

Be an Oral Historian

Are you interested in local history?
Do you know something about commoning?
Have you got some free time to spare?



We are looking for Volunteers....

The New Forest is a special place with a special history. Commoners and commoning have played a vital part in making the Forest what it is today, but the importance of commoning is not really understood by the public. The New Forest Trust has launched an exciting new project to raise the profile of commoning, and to spread awareness of its importance to the future of the Forest. The Trust is looking for volunteers to join the project, to make 'oral history' recordings of commoning as a special way of life, and to help us build on the recordings to spread awareness.

We're looking for help in three areas:

- People who are prepared to be interviewed about their memories of commoning in the New Forest
- People who would like to act as interviewers
- People who would like to hear the interviews and write summaries about them.



Have you got a story to tell?

We're looking for commoners to tell their stories about the commoning lifestyle. Have you got memories to share? Or do you know someone with special memories of life as a commoner? We hope to find about thirty people to be interviewed for the project. Ideally we want people from right across the Forest, so that we get a range of memories covering the whole area. You won't need to travel to the interviews- we'll come to you. We'll let you have your own copy of the recordings to keep or share with family and friends. If you'd like to be involved, get in touch!

If you can help...

then why not join our team of interviewers, and help us record unique memories of life in the forest. We're looking for 5-6 volunteers to interview commoners and record their experiences of a unique way of life. You'll be recording about half a dozen interviews, each about 1-2 hours long. We'll provide all the equipment and training on how to use it. Apart from the training sessions, which will be held at weekends, you'll be free to choose when you want to spend your time to make the recordings, as long as they get done by late summer this year. Although the work is voluntary, we will be able to contribute to your travelling costs.

Interested?

Then please contact us before 16th March, and we'll take it from there.

The New Forest Trust, New Park, Brockenhurst, Hants SO42 4QH
Tel: 07769 676855 | Email: oral.history@newforesttrust.org.uk
www.newforesttrust.org.uk