



NEWSLETTER 81



COMING SOON:

To celebrate the 70th year of Dartmoor being a National Park we will be bringing you the opportunity to take part in our very own **Wild at 70 Dartmoor challenge**. Hopefully, if restrictions are reduced enough by Easter time and it is possible to travel to the moors you can enjoy our fun activities with your family where you will discover nature, enjoy nature, and protect it.

You will collect points for each activity along the way Who will get the top 70 points and earn themselves a gold?

You will be able to access the information on our website, as a downloadable copy and as a simple sheet available to pick up from our visitor centres.

Keep your owl eyes open and your deer's ears listening for more information to follow.



WINTER 2020 /
SPRING 2021

RANGER RALPH'S CLUB



Hello, at the time of writing this newsletter the government are still advising that we should minimise the time spent outside of our home, but we can leave once a day for exercise within our local area.

Dartmoor may not be local and open to all of us, but the outdoors is and our daily exercise during winter is more important than ever. We may just have to wrap up warmer to enjoy those frosty mornings exploring from our doorsteps. On the back page I share some ideas with you to mix up your daily exercise and make your walk more than just a walk.

For those of us lucky to have Dartmoor local to us, winter is a beautiful time, particularly when dusted with a little snow. However, the weather can be changeable, and you need to take care that roads are not icy and become impassable with snow. Farmers need access to fields to check the welfare of their animals so please do not block gateways. Animals lives could be at risk if farmers can't reach them. Always park in the car parks and laybys and never on roadsides, verges or turning areas where you may block an emergency vehicle needing to pass.

Have fun, keep safe and remember to follow the ranger code,

Ralph



RANGER RALPH SAYS:

"There is nothing more exciting than the first snowfall on Dartmoor but please remember to follow government guidance on Covid 19 restrictions. Stay local, exercise at home and we will welcome you all back as soon as it is safe to do so."

www.dartmoor.gov.uk

HAPPY 70TH ANNIVERSARY

WHAT ARE NATIONAL PARKS?

National Parks are protected areas due to their cultural heritage, wildlife and scenic countryside. The protected areas aim to make sure that wildlife and nature are looked after, and people can continue to benefit from nature whilst preserving it. The National Parks' aim is to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage, wildlife and natural beauty of the areas and promote opportunities of understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Parks by the public.

Special qualities of National Parks include their history and archaeology, geography and geology, landscape and views and biodiversity and rare species. Additionally, the history and traditions of the people who have lived there makes the areas special.

People both live and work in the National Parks and the villages, towns and farms that are located here are protected along with the landscape and wildlife. National Parks are open for visitors who can enjoy the special qualities and scenic beauty of the areas.

Let us have a look at these first four National Parks in more detail:



THE PEAK DISTRICT

The Peak District is an upland area in England at the southern end of the Pennines and is described as two landscapes in one. The Dark Peak is where most moorland is found, and the geology is gritstone, and the White Peak is a limestone area known for its valleys and gorges.

At the heart of industrial England, it gave rise to the 'right to roam' movement and in 1932 the mass trespass of Kinder Scout roused public opinion. For workers from Manchester, the potteries or the steel cities and the wool towns of Yorkshire, these big boggy moors and peaceful valleys and climbing crags were the closet source of natural countryside and adventure.

It became the first National park in 1951 and around 20 million people today live within an hour's drive. Walking, cycling, rock climbing, and caving are popular activities.

DARTMOOR

Dartmoor is an upland area in southern Devon, England. The moorland and surrounding land have been protected by national park status since 1951 and covers 368 sq miles (954 sq km).

Dartmoor is a world of high moorland, vast open spaces, and big skies. Here is a place to roam for uninterrupted miles across wild expanses littered with granite tors which stand proud of the landscape. This once forested landscape is strewn with archaeology with remains from 12,000 years of habitation, agriculture, and industry.

If you visit the park you are bound to stumble across Neolithic stone circles, Bronze Age burial mounds and Iron age forts.

