
In this newsletter:

- **Winter demos and talks (including change of speaker for January 14th)**
 - **Future events in the pipeline**
 - **Locations feedback**
 - **Lucy – The Wild Cooke**
 - **Brian – Glencoe Mountain Rescue**
 - **AGM feedback**
-

Winter demos and talks (including change of speaker for January 14th)

We have an exciting **change of speaker for our first January talk**. Unfortunately, Karl from Otter Adventures is no longer able to do his talk at this time but we have been lucky enough to have **Neil Ansell**, a 2018 Wainwright Prize shortlisted nature author, step in to the gap!

Neil spent five years living on a remote hillside in Wales, and wrote his first book, *Deep Country*, about the experience. Since that time, he has become an award-winning television journalist with the BBC. He has travelled in over fifty countries and has written for the Guardian, the New Statesman and the Big Issue.



His work includes a number of well known books; *The Last Wilderness* (about wildlife in an area in the West of Scotland), *The Circling Sky* (a special observation of New Forest, its wildlife blended with Neil's own personal story), and *Deep Country* (living off grid in mid Wales for 5 years), plus *Deer Island*, soon to be republished.



Steve will be talking to Neil about his work, his approaches to nature writing, observing nature while walking and wild camping, and his thoughts for Nearly Wild Campers wanting to gain more from their trips outdoors. Click the button below to link to the Community Page and register from there.

[Click here to register for this talk](#)

Following the event with Neil, we will be hosting the following as part of our 2023 / 2024 winter zoom talks series:

		ZOOM DEMOS / TALKS (member only)
JANUARY		
14 th	5-6pm	Neil Ansell – Nature writing insights from a <u>well known</u> wildlife author
28 th	5-6pm	Rupert from Feral Science - Wine and beverage making
FEBRUARY		
11 th	5-6pm	Steve & Irene (Nearly Wild Camping founders) – Camping, walking and running the Cape Wrath Trail
25 th	5-6pm	Suzie Drew - Campfire cooking
MARCH		
6 th (Location member specific zoom)	6-7pm	Location knowledge-sharing discussion – an opportunity for Location owners to join a facilitated chat and share ideas and knowledge in preparation for the season. Facilitated by Steve (founder and location owner)
10 th	5-6pm	Benjamin Barendrecht – Ben’s approach to landscape photography
17 th	5-6pm	Tom Bowser of <u>Argaty Estate</u> – learn more about beaver and red kite reintroductions on a Scottish farm, as well as their other ‘wilding’ projects

Future events in the pipeline

We hope to have full details with you of events for the main 2024 camping season ready for the February newsletter. Meanwhile, here is a taster to whet your appetite and get you planning some great activities for the year.

Building on last year’s success and the developing interest from member providers (including locations keen to pass on knowledge and skills), we hope to run a number of Experience Weekends from April through to October. These may be weekend or some on weekdays, and we are just starting to firm up dates and places. Topics include:

- Navigation for beginners on Dartmoor
- Wild cooking, with Lucy Cooke (see winter talk series)
- Wild flowers when camping, with Jim Langley (see winter talk series)
- Scything and managing hay meadows, with one of our member location owners
- Bushcraft
- Learning the science behind firelighting, water filtering, projectiles and lots more, with Feral Science
- Building our confidence in wilder situations, with Wilderness Tribe
- Experience basket weaving and introduction to running a smallholding

And a number of others still in discussion!

We intend to have stands at:

- The Bushcraft Show (Members discounts available) – [More details on discounts to follow](#)
- The Wilderness Gathering



We hope you'll drop by to see us if you're there, we plan to have some social time for Members.

That will take us through to October and then the winter series of online talks will start to run again.

It's going to be a busy year!

So, if you are keen to provide an experience, do one of our winter talks or offer something else to other members, please do get in touch.

Don't forget, you can **download the Nearly Wild Camping passport** to record where you have been, what you did and learnt and some of your special experiences. A great way for the children (or adults) to build up their Nearly Wild Camping Club experiences and prompt new challenges. See the **downloads section** of the Community page along with **activity badges** for younger children.

[Click here to go to the Community Page](#)

Locations feedback

We have been making lots of phone calls to our members with a location, to find out more about what they offer, how they can get more from the club and how the club can help them. It's proving to be a very interesting exercise. Once we have completed the work, we will let you know the key findings in a future newsletter, along with resulting actions. One thing is clear, we need to make more of the fact that we can provide **Certified Location Status for member-only locations**.

Winter Zoom Series Talk: Brian – Mountain Rescue

Brian from the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team gave us some real insights into how the Mountain Rescue works, supported by some short films that NWC put together, which helped to inform the talk.

It's a service completely run by volunteers, and one all of us hope never to have to use, but it's good to know they are there when we venture into the hills and mountains, moors and other wilder places when out on our Nearly Wild Camping trips. We hope the films will help Glencoe Rescue team (one of many



teams from all around the UK) raise further awareness and raise support for their Benevolent Fund, which has recently been set up to support volunteers injured in the course of their work.

As with all the winter zoom talks and demonstrations, you can watch the recording online, just follow the links from the Community page where you will find it in the 'Past Events, Talks and Demonstrations' section.

[Click here to watch the Video](#)

Winter Zoom Series Talk: Lucy – The Wild Cooke

Lucy provided us with a great introduction to foraged food cooking through interview and videos. It was hard to watch and not feel hungry!



Lucy's great approach to foraged food combines foraged ingredients with others bought from independent shops, farms and smallholdings. She always tries to think about the food source and where it comes from, and recognises that foraging is likely to only provide part of the meal for most of us. This is realistic in our busy lives, but at the same time helps us gain the learning and insights and joy of eating foraged foods without being too precious about it.

As with all the winter zoom talks and demonstrations, you can watch the recording online, just follow the links from the Community page where you will find it in the 'Past Events, Talks and Demonstrations' section. And, as with the Mountain Rescue talk, we'll let you know when the standalone film from Lucy's session is ready to watch directly. Click the button below to link to the Community Page to watch the video.

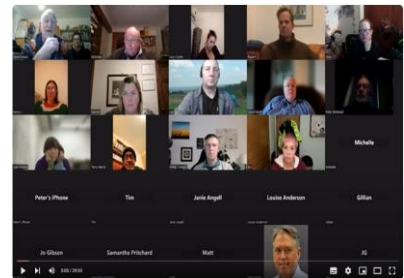
[Click here to watch Lucy's talk](#)

AGM feedback

We had a successful AGM this year and it is clear that the NWC Club is set to continue to grow and develop. Steve, our Founder and Chair, presented a summary of what has been happening and some ideas on what is to come. Please go the 'Downloads' section of the [Community Page](#) for papers and to watch recordings.

As mentioned on the night, we're looking for a couple of Location Members to come and join us on the Board, so get in touch if you think you might be interested and we can tell you a bit more about what it involves.

Click the button below to link to the Community Page to watch the video.



[Click here to watch the AGM Recording](#)