

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




Newsletter January 2017

## The year ahead


As January gets underway, we are looking forward to a busy year ahead in the Chilterns. We have many exciting projects planned for 2017, including the Buildings Design Awards, Taste of the Chilterns, Chilterns Walking Festival and 20th Anniversary of the Chalk Streams Project. These celebrate the distinct and vibrant Chilterns area and will offer residents, visitors, businesses and those living around the AONB with opportunities to benefit from all that the Chilterns has to offer.

The winter months are a busy time for us in our landscape work - the [Chilterns Woodland Project](#) is active advising and supporting owners on woodland management and the [Chilterns Chalk Streams Project](#) is also managing a range of restoration work, including on the River Bulbourne, which started this month and is already showing fantastic results.

On other matters, we are expecting that the HS2 Phase 1 Bill will gain Royal Assent in the next few weeks. 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. To this end we look

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## EVENTS

**From self-guided walks to rural skills, there are lots of opportunities to get out and about.**

forward to introducing you to the new HS2 Review Group Programme Manager, who will be based at our offices, in the next newsletter. The Review Group was set up last year on the Secretary of State's instruction in recognition of the special qualities of the Chilterns AONB – this was in response to petitions from the Conservation Board and Local Authorities. The Review Group is comprised of the Chilterns Conservation Board, Local Authorities, Natural England, and HS2 Ltd and is chaired by the Department for Transport. The work of the Review Group will focus on the design of the HS2 scheme through the Chilterns, with the aim of achieving an exemplar design in this sensitive landscape. Further information about the work of the Review Group and how to keep in touch with developments will be in the next newsletter.

### Chilterns Buildings Design Awards

Applications for our 2017 [Buildings Design Awards](#) are open! The Awards, which we run jointly with the Chiltern



Society, celebrate outstanding building design in the Chilterns. This is a great opportunity to showcase a successful building project and all are welcome to apply. Deadline 1 March.

### Chiltern's Festival of Food and Drink

We were delighted to secure funding from Defra's Great British Food Grant to



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 Chilterns.

deliver a 'Taste of the Chilterns'. The highlight will be the Festival of Food and Drink from 25 March- 2 April! The programme will include visits, events, meals and tastings and will be bookable from the end of January. Dates, locations and how to book will be published in the [Chilterns Food Magazine](#) and [Visit Chilterns](#).

## Chilterns Walking Festival

We have also secured LEADER funding for an exciting new [Chilterns Walking Festival](#), which will invite you to discover new areas of the countryside you care about, delve behind the scenes and taste local food and drink. The first festival programme will run from 15-29 May and will include guided walks and events, cherished seasonal highlights like woodland bluebell trails, and new themed walks including Chilterns food and drink, Iron Age Hillforts and popular culture such as Midsomer Murders filmed locations. More info on the new [Facebook page](#).



Winter sunrise, Latimer Chess Valley



Aston Rowant

## Vacancies at the Board

There is still time (just!) to apply for our Development Manager role to lead development of the HLF Landscapes Partnership Scheme, a really exciting opportunity to shape this important project. [Closes 25 Jan.](#)



We also have various volunteering opportunities available. At the moment, we are particularly

looking for those with journalistic skills to work on articles for "Outstanding Chilterns" magazine over the next few weeks; and a volunteer with bid-writing expertise to support some of our fundraising work - please contact Emma if you are able to help: [evandijk@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:evandijk@chilternsaonb.org)

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## What's on

- Brush up your skills with a one or two-day [hedgelaying](#) course for improvers from 28th January.
- Learn to [identify trees](#) in the Chilterns with an expert from the Chilterns Woodland Project on 24 February, organised by the Chiltern Society.
- Discover the history of your local woodland with our popular [woodland archaeology](#) course, 3 or 4 March.
- We are also taking bookings for [ancient woodland flora](#) days, 28 April and 10 May.



### What's new online

The [Visit Chilterns](#) website has new information on the [Food and Drink Festival](#) and [Walking Festival](#).



### How we can help

Visit our [Funding](#) page for more information on funding opportunities for local voluntary and community groups.



### River Wye restoration



### Red kite

Photos by Chilterns Woodland Project, Colin Drake, Chilterns Chalk Stream Project, Chris Smith

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