



The New Forest Diamond Jubilee Award

The New Forest Trust is to make an annual award in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The award will be known as 'The New Forest Diamond Jubilee Award'. This will consist of a perpetual award, a miniature replica, a sterling silver pin, a certificate and a cash prize of £1000.

Particular consideration for this award will be given to:

- a person who, without expectation of recognition or reward, has given freely of their own time and made a significant contribution towards maintaining or improving the environment and rural economy of the forest
- a person who has made a significant contribution to conservation or cultural heritage or has brought about, through education, a greater awareness of issues that have a direct bearing on the wellbeing of the forest
- a person who has shown resource and energy in advancing conservation, education, innovation or leadership, especially relating to the aims and objectives of the New Forest Trust

The award will be presented by Her Majesty the Queen on Wednesday 25th July 2012 at the New Forest Show.

THE NEW FOREST TRUST

Founded in 2003, the New Forest Trust has one simple aim – to secure the future of the New Forest for those who live in it and for those who love it, now and for the future. The Trust's primary objectives are to:

- promote the conservation, protection and improvement of The New Forest.
- promote the conservation and protection of the commoning livestock, the deer and other fauna and flora of the The New Forest.
- promote the education and understanding of the public in the commoning livestock, the deer and other fauna and flora of the The New Forest.

To achieve these objectives we are working to secure financial support locally and from the millions of people who visit The New Forest every year. This support has already funded many vital projects, but to do more we need your help.

Without you, the community, traditions and unique landscape of The New Forest are in danger of disappearing forever. The New Forest is an irreplaceable and special place. We are determined to keep it that way.

For further information about the Trust, what we do and how you can help:

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Charity registered number: 1099420



A message from the Chairman

Our Visitor Gift Scheme continues to grow and raised £15,504 in 2011. As the number of hotels in the scheme increases we hope to improve on this figure in 2012. Most participating hotels ask their guests to donate a discretionary £1, which is added to their bill. Other businesses raise money in different ways from adding a "penny on a pint" to adding £1 on specific menu items. The Visitor Gift Scheme began with one hotel in 2006, since when £37,729 has been raised.

This money increasingly forms a vital part of our income and is used to further the aims of the Trust. This includes our Small Grant Scheme which offers grants of up to £1,000 for conservation and education projects in and around the New Forest.

I would like to especially thank the hotels and businesses that have joined our Visitor Gift Scheme, as their support is key to the continued success of the Trust.

These include:-
Balmer Lawn Hotel, Bartley Lodge, Beaulieu Hotel, The Bell Inn Hotel, Best Western Forest Lodge, Careys Manor Hotel, Chewton Glen, Gorselands Nursing Home, Hotel Terravina, Limewood, The Master Builders Hotel, The Montague Arms Hotel, Moorhill House Hotel, The Drift Inn, The Pig and Woodlands Lodge Hotel.



Ferry Crofts Scouts go pond dipping

One of the most common questions asked by visitors contributing to the Trust is ‘How is the money spent?’

Preventing Animal Accidents

Last year 67 animals were killed on the roads in the New Forest. The Trust supports organisations working to reduce this number. One of the most effective and proven methods is to fit reflective collars to the ponies so that they can be seen at night by oncoming vehicles, as this greatly reduces the chances of their being hit. The fitting of the collars, which have to be replaced on a regular basis, is normally undertaken by the Agisters and owners of the ponies at the annual drifts, which are held all across the Forest.

The Trust makes an annual contribution towards the cost of reflective collars for New Forest Ponies and is actively involved in funding other initiatives to reduce animal accidents in the Forest.

Small Grant Scheme

The Trust has allocated £8,000 to the scheme for 2012. Grants of between £250 and £1,000, are available for projects which meet the Trust's aims and objectives to preserve, conserve and educate.

Grants awarded include:-

Ferry Crofts Scouts Activity Centre

Two grants have been awarded of £1000 each, to help fund a dipping pond for water life studies and other features for the education and enjoyment of young children at Ferry Crofts Scout Activity Centre.

The Christopher Tower Reference Library

Situated within the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst, the library houses the most comprehensive collection of books, maps, reports and images of the New Forest available to the public in a single location. The Trust has made grants for the purchase and preservation of historical and valuable local items which would otherwise have been lost to the area.

New Forest History & Archaeology Group

The focus of the Group is on practical fieldwork and the recording of the Forest's archaeology and local history. The Trust made a grant for surveying and electronic equipment to assist them with their on-going research work.

New Forest Commoners Defence Association

A Grant has been awarded to fund the printing of a free booklet “Sally the pony”. This booklet is aimed at visitors to the area and explains the reasons why New Forest Ponies should not be fed by the general public. The reason being that it encourages them to stay by roads, thereby increasing the risk of accidents.



The winner from Bournemouth Collegiate School



Students from Priestlands school created the posters

Animal Accident Poster Campaign

The Trust ran a competition for pupils at local secondary schools to design eye catching posters aimed at making drivers be “animal aware” and slow down on Forest roads. The competition was a great success resulting in a number of excellent posters. In addition, one of the winners from Bournemouth Collegiate School came up with the slogan ‘Ponies don't dent they die’. These words are so apt that they are now being used on road signs around the Forest. This slogan has been used on the back of the New Forest Tour bus to remind drivers about animal safety.

New Forest Bat Project

The New Forest habitats are important places for bats. Of the 17 species native to the UK, 13 have been recorded in the Forest. The Trust made a grant for the purchase of specialist bat boxes for some of the rarest species in the UK, including the Bechstein's and Barbastelle bats.

The Pony Publicity Group

The Trust has supported the groups continued good work to promote the versatility and attributes of the native New Forest Pony. Their effort is mostly concentrated on horse and agricultural shows throughout the country, including the New Forest Show where you will find them in the New Forest corner.

Ongoing projects include:

Fine Crafted Wood Exhibition

Since it's beginning in 2006 the exhibition has grown in stature and is now recognised as an important showcase for young and upcoming furniture makers. This is highlighted by the fact that this year, the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers have made an annual award for the best craftsman and designer. This is a huge accolade for the competition.

The New Forest remains a working forest and the competition, held at the New Forest Show, is an important opportunity to demonstrate the valuable uses of New Forest timber as well as the skills of the designers and craftsmen.

Beaulieu Road Sale Yard

The Beaulieu Road Sale Yard is a purpose built handling facility for semi-feral ponies used by commoners to sell their ponies at auction. The New Forest Trust holds the lease for the site and makes annual contributions to the New Forest Livestock Society, which manages the yard and organizes the auctions.

Ongoing improvements, funded by the Verderers have been completed to comply with the latest health, safety and welfare regulations include the provision of mains water so that washdown facilities are now available. These improvements make the sales yard one of the most up to date semi-feral sales yards in the country.



Recording Forest Memories

With the support of Heritage Lottery funding the Trust has commissioned an Oral History Project to record the memories of elderly commoners and other's with special links to the Forest. This project is nearing completion and the intention is to now make these recording available to the public.

www.newforestmemories.org.uk

