



Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)



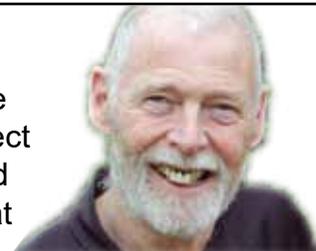
Dear Members,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

There has been a tremendous amount of work done by the N.T. staff which we will never see but will be appreciated when we benefit from the outcome. The amount of money that the Trust have lost because of the virus Lockdown is in the hundreds of millions but due to careful housekeeping it is still standing. I think we have been very lucky to have Hilary McGrady as Director General during this crisis. She has steered her team through some very worrying times and had to make some very difficult decisions about staff and projects. She sends a weekly update to the staff with a mix of news, which can't be easy but done with care and respect. We will see a leaner but strong National Trust adapting to the new way that people are looking at history and the future.

Locally, Hannah Jefferson has been working with her reduced number of staff to adapt to all the changes which have come about. Again, carefully planned opening of car parks and properties are taking place for which most visitors are showing their appreciation. Unfortunately there are still some who choose to try and get around the guidelines that are there for the safety of us all. We,

as members, can help by showing such people that kindness and respect makes for a better world for everyone. I hope that we can all show our appreciation to Hannah and staff when we meet.



Places like Burton Bradstock, holiday homes, some shops and also a few houses will be opened to check how the new guidance works in practice. As things are changing it is best to go to the National Trust website for up-to-date news.

We had our AGM pencilled in for September, but this, along with other activities planned for 2020 all of which have now been cancelled. I expect you know that the N.T. AGM at Swindon was also cancelled this year.

As things progress, we shall have more to tell you but for now, your health and well being is our priority and so there will be no activities until it is safe to do so.

Be well, be safe and enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope the next time I am in contact with you we will be back to a more normal way of living.

Kind regards

Robert Dunford - Acting Chairman



We are investigating the viability of organising online Zoom talks to take place on the Monday afternoons when we should be physically meeting. Of course this can only happen if you have your up-to-date email address - please let us know if we are using the wrong address by emailing our Membership Secretary on info@goldencapnt.org.uk or use the form on the Contact Us page of our website: www.goldencapnt.org.uk

The October 2020 opening of Portland House will not be going ahead

Committee Matters

I feel sure that all our members will have appreciated the reasons behind the major decision the Committee took to cancel or postpone the various activities planned for 2020. This decision placed a severe workload on Committee members, especially on those concerned with the arrangements for the Spring lunch, the outing to Corfe Castle and Swanage Railway as well as those outings planned for later in the year. Also on our Treasurer for making refunds and our Magazine editor for the communications procedures. They deserve our warm thanks for their work and commitment to our Association.

The delayed AGM is especially significant as our Chairman Gordon Simmons has decided to step down and hand over the reins to Robert Dunford (subject to his election). Gordon first joined the Committee in 2008 being responsible for Publicity; since then his membership of the Committee has been continuous, taking on the additional roles of Secretary and Vice Chairman before becoming Chairman 5 years ago.

Also retiring from duties is Mick Holgate whose contributions to the Association have

been considerable but largely unsung; he has supported the technical side of our meetings, the self-catering activities and given background help with computer skills. We shall recognise their exemplary service at the rearranged AGM.

Our Secretary, Margaret McClellan, has also indicated her intention to relinquish her position at the AGM in March 2021. A position she held since January 2015 when she replaced Gordon Simmons as he took up the position of Acting Chairman.

We are also looking for someone to join our Outings Sub-committee for when we are eventually allowed to organise them.

These positions now urgently need to be filled. Mick Holgate, Margaret McClellan and David Smith (Chairman of the Outings Sub-committee) are happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more about what these positions involve. Please ring Rob Dunford on 01308 422849 and he will arrange for the relevant person to contact you direct.

Chris Walliker
President

News from West Dorset National Trust

Introducing: Leo Henley Lock - Countryside Manager

I was delighted to take up the role of Countryside Manager with the North and West Dorset team in April although I found myself instantly involved with coping with the Covid shutdown. Not the best of times to start a new job but the other staff have made me very welcome and have been a great help to me.

Prior to joining the National Trust, I was working for Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) as Reserves Manager South and East Dorset, leading management of DWT's Urban Heaths, Purbeck, Portland and Brownsea Island Nature Reserves.

From the early age of 12 I started volunteering in conservation with a passion for working with people, livestock and habitat management. Fast forward 9 years and I was working as a stockman for the RSPB Ouse Washes, Cambridge, managing 2500 cattle on the

950ha reserve. Since then I have worked as a Countryside Ranger in Devon, Programme Manager for Countryside Management at Bicton Agricultural College, whilst holding a council farm tenancy and working as a forestry contractor, before moving to DWT in 2015.

The National Trust have some spectacular sites within the north and west Dorset portfolio, as well as ambitious plans to protect these special places and our natural environment. I am very much looking forward to meeting and working with you all when the 'new normal' settles down.



