

NORTH WESSEX DOWNS LANDSCAPE TRUST

*Increasing awareness of the North Wessex Downs
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and securing
its long-term protection and enhancement*



Welcome to our Spring 2024 newsletter, keeping you up to date with our current projects, their progress, and thoughts for the future.

My first task is to inform you that there has been a major title change for AONB nationally. AONB has been replaced by the term National Landscape, so we are now in The North Wessex Downs National Landscape – not to be confused with our name of North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust.

Secondly, my allotted time as chairman comes to an end in April, and I shall be standing down. We have secured the good offices of our newest trustee Jamie Cayzer-Colvin to succeed me as chairman. He is well experienced in the charity world having been involved with Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Royal Horticultural Society amongst others.

The Trust is now seven years old and we have laid the foundations for a more powerful and vociferous organisation to preserve and protect, conserve and enhance this unique and beautiful region in which we live. We have achieved what we set out to achieve, which was the setting up and establishment of a viable organisation for future development.

Jamie will be able to drive the Trust in the right direction so that it develops its full potential and influence.

It only remains for me to thank you all so much for the tremendous support and encouragement you have shown me over the last few years. I would also like to thank my fellow trustees, without whom, none of this would have been possible.

Donald Sherlock, Chairman

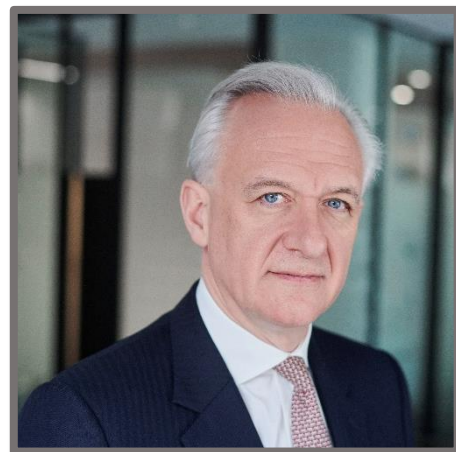


The NWD AONB covers 668 square miles, taking in 173 parishes and stretches from Swindon and Didcot in the north to Devizes and Basingstoke in the south, Calne in the west and Reading in the east. It is the third largest AONB in the country. Over 80% of the world's chalk streams are in the south of England and the AONB includes the rivers Kennet, Lambourn and mighty Test amongst others.

Meet Our New Chairman

Jamie Cayzer-Colvin

Having always called the North Wessex Downs home, work has taken Jamie all around the world, first in military service with the Grenadier Guards and then in the investment management world. Today he runs a family office and investment company based in London and over the past three decades he has served on the boards of several well-known City companies.



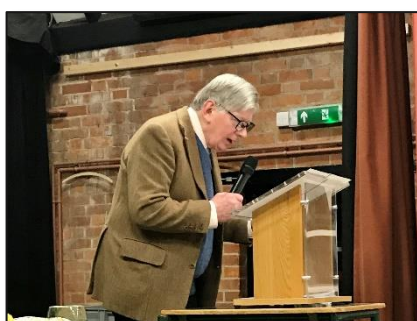
Outside of commercial activities, gardening, British architecture, and history are passions of his, whether it be a five-year restoration of The Manor House at Milton Lilbourne or being chairman of The Heritage of London Trust, a body that helps preserve the buildings and monuments of London. He has also worked with many other charities, including Fine Cell Work, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and The Royal Horticultural Society.

PAST & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NWDLT Quiz 2024



Another successful quiz held in Ramsbury saw 12 teams from across the North Wessex Downs battle it out under the firm control of quiz master Paul Swan. Very many thanks to all of you who took part.



Marlborough College Summer School 2024



The Trust will once again be leading the *Getting To Know The North Wessex Downs* course at the Marlborough College Summer School. Course number 269, week 1, 8th -12th July. To book a place, click [here](#) or search www.summerschool.co.uk/adult-courses/walks-sports-and-country-pursuits/course-269

NWD NL Walking Festival 2024

31st May – 9th June

The popular North Wessex Downs National Landscape Walking Festival will take place again this year from 31st May to 9th June. Ted Hiscocks, NWDLT Trustee, will be leading "*Ramsbury and Littlecote History Walk*" on Friday 7 June at 2 pm. See below for booking details.