Along with ponies, cattle and sheep that graze the moor Dartmoor is particularly noted for rare lichens, butterflies, and other insects. There are also many birds of moors, heath, and farmland to be found here.



THE LAKE DISTRICT

The Lake District National Park is in north west England and was designated so in 1951, less than a month after the Peak District.

It is the most visited national park in the UK with 16.4 million visitors per year and the second largest park in the UK after the Scottish Caingorms National Park. For centuries visitors have come to enjoy the splendour of the lakes, the rugged fells and the gentle nature of its villages and valleys and was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2017 for its cultural landscape. Many a poet has been inspired to write among the lakes including William Wordsworth famous for 'I wandered lonely as a cloud', a lyrical poem about the lakeshore daffodils.

Well known children's writer and illustrator, Beatrix Potter is credited with leaving much of her land to the National Trust who now own around 25% of the total area. Her passion for conservation back in the 1940's has preserved much of the Lakeland farms and hill country landscape you see today.... And her Tales of Peter Rabbit are still being enjoyed throughout the world by many a young reader.



SNOWDONIA

Snowdonia is a mountainous region in north western Wales. It was the first to be designated of the three national parks in Wales. It contains the highest peaks in the UK outside of Scotland. Snowdon, the mountain that gives Snowdonia its name, is its star attraction and is a complex of steep ridges and pyramid summits, inhabited by nimble mountain goats.

Snowdon ranks as one of the busiest mountains in the world with over half a million visitors a year and those that don't fancy the long trek up can take the popular narrow gauge mountain railway.

Numerous attractions such as zip wires, underground adventures, climbing, walking and cycling attract thrill seekers from far and wide.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR PARKS?

The UK currently is home to 15 National Parks, there are 10 in England, 3 in Wales and 2 in Scotland. Here is a list of all the names. See if you can put the correct names to the areas on the map. Use the information from the last page for clues to some.

England's National Parks include: Dartmoor, Exmoor, Lake District, New Forest, North York Moors, Northumberland, Peak District, South Downs, The Broads and Yorkshire Dales.

Wales's National Parks include: Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia.

Scotland's National Parks include: Cairngorms National Park and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.



10. Pembrokeshire Coast
11. Snowdonia
12. South Downs
13. The Broads
14. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park
15. Yorkshire Dales

1. Brecon Beacons
2. Cairngorms National Park
3. Dartmoor
4. Exmoor
5. Lake District
6. New Forest
7. North York Moors
8. Northumberland
9. Peak District

Check your answers by visiting this website
www.nationalparks.uk/teaching-resources

DARTMOOR'S STAMP OF APPROVAL

To celebrate 70 years since the first National Parks were founded the Royal Mail have designed its first special stamps of 2021.

The stamps include images of some of the UK's most popular and visited landscapes, featuring Dartmoor, the Peak District, the Lake District, Snowdonia, North York Moors, The Broads, New Forest, South Downs, Pembrokeshire Coast and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs.

Here is the Dartmoor one with its famous granite tors.



The stamps are available now at
www.royalmail.com/nationalparks,
 by phone on 03457 641 641 and in
 Post Offices across the UK.

DARTMOOR POSTMARKS

Ranger Ralph has friends who live all over Dartmoor, and because they have not been able to see each other in person for a long time he has received letters from them. Their letters bring lots of interesting stamps and postmarks. Can you work out where some of the letters have come from? The village and towns are listed below but every other letter of each one's name is missing.

If you get stuck have a look at a Dartmoor map for place names. Answers are on the back page.



JOIN RANGER RALPH'S CLUB

Ranger Ralph's Club is open to all children between the ages of 5-12. When you become a member you will receive a membership starter pack, containing a membership card (which will give you access to FREE Ranger Ralph guided activities), a ruler, a Ranger Ralph badge, a pencil, stickers, and a folder to keep it all in. You will then receive a quarterly newsletter full of seasonal news, competitions, things to make and do and of course the dates of our events. Your membership will last a year - that's 4 newsletters. **Membership is just £10 per child per year.**

"It's a club where you go to Dartmoor and explore."

