts continue to be the backbone of much of our work. In spring,

the team have built dead hedges, guarded trees, tidied the carparks, prepared for the Sherborne 5-mile run and worked through the early spring to improve our freshwater habitats for our precious water vole population. In addition, they have helped improve the infrastructure along Sabrina Way as well as releasing mature trees from their old tree guards. May also brought enhancements to the Sherborne Forest School, including new bird boxes and bug hotels. Thank you to all our volunteer parties for their tireless commitment and



Northleach 'Men in Sheds' group for their skilled help with the bird boxes.

Wildlife sightings have fluctuated this spring – April provided a bonanza with barn owls



aplenty (quite literally everywhere!) osprey and otter grabbing my attention. I was also delighted to clock kingfishers using the brook during the breeding season – it has long been reliable as an overwintering territory, but our records have indicated they move elsewhere during the summer. Gadwall, water rail, reed bunting and three of the wetland warblers – sedge, reed and cettis – were all nice to see across the estate. May proved to be a little quieter with a transit cuckoo, the return of nesting swans and eleven yellow wagtail the highlights. A big thank you to my wildlife monitoring volunteers who are currently recording birds, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, and moths across Stones Farm – I look forward to sharing the results of these surveys later in the year.

We're grateful to local photographer Richard Tyler for capturing these seasonal moments in all their beauty. His images are a stunning reminder of what we're working to protect.

Warm regards
Luke



Sherborne Wetland Project – An Update from Simon Nicholas, Countryside Manager

We hosted two public information sharing events on Saturday 7 June and Wednesday 11 June at Sherborne Social Club. The events provided the opportunity to find out further details about the proposed project.

Following extensive research work with specialised consultants, including gathering information and opinions from the Environment Agency and Historic England, about the best way forward for management of the Sherborne Brook through Old Park, we believe we have found the best option. The proposed plan will give the greatest likelihood of achieving what we're aiming for - A future-resilient, ecologically beneficial way to maintain an area of open water, which is more robust in terms of allocation of charitable resources and in the face of predicted future climates.



Interesting discussions were held at both events. We can confirm that the river flow modelling has been completed by experts in the field and that the structures/ interventions designed to divert some of the brook flow across the floodplain will not be put on any land other than National Trust land and a full flood risk assessment has been carried out to ensure neighbouring land is not flooded.

We hope to submit a planning application in the coming weeks. We're very excited about delivering a project that will bring multiple benefits. Restoration of natural processes will enhance and increase floodplain connectivity and wetland, creating a fantastically biodiverse habitat, which is great at capturing and storing carbon, as well as naturally desilting water. Along

Sherborne Brook Project



with the de-silting and vegetation clearance work as part of this proposed project, this will help to create and maintain open water within both lakes.



If you would like to know more about the proposed project and see the draft plans, please get in touch with us at Sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk

This work is complementary to, and follows, the work already started to improve the pathway for road runoff into Ragged Copse, Sherbrook Copse and Moors Copse. This is a major source of sediment and pollutants. We will continue to chase Highways for improvements and maintenance of the roadside grips – a task which the local community has done an awful lot to help with – thank you!

We will be holding further information sharing events, which will be advertised on the village notice boards and through the Parish Council.

Best wishes
Simon



How to contact the Sherborne team

The Sherborne Estate Team can be contacted on:

01451 844130

sherborneestate@nationaltrust.org.uk

Quarterly Sherborne Community Drop-In Session

If you have any queries or would like some information, please do come along to our community drop-in session at Sherborne Park Estate Office between 5pm and 6.30pm on Tuesday 17th June.

We look forward to seeing you.



Lodge Park open days – Summer of Play

Lodge Park is open for select weekends in 2025 from 11am-4pm, including every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in August. We're hosting a packed Summer of Play through August, and this year we'll be offering wildlife themed activities, with the opportunity to learn more about the nature at Sherborne in various workshops and activities. Alongside these workshops, there will be a variety of lawn and summer games on the grass outside for everyone to enjoy. Normal admission applies, free for National Trust members.

August dates: 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24 & 29-31.

Open dates for Lodge Park this year can be viewed at:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/gloucestershire-cotswolds/lodge-park-and-sherborne-park-estate/booking-your-visit-to-lodge-park>

Volunteer for the National Trust this Summer

Across the Cotswold Countryside Portfolio, we are recruiting in several volunteer roles, including at Lodge Park. Volunteers help bring the Sherborne landscape and the building at Lodge Park to life. Scan the QR code to find out more – we are currently looking for event volunteers, garden and ground volunteers, house experience volunteers and outdoor guides.

We are actively recruiting a number of volunteers for Lodge Park this summer period.

Interested in volunteering? Scan the QR code below and type in 'Aldsworth' into the search box to read more about the roles and to submit an application form.

Our Volunteers give a warm welcome to visitors and bring the building and landscape to life. Could you be part of our friendly and enthusiastic team?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the team at cotswolds@nationaltrst.org.uk

nationaltrust.org.uk



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2. Email Us ✉️ tenantrepairs@nationaltrust.org.uk - Send us your enquiry or repair request. Please include your name, property address, and a clear description of the issue.
3. Use the Online Repair Portal (Fixflo) 🌐 <https://nationaltrust.fixflo.com> - Available anytime, anywhere; Easy-to-use system; Upload photos to help us understand the issue.