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It is finally, and officially, the start of the camping season! Thank you daylight savings, and thank you warm spring days.

We're marking the beginning of the season with our first Nearly Wild Camping Experience Weekend of the year on Dartmoor (I expect here would be a summary of the weekend after edits etc.)

This month's newsletter is as packed as ever, but we're focussing on our summer of events in this mailer. While we're still firming up other experience weekends, we have a few you can book onto now, as well as a few festivals you can catch us at over the summer.

Nearly Wild Experience Weekend: Navigation for Beginners on Dartmoor - 5th - 7th April

We are so excited to announce the first NWC experience camp of the season!

Set amongst the varied and dramatic landscape of Dartmoor National Park, one of our Nearly Wild Camping location providers will lead us in a weekend of camping and navigation, where we will learn how to move through the landscape using maps, compasses, and phones.



This is not designed as a formal training course, but as a learning experience where you can get started and learn some basics in an informal, sociable environment. If you want to miss some sessions, relax or just have time alone, you can - this is not about passing a test, it's about informal learning.



This weekend is designed to suit a range of campers, from beginner navigators to those who simply want some company camping on this more chilly side of spring. Bring your family or come alone, the group will be kept intentionally small (up to twenty people) in order to accommodate different needs and interests.

This is a **members-only event**, so if you would like to attend the weekend but are not yet a member, sign up on our website!

Nearly Wild Camping Winter Talk by Tom of Argaty Estate – POSTPONED

We're all starting to enjoy the stretching of the days - more chance to be outside soaking up those spring rays - and so we've decided to postpone Tom's talk until the Autumn.

You can watch all our Nearly Wild Camping Winter Talks via the Community page now, with an exciting season of discussions and demonstrations to come after the summer.



Location Specific Discussion

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

We talked about sanitation, planning, insurance and compost loos! There will be more details to come soon, so if you are a location provider, keep an eye on the community page for updates.



If you would like to become a location provider for Nearly Wild Camping contact lee@nearlywildcamping.org

Winter Zoom Series Talk: Ben Barendrecht, Nature Photographer



Dutch photographer Ben Barendrecht is fascinated by landscapes: how they change in the light; the stories that are held within them and the weather systems hanging above them all.

After travelling the world he settled in Scotland, where the mountains compelled him to capture them on camera.

Since then, he has been working with our founder Steve to create Nearly Wild Media, who have produced some of the videos featured in previous talks.

In this talk, Ben guides us through his photography processes, from selecting rock formations to the sometimes painstaking process of waiting for exactly the right light. Yet, no matter how long he waits, time spent outside is never wasted.

We hope you enjoy watching this inspiring talk back as much as we enjoyed listening!



Winter Zoom Series Talk: Suzi Drew on Campfire Cooking and Family Recipes



If there's anyone who can make campfire cooking exciting, it's Suzi Drew. Having previously delivered cooking demonstrations across the country, Suzi now cooks closer to home, on her Nearly Wild Camping Location in North Wales.

In this whistle-stop-tour of community cooking, Suzi Draws on her experiences leading social camps for families and talks us through the types of recipes that work for large groups with varying needs and skills, as well as what equipment is best to use.

So many interesting recipe ideas were shared in this chat that we've decided to bring them together into a Nearly Wild Camping recipe book to develop further down the line.

We'd love to collect your stories of campfire cooking and the recipes you like to create when out camping!

Email meg@nearlywildcamping.org to share yours!

Introducing Our New Business Partners



Your "premier destination for army surplus/military surplus and outdoor clothing/equipment" is now more accessible than ever, with a discount for Nearly Wild Camping members

Wild Camper Trucks is the newest addition to our Nearly Wild Camping vehicle partnerships, offering 4 x 4 "campertrucks" for your next camping experience



Shows and events timetable

In last month's newsletter we outlined some of the member Experience Camps we have coming up throughout the late spring and summer months. These are still being firmed up, with more information and booking opportunities to come.

We will also be attending a number of National Shows and festivals (listed below) where we will be seeking volunteers to help on the stand. We'd love to meet any attending members at our little 'on stand socials', so pop by and say hello if you're planning on going to any of the following events!

We intend to have stands at the following:

- **Smallholding & Countryside Festival, Bulth 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.