

COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY

Project Update 12: Winter 2012



Despite the wettest weather for 100 years, Countryside Mobility South West (CMSW) continued to grow during 2012. Since the scheme started in 2010, over 1000 people have used the Tramper buggies for over 2500 hours in total. At a top speed of 4mph that's a total distance of 10,000 miles!

During 2012, Tramper buggies became available for hire at a number of new countryside locations with Portland Quarries Nature Park (Dorset) the latest addition to the scheme. Ian White, one of the Paralympic Flame Ambassadors for Weymouth & Portland, was one of the first people to visit the site. Ian said: *"What a great experience I had visiting Tout Quarry on a Tramper thanks to the Wild About Weymouth and Portland Project. It gave me a safe and comfortable ride over very uneven tracks, where I would not have felt safe walking or using my wheelchair. I'm looking forward very much to my next visit."*



Ian at Tout Quarry, Portland

Two new Wheelyboat hire locations have also been confirmed in the last few months and these will become available for hire in spring 2013 at Wareham Boat Hire (Wareham, Dorset) and at Maunsel Lock Canal Centre on the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal (North Newton, Somerset).



Sourton Tramper Trip, Dartmoor

During the year CMSW worked with Exmoor and Dartmoor National Park staff to run a range of Tramper 'taster' walks and activities. These free events enabled small groups of people to explore places where Trampers can't permanently be based, and were a great opportunity for people to try a Tramper for the first time.

Over the summer CMSW staff also attended a number of rural shows and events to promote the scheme. Despite many being cancelled due to the poor weather a number went ahead and it was great to see there is a lot of interest and support out there for the scheme.

With 25 countryside sites now involved in the partnership, the South West continues to stand out as one of the best accessible outdoor visitor destinations in the UK thanks to all the partners involved in running the scheme.

Countryside Mobility Wins Award!



CMSW recently won an award for the schemes 'Unique Contribution to Independent Living' in the 2012 Breakthrough UK National Independent Living Awards!

The winners were announced on 3rd December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The awards are run by charity Breakthrough UK who work to promote the rights, responsibilities and respect of disabled people - www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk

Funding News...

CMSW received some great news towards the end of 2012 that will help Living Options Devon (the charity that operates the scheme) expand the scheme in 2013. The Nineveh Charitable Trust have kindly granted Living Options funding to buy four new Trampers that will go to new sites in 2013 and the Bruce Wake Charitable Trust generously donated funding to buy a fifth machine which is fantastic news.

Our application for extra BIG Lottery funding was also successful and is a huge boost to the scheme providing 'continuation' funding through to May 2014. Competition was very tough for the funding with only 12 out of 52 eligible projects being successful. This 'Supporting Change and Impact' funding has been awarded by Natural England and is an extension to the original 'Access to Nature' grant that Living Options secured in 2009. The funding will allow Living Options to continue to expand and develop the scheme in 2013 by employing two full time CMSW staff, carry out more promotion and advertising work and carry out research into different ways of running the scheme once the Lottery funding ends. This will help ensure that as many people as possible use the equipment and that many more partner sites become involved.

As part of the application process we had to demonstrate that the scheme has made an outstanding difference to the lives of people most in need. The funders told us our application was really strengthened by the feedback from CMSW members and our operational partners who took the time to write to us with details of how the scheme had benefited them or their organisation.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped by sending feedback.

Volunteering Opportunities...

As part of this new work CMSW will be looking for volunteers to help in the Exeter office and also 'out and about' helping to man a stand at shows and events in 2013. We are still putting together a list of work we will need help with but it will be varied with some 'one off' activities as well as regular tasks. We expect this to start in April. To register an interest in volunteering opportunities or for more information please contact us in either of the following ways:

Email: info@countrysidemobility.org

Telephone: 01392 459222.

Cornwall Rolling Ramblers

Steve is an active member of the CMSW Steering Group and is also involved with Cornwall Rolling Ramblers. Steve has written some information about the group for this newsletter to share with other like minded people:

Cornwall rolling Ramblers are a friendly group of mixed ages and genders who meet up twice a month throughout the summer and ramble all over Cornwall and parts of Devon. Some of us are disabled, some of us just can't walk as far as we would like. Our rambles are varied, many are on multiuse path's such as the Camel Trail, the Drakes trail, Tarka Trail and the Granite way. We also ramble on beaches, moorland, forests and alongside canals. We even have the few members who get really muddy, if that's your interest!



A few of us use Trampers, others use medium or large conventional scooters. If you don't have or cannot transport your own scooter that is not a problem as we have teamed up with 'Scoot-a-Long' who help us out and hire scooters. For those who cannot transport themselves to a ramble we often share transport. Friends and family are welcome to join us as are pets. Whatever your interest, from a gentle ramble along the Camel trail to something a little more taxing over the moors we're sure you will find something to interest you.

If you are interested, why not visit the website at www.cornwallrr.org.uk where you will find a list of the rambles the group have done over the past few years as well as photos. You can contact us by e-mailing steve@divingcornwall.com or calling Steve on **01209 712194**.

Send us your photos

Have you taken any photos whilst out and about on Trampler's or Wheelyboats? If so, we would love to see them and with your permission we would like to use them on our website and for other promotional work. Please email photos to:

info@countrysidemobility.org or post them on our Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/CountrysideMobility>

Find us on Twitter and Facebook

Our newsletters are published every six months but you can also keep up to date with Countryside Mobility news, details of events and notifications of new sites by becoming a Facebook friend or by following us on Twitter:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CountrysideMobility
Twitter: [@CMSouthWest](https://twitter.com/CMSouthWest)



New 2013 Trampler sites

A full list of the current Trampler sites is included at the end of this newsletter and we are currently in the final stages of 'negotiations' with a number of new sites for 2013, but can't give out new site information at this time in case things don't quite go according plan. Our aim for next year is to try and fill some of the gaps within the south west which will hopefully mean Trampers in Somerset and Wiltshire...

