

# Discover the Mendip Hills AONB

## The Pound, Rodney Stoke

During April, the parish council have been restoring the lime mortared walls of The Pound. The area was originally where stray animals used to be held until owners claimed them. It is now a popular amenity area for residents and visitors and acts as a memorial of Rodney Stoke as a thankful village. The walling work has been led by Woodlouse Conservation training local volunteers. The AONB Sustainable Development Fund provided a grant for the work.

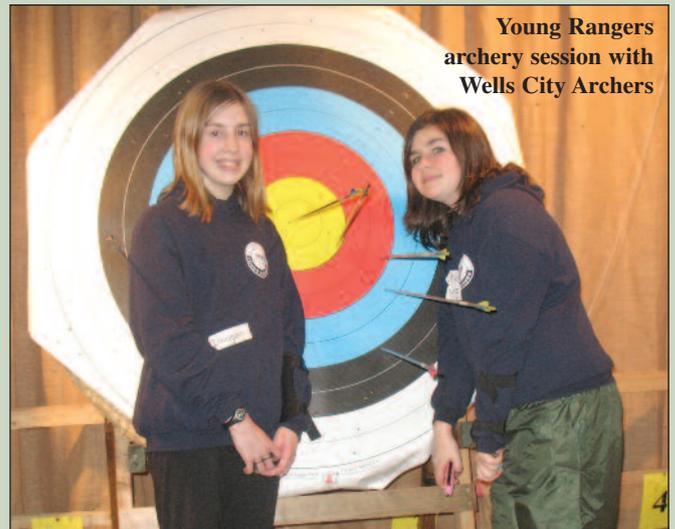


## Mendip Rocks August 25th – October 1st

Following on from the Mendip Hills AONB Annual Forum 2009 that discussed bidding for European Geopark status for the Mendip Hills, this is the first of what is hoped will be an annual event as part of a wider programme to encourage interest and understanding of the area's unique geodiversity.

Somerset Earth Science Centre are holding several events including activities at Wells Museum and visit to a Silurian volcano, there are also visits to Westbury Quarry, Avon Wildlife Trust's Dolebury Nature Reserve, a cave trip and a guided walk to look at the stone buildings of Wells.

Both programmes of events are being organised by Wells and Mendip Museum and Somerset Wildlife Trust in partnership with the Mendip Hills AONB unit. The programmes will be available on the AONB and Museum web sites. If you have an event you would like included contact Jane Hill: jane.hill@somersetwildlife.org



Young Rangers archery session with Wells City Archers

## Become a Mendip Hills AONB Young Ranger!

We are recruiting for the new two-year programme that will begin in September 2011 and run until July 2013. There are places for 15 young people aged 11 – 15 who live in or near the AONB. Activities take place one Saturday per month except August and December with an overnight camp each year. Activities include first aid and navigation, star gazing, practical tasks and learning about the AONB.

Further information and the application form will be available on the website in May. City of Wells has sponsored a place this year and Cheddar, Compton Martin, Rodney Stoke, Ubley, Shipham and Churchill parish councils have provided funding towards this scheme. Young people from these parishes are particularly encouraged to apply.



Young Rangers assisting Rickford community orchard work

## Mendip Hills AONB Festival of Archaeology 16th – 31st July

This year's programme includes a wide variety of events, walks and talks across the AONB. The adventurous can go on caving expeditions in Burrington Combe to discover prehistoric ritual markings. Families can enjoy paper mosaic making at Weston-super-Mare museum and Stone Age activities at Cheddar Caves. For those who prefer the outdoors there will be guided walks around Cadbury-Congresbury hillfort, East Harptree village, Black Down and Charterhouse. Budding archaeologists can have a go at geophysical surveying in the Winscombe area. There will also be talks on a variety of subjects such as 'The history of Chewton Mendip through old maps' plus an exciting archaeology seminar to be held at the Blakehay Theatre, Weston-super-Mare which will include a talk on vernacular architecture.

The full programme will be available in June.

The Mendip Hills AONB Unit is the voice of the protected landscape, working with landowners and the local community to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. [www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk)  
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