



NEW FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

# NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEER GUIDE 2019



**JOIN THE  
YEAR OF  
GREEN  
ACTION!**



Packed full of volunteering opportunities from dozens of organisations in the New Forest.



# Welcome to the New Forest National Park Volunteer Guide 2019

This guide offers you dozens of ways to get involved with volunteering in the New Forest, to change your life and the lives of others. No matter who you are or where you live, there will be a role perfect for you. All you need is some time and energy, and a passion for the Forest's history, environment or people.

Volunteering is a great way to meet people, learn new skills and help keep the New Forest special. Helping people in your community, surveying wildlife, meeting visitors and researching the past are just some of the opportunities in this guide.

2019 is a nationwide '**Year of Green Action**' to mark the 70th anniversary of the creation of National Parks and enshrining public access to the countryside. We hope you will get involved and add your skills and enthusiasm to make a real difference for the New Forest. Thank you for your interest in helping to protect this unique area!







Above: Hedgeplanting day at Keyhaven

# Our Past, Our Future

*Working together for the New Forest*



## Volunteer

Take a look at the variety of **volunteering opportunities** we are offering with the **Our Past, Our Future** landscape partnership scheme...

**Discovering part of the New Forest that I was not familiar with was very satisfying.**

**Through volunteering I have met some lovely and knowledgeable people.**

### FACT

Nearly 2,000 people have volunteered on OPOF projects in the past three years

**Our Past, Our Future** is a landscape partnership scheme for the New Forest supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The scheme has achieved some excellent outcomes in the first three years with positive benefits for the natural and built heritage, people and communities.

It has attracted a growing number of enthusiastic and passionate volunteers, who have all contributed to restoring habitats, surveying and recording archaeological features. They have discovered more about our social history and developed an invaluable resource of historical New Forest photos and documents.



## Habitat and species monitoring

Volunteers are helping to survey and monitor wildlife habitats and species across the New Forest. This has included surveying dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies, bumblebees, bats and reptile populations across the New Forest. Volunteers have recorded a range of species: meadow brown butterflies, wood crickets, and birds such as the firecrest, hawfinch and cuckoo. The surveys take place mainly during the summer. No experience is needed, and training can be provided.



## Practical conservation

Volunteers are helping to restore valuable woodlands, grassland and wetland habitats. The work involves clearing scrub and invasive species, such as rhododendron, to create clearings and rides which helps with the regrowth of native species with benefits for wildlife. The work takes place mainly during the winter. No experience needed, just the desire to work in the outdoors.



## Invasive non-native plants

Volunteers have been removing Himalayan balsam from the riverbanks and land bordering the Cadnam River, Lymington River and Avon Water. This is helping to restore the waterways which support a wide range of plant and invertebrate species. The work is managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and takes place during the spring and summer. No experience necessary.

## Practical archaeology

Volunteers have been working to discover more about the hidden archaeology of the New Forest. This involves field surveys, geophysical surveys, community excavation work to survey and record a variety of archaeological sites including woodlands, churchyards and villages. There are volunteer opportunities throughout the year and no experience is necessary.



## Historic routes research

Volunteers have been walking and assessing footpaths across the New Forest to help to identify a number of historic trails. The work has involved researching old maps, surveying route condition and recording features of historic interest. There are still opportunities for volunteers to get involved in collecting further information such as stories and memories related to the selected routes.



## Archival research

Volunteers have catalogued, scanned and uploaded thousands of documents including photographs, maps and postcards to the New Forest Knowledge website:

**[www.nfknowledge.org](http://www.nfknowledge.org)**

There are still opportunities to join the team of dedicated volunteers at the Christopher Tower New Forest Reference Library based at the New Forest Heritage Centre in Lyndhurst. Work is based inside and can take place all year round. Training can be provided.



## Education and outreach

Volunteers have assisted rangers and others to help raise awareness of the natural and cultural heritage of the New Forest. Volunteers have staffed the mobile information unit, assisted with guided walks and talks, helped at wild play events and attended our public-facing events such as the New Forest Show. Opportunities are mainly in the summer and training can be provided.



**Find out more** about the projects and **get involved.**

Visit our website for volunteering opportunities and events or contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator for more information.

