

# mini event



Tennis racket balance race  
DC5343P01



Relay race  
DC5343P06



Hockey race  
DC5343P02



Jumping race  
DC5343P10



Handing the baton over  
DC5343P14



Ball race  
DC5343P05



The start of the relay race  
DC5343P13



Western Downland Primary School  
DC5343P03



Hale Primary School  
DC5343P04



Waiting for the next race



Breamore primary school  
DC5343P11

# Demini heads for South Africa to aid good cause

By **Miranda Robertson**

[miranda.robertson@salisburyjournal.co.uk](mailto:miranda.robertson@salisburyjournal.co.uk)



A TEAROOM owner has sold up and flown out to help children in South Africa after falling in love with the country.

Demini Aves, who ran Hyde Tearooms, visited South Africa earlier in the year, and when she returned she decided to sell the lease.

Now she is desperately trying to raise £1,595 to secure a building where children with special needs are cared for.

The Rekgathile special needs home is a small house which takes in children from families who cannot care for them.

The children have various special needs such as Down's syndrome and autism, and they depend on volunteers such as Ms Aves to care for them. The home is struggling to provide food and clothes, much of which is provided by the volunteers, but the home is in desperate need of extra support and funds. Ms Aves said: "It is a very sad story, unfortunately not one unique to South Africa."

"The owner of the house where the children stay is desperate to sell. This would

leave the children homeless and with no care.

"The owner of Siyafunda Wildlife and Conservation, who I work for, has begged the owner not to sell if we can raise the funds to buy the house, for £2,175.

"We have already raised enough for a deposit of £580. Once the house is secure we want to carry out renovations and continue to improve their standard of living."

Ms Aves is helping at Siyafunda Wildlife and Conservation in Makalali Game Reserve, which not only works to educate people in how to care for their animals but gets involved in many side projects too, such as the care home.

To offer help, search for Rekgathile special needs home on Facebook or email [dem@siyafundaconservation.com](mailto:dem@siyafundaconservation.com).

■ PRIZES are on offer for rural businesses from the Wessex region who complete a survey.

The Heart of Wessex Local Action Group is working with local communities and businesses in order to write a bid for funding.

They would like to hear from people involved in farming, small businesses in rural areas, people providing community

services or facilities in a rural setting, or who promote low-carbon, energy efficiency or climate resilience or who work in restoring, preserving and enhancing eco systems dependent upon agriculture and forestry.

To find out more about the scheme and to take the survey go to [surveymonkey.com/s/HeartOfWessexRuralBusinessSurvey](http://surveymonkey.com/s/HeartOfWessexRuralBusinessSurvey).

# New Forest Commoner

## System of landscape control

FOR all its wilderness qualities the New Forest is an area that has actually been managed for more than a thousand years.

Generations of commoners and their free-roaming ponies and cattle have maintained the landscape and, through their traditional practices, provided for a diversity of plants and wildlife.

As a result the New Forest boasts many scarce species and habitats including lowland heath, which is even rarer than tropical rain forest.

Over the last 100 years Britain has lost approximately 80 per cent of its heathland.

The New Forest, however, remains a stronghold for this incredible habitat.

Lowland heath is characterised by the heathers, bracken and gorse that cover its terrain.

These natural resources have always been harvested and managed by the commoners of the New Forest.

The utility of the heathland vegetation to the commoning way of life has ensured its survival and along with it the many species of insect, vertebrates, small mammals and birds.

Ling heather, particularly,

New Forest Commoner is a novice learning about and practising an ancient way of life

had many uses, such as basket making, brushes and besoms, rope making, bedding, dye, fuel, thatching and wattle.

The flowers could even be used to make a satisfying tea or heather ale. Bracken from the heathland was used for roofing, bedding for livestock or mixed into their feed for bulk. Even the prickly gorse could be harvested with care and was used for fuel or fodder during the hard winter months.

It was widely regarded as a medicinal tonic and its flowers could also be used to make a popular variety of wine. Improving standards of living and advances in farming, technology, medicine and conservation techniques meant that the labour-intensive harvesting and land management practices that maintained the heathland were no longer necessary.

Nowadays the preservation of the heathland continues to rely upon the grazing of the commoners' animals but



regular mechanical cutting of the bracken and controlled burning of vegetation is employed to mimic historical management practices.

The free-roaming ponies and cattle prefer to feed upon the younger-age classes of heather and gorse, so the management techniques of the heathland encourages new growth, which creates food for commoning stock but is also beneficial to a huge variety of flora and fauna. This cycle of management, which has lasted for hundreds of years if maintained, will offer the New Forest heathland the prospect of relative ecological stability for years to come.

Read more at [newforestcommoner.wordpress.com](http://newforestcommoner.wordpress.com) or follow me on Twitter @Forest\_Commoner

## ARE YOU AFFECTED BY A SERIOUS INJURY?

Lee Geohagen suffered a serious head injury in a road traffic accident aged 14

For specialist help and support  
Call: 01722 447 430  
Google 'Novum Law'

NOVUM LAW

Scan here to watch Mr Geohagen's video

