

In this newsletter:

- Winter demos and talks
- Future events in the pipeline
- Steve and Irene on the Cape Wrath trail
- Neil Ansell - nature author
- Rupert Loch – Feral Science
- Locations feedback



Winter demos and talks

We still have the following zoom demonstrations/talks being hosted as part of our 2023/2024 winter zoom talks series. Don't forget to book your place as soon as possible if you intend to come along. Please don't book if you don't intend to come as this blocks others from joining us when number limits are reached. You can always access the talk recordings online afterwards:

		ZOOM DEMOS / TALKS (member only)
FEBRUARY		
25th	5-6pm	Suzie Drew - Campfire cooking
MARCH		
6th (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)
10th	5-6pm	Benjamin Barendrecht – Mountain Landscapes photographer – Ben will tell us more about his approach to landscape photography and how he captures such amazing images.
17th	5-6pm	Tom Bowser, author and manager of Argaty Estate – learn more about beaver and red kite reintroductions on a Scottish farm, as well as their other 'wilding' projects.

Next Winter Talk: Suzi Drew on Campfire Cooking and Easy Family Meals to Cook Outside, 25th February at 5pm



In this next Nearly Wild Camping demonstration, Suzi Drew will guide us through her favourite family recipes to cook around the campfire. From pizza to cookies, she will talk us through the recipes, shopping lists and kit we'll need for the most delicious campfire dinner.



Suzi is no stranger to cooking outdoors, and hosted last year's experience weekend at her location in North Wales, where Tara Crank guided us through foraging and fusion-cooking.

Suzi's 60-acre wide site nestled in the Cambrian Mountains is a classified "dark-sky" area, where you can cook under the starriest of skies. Their camping offer includes swathes of wild meadows, repurposed horsebox showers and woodfired outdoor baths.

So, whether you decide to come and cook with Suzi in her nearly wild space, or at your own wild retreat, join us to learn more about cooking outdoors.

Location Specific Discussion, 6th March 6-7pm

This knowledge-sharing discussion is an opportunity for location providers to join a facilitated chat to share ideas and knowledge in preparation for the upcoming camping season.

The meeting will be facilitated by Steve, NWC founder and location owner – bring your questions and ideas for a great chat!



Future events in the pipeline

Here is a taster to whet your appetite and get you planning some great activities for the year. We have given dates where we can so you can start to plan your diary, however, we are still developing opportunities and there will be more dates confirmed in the next two months.



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 on weekends, or some on weekdays - we are just starting to firm up dates and places.

The **Experience Weekend timetable** is still being firmed up but so far it looks like this....

- April 5-7th - Navigation for beginners on Dartmoor
- June 14-16th - Experience basket weaving, sensory foraging and introduction to running a smallholding. Yurt and hut accommodation options also available. – Devon
- August 20 -22nd – A full and varied Bushcraft weekend with Lizzi of Pippin and Gile. Probably Sussex, venue to be confirmed.

Plus we are still confirming details with:

- Wild cooking, with Lucy Cooke, The Wilde Cook
- Wild flowers when camping, with Jim Langley, Nature's Work
- Scything and managing hay meadows, with one of our member location owners
- Bushcraft with Dave Watson
- Learning the science behind firelighting, water filtering, projectiles and lots more, with Rupert from Feral Science
- Building our confidence in wilder situations, with Wilderness Tribe

Booking information coming soon



We intend to have stands at the following (some are still being confirmed):

- **Smallholding & Countryside Festival, Builth Wells, Mid Wales – 18 – 19 May**
- **The Bushcraft Show, Leicestershire – 24 – 27 May** - You will find details of how to book with the Nearly Wild Camping members discount on the [Community page](#). This gives a discount of a huge 15% discount off all weekend tickets to The Bushcraft Show 2024, including VIP weekend tickets.
- **The Wilderness Gathering, Kent – 15 – 18 August**
- **Into the Wild, Sussex – 24 – 26 August**



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.