## Contact

**Richard Austin**  
**Volunteer, Training and Mentoring Co-ordinator**

richard.austin@newforestnpa.gov.uk  
01590 646661

**Rachael Gallagher**  
**Project Manager**

rachael.gallagher@newforestnpa.gov.uk  
01590 646604

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/landscapepartnership)





# Organisations offering volunteer opportunities

Here is a list of organisations from the 2019 Volunteer Fair which have roles available throughout the year. You can find more information on volunteering in the New Forest on our website:

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteering)





## Blackwater Conservation Group

Established in 2013, the aims of the group are to facilitate and coordinate the work of conservation and environmental protection along the River Blackwater and its tributaries, and thereby benefit the landscape and ecology of the Blackwater Valley for future generations. Volunteers have the opportunity to monitor the quality of the river water and assess the health of the river by catching and counting the various species of invertebrates. A considerable amount of time is also spent removing the invasive non-native plant Himalayan balsam. Any volunteers willing to help with any of these tasks will be very welcome.

01794 390558

john@johnmartin.me.uk

www.blackwaterconservationgroup.wordpress.com

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## Butterfly Conservation

The New Forest Transect Group organises the recording of butterflies at a number of strategic locations in the New Forest from the start of April until the end of September each year. Recorders work on a rota basis and experience is not necessary as the very nature of the activity ensures a good level of ID proficiency is quickly achieved. Help is always at hand.

02380 840316

bobjeannell@gmail.com

www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/newforest.php

## Christchurch Council's Countryside Team

The Countryside Team of Christchurch Council looks after over 20 sites throughout the borough, ranging from salt marshes in estuaries to heathlands in old quarries. Our sites and tasks vary from week to week, so there is something for everyone. We have practical conservation volunteering opportunities, as well as Volunteer Warden roles. No previous experience necessary, just interest and enthusiasm!

01202 795684

countryside@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk

www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk

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## Citizens Advice New Forest

Citizens Advice New Forest is a local charity, dependent on trained local volunteers. We operate out of five local offices providing a free, confidential and impartial advice and information service. We listen to people's concerns and work with them to address them.

Our volunteers are essential to CANF. People from different backgrounds are trained to a high standard to provide this valued local service.

Our advisers can offer advice on a wide range of problems that we may face at some point in our lives including employment, health, money worries, consumer issues and housing. Come and join us. We look forward to hearing from you.

0300 3309 009 (Advice line)

www.newforestcab.org.uk/contact-us

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

## Community First New Forest

The Volunteer Centre, run by Community First New Forest, promotes and supports volunteering. The Centre works with both local people who are looking to volunteer and organisations who are looking for volunteers to help them in their daily work. The Centre operates an online recruitment and advertising portal, as well as running face-to-face drop-in session across the area. It also offers advice, information and training alongside actively promoting the work of organisations in the New Forest.

01425 482773

vol.bureau@cfnf.org.uk

www.cfnf.org.uk

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## Countryside Education Trust

The Countryside Education Trust's mission is to connect people to the countryside. We welcome schools and self catering groups all year to our residential centre, with an emphasis on hands-on, outdoor learning. We also have treehouses in ancient woodland and teach a wide range of environmental activities. We run regular Owls playgroups, from zero to six years old and hold a variety of events, open days and courses throughout the year such as beekeeping, bushcraft and birdwatching walks. Volunteers are always needed to help in the garden, on the farm, with conservation activities, in the office and at open days and events.

01590 612401

mail@cet.org.uk

www.cet.org



Above: Explore new places around the National Park when you volunteer

## East Boldre Hedgehog Rescue

We rescue sick, injured and orphan hedgehogs. We rehabilitate them so that they can be released when they recover. We overwinter underweight hedgehogs, feeding and housing them through the winter to be released in the spring. We cover New Forest, Romsey, Southampton, Chandlers Ford, Waterside and surrounding areas.

We need help with:

- Daily hutch cleaning & topping up food/water with regular weight recording
- Fundraisers/writers to local businesses for support
- Driving to collect hedgehogs occasionally
- Overwintering hedgehogs
- Website development.

07595 709617

louise@louisegodden.plus.com

## Eling Tide Mill Experience

With its Historic Grade II\* Listed Tide Mill, Visitor Centre, Mill Café and Outdoor spaces, the Eling Tide Mill Experience is a Heritage Site with a difference and is looking for enthusiastic people to be part of our team of volunteers. Whatever your interest or skill level, we have a number of exciting and unique opportunities if you would like to give some time as a volunteer.

Roles include volunteer millers, front of house, tour guides, café support, flour packers, activity support, outdoor learning volunteers and events volunteers

02380 869575

info@elingtidemillexperience.co.uk  
www.elingtidemillexperience.co.uk

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## Exbury Gardens

Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway is a spectacular 200 acre garden set in the New Forest. The gardens offer woodland walks and world famous displays of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, along with a large collection of rare specimen trees.