If you would like further details and to sign up, please click on the link [here](#) or search www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking/walking-festival/



The Littlecote Roman Villa site, looking north towards the roof built over the mosaic.



Ramsbury Street Fair & Enford Village Fête

The Trust will be represented at both these events on Saturday, 22nd June. The Ramsbury Street Fair runs 11 am – 3 pm and the Enford Village Fête 1pm – 4 pm. Do come along.

Wilton Windmill

Wiltshire's only working windmill open again to visitors.



Thanks to an early Easter, Wilton Windmill will be open for more days than ever this summer.

The Windmill will open on March 31st, Easter Day, and April 1st, Easter Monday, and thereafter on Sundays and Bank Holidays until September 29th.

Guided tours will run between 2pm and 5pm and the Granary Museum will be available to explore.

Hot and cold drinks, ice creams and cakes will be available in the shepherd's hut and visitors are most welcome to bring their own picnics. The site, of course, remains open for picnickers throughout the year even when the mill is closed.

Special attractions this year include the return on Saturday June 15th and Sunday 16th of the popular Smoke and Mirrors Theatre Company with their not-wholly serious **Murder Mystery**. This year it's *Burying the Hatchet* – a story of skulduggery in a Michelin starred restaurant in Wiltshire. It's a memorable way to spend a summer evening and comes complete with our own gourmet hog-roast and well-stocked bar.

The Windmill will also be open on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May to celebrate the National Mills Weekend.

There are also plans for another **Open Day** in July as well as a **Vintage Car Meet** in August and **National Heritage Open Days** on September 14th & 15th.

Check the website www.wiltonwindmill.co.uk for full details nearer the time.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

On behalf of the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Trust manages the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) to deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits for our landscape and the people living and working here.

The Fund supports small-scale projects promoted by local communities and charities. For further information on the Sustainable Development Fund, please go to our website www.nwd-landscapetrust.org.uk or click [here](#) where details will be found under the table "Our Work". We are delighted to have been able to support the following projects recently:

Hungerford Heritage Trail/Visit Hungerford Website



The project promotes visiting Hungerford and is aimed at attracting tourists and visitors to the town/North Wessex Downs National Landscape, via a new tourism website and Heritage Trail that can be accessed on line and promoted locally. The website will be widely advertised on-line, through social media and Great West Way literature. www.visithungerford.com

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

After 14 years at Hills Stores in Ramsbury High Street, the new Ramsbury Community Charity Shop has moved into the partly redundant public loo building in the Memorial Hall car park, which has been recently reconfigured.



Donald Sherlock presenting Sheila Glass and Mary Holdsworth with a North Wessex Downs National Landscape SDF plaque.

The Charity Shop acts as a fund-raising facilitator for the village organisations which help to man it. In the 14 years that the Charity Shop has been operating, £125,000 has been shared by these organisations, currently: Scouts, Bowls Club, Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury Lunch Club, Ramsbury Recreation Centre, Ravensbury Players and the WI. The shop is run entirely by volunteers and after expenses for rent, waste disposal, insurance, and services, all the profit is distributed each quarter.



Wilcot, Huish & Oare Parish Council, Replacement of Benches

The Parish Council agreed to replace two benches in the parish, both of which had become unsafe and are beyond repair. Both benches had historical links to former residents and councillors. The plaques will be retained for fixing to the new benches, alongside any new plaques to be agreed. Both benches are sited within the NWDNL, with the Huish bench near the noticeboard, just where the road follows the ancient Holloway into the centre of this hamlet nestling in the valley, where residents and walkers can appreciate the surrounding landscape of farms and hills. Huish Down is also the natural meeting place for the few residents to congregate and chat, or to wait for the new sustainable on-demand bus service. The Oare bench is near the noticeboard and history board, ideally located for walkers heading to or from Giant's Grave and the Old Ox Path.



A Rain Garden Design for Oare Primary School



Oare Primary School are looking to create a 'Rain Garden' in a currently under used and uninspiring space within the school grounds. A 'Rain Garden' will use plants that are able to withstand waterlogging for up to 48 hours and provide an opportunity to manage rainwater run-off from hard surfaces, whilst creating a low maintenance, but biodiverse environment for pupils to enjoy and learn through.

The plan is to incorporate a polytunnel into the space so that the children can grow their own fruits and vegetables and learn about the importance of food choices, and sustainable growing practices.