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Happy Beltane everyone!

I have just come back from a wonderful sunny spring evening out camping near Glasgow to celebrate the ebbing of the winter - I hope you've found ways to welcome in the spring, too (ideally camping!).

We're still processing our navigation camp on Dartmoor last month, sewing together videos and stories collected over the weekend. For a flavour of the event follow the link below to read my blog of the experience camp (including battling through Storm Kathleen by bike), and get some inspiration for your own summer adventures, big or small.

We have a full roster of summer events for you in this newsletter, with all experience weekends now locked in the calendar - new events to look out for include foraging with The Wild Cooke in Powys and look at science anew in the great outdoors with Rupert of Feral Sciences.

We have also gotten our shows firmed up, and we'd love to see as many of you as possible at our stands across those weekends (and keep your eyes peeled for some possible talks from our founders!).

It's shaping up to be a great (and packed!) summer. As always, these events are about building Nearly Wild Camping together, making friends, sharing knowledge and having a great time out camping!

See you soon!

Blog Update:

Check out our **Other News and Updates** section for a read of our blog on Meg's Bikepacking Adventure and Navigation on Dartmoor with Wray Valley Camping.

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.

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.

Nearly Wild Experience Weekend: The Wild Cooke - 26th - 28th July, Powys

For Lucy, a.k.a The Wild Cooke, anytime spent outside is an opportunity to connect with our natural home through the art of foraging.



Lucy will take us into the Welsh countryside to look for seasonal wild foods. We will discuss identification, harvesting, ethics, preservation and cooking techniques.

See the Community Page for booking information.

Nearly Wild Experience Weekend: Feral Sciences with Rupert Loch, 2nd - 4th August, Lancashire



Rupert really needs no introduction. A board member and long-time friend of Nearly Wild Camping, Rupert blends learning and the outdoors effortlessly - plus he is well-versed in NWC experience weekends, having run one last summer (see photo below).

Rupert left behind traditional teaching to focus on the ways we can learn through practical skills in the outdoors. Science is all around us, and the process of "learning by doing" is one encompassed in this Nearly Wild Camping Experience Weekend.



See the Community Page for booking information.

Nearly Wild Experience Event: with Lizzy Maskey of Pippin & Gile - 20th - 22nd August, West Sussex

For this Nearly Wild Camping Experience Event, Lizzy Maskey from Pippin & Gile will combine foraging for edible and medicinal plants with balm making and willow basketry weaving.



When it comes to cooking the foraged edibles we'll collect over the event, Lizzy will teach us how to make a friction fire with a bow drill too. From the collecting to the cooking, this event will be all about learning how to use the natural resources around us for a local (and delicious) experience whilst out camping.

See the Community Page for booking information.

SHOWS AND FESTIVALS

Smallholding and Countryside Festival, 18th & 19th May Builth Wells, Wales

"The Smallholding & Countryside Festival is a celebration of rural life with smallholding pursuits at its heart. The weekend-long event is a showcase of the real diversity of the Welsh countryside and a fantastic day out for young families, garden enthusiasts and anyone with an interest in the great outdoors."



Come and join us on our stand at 2pm every day of the festival for a chat - we'd love to see you!

The Bushcraft Show, 25th - 27th May Lutterworth

*The Bushcraft Show offers three days of bushcraft and survival skills, activities, demonstrations and talks. This is an international event with experts from America, Africa, Scandinavia and Europe joining us. In addition to talks, there will be demonstrations and activities running throughout the weekend, perfect for both individuals and families! **See our Shows Section for a NWC***

Member Discount



Come for a chat and meet other campers every day at 5pm on our stand.

On Sunday we'll be joined by Graeme of Carbon Farmers, who will be treating us to Kenyan coffee and Mendazis (an East African Treat) - not to be missed!

Wilderness Gathering, 15th - 18th August, Kent

"A unique Bushcraft event with a relaxed and family friendly atmosphere which is the longest running and still the original festival of bushcraft, survival and primitive living skills."



Come for a chat and meet other campers every day at 5pm on our stand!

Into the Wild, 22nd - 26th August Sussex

"Into the Wild is the UK's number one nature festival. Helping to support rewilding and nature recovery. Rewilding people and landscapes for a wilder future for all being to thrive!"



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.

For general enquiries email hello@nearlywildcamping.org

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