

Steward Community Woodland Under Threat MESSAGE TO SUPPORTERS - Spring 2017

Procession to the National Park HQ 'Taking the Woods to the Park' – Mon 3rd April

On Mon 3rd April during the Easter school holidays, we invite you to take part in the Procession to the National Park HQ near Bovey Tracey to deliver our petition calling on the Park to continue to allow us to live here and run this successful and much loved project. We will also deliver a copy of the recently published book 'Settlements' which documents various low impact settlements in the UK including Steward Community Woodland. We will then have a picnic during which time there will be speeches along with acoustic music, storytelling, juggling etc. Children and families are especially welcome.

Route - The Procession will go along the Wray Valley Trail (*not* along the road) starting south of Lustleigh on Lower Knowle Rd (see below for location) and finishing at the National Park HQ on the Parke Estate. This is approximately one and a half miles.

Starting point: SX 799794 <<https://goo.gl/maps/XWeNHc1yEAm>> GPS 50.607053, -3.706123.

Timing – We will depart from the walk starting point at 10.30am and arrive at the HQ at approx Midday.

Atmosphere - Although there is a serious message to the Procession, we invite a carnival atmosphere, creating a sense of celebration, community and solidarity. This is, after all, what we wish to see more of in this world. We invite you to bring placards, banners, lots of colour, costume, and to be creative.

Parking & Shuttling – There is no parking available at the beginning of the trail so please park your car in one of the three carparks in Bovey Tracey. We will have a minibus shuttling between the Station Rd carpark (by the Tourist Info booth) to the beginning of the trail from 9.45am to 11am. To reduce the number of people needing shuttling, drivers please drop your passengers if possible at the start of the trail en route to Bovey Tracey.

Lift Share – To organise lift shares, please go to <<http://www.stewardwood.org/carshare.ghtml>>.

Returning to your car – From the National Park HQ, it is a 15 minute walk to Bovey Tracey.

National Trust carpark at the Parke Estate – For those people unable to walk with the Procession for whatever reason, please park in the NT carpark at Parke and join the Procession as we arrive at the HQ at approx midday. If you are walking on the Procession, however, we ask that you do not park at Parke.

Camping at SCW – You are welcome to camp at SCW if you need to during the weekend and on Monday – please arrange this with us.

There is a free event immediately prior to the Procession:

Willow Animal Making Workshop – Over the weekend, two experienced willow weavers are creating a Leaping Deer to be carried on the Procession, tying in with our theme of 'Taking the Woods to the Park'. You can come along and get involved. There will also be materials and instruction for you and your children to make willow butterflies to take on the Procession. This will be taking place at:

Moretonhampstead Parish Hall

Sat 1st April 10am-4pm

Sun 2nd April 10am-1pm

Please come and join the fun! Children to be accompanied by an adult. This is a **FREE** event but we will be asking for small donations to cover the cost of materials and hall hire.

Finally...

DNPA staff & officers - We wish the Procession in *no way to be confrontational* with the officers and staff at the Park. In fact, we wish to emphasise that we are all in the same boat – we are all human beings living on this fragile Planet Earth and that what's needed is to *work together* to find ways to heal our tremendously damaged ecosystems.

The wider context – Although the threat to SCW is the central reason for the Procession, this is, of course, within the wider context of the Park's policies and their implementation, and the state of the environment in general. Thus, we invite these wider themes to be a part of the Procession.

Media – We will, of course, be inviting the media to attend.

Help Needed – There's lots to be organised for this event. If you wish to be involved in helping to organise and/or publicise the Procession, please let us know (contact details below).

Ways You Can Support

There are various ways to actively support the project as we head into the most crucial time for SCW since its beginnings in 2000.

- **PROCESSION** – Mon 3rd April
Please see above.

- **CHECK OUT OUR GREAT FILM**

Please watch and share our recent video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4m1UakIAOg> produced by Nick Rosen of Offgrid.net and watch this space for more short films about the project and our way of life in the woods.

- **SIGN OUR PETITION**

If you haven't done so already, please sign and share our petition to Dartmoor National Park <www.stewardwood.org/petition>.

- **SPREAD THE WORD**

It is vital to get the word out to as many people as possible of our situation. Please share our Facebook posts, videos and emails with people who may be interested in the project.

- **SUPPORTERS FORUM**

If you have an account on our Supporters Forum, this can be used to discuss ideas and for help with the organisation of the Procession. Go to <save.stewardwood.org>, log in and click Supporters Forum.

If you don't have an account and would like one, please register at:

<stewardwood.org/supporters-register/>.

- **DONATIONS**

If you wish to donate to support our campaign to save the project, please go to

<www.stewardwood.org/donations.ghtml>.

We are SO grateful for your continued support throughout this challenging time for us here at the woods. We are determined to continue our fight to stay on this land that we love, for us, for the woods, for our volunteers and supporters and all others who also dream of living this way.

Much love and gratitude
The folk at Steward Wood

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www.stewardwood.org

www.facebook.com/StewardCommunityWoodland