

Green travellers break records

NATIONAL Park chiefs are celebrating a record year for green transport in the New Forest after 50,000 visitors switched from cars to buses.

The Beach Bus and the open-top New Forest Tour enjoyed their best-ever summer, thanks to a combination of new stops, improved ferry links and exceptionally good weather.

The New Forest Travel Concierge at Brockenhurst station also had a bumper season, helping more than 4,000 people to enjoy car-free experiences. The services are run by the National Park Authority (NPA) in partnership with More bus and Bluestar as part of a Department for Transport-funded campaign to encourage more people to explore the Forest without using their cars.

The New Forest Tour attracted 41,877 passengers on its three routes during the 11-week season, beating last year's record of 40,653.

The Beach Bus, which links Lepe, Lymington, Hythe and Beaulieu was used by 7,993 - a 35 per cent increase on last summer.

The travel concierge sold 1,444 New Forest Tour tickets as well as handing out 1,200 cycle route maps and hundreds of leaflets.

The New Forest Tour also generated an estimated £660,000 for the local economy by stopping at attractions such as New Forest Wildlife Park near Ashurst and Ringwood Brewery.

NPA chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre added: "The New Forest Tour, Beach Bus and travel concierge have all played an important role in reducing congestion and carbon emissions. By encouraging visitors and residents to travel without a car, we can help protect its fragile beauty for future generations."



TOP ATTRACTION: Visitors explored the New Forest National Park and took in the spectacular views of its stunning landscape on the open top buses.



£20,000 to protect moth

BUTTERFLY conservationists in Hampshire have received more than £20,000 to protect a rare species of moth.

The county branch of Butterfly Conservation received £23,737 from the government's Landfill Communities Fund to restore the habitat of the endangered Striped Lychinis, pictured, in Magdalen Hill Down, Winchester.

The moth's main food source, dark mullein, grows on road verges there but shrubs and vegetation have consumed much of the bare chalk needed for the plant to grow.

Jayne Chapman, Butterfly Conservation's reserves officer, said the grant will help the Hampshire branch preserve the habitat and raise awareness of conservation in Magdalen Hill.

IS IT GOODBYE TO WASHING UP LIQUID?

Michael Carr

IT is the green product which could revolutionise the way we wash up.

The days of buying detergent and ensuring water is hot before washing up could be over after Hampshire scientists created a product which could save households across country money on their energy bills.

StarStream which was invented and patented by the University of Southampton was awarded Product of the Year by Safe Successful and Sustainable Laboratories at a glitzy dinner in London.

The system, invented by



researchers at the University of Southampton, makes water more efficient for cleaning by creating tiny bubbles which automatically scrub surfaces. Research showed that

using StarStream reduced power bills by producing up to 97 per cent energy savings compared with current commercial products and it can collect the used water and recycle it which produces up to 99 per cent water savings.

It can also work without having to add detergent to water, which reduces costs and also minimises the risk of run-off polluting ground-water and streams, and helps the task of turning used

WELL DONE: The team behind the StarStream device, inset.

water back into safe drinking water.

Now the product is in commercial production by Ultrawave Ltd, which is one of the largest manufacturers of ultrasonic cleaning equipment in the UK.

It comes after it was previously recognised at the 2012 Institute of Chemical Engineer Awards for its potential to cut energy costs and reduce water usage.

Professor Tim Leighton from the University of Southampton's Institute of Sound and Vibration Research, who co-developed StarStream, said: "We are extremely pleased with the performance of StarStream and the partnership with Ultrawave Ltd. It has been a very long road from the initial idea to such a product."

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