

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

A special date for your diary

The Discovery Day on Sunday 16th March 2008 promises to be a fun-packed day-long celebration of two of North Devon's most valuable treasures: the North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and North Devon's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. To be held at The Milky Way Adventure Park this first-of-its-kind event is set to be seriously entertaining and informative.

Richard Butler, Chairman of the AONB partnership explains, "On Sunday 16th March we will be celebrating North Devon's world class Biosphere Reserve and our outstanding coastal AONB. Through a rich and diverse programme of exhibitions, creative hands-on activities, guided walks, and performances of music and poetry, people will be able to explore and discover what it is that makes these two areas so special. We hope that everyone will put it in their diaries and join us on the day."

Richard continues, "There are few places where you can weave a willow sculpture, throw a pot, create a landscape, sample local food, make music from junk, be captivated by North Devon-inspired song and poetry, get face-to-face with native and exotic animals, learn about our local area, enjoy local art work and photography, and meet the many organisations who look after our precious landscape, and all in one day!"

The theme for the day is the cultural landscape and the relationship between people and the local landscape over time; a theme that will be interpreted in a multitude of fun and colourful ways by the many exhibitors, artists, schools and parish groups.

The event is open to all and entry is free to the main Discovery Day event (there will be a charge to go on the Milky Way Adventure Park rides). Visit www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk for more information.

The Discovery Day also forms part of 'Devon Rocks', a Devon County Council initiative to celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth in 2008. For more information about that visit: www.devon.gov.uk/devonrocks.

-Ends-

Notes for Editors

Photo opportunity:

- **10:15am, Sunday March 16th 2008, The Milky Way Adventure Park** for the official Discovery Day opening ceremony. Local dignitaries, AONB 'Champions' and visitors will assemble for short opening speech/s. ReCyc (the Barnstaple Junk Band for 11-18yrs) are still to be confirmed, but it is hoped they will play straight after the opening. You are welcome to photograph the many activities taking place throughout the day.

Press pack:

- A press pack will be available nearer the time. Contact Nickie Moore to request a pack 07875 207822 nickie.moore@devon.gov.uk

Contacts:

- **Discovery Day contact:**
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For more information about the North Devon AONB and our work visit: www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk

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For more information about the North Devon Biosphere Reserve visit: www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk

Discovery Day Participants (as of 23rd January 2008)

- Appledore Visual Arts Festival
- Babelfish, with Chris Millington (folk musicians)
- Baron & Brady (folk musicians)
- Braund Society of Bucks Mills
- Braunton Burrows
- British Geological Survey
- Channel Arts Association
- David Kennard & Swift
- Devon Archaeological Society
- Devon Artist Network
- DAISI (Devon Arts in Schools Initiative)
- Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society
- Devon County Historic Environment Service
- Devon Record Office
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency (TBC)
- Exmoor Zoo
- Explore Braunton Project
- Explore North Devon - Barnstaple & North Devon Museum
- Lantern FM (TBC)
- Little Gallery on the Farm
- Littleham & Landcross Parish Council
- Lundy Island
- Frances Thompson (poet)
- Fremington Parish Council
- Margaret & Pat Pidler
- Maritime Volunteer Service (Taw Torridge Area)
- North Devon Walking Festival
- The National Trust
- Natural England
- North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- North Devon Arts
- North Devon District Council
- North Devon Festival
- North Devon Libraries
- North Devon Marketing Bureau
- North Devon Records Office
- North Devon's Biosphere Reserve
- Northern Devon Coast & Countryside Service
- Orchards Live
- ReCyc (North Devon Young Peoples Junk Band) TBC
- Robin Mellor (poet)
- Sam Smith (poet)
- Taw Torridge Estuary Forum
- Torridge District Council
- The Yarner Trust

Background information:

The North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a stunning coastal area, which is nationally protected for the beauty of its landscape. It is made up of several distinct landscapes, each with their own special habitats and geology with many of them receiving extra protection in their own right. The AONB contains many Sites of Special Scientific Interest including Braunton Burrows, which is the core of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The AONB covers 171 km sq of the coastal landscape from Marsland Mouth on the Cornish border to the boundary of Exmoor National Park.

The AONB partnership comprises: Natural England, Devon County Council, Torridge District Council, North Devon District Council, Environment Agency, National Farmers Union, Tarka Country Trust and Tarka Foundation, Country Landowners and Business Association, National Trust, Taw Torridge Estuary Forum, Forestry Commission, South West Forest, North Devon Marketing Bureau and the North Devon Economic Partnership.

The North Devon Biosphere Reserve - North Devon has always been one of the finest unspoilt locations in the UK and is now home to Britain's first new style world class UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, where conservation and sustainable development go hand in hand. The UNESCO accolade has been awarded on the basis that this place can demonstrate a high quality environment where there is a community that is willing to develop in harmony with that environment. It not just about dunes! The area's designation was based not just on the fact we have the amazing dune system managed by Christie Estates for many generations; but the Biosphere Reserve covers the entire northern half of Devon where we have a whole mix of internationally important interlinked habitats and a caring community.

The Biosphere Reserve is supported by Devon County Council, North Devon District Council, Torridge District Council and Natural England.