

RANGER REPORT 02/09/2024 – 25/11/2024

Looking Back		Volunteering	Activity	Educational/Conservation	Other
Date	Event	Outcome			
09/09/24 – 19/09/24	Cranbrook Education Campus (CEC) Country Park Session	The Ranger hosted lessons in the Country Park for CEC students ranging from reception to year 6. The Ranger focused the sessions on the roles of the Country Park and the biology and benefits of trees. The Ranger did find that unfortunately the most of sessions were disengaged and teachers had a slight lack of control over the students. The Ranger raised this with the head of the campus and primary years after the sessions were complete. The head of campus acknowledged the feedback. No feedback was given from the campus as whole to determine if the sessions were of value.			
19/09/24	Lichen Course	The Ranger attended a Lichen Identification course in Exmouth hosted by Devon Wildlife Trust. The session was insightful and holds potential for an activity to be hosted in the Country Park.			
04/10/24	Grounds Maintenance Work Review	The Ranger met with a representative from the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to review the remaining works required after Lee Farm Services cut the meadow grass. Minimal work was required to be complete. What did remain was small pockets of land that a tractor could not access.			
10/10/24	Home Education: Seed Gathering	The Ranger hosted a seed gathering session with members from the Home Education Community throughout the surrounding areas of Exeter. A total of 20+ attended the session. The Ranger then handed out planting instruction for attendees to carry out at home. A future seed planting session will take place in the Country Park for those who were successful.			
11/10/24	EON Volunteer day	The Ranger had expected to have grant funded trees arrive by this date for EON staff to plant as part of their volunteer day. However, trees were delayed and as such the session was postponed to a later date.			
17/10/24	Happy To Chat Bench	The Ranger alongside the Councils preferred Handy Person installed the Happy To Chat Bench which was funded by the County Councillors Locality Budget. The bench has had positive feedback and was the post that received the most feedback on social media platforms in October according to the Communication Officer.			

18/10/24	Star Gazing Event.	Event Co-Hosted by Space Exe – Exeter Uni society. Following the popular event last year the Ranger organised another session for this year. Unfortunately, despite the popularity once again, it had to be postponed due to weather. A rescheduled date is yet to be confirmed but the Ranger and Space Exe society are still keen to reorganise.
24/10/24	Home Education Seed Planting	The Ranger hosted a seed planting session for future wildflowers. This involved cultivating the ground and then sowing Yellow Rattle seeds. Yellow Rattle is ideal for wildflowers meadows as it reduces the nutrients in the surrounding ground minimising grass specie growth. Wildflowers then thrive in the poorly nutritious ground.
25/10/24	Streetlink – Rough Sleeper Meeting	The Ranger, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Chair met with East Devon District Councils Streetlink representatives to discuss procedures for dealing with Rough Sleepers. The meeting allowed Cranbrook Town Council to gain an understanding as to what steps are taken and what protocols are in place to help those in need.
27/10/24	EX5 Alive Halloween Event and Scavenger Hunt	The Ranger attended and hosted a stall where children could decorate their own ghoulish leaves as well as handing out scavenger hunt sheets for the Witch Hunt held in the Country Park. Children seemed to enjoy the decorating. The Ranger was grateful for the volunteers from the Nordic Walking Group who helped on the day. Despite handing out on average 100 Witch Hunt sheets the event did not seem as popular as last year. Participants could claim rewards from the Younghayes after completion. An estimated 12 children came to claim prizes. The event was on throughout the 2 weeks of half term. The Ranger found 2 of the Witches missing when taking them down after the event finished.
4/11/24	England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) Seminar	The Ranger attended a seminar for the EWCO grant which is funding the Devon Woods tree planting project in the Country Park. The seminar was beneficial as the Ranger now has a further understanding of the grant and its requirements. It was also good to talk to other site managers applying for the grant across Devon and Cornwall.
13/11/24	Careers Fare	The Ranger, Deputy Clerk and Communication Officer attended the Cranbrook Education Campus Careers Fare. Year 6-11 attended, students were engaged and interested in the roles of the Council and how to obtain a career in nature/ land management.
	Volunteering – Meadow Creation	The Ranger has host 3 sessions to create a wildflower meadow in Great Meadow. The Ranger had asked for the Grounds Maintenance team to remove the top layer of grass, but the ground was too saturated on both occasions, as such it was required to be completed by hand. Like the Home Ed event, Yellow Rattle was sown to reduce nutrients and competition. Next year wildflower seeds will be planted over the Yellow Rattle.
	Volunteering – Tree Planting	The Ranger received 420 trees from the Woodland Trust which are being planted in the Country Park. The trees selected were picked for their year-round colour and their benefit to wildlife. The Ranger is hosting 2 sessions weekly for tree planting which is well attended.

Grants & Applications	Outcome
Devon Woods Project	The Ranger has received written confirmation of funding, however, there has been a discrepancy in the final total which is being investigated before approval. Once confirmed the Ranger will have 3 years to use the funding to get the trees in the ground. The Ranger hopes to get the first compartment of trees in the ground from January. There is still high interest from the community and local groups to be involved.
Maintenance	
Devon Wildlife Consultants	The Habitat Management Plan has been provided by Devon Wildlife Consultants (see attached Appendix 7a. document for reference). The Ranger and Grounds Maintenance team are completing tasks to work towards the plan's goals: Wildflower meadow creation and tree planting.

Looking Forward

		Volunteering	Activity	Educational/Conservation	External
Date	Event				
	Tree Planting	The Ranger will continue to host tree planting sessions throughout the season. The Ranger hopes to be able to start the Devon Woods Project planting at the start of the new year.			
	Devon County Tree Planting	Devon County funded tree project should be underway in the new year.			
	Willow Whip planting	Pruning of existing Willows and planting whips to increase tree density, mitigate flood risk and support local biodiversity. The Ranger will also investigate into creating another Willow feature as per the Habitat Management Plan suggestion.			
	Orchard tree pruning	Volunteer session, pruning required orchard trees in and around the Country Park.			