

John Weir

The High Moorland Visitor Centre.

The displays that we have there provide a wealth of information on the natural and cultural process on Dartmoor, the importance of the Forest of Dartmoor and the Duchy of Cornwall, how the land has and is being used and there's a lot of information on the area's wildlife and how artists and writers have responded to this inspiring place. And inside the gallery there's a programme of eight new exhibitions every year which really do encourage visitors to drop in, there's no charge and what we've found is that people meet there before going off for a walk, so that's a nice feeling of dropping in rather than being a rigid turgid visitor centre, it's a welcoming place. And ok, the Visitor Centre was opened in 1993 but the Centre continues to evolve with new displays and we've even got a garden area at the back which recreates some of Dartmoor's natural and cultural qualities. As people enter the visitor centre they'll walk over quite a stunning floor mosaic reflecting the time when it was once a hotel and it depicts the words, 'Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest' – certainly a welcome exists all year round at the Centre and we hope that parting guests won't speed but rather take time to explore what the Princetown and wider Dartmoor area has to offer.