We have volunteering opportunities available working alongside our gardens team. If you enjoy getting your hands dirty and learning new skills and would like to contribute to the upkeep and conservation of this unique garden, then why not come and join our team?

02380 891203

thomas.clarke@exbury.co.uk  
www.exbury.co.uk

## Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre

Ferny Crofts is a 31 acre activity centre owned and run by Hampshire Scouts. We are open to all scout, guide, school and youth groups and can provide a range of experiences from activity days up to week a long residential. Our aim is to help develop young people in an adventurous outdoor environment. We can provide a variety of volunteer experiences in areas such as assisting with site maintenance, running the tuck shop, developing a gardening team, as well as supporting our activities team on sessions.

02380 845092

fernycrofts@fernycrofts.org.uk  
www.fernycrofts.org.uk

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## Friends of Ballard Water Meadow

We are a proactive voluntary group working under the direction of New Milton Council and Natural England to protect and enhance the natural woodland, wildlife and wild flowers and the water meadow. Helping hands are very welcome; all equipment is supplied.

01425 613436

“Our exciting community project involves coppice restoration, charcoal production and a variety of other conservation tasks. Volunteering can be infectious and fun.”

Derek Tippetts  
Pondhead Conservation Trust



## Friends of the New Forest Airfields (FONFA)

Our museum and education centre provides an education and research facility for anyone interested in New Forest aviation heritage and history. It contains photographs, pilots' stories, aircraft models, dioramas; limited edition prints signed by airmen who served on the airfields, artefacts, and detailed information about the 12 WWII New Forest airfields, plus a section about the WWI East Boldre training airfield.

Our outreach programme provides expert speakers about the airfields and associated local aviation and military topics to schools and interested groups. In addition, we hold commemorative events annually at our New Forest Airfields Memorial at Holmsley South (postcode: BH23 8EB).

We welcome volunteers to help with supporting both the Memorial and especially in the Museum, usually on the first and third Sundays of the month from March to October (see website for details and dates).

01245 611668  
fonfa2010@gmail.com  
www.fonfasite.wordpress.com

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## Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission manages the public forest estate in the New Forest.

We have two main volunteering opportunities:

- **Volunteer Rangers** play an integral role in helping to conserve wildlife and habitats while enhancing visitor enjoyment. Tasks include leading and helping with events, assisting visitors

in the New Forest and providing valuable support to our Rangers and Keepers.

- By joining our **Two Trees Conservation Team**, you'll learn about the management of our forests, experience the outdoors in a group activity, meet like-minded people and make a real difference to the area that you'll be helping to maintain. So if you enjoy the outdoors, want to learn new skills, meet new people and want to be part of the Forestry Commission team, get involved today!

0300 067 4601  
volunteers.southern@forestryengland.uk  
www.forestryengland.uk



Above: Volunteers enjoying some time outdoors whilst working on the Working Woodlands project (New Forest National Park Authority)

## Friends of the New Forest – New Forest Association (NFA)

The Friends of the New Forest (NFA) has been the independent voice of the New Forest since 1867, making one of the oldest conservation charities in the world. For over 150 years our guiding purpose has been to protect, conserve and enhance the flora, fauna and heritage of the New Forest, and all that makes it unique. If you are looking for volunteering opportunities we need help with our educational, science and research projects; support for our legal, transport and planning scrutiny work; and some administrative assistance to our committees, marketing and events team.

01425 621023

secretary@newforestassociation.org

www.newforestassociation.org

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## Friends of Lepe Country Park

We promote community involvement and enjoyment of the country park. We keep members informed about what is going on at Lepe via a quarterly newsletter and support the park staff by providing volunteers. We also arrange walks, talks and social events for the membership.

**Volunteers are needed to:**

- Help with events, litter picking and sensory garden maintenance
- Staff the park reception desk
- Carry out wildlife surveys
- Support the Friends committee.

If you would like to become involved we would love to hear from you.

02380 899108

lepe.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

www.hants.gov.uk/lepe



Above: New Forest Heritage Centre volunteer

## The Green Island Holiday Trust

The Green Island Holiday Trust organises six supported holidays each summer for small groups of adults with disabilities. The holidays are based at Holton Lee, a well-being discovery centre set in beautiful countryside between Poole and Wareham. Each group shares a week of fun and friendship centred round a varied programme of activities exploring the site and local area.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to participate in one of our holiday weeks, either as a residential volunteer, or by assisting with specific activities. No previous experience is necessary, just lots of enthusiasm, a sense of humour and the desire to share a great holiday.

