



Golden Cap Association

Summer 2026 News Sheet

First Words from our Chairman

Welcome to our first News Sheet.

Golden Cap Association is now open to non-National Trust members and we urge you all to pass the word to friends who might like to join to benefit from our interesting programme of talks, meals and outings. Membership is very good value at £6 per person or £9 for two people from the same household.

Sadly we had to cancel our trip to Swansea steam railway and the Etches Collection due to lack of support and everyone has been refunded their money. We do apologise for this as we know how many of you look forward to these outings but we really cannot run them at a loss. However, on the next page you will see details of our next outing in early September to Poole Harbour and on the ferry to Brownsea Island.

Chris Munden, Chairman

What's happening locally?

A group of young people from the LGBTQ+ Space Youth Project came to help Caps Barry, the Senior Gardener at Max Gate, plant a rainbow of coloured vegetables in the garden. They made an excellent job of working together to build the frame for the runner beans at the back and then planting veg of different heights and colours to form the shape of a rainbow. She hopes that they will return later in the year to see it growing, maybe to harvest and help in the garden again.



Spring Lunch

On May 16th Liz Beale recreated her delicious Buffet Lunch at Salway Ash Village Hall. 31 people attended and many comments were made about her wonderful food. Next time we need to take food containers as there was food available to take home.

Duncan and Philippa Salter very kindly organised a raffle which was very well supported.



Whiter than White

Volunteers, staff and rangers finally completed the rechalking of the Cerne Abbas Giant on 16 June. using a chalk and water paste. They worked in challenging conditions of intense heat and rain but were encouraged when Hilary McGrady, the NT Director General visited the site and Cerne Abbas Brewery brought along beer to raise a glass to celebrate a job well done.

Outing to Brownsea Island

Our coach will take us to Poole Quay where we will board a ferry to take us across the Harbour to Brownsea Island. The island, famous as the birthplace of Scouting and Guiding, is a haven for red squirrels and diverse birdlife. There are walking trails and boardwalks leading to key areas such as the new lookout building and the quay and bird hides overlooking the Lagoon for the ornithologists. For those who do not want to walk far there is a secondhand bookshop in the Engine Room and the Villano Café has indoor and outdoor seating and serves light snacks, hot and cold food and drinks and icecream.

The Squirrel Shuttle Tour bus which takes ten people and drives around the island will be available. As it is manned by volunteers you will be asked to make a donation.

A tramper mobility vehicle is also available for hire and should be arranged direct with Brownsea Island Team on 01202 707744.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR NATIONAL TRUST CARD FOR ENTRY

APPLICATION FORM

Poole Harbour to Brownsea Island

Monday 7th September 2026

£34.00 per person (Non-NT members £46.00)

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Please reserve me _____ seat(s).

YOUR NAME _____

Name of person accompanying you _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POST CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ GOLDEN CAP M'SHIP No _____

EMAIL _____

IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENT, SUDDEN ILLNESS OR OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACT:

NAME AND TELEPHONE NO. _____

PLEASE TICK YOUR BOARDING STOP (TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, PLEASE BE THERE EARLY)

Beaminster Square	1000 hrs	
Bridport Coop	1020 hrs	
Bridport Bus Station	1030 hrs	

Return journey leaves Poole at approximately 1630 hrs

I enclose a cheque payable to Golden Cap Association £ _____ (£ pp)

or make an online Banking Payment

Account Name: Golden Cap Association

Account No. 21428284 HSBC Sort Code: 40-13-28

Please supply a Reference with your payment – SURNAME/INITIAL/BROWNSEA

**Whichever payment method you use, please return this form with a Stamped Addressed Envelope as soon as possible, but not later than Monday 3rd August to:
Janet Carey, 2 Pettycrate Lane, Chideock, Bridport DT6 6LB. 01297 489782.**

National Coastwatch Institution—Eyes Along the Coast

Our last talk of the winter season was given by Judy Clarke who told us about NCI Lyme Bay which has its main station at Burton Bradstock and satellite station at Charmouth. Lyme Bay NCI is part of a national network of stations along the coast of Britain.

She explained to us that all watchkeepers are volunteers and receive full training. NCI are able to provide information about tides and weather conditions for sailors and during each watch activities such as canoeing and diving etc are closely observed, as are bathers, walkers and climbers who use our shoreline. NCI works closely with the other emergency services and can provide an emergency contact point on land for both sea and shore users.



Our talks programme starts again on Monday 28 September when we welcome back Colin Varndell. His talk will be entitled **The Natural Beauty of Dorset** and it will be illustrated by his evocative photos of wildlife. Colin is always popular so come early to ensure a seat.

New Parking Machines at Hive Beach

After a long wait, new parking machines will be installed at Hive Beach and are expected to be fully operational by Saturday 4 July. There will be three machines on site. All machines will accept member card scans and card payments, while one machine will also continue to accept cash payments. As an alternative, visitors can continue to pay using the JustPark App. Visitors will need to enter their vehicle registration number into the machine. To help with the transition there will be a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on the Hive Beach website, which will be available when the new machines go live.

Taking children out this Summer?

Visitors can enjoy a day out for less at National Trust properties following the UK Government's temporary cut to VAT.

What is the **Great British Summer Savings Scheme**?

The scheme is designed to help families enjoy days out for less this summer by cutting VAT on eligible activities from 20% to 5%, from 25 June to 1 September inclusive. This also applies to children's meals in National Trust cafes. With the Summer of Play activities and games getting underway, it's a great time to visit.

Many of the meadows across the Golden Cap Estate are managed as traditional hay meadows. In short, this usually involves keeping stock out from March to July to let the grasses and wildflowers grow, then cutting the meadows from mid-July onwards. The cut grass is left to dry in the sun and 'tedded' (i.e. turned) so it dries out thoroughly before being baled and stored for winter fodder. A while after a meadow is cut, cattle or sheep are allowed back on to 'aftermath graze' over winter. This has the added benefit that the animals will tread seed into the ground helping germination. Apart from the use of tractors rather than scythes, this is pretty much how each hay meadow has been managed for hundreds of years! The meadows on the estate right now are looking great – practically buzzing with pollinators and fluttering with butterflies such as the Meadow Brown and Marbled White. Look out for wildflowers such as Ox-eye Daisy, Knapweed or the amazingly named Corky-fruited-water-dropwort.



www.goldencapnt.org.uk— Find details of Committee Members, Contact details and Events on our website