Isle of Portland (Now available!)

A Trampler can be hired from the Heights Hotel www.heightshotel.com on the Isle of Portland as part of the 'Wild About Weymouth and Portland' project: www.wawap.co.uk.



The island's quarrying history has shaped the landscape with fascinating archaeological features such as massive dry stone walls known as 'beaches', with fossil filled rocks and old horse drawn tramways, tunnels, bridges and arches. Hundreds of species of plants and animals depend on the limestone and maritime grasslands found within these quarries and along the coast,

including Portland's own special Silver-studded blue butterfly. There are also sculptures to find amongst the landscape and fabulous views of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site.

The Trampler can be used to explore **Tout Quarry Nature Reserve and Sculpture Park** and **King Barrow Quarry and High Angle Battery**, a scheduled ancient monument and fine example of Victorian military architecture. The Heights Hotel has accessible parking and access to toilets and refreshments. The Trampler is available on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm, and on other occasions by arrangement if staff or volunteers are available. Phone: **07973 907760** or **01305 228955** or email:

l.d.cooch@dorsetcc.gov.uk

National Trust Arlington Court - from spring 2013

Arlington Court and the National Carriage Museum, near Barnstaple, will have a Countryside Mobility Trampler available for hire in spring 2013.

The Regency house contains treasures for all tastes, from model ships to shells, all collected by the Chichester family. The 19th-century picturesque garden is a perfect place to explore and the walled kitchen garden provides fruit and vegetables for the tea-room and flowers for the house. The tranquil estate, abundant with wildlife, includes an ancient heronry and is perfect to explore with a Trampler. The Carriage Museum in the stables has a vehicle for every occasion.



Snowdrop Valley, Exmoor...

For the first time our Trampers will be used to enable people with limited mobility to access the beautiful Snowdrop Valley near Wheddon Cross on Exmoor in February.

Countryside Mobility will run 2 'guided' trips per day on the 5th, 13th and 19th February. The route is bumpy and steep in places but 'Tramper Training' will be provided before each trip. Trips will run at 11.00 am and at 1.00 pm, and will take about 2 hours for the trip. Friends and family welcome on the walks.

Phone **01392 459222** or email info@countrysidemobility.org for more details.



2013 Tramper Taster Events...

Once again we are running some FREE Tramper taster days in 2013 on Exmoor and Dartmoor. The events enable people to explore places or take part in activities in places where our Trampers can't permanently be based. As spaces are limited, priority is given to people who have not yet had an opportunity to try out a Tramper, but existing members can still come along and take part if spaces are available. **Phone 01392 459222 or email info@countrysidemobility.org to book your place:**



- **Nutcome Bottom, Dunster, 'Big Adventure Day': 29th May.**
- **Wimbleball Lake, nr Dulverton, 'Wheels, water and moorland' walk: 30th May.**
- **Haddon Hill, nr Bampton, 'Big Adventure Day': 24th July.**
- **Haddon Hill, nr Bampton, Exmoor Pony Event: 28th August.**
- **North Hill, Minehead, 'Big Adventure Day': 31st August.**
- **Webbers Post, nr Wheddon Cross, 'Big Adventure Day': 30th October.**

Walks and events on Dartmoor are currently being planned and we will circulate dates and locations later this year. Details of all 2013 events will be listed on our website so make sure you check regularly for locations and more information.

COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY WHEELYBOAT SITES

1. Siblyback Lake Country Park , Cornwall	01579 346522
2. Stithians Lake Country Park , Cornwall	01209 860301
3. Tamar Lakes Country Park , Cornwall	01288 321712
4. Roadford Lake Country Park , Devon	01409 211507
5. Haven Banks , Devon	01392 434668
6. Wimbleball Lake Country Park , Somerset	01398 371460

COUNTRYSIDE MOBILITY TRAMPER SITES

Trampers can be hired from the following sites:

1. Mount Edgcumbe , Torpoint, Cornwall	01752 822236
2. Siblyback Lake Country Park , Cornwall	01579 346522
3. Penrose Estate , nr Helston, Cornwall	01326 561407
4. Bude Canal and Whalesborough Farm , Cornwall	01288 362234
5. Trebah Gardens , Falmouth, Cornwall	01326 252200
6. Buckland Abbey , Yelverton, Devon	01822 856045
7. Stover Country Park , Newton Abbot, Devon	01626 325800
8. Haldon Forest Park , Exeter, Devon	01392 834251
9. The Granite Way , Okehampton, Devon	01837 861141
10. Tamar Trails , Gunnislake, Devon	01822 833409
11. Saltram Estate , Plymouth, Devon	01752 333503
12. Heddon Valley , Exmoor, Devon	01598 763306
13. Grand Western Canal , Tiverton, Devon	01884 820728
14. RHS Rosemoor Gardens , Torrington (2), Devon	01805 626810
15. Seale Hayne , Newton Abbot (2), Devon	01626 325800
16. Tarka Trail , Fremington Quay, Devon	01271 372586
17. Durlston Country Park , Dorset	01929 424443
18. RSPB Arne , Wareham, Dorset	01929 553360
19. Holton Lee , Wareham, Dorset	01202 625562
20. Isle of Portland , Dorset	01305 228955
21. Crickley Hill Country Park , Gloucestershire	01452 863170
22. Batsford Arboretum (2), Gloucestershire	01386 701441
23. Wimbleball Lake Country Park , Somerset	01398 371460

Full details of all sites can be found at www.countryside-mobility.org

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. For more information please visit our website or contact us:

Tel: 01392 459222 **Email: info@countryside-mobility.org**