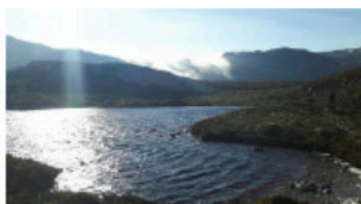
It's going to be a busy year!

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.

Downloads

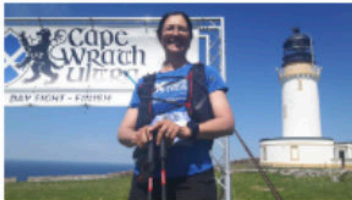
Don't forget, you can **download the Nearly Wild Camping passport** to record where you have been, what you did and learnt and some of your special experiences. A great way for the children (or adults) to build up their Nearly Wild Camping Club experiences and prompt new challenges. See the **downloads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

Winter Zoom Series Talk: Steve and Irene on the Cape Wrath Trail



The tortoise and the hare. One ultra-marathon and another epic walk, Irene and Steve Evison shared their experiences walking – and running – the monumental Cape Wrath Trail in our latest Nearly Wild Camping talk.

For 71 hours, 26 minutes and 33 seconds, Irene pushed through rainstorms, over human-sized boulders and through spectacular scenery in order to complete the Cape Wrath Ultra (and get herself a tuna sandwich). She spent a total of eight days running, walking and watching the scenery as she passed through it, stopping to admire the turns of frozen water in puddles and the marbled insides of ancient stones.



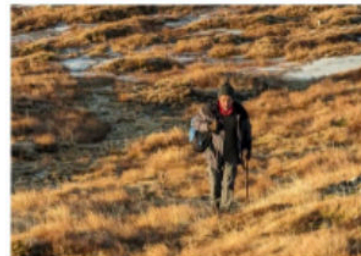
Whilst Irene had a small day pack during her long days running, Steve set off on the trail with a backpack loaded with twelve days' worth of provisions. "Trail" is perhaps too strong a word to use for the combination of established track and unmarked hillside they traversed across those days, so if you're thinking of heading out to Cape Wrath, remember to bring your compass!

Watch this talk back to hear more about Steve and Irene's experiences on the Cape Wrath trail and find out what equipment to bring on your adventure, whether you choose to run or to walk it.

[Click here to watch Steve and Irene's talk](#)

Winter Zoom Series Talk: Neil Ansell – Nature Author

Neil Ansell revisits his time in the Welsh wilderness through the written word in this NWC winter talk. Practising first as a journalist traversing publications including the Guardian, the Big Issue and the BBC, Neil later found his writing weaving back to his years spent in the Welsh valleys. With no immediate neighbours, his company became the hills surrounding his small home, and the birds and animals who also settled there.



Neil has written several other books since writing 'Deep Country: Five Years in the Welsh Hills', and describes his books as "nature memoirs". Take a look back at this fascinating talk that took place a few weeks ago between Neil and our founder, Steve.

Winter Zoom Series Talk: Rupert Loch – Feral Science

Rupert from Feral Sciences introduced us to foraged alcohols in this latest Nearly Wild Camping demonstration. His interest in the processes involved in alcohol creation led him to the wineries of Australia where he became a red wine expert. Now firmly back in the UK with scant access to grapes, he has taken to the woods and fields of England in search of a boozy bounty.



In this talk, Rupert guides us through infusions, fermentations and flavouring, describes how meadow sweet is superior to elderflower, and how *not* to poison yourself when attempting a batch at home. The instructions you will find in this demo are grounded in deep scientific knowledge, but Neil encourages us to get creative with measurements and flavours for a unique taste experience.

This is definitely one we will be revisiting!

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

Locations feedback

We continuing to make 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**.

If you would like to become a member of
Nearly Wild Camping click here



For general enquiries email hello@nearlywildcamping.org
For member communications email meg@nearlywildcamping.org

