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So, the camping season is officially here (despite the rain!) and we celebrated its arrival with a navigation camp on Dartmoor last weekend.

The blustery tail of Storm Kathleen didn't stop us from a great few days of compass skills on Haytor, and map-navigation through a temperate forest full of shiny beetles and the remnants of Devon's industrial past.

More to come on this weekend, but we're sending out a big thank you to everyone who came, and to Michelle and Kevin for hosting us!

Off the back of this weekend, this newsletter is full of upcoming Experience Camps (with more summer dates being finalised) so have a browse and sign up to secure your spot - we'd love to see you there!

A quick reminder that these camps are for Nearly Wild Camping members only, so if you'd like to join us on them, you can sign up to become a member today.





## Nearly Wild Experience Weekend: Landscape Photography with Benjamin Barendrecht - 7th - 9th June

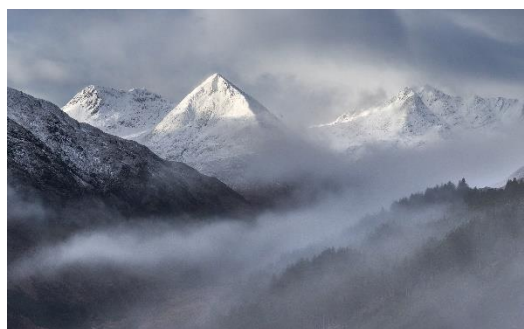
Ben breathes mountains. When he's not working on the hill, he's photographing them, thinking about how the light plays in the depiction of the landscape before him, planning when exactly to head up for the perfect combination of weather, light and shadow.



### What to expect:

Ben will teach us everything from photography basics to how to improve on your existing skills. The best part? Anyone with a camera can join in – even if you come simply with a phone camera.

“The weekend will be about photographing the natural world in order to understand the relationship between us as the photographer and everything that is around us,” says Ben.



Anyone who saw Ben's Nearly Wild Camping Winter Talk will know just what an engaging presenter Ben is. The delight with which he talks about the natural world is infectious and inspiring, and we are sure this weekend will be an unmissable one.

**See the Community Page for booking information.**

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## Nearly Wild Experience Weekend: Foraging and Willow Weaving 14th - 16th June

Emma is well versed in the ways of wicker weaving, having been trained in by the late English Master Weaver, Mr. Ivor Hancock. The weekend will combine willow weaving with foraging sessions for a holistic experience outside.



### What to expect:

- Skills to identify wild foods by working closely with your senses and intuition.
- How to identify at least (depending on the season) a dozen wild edible plants
- How to harvest safely and for our future
- How to work with herbs: drying for teas; making infused oils; cooking with them and eating them fresh
- How our relationship with the wild edibles helps in our wellbeing (both mental and physical)

**See the Community Page for booking information.**



## Nearly Wild Experience Weekend: Woodland Survival Crafts - 12th - 14th July

Dave Watson's Nearly Wild Experience Camp is chock-full of practical knowledge about crafting outdoors.

You will learn how to make a friction fire with a bow drill, how to make quality cordage from natural materials as well as other useful campfire gadgets and a bit of carving for fun.



For the past 30 years, Dave has been sharing bushcraft skills with people young and old. "It became clear very early on that bushcraft was a tool which excited and inspired everyone," says Dave.

### What to expect:

This weekend is not a bushcraft course, but an opportunity to learn from someone who has "lived and breathed" bushcraft, but you can expect to learn about:

- **Campfire gadgets** – working with natural materials to create all sorts of useful tools
- **Bow drill** – how to create smoke with the least amount of effort before making an ember and then blowing it into flame
- **String making** – using some common materials from the countryside to create quality cordage

**See the Community Page for booking information.**

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## Shows and events timetable

We'll be heading to the following festivals this summer with our Nearly Wild Camping tent and - on occasion - a few talks and activities. We'd love to see you there!

- **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**





## **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.

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