

Pupils help launch new book about Forest wildlife

YORKLEY School's nature and book clubs helped launch a new book about the wildlife of the Forest.

Blakeney-based author Andy Seed and award-winning local illustrator Kate Sheppard worked with experts from the Foresters' Forest project, Forestry England and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

The book entitled *Wildlife of the Forest* reveals the range of habitats and multitude of species which live in the Forest of Dean.

Andy Seed said: "The wildlife of the Forest is amazingly rich and varied, and so it has been quite a challenge to do it justice with this project.

"The aim was to create a book which brings alive local habitats and their fascinating plants and animals for children so that they come to understand and value the

nature around them.

"The publication has hundreds of wonderful photos of Forest wildlife, many taken by local enthusiasts, plus high-quality illustrations and a bold, colourful design. I was particularly grateful for the detailed help I was given by experts in the Forest's mammals, birds, reptiles, trees and more.

"They have helped make the book into something really special."

Kate Burke, headteacher at Yorkley Primary School said: "We are so privileged to have Andy Seed living and writing about our local area, not only inspiring our next generation of children about the Forest of Dean through a love of reading but by educating them about the amazing wildlife and nature that surrounds us."

The book will also be on sale at local outlets such as the Coleford Tourist Information Centre.



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10 Fun Facts about Easter!



The Easter Bunny legend began in Germany



The holiday was named after the Anglo-Saxon Goddess, Eostre



More than 1.5 million Cadbury Creme Eggs are produced every day



The act of painting eggs originates from a Ukrainian tradition



The world's largest Easter egg weighs in at 5000lbs



Pretzels used to be associated with Easter



The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in Bristol in 1873



In Germany, it is illegal to dance on Good Friday



Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the full moon following March 21st



In 2007, an Easter egg sold for £9 million

HAPPY
Easter

Go-ahead for ‘innovative’ indoor farm in Lydney

“THE world’s largest indoor farm” can now officially start growing after councillors green lit plans to convert the site of a former metal foundry in Lydney.

Food producer the Jones Food Company (JFC) has secured permission from Forest of Dean District Council to change the use of the former JD Norman metal foundry site on Tutnalls Street, in order to create a new state-of-the-art hydroponic indoor farm.

Works to build the innovative new facility, which will use robots and cover the equivalent of 70 tennis courts on 17 levels, began last

year after the company secured permission to demolish a tower at the site next to the A48 Bypass.

JFC said the multi-million pound ‘Garden of England’ development will help them achieve their aim of supplying 70 per cent of the UK’s fresh produce to supermarkets within the next ten years, and that the facility will “comfortably” be the biggest of its kind in the world!



Art trail ‘From the Forest to the Sea’ is being created at Lydney

Harbour ...

As part of Forest of Dean District Council’s ‘Destination Lydney Harbour’ regeneration project, a new art trail titled ‘From the Forest to the Sea’ is to be installed in stages, beginning in April, it was announced March 28th.

“Inspired by the harbour’s role in the Forest of Dean’s industrial past and the natural beauty of the site, a new art trail has been created by artist duo, Denman Gould,” said a district council spokesperson.

Together the sculptures will raise awareness and understanding of Lydney Harbour, and create a destination for a diverse audience to engage with the unique history of the harbour. We can’t wait for people to come down to the harbour and experience it for themselves.”

The art trail will be followed by the installation of a lit footpath along Harbour Road from Lydney Train Station down to the privately-owned former Pine End Works site next to the harbour, this will also see the resurfacing of Harbour road. This work will be led by Gloucestershire Highways and is expected to begin later this year.



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Former diving centre could be used to trial underwater living!

A COMPANY is considering using the flooded quarry at the former National Diving and Activity Centre (NDAC) site in Tidenham as a scientific research facility to see if people can live deep underwater in pods.

Forest of Dean District Councillors were recently given a confidential briefing about the potential future for the former NDAC site, which is understood to have new owners after the centre’s sudden closure last month.

The councillors were told that the company, which has been “very selective” about the information it has provided, is doing research

and development for equipment to allow people to live deep underwater. The company may invest around £150m in the site off of the A48 near Chepstow, and could also employ around 100 people. One councillor said “The didn’t tell us their company name, we only know it was for a deep engineering facility”.

Watch this space!



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