01202 375006

organiser@greenislandholidaytrust.com

www.greenislandholidaytrust.com

## Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the UK. With the invaluable support of volunteers and members we manage over 50 nature reserves. We also work with other organisations and landowners to protect and connect wildlife sites across the county and inspire local communities and young people to care for wildlife where they live.

We have countless volunteer roles all over Hampshire.

01489 774400

[feedback@HIWWT.org.uk](mailto:feedback@HIWWT.org.uk)

[www.HIWWT.org.uk](http://www.HIWWT.org.uk)

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## Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust – New Forest Non-Native Plants Project

The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project is hosted by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and welcomes volunteers to help pull up Himalayan balsam which has invaded river banks in the New Forest area. Himalayan balsam has short roots and is easy to pull up so if you enjoy being outside and have a bit of time to spare in the summer, why not join our friendly volunteer work parties?

We are also looking for people to survey invasive non-native plants and monitor the effectiveness of work undertaken to control them.

07770 923315

[Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk)

[www.hiwwt.org.uk](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk)



Above: Nicola Jackson and Nick Hazlett-Beard balsam pulling with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

## Hampshire Search and Rescue (HANTSAR)

Hampshire Search and Rescue (HANTSAR) is a voluntary organisation providing 24/7 cover to assist the police to search for vulnerable missing persons.

Searches are carried out across Hampshire in both urban and rural areas. We are available any time of day or night, whatever the weather, but appreciate not everyone can attend every time. We receive professional training to the standard required by the police and other search and rescue agencies. This includes developing skills in search techniques, first aid, map reading and other competencies.

We welcome enquiries from those interested in volunteering as either operational or support members.

03303 309506

[info@hantsar.org](mailto:info@hantsar.org)

[www.hantsar.org](http://www.hantsar.org)



## Hampshire Swifts

Hampshire Swifts is a conservation charity working to reverse the catastrophic decline of the swift in Hampshire. We protect swift nest sites, review planning applications, work with councils and maintain constant pressure on all the county planning authorities to ensure that swift bricks are automatically provisioned in Local Plans. These activities are performed in parallel with events, meetings and publications designed to raise general awareness of the plight of swifts.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with these and many other activities such as leading swift walks, running our website and developing links with schools.

01590 622835 / 07941 349002  
info@hampshireswifts.co.uk  
www.hampshireswifts.co.uk

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## hArt - Hampshire Art for Recreation and Therapy

hArt offers creative ways to support mental health. We work with people of all ages and abilities, either in tailor-made programmes or group drop-in sessions. We can also provide one-to-one help.

We know that working with the creative arts improves health and wellbeing, whether indoors or outdoors, and has enormous benefits for participants and those that volunteer.

In 2019 hArt has an extensive programme of workshops, creative cafés and outdoor projects and we would welcome volunteers to support group leaders on specific projects. We can

provide flexible working to suit from as little as two hours a month, in addition to full support with ongoing training.

You do not have to paint like Picasso to help at hArt – just a warm smile and lots of enthusiasm are all we ask!



01590 435045  
Sara@hart.works  
www.hart.works

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## Hampshire County Council Countryside Service

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service is responsible for the management of 80 sites, 71 heritage features, 1,380ha of grassland, 1,524ha of woodland, 112ha of heathland, 225ha of wetland, seven country parks and almost 3,000 miles of rights of way. We are looking for volunteers to help us manage these valuable areas for both public enjoyment and wildlife interest.

02380 605109  
victoria.loveridge@hants.gov.uk  
www.hants.gov.uk/volunteering

 **Volunteering to pull Himalayan Balsam gives me a great day out somewhere in the countryside, with the location constantly changing.** 

Patsy Baverstock  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
Wildlife Trust

## **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance**

Ordinary People. Extraordinary Care.  
Supported by you.

Through your support, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance brings an advanced critical care team to people in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight when they need it most. Available both day and night, 365 days a year, the Air Ambulance critical care team is called out many times a day to attend to road traffic collisions, sporting accidents, collapses and many other incidents. Highly skilled crews of doctors, paramedics and pilots can be at the scene of an incident within minutes, ready to deliver the same level of care that you would expect from a hospital emergency department.

We are looking for volunteers to help raise the £15,000 a day needed to help keep Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance flying. HIOWAA needs volunteers to help us fundraise by attending events, managing collection pots, helping us with maintenance of equipment, supporting our education programmes or giving our fundraising talks. Volunteering for HIOWAA is fun and fits around your own life, with no time commitment expected.

