

Welcome aboard!

Rounding up latest news from two of our vital sectors

New Dartmoor help



PICTURED: Visit Dartmoor is now in charge of attracting more visitors to enjoy the 368-square miles of rugged scenery in this very special landscape

With its stunning geography and wildlife, Dartmoor certainly deserves to be shouted about.

This task has recently fallen to Jenny How and Simon Lloyd, who have set up Visit Dartmoor.

The firm has just become the official tourism partner to Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) and is now in charge of attracting more visitors to enjoy the 368-square miles of rugged scenery in this very special landscape.

Jenny and Simon, who also run *Active Dartmoor* magazine, are already familiar faces in the area's business community.

But the pair are hoping to get to know

even more Dartmoor firms so they can all work together to help promote this incredible part of Devon.

"I love the moors, it's my passion," says Jenny.

"This job is not a hardship for me at all. Everybody that we have dealt with so far has been so great. We've spent a lot of time talking to people, introducing ourselves and explaining what we're about.

"We're finding our way but we're on the right track."

Jenny has organised a series of 'business showcase days' to help local firms to see what Visit Dartmoor does, with more networking events are in the pipeline.

To find out more, see visitdartmoor.co.uk

More women on the water

Girls just wanna have fun on the water, according to a new survey.

Female participation 'in any boating activity' is steadily growing with more women making it their pastime of choice. National figures, released by the British Marine Federation, show 6.2 per cent of participants in boating and watersports are now women - one of the highest totals since a study began in 2002.

The Watersports Participation Survey is conducted annually by a consortium of leading marine bodies, including the British Marine Federation and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The study also shows men are still keener, with 28 per cent participating in boating activity more than six times a year, compared to 17 per cent for females.

So come on, ladies! With so many glorious waterways and coastal spots, Devon is the place to hoist your sail and paddle your kayak.



ABOVE: National figures, released by the British Marine Federation, show 6.2 per cent of participants in boating and watersports are now women

The Great Big Rhino Project

They're big, they're bold and they're coming to take over the streets of Exeter and Torbay.

The Great Big Rhino Project will see 40 of the sturdy beasts take up residence in locations across south Devon next summer.

The idea is to create a colourful trail to act as a tourist attraction, raise conservation awareness and to help bring businesses together.

The project is being organised by Paignton Zoo and follows the success of 2013's Great Gorilla Project, where life-sized models of the apes, each painted by local artists and celebrities, were dotted around Torbay and Exeter.

The event attracted many visitors to the region and organisers of next summer's event, which was launched at Paignton Zoo earlier this year, are hoping the rhinos will prove equally as popular.

Many businesses have already signed up to take part in the trail, with support from Palm FM and Radio Exe, as well as Plastic Surgeon Fine Finishers and ESW Solutions.

Artists and designers will be encouraged to come forward and with ideas to decorate the Great Big Rhinos before painting begins.

The event will run from 30 July to 9 October before the rhinos are auctioned off at a grand finale event at the Riviera International Centre in Torquay.

Pippa Craddock, director of marketing and development at Paignton Zoo, says the project is a chance to showcase local creativity and stimulate the economy.

Safety first

Devonport dockyard operator Babcock International's fork lift safety work has been highly commended by the materials handling industry.

A three-time finalist in the safe site category, and winner of the award in 2013, the multinational engineering support services company in Plymouth was awarded highly commended status by the Fork Lift Truck Association - Europe's leading authority on the subject.

Do you have a business in the Tourism or Marine sector and have a story you want to share in the next issue of *Devon Life Business & Professional*? If so, contact our Business Editor Kate Williams on 07875 411538 or e-mail her on kate.williams5@icloud.com