

COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY

(South West)



Project Update 7: December 2010

CMSW Scheme Extended!

We have recently had some exciting news from our funders Natural England who have agreed to extend our Big Lottery funding for an extra year until February 2013. This is really great news as it gives us more time to find new sites and will enable many more people to explore the fantastic South West countryside using our Trampers and Wheelyboats.

The extra year also gives us more time to make sure that we have plans in place to keep the project going when our Lottery funding stops in two years time. This will be one of our biggest challenges but we are already developing ideas to make sure the scheme continues well into the future.

A Trampler on Exmoor

Our sixth Trampler site launched in November on Exmoor thanks to financial support from the Exmoor National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund.

CMSW members can now explore two trails in the National Trust's stunning **Heddon Valley**, near Parracombe. One trail takes Trampler users alongside the River Heddon to a view point overlooking the stony beach at Heddon's Mouth and the other along a Victorian carriage way towards Woody Bay with some of the finest coastal views in the South West as you can see from the picture! Visit the [CMSW website](#) for more details and booking information.



The North Exmoor Coast

The funding also provides financial assistance to help set up a second Exmoor Trampler site, and is allowing us to run some Trampler Trips in the National Park over the next few years. The first of these events will take place in April and July next year - read on for more details.

Membership Numbers Increase

Around 80 people have now joined the Countryside Mobility scheme since it started in July 2010. During this period Trampler users have clocked up more than 100 hours of Trampler time! This is fantastic news and we hope that the new sites launching next year will help keep these figures rising.

New Sites...



Autumn at RHS Rosemoor

Following Rosemoor in the spring will be another six Trampler sites! These include **Crickley Hill Country Park** in Gloucester, **Castle Drogo** on Dartmoor, **Batsford Arboretum** in the Cotswolds, **Seale Hayne** in Newton Abbot, **The Granite Way**, Okehampton and the **Grand Western Canal**, Tiverton.

We are also hoping to start fundraising soon to buy another two Wheelyboats. We have recently been in discussion with **Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre** in Exeter and the owners of **Maunsell Lock Canal Centre** on the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal.

Both sites are very interested in operating Wheelyboats from next year. In the New Year the CMSW website will be listing other Wheelyboats that are already available to hire in the South West. These boats have not been funded by CMSW but we want to help get more people using them.

Over the past few months we have been working with lots of potential new Trampler sites and hope to have a second batch of new sites launching in the summer...watch this space for details.

Countryside Mobility Blog...

CMSW now has a 'blog'! The blog is being used to record some of the experiences gained by people who have used Trampers or Wheelyboats and to demonstrate how we are achieving the aims and objectives of the scheme. We also hope that the blog will help set up similar schemes elsewhere in the country. You can read our blog, which includes all previous project updates, at: <http://countrysidemobility.wordpress.com>

If you have visited one of the CMSW sites and used a Trampler or Wheelyboat please share your experiences and ideas with us. We will soon have a section on the blog where we will add comments and feedback from members so please email or write to us if you have a story you would like to share.

The Royal Horticultural Society Rosemoor Gardens will be the next CMSW site to start hiring Trampers.

Situated near Torrington, North Devon, Rosemoor offers 65 acres of enchanting formal and informal gardens, woodland walks, water features and open spaces as well as a shop, restaurant and tea room.

Two Trampers will be available to hire from March 2011 and almost all of the gardens can be visited using the Trampers.



Views from Crickley Hill

Join our Steering Group

We are looking for new members to join the CMSW Steering Group, which plays an important role in ensuring that the scheme achieves its aims and objectives.

Members of the group come from a variety of backgrounds including disabled activity groups, staff from our countryside sites, equipment manufacturers and community transport advisers. The Group provides guidance and advice to the CMSW Project Board and works to promote our services, develop ideas and generally improve the way the scheme is run.

The group would like to hear from any CMSW members that have had experience of using Trampers or Wheelyboats and who could spare some time to help develop the scheme. Meetings take place every three months, but you don't need to attend all of them. **If you would like to know more, or register your interest, please get in touch.**

Tramper Trips & Events

Some dates for your diary in 2011...

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| Friday 1st April: | Launch of CMSW Wheelyboat at Tamar Lake, Bude |
| Wednesday 20th April: | Tramper Event - Haddon Hill Big Adventure Day, Exmoor |
| Thursday 12th May: | Countryside Mobility Launch Event, venue TBC |
| Saturday 4th June: | Plymouth Disability Activity Day, Plymouth Hoe |
| Monday 25th July: | Tramper Event - Mutters Moor near Sidmouth, your chance to try out a Tramper as part of East Devon Heath Week |
| Tuesday 12th July: | Tramper Event - Dunkery Beacon by Moonlight guided walk with Trampers on Exmoor |

More details about these events will be included in future project updates but you can contact us for more details or to register your interest in attending.

And Finally...



Countryside Mobility staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Countryside Mobility is a Big Lottery funded project (through Natural England's 'Access to Nature' grant scheme) aiming to improve access to the countryside for people with limited mobility living in and visiting the South West. If you would like more information about the project then please visit our website or contact us on:

01392 456522, or email info@countrysidemobility.org