02380 743516  
kirsty@hiowaa.org  
www.hiowaa.org

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## **Honeypot Children's Charity**

The Honeypot Children's Charity's vision is for every child to make the most of their once chance at childhood and we provide residential respite breaks

and ongoing outreach support for young carers and vulnerable children age 5-12. Children come to Honeypot House, just outside Exbury, every year for a weekend full of fun, taking a break from caring, making friends and creating memories to cherish. Our Honeypot Playbus also visits them regularly in their local community.

Volunteering opportunities include supporting the fundraising team at events, giving talks about Honeypot, bucket collections and even dressing up as Bumble our mascot!

02380 890002  
viv@honeypot.org.uk  
www.honeypot.org.uk

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## **Hythe Pier Heritage Association**

Hythe Pier Heritage Association is a community benefits charity aiming to protect and restore the Pier and Railway. We put on regular events throughout the year, including heritage days and music festivals as well as providing stalls at other local events. All these are key to our fundraising and awareness raising within the community.

We are seeking volunteers from all backgrounds who have the enthusiasm and positive attitude to drive our project forward. Specific skills may include marketing, events management, fundraising, general admin to practical skills in carpentry for example. If you are passionate about preserving our heritage, then come and join our friendly community group.

02380 986480  
info@savehythepier.org.uk  
www.savehythepier.org.uk

## Keep Britain Tidy

Keep Britain Tidy is a national charity involved in a number of initiatives across the UK. The New Forest has been involved in the Keep Britain Tidy spring campaigns since 2015. The Great British Spring Clean 2019 runs from 22 March to 23 April. Keep Britain Tidy's Local Litter Hero Ambassador is looking for litter champions, individuals and groups for every town and village in the New Forest. You too can get involved and make a difference. Come along and find out more.

02381 781395

admin@cleannewforest.org.uk  
www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/  
support-our-campaigns/great-british-  
spring-clean

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## Lyndhurst & District Community First Responders

Community First Responders (CFRs) are volunteers working for the ambulance service; we provide 24hr local emergency medical response to life threatening illnesses and injuries, pending the arrival of an ambulance.

There are opportunities for volunteers to provide emergency medical cover in and around Lyndhurst and the immediate surrounding areas.

Volunteers can provide cover to suit their own circumstances, which may be as little as one or two hours a week to whatever the individual can offer. No medical experience is required as full training is provided by South Central Ambulance Service.

02380 282866

graham.reeve@sca-charity.org.uk  
www.sca-charity.org.uk

## Lyndhurst and Minstead Bellringers

Bellringing has its roots in the 17th century when a change in technology allowed bells to be rung in a set order. The prime purpose is to ring for Sunday service but also for weddings and other events. We are a social bunch who meet on Thursdays (7.30 - 9pm) to practice, followed by a trip to the pub and ring for morning service on Sundays. Strength is not needed to ring, but free movement of limbs and normal coordination are necessary. If you are interested please contact us and come along to a practice night.

02380 282842

paultrend@outlook.com

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## Lyndhurst Community Centre

We are looking for Lyndhurst based volunteers to get involved in our events, maintenance and reception. It is imperative that the centre makes enough money to be sustainable and provides this invaluable service for the people of Lyndhurst and the local district. The centre has a hugely diverse number of clients; from the local community to national organisations. The centre is a non-profit charity run by the Lyndhurst and District Community Association.

We aim to provide a venue for recreational, cultural and sporting activities. Make a difference in your community and meet new people.

02380 282267

admin@lyndhurstcomm.org  
www.lyndhurstcomm.org



## Milford Conservation Volunteers (MCV)

We work locally at various nature reserves around Milford, including the Pleasure Grounds (woodlands), Studland Common, Studland Meadow, Sturt Pond, the Community Orchard and Old Milford Meadow. We have produced our own Milford-on-Sea Biodiversity Action Plan. We meet on the first Sunday of every month and volunteers undertake coppicing, tree thinning, tree and hedgerow planting, non-native invasive species clearance, scrub removal, glade creation, educational walks, footpath maintenance, boardwalk, bridge and pond restoration and wildlife monitoring and recording. MCV also manage a Bird Hide at Sturt Pond nature reserve (open every day of the year 9 am till 5 pm or dusk if earlier) and a Bird Observatory at Keyhaven (open by electronic Key-fob ordered in advance).

