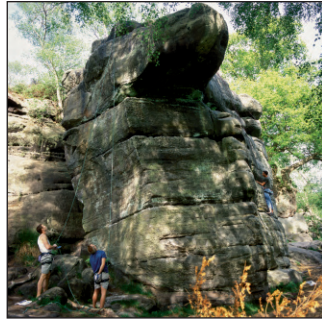




Tig Look! Those are the rocks where we sheltered on Stone Age hunting expeditions. Still standing after all those thousands of years and still being used. But what are they doing with those ropes?

Iron Man That's one of the high places from where we would look out for invaders and hold our special celebrations.

Agatha We Victorians had rather elegant tea-parties on the top of some of those rocks. Such fun!

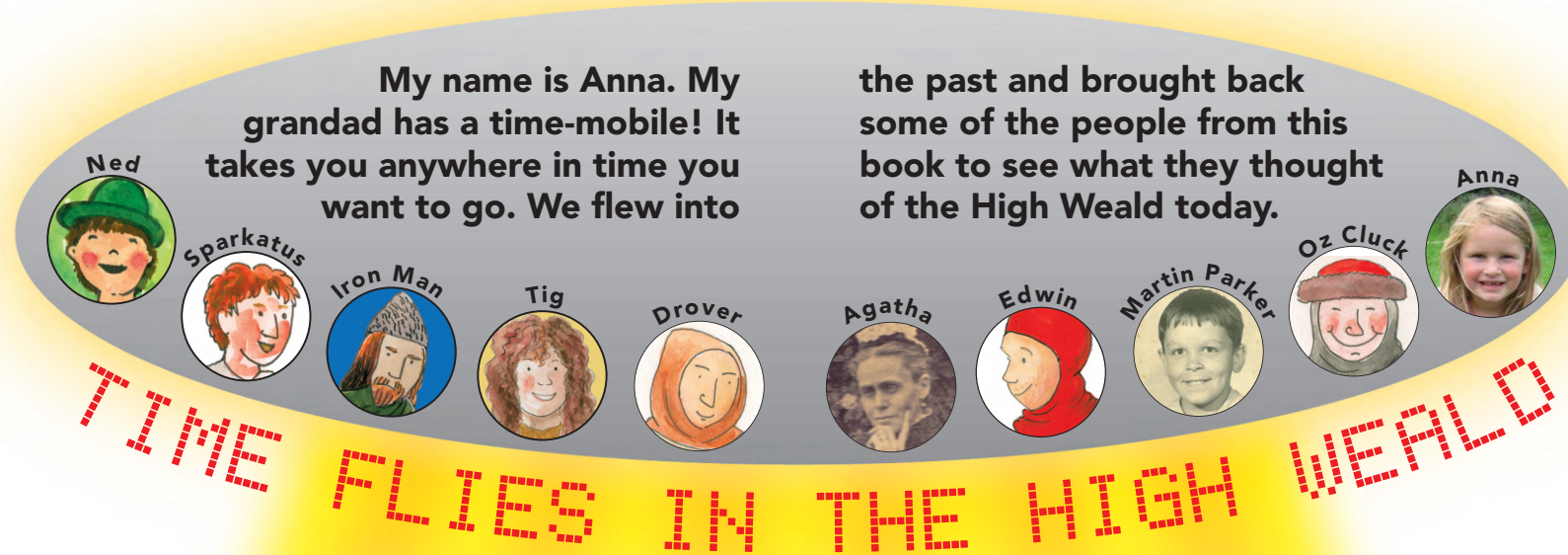
Anna Today people enjoy climbing, or just visiting rocks. The High Weald's sandstone outcrops are really special and they're covered with many mosses, lichens and ferns. Some of them are rare.



Drover In Saxon times I would take my pigs to feed in the woodlands along some of these deep sunken lanes and footpaths. Lots of them look almost the same today as they did back then – if I look hard enough I feel I might see my own footprints. Some of the bigger roads are rather scary though!

Today's farmers are doing what they can to conserve the landscape and manage their land for wildlife as well as for agriculture. Other people who work or live in the countryside, or use it for pleasure, can all help to conserve it too. The High Weald Joint Advisory Committee can give helpful advice on how to care for this unique and distinctive landscape.

High Weald AONB Unit
Woodland Enterprise Centre
Hastings Road, Flimwell
East Sussex TN5 7PR
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Edwin All this was fields when I was a boy in the Middle Ages. And do you know, it still IS! I cut some of those very fields from the woodland myself, I recognise their shapes. It was really hard work chopping down all those trees!

Grandad I'm afraid that when I was farming in the mid 20th century we filled in ponds and cut down hedgerows and shaws to make more room to grow crops. We thought it was the way to go. We had all this new technology like combine harvesters to help us produce food more efficiently. We stopped using horses so we didn't make hay anymore. Scientists invented pesticides and fertilisers and everyone

believed that was a good thing because all our crops would grow perfectly.

Martin P. Mr T said that in the Second World War everyone had to produce as much food as they could. Marshy areas were drained so crops could be grown. No-one realised it would be at the expense of wildlife.

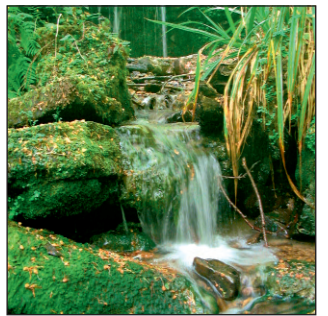
Grandad Now I know that woodlands, hayfields, grassy places and hedgerows are important habitats for wild plants, birds and animals. And most insects aren't harmful to crops, in fact some, like bumble bees, are actually beneficial.



Ned In my time – the 16th century – there was worry over the woodland, people thought it would all be used up for fuel and building. I've heard that the High Weald is the most wooded place in England and that more than half is ancient woodland. I am so glad you haven't lost it.

Anna It is a brilliant habitat for a variety of insects, plants, birds and animals, especially if it has deep, dark, damp places and open sunlit rides too.

Sparkatus The sight of those wooded gills takes me back to when I was making charcoal for the Roman ironworks. Brings me out in a sweat just to think of it! I've just had a look at Beauport Park where the bloomery was. It's covered with funny little houses on wheels. Must be some kind of glorified chariots I suppose.



Anna They're caravans where people stay to have a holiday and enjoy the countryside.

Sparkatus Well I'm glad they enjoy it. And I've noticed they use charcoal to cook with outdoors.

Anna Yes, they are called barbecues. Charcoal is still made in High Weald woodlands. And timber is still a local product.

Oz In the Middle Ages I drank wine imported from Gascony. Now I hear wine is produced in the High Weald. Must try some before I go back. Lucky your Grandad's driving!

It's like I said years ago: we have everything we need here in the High Weald. We must make sure we look after it, then it will look after US!



High Weald

EVENTS

World

1946 Herstmonceux became the home of the Royal Observatory

1958 The new Gatwick Airport officially opened

1966 Beeching axed many local railway lines

1970s Major reservoirs at Bewl and Ardingly built

1983 High Weald recognised as nationally important landscape

1987 Great Storm – 50 million trees blown down in the South East

2000 Millennium Seedbank opened at Wakehurst Place

1948 Gandhi assassinated

1952 Elizabeth II became queen

1955 The first Disneyland in California

1961 Yuri Gagarin first man in space

1969 First humans on moon in Apollo 11

1973 Britain joined the European Community

1977 First video game console

1985 First CD Rom

1990 World wide web invented

1995 First DVD

2012 Olympic Games held in London