Director-General, Hilary McGrady's statement on how the Pandemic is affecting the work of the NT

We expect to lose up to £200m this year and we're now introducing spending plans that include a possible 1,200 redundancies as we seek to reduce our annual spend and the size of our workforce.

We would not be making these savings had we not exhausted every other possibility. We'll 'grow back stronger' in the future; visitors will play a greater part in bringing the places we care for to life.

When the country went into lockdown we closed all our houses, gardens, car parks, shops, cafes, holidays and stopped events, quickly losing tens of millions of pounds of support. As part of the review, we hope to save £100m – almost a fifth of our annual spend – by changing the way we operate and reducing our payroll and budgets.

Nearly 40 per cent of the proposed savings (£40m) will be non-pay spending cuts, including reducing travel and office costs, reducing marketing and print spend in favour of digital, renegotiating contracts, reducing IT spend and introducing more efficient processes to manage key areas of the charity.

We've already announced we're stopping or deferring £124m of projects, and have introduced a recruitment freeze to reduce staff costs. To help us get through the short-term impacts of the crisis we also furloughed the majority of our staff, drew on the Bank of England's emergency coronavirus loan scheme, and we're reviewing other rescue and stimulus packages being offered by the government.

We are going through one of the biggest crises in living memory. The places and things the National Trust cares for are needed now more than ever, as the public needs to recuperate and recover their spirit and wellbeing. Our focus will remain on the benefit we deliver to people, every day.

It is deeply upsetting to face losing colleagues and we are committed to supporting all of those affected. Sadly, we have no other course of action left open. In making these changes now, I am confident we will be well-placed to face the challenges ahead, protecting the places that visitors love and ensuring our conservation work continues long into the future.

We've drawn up a plan to restart our strategy from March next year. But to do this, we must be leaner and more flexible, and reduce our operating and project costs.

Our plan and proposed redundancies, which are also being discussed with our union Prospect, are now subject to a 45-day consultation period.

While some forms of giving have been suppressed, online donations from individual visitors to the website and to places where visitors can now text to donate, have increased significantly in recent months. We'll now step up our fundraising and seek public support for our efforts to protect the natural environment.

This is an extract from the full statement which was issued on 29th July 2020 and is available on the National Trust Website: [nationaltrust.org.uk](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

The reopening of NT Houses & Gardens

More than 135 gardens and parks are now open with essential advance booking, as well as hundreds of coast and countryside places.

Eight houses are now open as part of a test pilot: Kingston Lacy, Dorset; Barrington Court, Somerset; Killerton, Devon; Lyme Park, Cheshire; Petworth House, West Sussex; Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk; The Argory, County Armagh; Packwood House, Warwickshire.

To ensure everyone's safety, a visit must be booked in advance on the NT Website. Every Friday tickets are released for the following week. Around 700,000 tickets are available weekly. There is no charge for NT members.

More than 80 cafés and food outlets are taking part in the government's Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. Masks must be worn when entering NT food outlets.

In Memorium

Derek John Parsons TD

1920 - 2020



Derek and Valerie Parsons moved to Burton Bradstock in 1981 and in 1984 Derek joined the Committee as Lectures Secretary; progressing to Vice-Chairman in 1988; Chairman in 1989; President in 2000 and Life Vice-President in 2005.

He pursued this interest with a vigour that encouraged his successors to keep up their good work and to build on their success. I moved to Salway Ash in 1996 and was pleased and flattered to be asked by Derek to continue with this work.

Derek had been educated at Oundle School, Peterborough including time in the Officer Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force. He left School in 1938 and was called up for service in The Royal Artillery where he rose

to the rank of Major; he served in India and Burma.

This service in India provided a useful conversation topic with Billy Bragg who he used to meet out on his daily walks along the cliff tops at Burton Bradstock, Billy Bragg's father had also been there. Derek kept up these daily walks until he was 95.

Derek and Valerie had two children, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Sadly Valerie died in 2016. Derek celebrated his 100th Birthday in February 2020. He said "It is wonderful to turn 100 and I have had a terrific time". He died on the 10th April 2020.

I presume that he was very happy to have seen in the 125th year of the National Trust although he only just missed the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2 in Europe.

Roland Moss
- Life Vice-President

Ann Prior

1928 - 2020

Although not a member of the Golden Cap Association she would be well known by those who have served in, or visited, the NT Shop on Stonebarrow. Ann has been a key volunteer for the National Trust at the shop for 25 years, co-ordinating volunteers, the rota and much more; receiving her 25 years' service certificate and badge at a special tea party last December.

She was very active socially and a life-long enthusiast for Scottish country dancing and until recently ran both a children's and a ladies' class. She's been secretary of Bridport Tennis Club, played a lot of bridge, and ran the Theatrama children's drama group.

She will be greatly missed.



Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)

A Voluntary Association of National Trust Members & Volunteers

Founded in 1978 to promote & prosper the work of the National Trust

www.goldencapnt.org.uk