01590 645825

keithmetcalf@btinternet.com

www.milfordcv.org

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## Minstead Trust

Minstead Trust is based in Minstead village in the New Forest and supports people with learning disabilities across Hampshire, Wiltshire and Portsmouth. Each part of Minstead Trust works towards our vision and mission, and our values are core to who we are.

**Our vision:** adults with learning disabilities are able to achieve greater independence, lead fulfilled lives and live as full citizens in our society.

**Our mission:** to provide training for adults with learning disabilities to enable them to develop new skills, lead fulfilled lives and achieve greater independence.

**Furzey Gardens:** there are opportunities in the gardens, gallery and assisting at events.

**Minstead Lodge:** we have day service opportunities, working alongside our instructors, supporting service users within various workshops (animal care, literacy and numeracy, IT, horticulture).

Alternatively, we always need help fundraising, assisting at events, and with general DIY and maintenance.

02380 812297

Marion.Holmes@Minsteadtrust.org.uk

www.minsteadtrust.org.uk

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## National Trust

The National Trust works to restore a healthy, more beautiful, natural environment. In the New Forest we aim to preserve the mosaic of rare heathland habitats and wildlife through a program of conservation work, species data collection and experiences that move, teach and inspire. As a charity, we rely on the generosity of volunteers to continue this work. Current volunteering opportunities include practical conservation work such as gorse/scrub cutting and burning, pine and ragwort pulling, and tree planting in Foxbury. During the summer we need species surveyors for an array of wildlife including heathland flora, birds, butterflies and reptiles. Events and community volunteers can help us out at a local level with our communications. Help us keep these places special for ever, for everyone.

01425 650035

info.newforest@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/newforest



Above: Tree maintenance, New Forest Area Conservation Volunteers

## New Forest Area Conservation Volunteers

The main aim of the group is to enhance the natural environment in and around the New Forest by means of practical conservation work. This work is done through a varied programme of tasks which are undertaken by members who provide the voluntary workforce. In every case, the tasks are planned to conserve and improve the countryside around us, maintaining and increasing the variety of wildlife habitats and hopefully people's understanding of the countryside.

01590 671915

heatherlipscombe3@gmail.com

[www.newforestacv.org](http://www.newforestacv.org)

## New Forest Heritage Centre

Volunteers are an essential component of the New Forest Heritage Centre in our aim to offer everyone an understanding of what makes this area so special. We are looking for volunteers to assist in all areas of the Centre. You can support us in a variety of roles with a variety of activities. Extensive knowledge not essential but

some knowledge is always useful. A willingness to learn new skills and the ability to work well with the public is vital for all our volunteering roles.

02380 286153

[education@newforestcentre.org.uk](mailto:education@newforestcentre.org.uk)

[www.newforestcentre.org.uk](http://www.newforestcentre.org.uk)

## New Forest Live at Home

At New Forest Live at Home scheme we want to enable older people to maintain their independence and live more fulfilled lives.

Through befriending, lunch clubs, assisted shopping, activity sessions, outings, escorts to appointments and much more, MHA's Live at Home schemes across the UK help to tackle loneliness and isolation in people over 60 – helping them to remain as active members in their local communities.

Activities at New Forest Live at Home scheme include:

- Drum fun in Ringwood
- Singing for wellbeing in Ringwood
- Friendship groups in Totton, Ringwood, Lymington and New Milton
- Crafting groups in Totton, Lymington and New Milton
- Outings
- Pub lunches in Ringwood and Lymington
- Café club visiting various cafes.

We are always keen to hear from kind, compassionate people who are able to volunteer some of their time to help us deliver and develop our services.

01425 476142

[Katherine.rickman@mha.org.uk](mailto:Katherine.rickman@mha.org.uk)

[www.mha.org.uk/live-home/live-home-near-me/new-forest/](http://www.mha.org.uk/live-home/live-home-near-me/new-forest/)

“ I like to be a volunteer for New Forest Mencap because it's good to help, because Mencap helps me. I meet lots of people who are kind and it makes me feel good to know that I am helping ”

Rachel  
New Forest Mencap

## New Forest Mencap

We are a local charity supporting adults with learning disabilities across the New Forest. We run three weekly clubs providing fun social activities such as sport, art, drama and music. Volunteers play a vital part within our charity in a variety of roles: supporting club leaders, community fundraising events and working in our charity shop in New Milton. We also run the New Forest Gateway Award, similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, but tailored specifically for people with learning disabilities, so people with specific skills are most welcome even if just on an occasional basis. We are also currently running healthy cooking classes and we would also like to have a volunteer drivers. We are looking for a bank of volunteers to help enrich the lives of vulnerable adults locally. You can make permanent commitments, opt to volunteer for a short block of time or just be on call.

