

The latest newsletter from the Chilterns Conservation Board - the public body responsible for conserving and promoting the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Newsletter December 2016

## Seasons greetings and thank you

As 2016 comes to a close we would like to say a huge thank you to all those landowners, land managers, NGOs and volunteers who help to care for the special features of the Chilterns; and to all the residents and local organisations who have fought so long and so hard alongside the Conservation Board and Local Authorities to protect the AONB from the impacts of HS2, of which more below.

We are constantly in awe of our beautiful landscape and look forward to 2017 with this in mind. We have many exciting projects ahead including a new Walking Festival, a celebration of Chilterns Food and Drink and the 20th anniversary of the Chalk Streams project - more on these in 2017! We will also be working hard to secure funding for Phase 2 of our Heritage Lottery Funded Hillforts and Landscape Partnership projects there will be plenty of opportunity to get involved in the development of these important projects next year.

Christmas is a fantastic time to get out and about

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[www.chilternsaonb.org](http://www.chilternsaonb.org)

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in our glorious landscape and to appreciate the changing seasons. We have walks, cycle routes and visit ideas for all levels, abilities and interests [here](#)

In the meantime we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

## High Speed 2

Last week the House of Lords Select Committee published its report on HS2. The Chilterns



Conservation Board is disappointed that the Lords did not recommend any substantive improvements to the HS2 proposals to benefit either the landscape or local communities within the AONB.

Sue Holden, CCB Chief Officer, gave this reaction: "I am extremely disappointed that the Select Committee has not recognised the value of this internationally significant landscape. I am particularly shocked that they have not addressed the impacts on ancient woodland - our equivalent of the rainforest in terms of its biodiversity which can never be replaced having survived on pristine soils for over 400 years. But I would like to thank the experts within the CCB team and our local authority partners who have worked tirelessly, seeking the best for this incredible landscape and for the people who enjoy it."

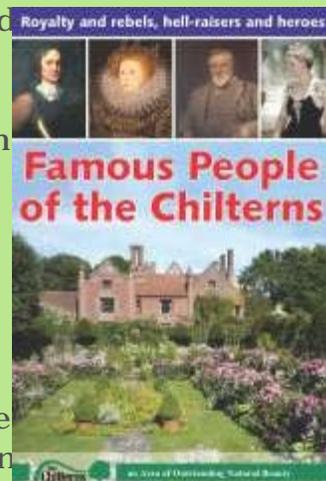
One positive this year was the establishment of an AONB Review Group to ensure that HS2 is designed to the highest standards as it passes through the Chilterns AONB. The Conservation Board will be urging that the design takes full account of the nationally-important landscape of the AONB, its special character and its setting and will be working closely with local communities in



## EVENTS

From self-guided walks, to Christmas crafts for children and opportunities to work off all those extra calories, check out our events page to see what is going on locally.

Browse our [Events listing](#) here!



## Chilterns books and gifts

You'll find a great range of walking and cycling publications, beautifully-illustrated books on heritage and wildlife, stunning red kite-themed gifts and specialist advice booklets in the [Chilterns AONB online shop](#).

All sales help the conservation of the

this work.

## Vacancies at the Board

On that, the Chilterns Conservation Board is recruiting a Programme Manager to lead the AONB Review Group (High Speed 2). This is an important role to get the best outcomes for the AONB so please help us to spread the word. [Closes 3 Jan.](#)



We are also recruiting a Development Manager to lead development of the HLF Landscapes Partnership Scheme, a really exciting opportunity to shape this important project. [Closes 25 Jan.](#)



Denham Village

## Bringing back the Bulbourne

You might notice work on the [Bulbourne](#) near Hemel Hempstead, from January!



The Chilterns Chalk Streams Project, The Box Moor Trust, and the Environment Agency are all working together on a project to restore the Bulbourne to a more natural chalk stream. This phase of work will last for six weeks and will help to create new wetland habitat and enhance the river corridor for people and wildlife.



Wendover

## And finally...

A coalition of 16 major environmental organisations has come together following the EU Referendum result to ask for protection for our special wildlife and wild places around the UK for future generations and to ask MPs to sign a [Pledge for the Environment](#).



## What's on

- We will be holding our annual Winter Scrub

Bash with the Chilterns Society on 19th January. To get involved please contact Neil Jackson on 01844 355523.

- Learn how to [restore traditional orchards](#) with our orchard pruning course on 21st January.
- Or brush up your skills with a one or two-day [hedgelaying](#) course for improvement from 28th January.



### What's new online

For those visiting from outside the AONB, the [Visit Chilterns](#) website has lots of information on winter walks starting at train stations within the Chilterns, alongside other great ideas and places to explore.



### How we can help

The Board can offer small amounts of funding to local voluntary and community groups and businesses, for projects which will enhance the Chilterns AONB and people's enjoyment of it. Visit our [Funding](#) page for more information.

### Blasted Oak, Chivery



### Meades Water Gardens

Photos by Chris Smith, Colin Drake, Richard Gilin and Allen Beechey

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