"Great fun, we didn't want it to end!"

APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Date of birth:

Adult's signature:

New member:

Renewal:

Membership no:

Where did you hear about us:

Please send enclosing a cheque made payable to 'Dartmoor National Park Authority' to: Ranger Ralph, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9JQ.

JOIN NOW RANGER RALPH CLUB
membership is just £10 per child per year!

(Please allow a minimum of two weeks to receive your first mailing.)

Data protection

I consent to Dartmoor National Park Authority keeping the above details securely. Dartmoor National Park will not pass them on to any other organisation. They will only use this information for Ranger Ralph Club activities, contact, newsletters and promotions.

Due to data protection law memberships cannot be processed without this consent.

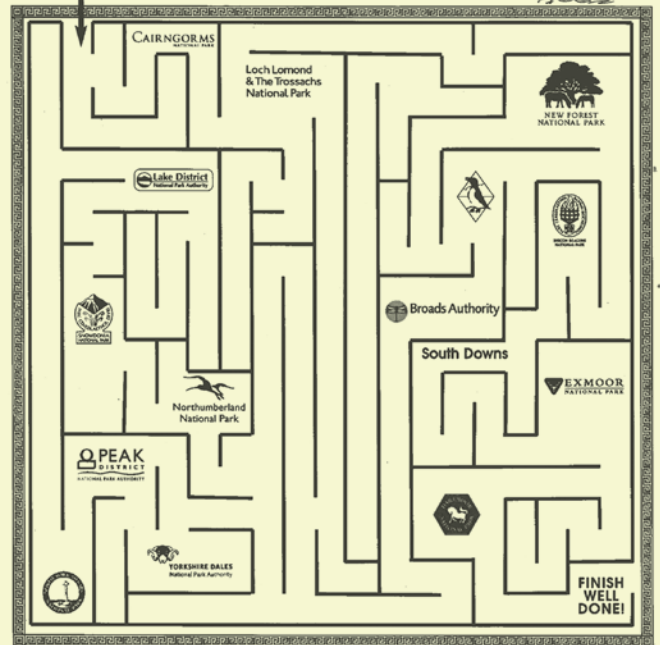
We may contact you from the time to time with details of additional activities, offers and events on Dartmoor that we think you might be interested in. Please tick the box to show that you are willing to receive this additional information.

NATIONAL PARKS CRAZY MAZE

Can you find the odd one out? Which national park is missing its name?



Crazy maze
Find your way through the Crazy Maze, visiting all 15 National Parks on your way!



Maze © Dartmoor National Park Authority

MAKE A WALK MORE THAN JUST A WALK

- Notice nature. We know that connecting to nature improves our wellbeing and increases the happy hormones in our brains. The more consciously we make these connections the more it helps. Try the Wildlife Trusts 30 Days Wild App for some lovely ideas. Here are just a few.....
- Look for wild pawprints, take a photo and use the internet to identify them.
- Pedal around your local patch and make note of the birds you see.
- Squelch your toes in grass, sand, mud or dangle them in a cool stream.
- Take a few seconds to inhale a wildflower, plant or leaves. What do they smell like?
- Join the Ordnance survey Get Outside Challenge - GetOutside: do more in the British Outdoors (ordnancesurvey.co.uk) for some more fabulous ideas.
- You can buy an OS map of your local area or use the OS Maps App to look at footpaths and points of interest near to your home. You could also try your local parish or town council who will often have local maps on their websites to print off.
- Look at the map symbols in your area and learn what they are. What is the symbol for a footpath, a school or a patch of woodland?
- Find a new local footpath that you have not explored before. Can you name three different trees along the way.
- Say hello to 2 people you pass.



On your walks look out for specific things – plants, animals, colours, and sounds. The first flowers of spring will be bursting up soon so make the most of being outside.