01425 621893  
fundraising@newforestmencap.org  
www.newforestmencap.org.uk

## New Forest National Park Authority

See content on pages 4-8

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## New Forest Nightstop

New Forest Nightstop is the only provider of emergency accommodation in the New Forest for people aged 16 and over who find themselves homeless. Our volunteer hosts give safe overnight accommodation, protection from danger, a listening ear and security. If you have a spare room and you can offer a bed and a share of your evening meal then this volunteering opportunity is flexible to fit in with your home and work life. This is an opportunity to do something practical to support people who are homeless at the most critical time. All expenses are covered and training and support is given at all times.

01425 482773  
nightstop@cnfn.org.uk  
www.newforestnightstop.org.uk

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## Oakhaven Hospice Trust and the Coates Centre

Oakhaven Hospice provides specialist palliative care to patients facing life limiting illness and their loved ones. The Coates Centre is a drop-in centre for those whose lives have been impacted by illness.

We need volunteers to drive patients, serve meals, visit patients in their homes, support bereaved families, sell tickets, stuff envelopes, help visitors, answer phones and much more! Contact us today to get a full list of available roles and information on how to apply.

01590 646447  
clare.celea@oakhavenhospice.co.uk  
www.oakhavenhospice.co.uk/  
volunteering

## **PEDALL, New Forest Inclusive Cycling**

PEDALL provides cycling sessions for people with a disability or who need some support to cycle in the New Forest National Park. We have a range of specialist bikes to suit different needs. Our rides are all on off-road traffic-free routes, surrounded by wildlife. We transport the bikes to the start point. All of our rides are led by experienced staff or volunteers.

PEDALL needs volunteers who can enthuse and motivate others and have a real passion for working with and engaging people with a disability or who need support to cycle in an outdoor environment.

As a volunteer you will: assist the PEDALL team to deliver high quality, fun, introductory and cycling sessions around the New Forest; and/or help maintain the various specialist bikes.

01590 646640  
info@pedall.org.uk  
www.pedall.org.uk

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## **Pondhead Conservation Trust**

We are a community woodland project restoring 200 acres of New Forest woodland to improve its biodiversity and public enjoyment. Our volunteers benefit from plenty of fresh air, exercise and friendly company. While volunteering with us you will learn about the Forest, its biodiversity and conservation. Our woodland is managed on a fully sustainable basis by using the timber we cut to produce charcoal that is sold locally. We are previous winners of the CPRE Hampshire Countryside Award (Community & Volunteering) and UK National Parks Volunteer Project of the Year. In 2018 we received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service,

the highest award available to a voluntary group.

07887 811712  
pondheadconservation@gmail.com  
www.pondheadconservation.org.uk

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## **Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society (RFFS)**

The RFFS helps keep the footpaths of over 13 parishes in Hampshire. Each path is walked in a three yearly rotation and problems are reported to Hampshire County Council. Volunteers help in erecting gates, waymarking and clearance. We also have a weekly walks programme for members and visitors, and social activities throughout the year. Meetings are held at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood.

01425 656360  
ruthcroker@talktalk.net  
www.rffs.org.uk

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## **Rockbourne Roman Villa**

Rockbourne Roman Villa is a museum and unique archaeological site near Fordingbridge. It is open to the public between April and September, and managed by Hampshire Cultural Trust.

The museum has one paid member of staff and relies on the support of local volunteers to enable us to open the museum to the public and make it an exciting place to visit.

We require volunteers to take a public-facing role to welcome visitors and help us care for this important aspect of Hampshire's ancient heritage. You



will welcome visitors to the site and assist with providing customer service, care and security. There are a number of tasks for volunteers, including helping out with events, family activities and helping to maintain the museum garden and site. We are a small but friendly team and look forward to welcoming new volunteers who join us. We offer an induction and training for all our volunteers; over 16s welcome.

01725 518541

[laura.bullivant@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:laura.bullivant@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/rockbourne-roman-villa](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/rockbourne-roman-villa)

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### **The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

We are a conservation charity which carries out international and UK based work. In the New Forest we have a new reserve at Franchises Lodge, comprising 386ha of mixed woodland habitats. We need volunteers with a whole range of skills to help us establish the reserve – surveyors to build up baseline data, work parties to carry out practical management, buildings specialists to help deliver refurbishment of properties on site, people engagement volunteers for events and education, photographers to help document any work and wildlife on site. There may be lots of opportunities for getting involved as the site develops.

07594 083291

[nick.tomalin@rspb.org.uk](mailto:nick.tomalin@rspb.org.uk)  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

### **Solent Rescue Independent Lifeboat**

Solent Rescue is an independent lifeboat organisation based at Lepe Country Park in Exbury, Hampshire. The rescue organisation was established in 1971, initially as a beach rescue unit but has since developed into a rescue unit with both inshore and offshore rescue capabilities. As part of a wider framework of independent and RNLI operated lifeboats on the South Coast, Solent Rescue helps to monitor approximately 33 square miles of the central and western Solent.

The Solent is an extremely busy recreational and commercial waterway and well-trained lifeboat crews are required to assist the many people that can find themselves in difficulties.

We are operational at weekends from March until September, bank holidays and 24hrs during the festival of Cowes week.

07494 124795

[fundraising@solent-rescue.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@solent-rescue.org.uk)  
[www.solent-rescue.org.uk](http://www.solent-rescue.org.uk)

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### **SS Shieldhall**

The SS Shieldhall is a heritage cargo passenger ship included in the National Historic Fleet and is generally recognised to be the largest working steamship of her type in Europe. There are opportunities to volunteer with the deck crew or engineering teams based in Southampton, plus assist the marketing, educational, catering and retail teams. Volunteers crew the Shieldhall on her regular cruises into the Solent and beyond and are on board most Wednesdays and Saturdays. Details of volunteer opportunities and 2019 sailing programme are available online.

07919 096555

[www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk/volunteering](http://www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk/volunteering)

## The Stroke Association

The Stroke Association is the UK's leading charity dedicated to conquering stroke. We rely on volunteer support to change the lives of people affected by stroke and raise awareness of stroke.

The Communication Support service, New Forest supports people with communication difficulties after stroke, you may have heard of aphasia or dysarthria? Communication Service volunteers can provide support to facilitate communication in groups, or one-to-one in a stroke survivor's home, or enable people to access activities and services in their local community. Our website outlines the many ways to volunteer with us.

01425 275139

[yvonne.hobbs@stroke.org.uk](mailto:yvonne.hobbs@stroke.org.uk)

[www.stroke.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering](http://www.stroke.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering)

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## Testwood Lakes Sailability

Testwood Lakes Sailability provides supervised dinghy sailing for people with disabilities. A team of volunteers run the operation. They start by welcoming the sailors, book them in, make drinks and help them with the buoyancy aids. The volunteers provide as much assistance that is required to safely enable the sailor to access the dinghy alongside an experienced dinghy sailor, which in some cases requires the use of a hoist. Other volunteers, crew the safety boat, and of course prepare the dinghies for sailing in the morning and store all away at the end of each sailing day.

[membership@testwoodsailability.co.uk](mailto:membership@testwoodsailability.co.uk)

[www.testwoodsailability.co.uk](http://www.testwoodsailability.co.uk)

## Warren Copse and Holbury Manor Conservation Group

The Warren Copse and Holbury Manor Conservation Group assists Fawley Parish Council in maintaining and conserving Holbury Manor and Warren Copse, to give the local community a sense of ownership of the local amenity. With the guidance of a 20 year Forestry Commission Management Plan for Warren Copse and a 10 year HLS agreement from Natural England for the Manor site, the project is restoring the ancient and semi-natural woodland to its former glory to promote its flora and fauna. We also work closely with the National Park Authority and New Forest Land Advice Service.

02380 894632

[holtham@aol.com](mailto:holtham@aol.com)

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## Woodlander Hoburne Bashley

Woodlander is an award-winning organisation that manages 20 acres of privately owned mixed deciduous woodland, which also includes a small mixed coppice area which is being managed back into rotation. We provide woodland education to schools and recreational activities to holidaymakers and for the local community. We maintain the current woodland habitats and increase the level of biodiversity within these woods through our conservation programmes. There are five areas of conservation: maintaining and improving habitats, clearing invasive species, stream clearance to improve sea trout's journey to their spawning grounds, coppicing and improving butterfly biodiversity.

01425 612340

[paul.brockman@hoburne.com](mailto:paul.brockman@hoburne.com)

Facebook – Woodlander Hoburne Bashley



It's wonderful. Not only do you have fresh air, you help your heart, and meet such lovely people.

Audrey Clark,  
Volunteer for the New Forest National Park  
Authority, Our Past Our Future project



Above: Efren Cruz and Carlos Cruz



## Contact us

### New Forest National Park Authority

Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road,  
Lymington SO41 9ZG  
Telephone: 01590 646600

[enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)



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