

Get Out in the Gap

Events, Walks and Talks 2009/10



FOLLOWING on from a successful 2008 events programme, Valley of Visions is running an even more extensive programme of fantastic wildlife and heritage events, walks and talks in the Medway Gap this year. Details of many events and activities that our partners and local organisations are offering are also provided in this booklet. With such a mix of events, walks and talks on offer there is something for everyone. Take part and find out what the Medway Gap has to offer.

- All events are free of charge unless specified otherwise.
- Booking is required on some events with details of how to book stated in the event description.
- Sturdy footwear is advised on all events.
- Depending on the weather please bring waterproofs, sun cream, hat and water.
- No dogs allowed unless stated otherwise.
- For walks a detailed description is provided including information on walk length, duration, terrain, minimum age (where required) and other useful information.
- Anyone suffering from any serious health condition is advised to check with their doctor before attending a guided walk. Please inform the walk leader of any condition, in confidence, at the start of the walk.

The Medway Gap is well served by public transport. Many of the events, walks and talks offered in this programme are accessible by public transport – look out for the symbols. Please consider using public transport when travelling to an event. For bus information visit www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or call 0871 200 2233. For train information visit www.southeasternrailway.co.uk or call 0845 748 4950

Walk Talk Event Cycle Bus Train GOIG



Get out in the Gap (GOIG) are introductory walks aimed at people new to or unfamiliar with the area and new to walking in the countryside. These walks, led by the site warden or ranger, are designed to give a taster of the many sites available to explore in the local area. If you require transport to be able to attend any of the GOIG events then please contact Valley of Visions.

Please contact us if you would like to be added to the Valley of Visions' mailing list to automatically receive a copy of future events, walks and talks booklets and find out how to get involved with other Valley of Visions' projects.



Sites

The Medway Gap offers a wealth of accessible locations where rich habitats, wildlife and heritage can be explored. Many of these sites are being used for our guided walks so come and join us and learn about the fantastic countryside that exists on your doorstep.

Sites within the Medway Gap:

Ranscombe Farm

Near Cuxton off of the A228; TQ 718675.

t: 01474 824180 e: ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk w: www.plantlife.org.uk

Managed by Plantlife, Ranscombe Farm is a nature reserve and country park that lies just to the North of Cuxton. It covers a total area of 560 acres on the slopes of the North Downs and includes arable habitats, extensive ancient woodland and relict fragments of chalk grassland. A large part of the site is within the Cobham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest and the whole farm is within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. **Facilities:** small car park, waymarked trails, views, accessible by bus. Cuxton train station 1 mile.

Leybourne Lakes Country Park

Malling Road, Larkfield, ME20 6AA (off the A228 between Larkfield and Snodland)

t: 01634 243397 e: leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk w: www.tmbc.gov.uk

Developed from former gravel workings, Leybourne Lakes Country Park is dominated by a series of lakes and flower rich grasslands that offer both quiet recreation for visitors and a valued sanctuary for a variety of wildlife. The Country Park has spectacular views across its many lakes and out to the North Downs and is home to a range of leisure activities including walking, cycling, fishing, windsurfing, scuba diving and bird watching. **Facilities:** walking, waymarked trails, toilets, disabled toilets, refreshments (weekends and bank holidays only), visitor guide, accessible by bus, open 7:30am – dusk.



Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site

Blue Bell Hill, Rochester, TQ 744622

t: 01474 823800

w: www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-culture/explore-kent/

Located within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site offers magnificent panoramic views over the Medway Valley, an ideal spot for both walkers and picnickers. It boasts a range of terrain including woodland, scrub and chalk grassland and is part of the 10km Wouldham to Detling Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The North Downs Way passes along the northern edge of the site, giving further opportunities to explore the Downs. **Facilities:** parking, disabled parking, view points, open 9am – dusk or 9pm (whichever is earlier). The nearest train station is Chatham or Maidstone (5 miles).

Tyland Barn Visitor Centre and Nature Park

Sandling Road, Maidstone, ME14 3BD, TQ 754593. Weekdays: 01622 662012
Weekends: 01622 656471 w: www.kentwildlife.org.uk

The restored 17th century barn is accessible by bus, bicycle and car. The visitor centre exhibitions focus on wildlife and conservation with plenty of hands-on displays for children. Surrounding the barn a variety of habitats can be found which support an abundance of wildlife and over 250 wildflowers. There is a large pond, meadow, chalk bank and scrub habitats as well as a bird watching hide and displays on composting and 'green picnics'. **Facilities:** visitor centre, toilets, disabled toilet, refreshments (during opening hours of visitor centre), nature park.



Burham Marsh

East of Burham, TQ 714615, ME1 3XY

Burham Marsh is situated between the villages of Burham and Wouldham on the east bank of the river Medway. It forms part of the Holborough to Burham Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It covers an area of 57 hectares which consists of reed beds, grassland, ditches and scrub which support an abundance of wildlife and is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust. Burham Marsh is a prime point to observe waterfowl and waders particularly during autumn/winter months and for birds and plants during the spring/summer months.

Holborough Marsh

North east of Snodland, off of the A228, TQ 707626

Holborough Marsh is situated to the east of Snodland and is part of the Holborough to Burham Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), recognition of the site's national importance in terms of wildlife particularly birds. It covers 35 hectares which consists of a mix of grassland, reed beds and woodland which support an abundance of wildlife. The site is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust and can be accessed by bus or from Snodland train station.

Burham Down

West of Burham, Eccles and Wouldham. Accessible from Blue Bell Hill picnic site, TQ 744622

The Burham to Wouldham Downs covers a large area of the scarp slope on the east of the river Medway. Most of it is included in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Wouldham to Detling Escarpment Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which runs for almost 10km along the North Downs. The steep slopes are ecologically rich with a mix of chalk grassland, scrub and woodland habitat supporting an abundance of wildlife. Much of the area is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust.

Sites near the Medway Gap:

Capstone Farm Country Park

Capstone Road, Gillingham, ME7 3JG t: 01634 338191 e: capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk

Capstone Farm Country Park covers 114 hectares of former farmland on the North Downs and is a popular site with families. The park contains a variety of habitats including ancient woodlands, old orchards, a freshwater lake, meadows and hedgerows. The woodlands are managed in the traditional manner of coppicing and some fields of grassland are still grazed by cattle. **Facilities:** walking, cycling, horse riding, parking, toilets, disabled toilets, disabled parking, refreshments, fishing, play area, camping area, visitor centre, visitor guide, paths suitable for electric scooters, open 8:30am – sunset. The nearest train station is Gillingham (2 miles).

Jeskyns Community Woodland and Greenspace

Henhurst Road, Cobham, Kent, DA12 3AN, TQ 660 699

t: 01474 825118 e: jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk w: www.forestry.gov.uk/jeskyns

Situated between Gravesend and Cobham in North Kent, Jeskyns is 360 acres (147 hectares) of greenspace that has been created by the Forestry Commission. It offers opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, playing, learning, orienteering and is a great place for all the family. The play features at Jeskyns have been specifically designed and created to fit into the natural environment and to encourage children to use their imagination whilst playing. **Facilities:** walking, cycling, horse riding, play features, parking, waymarked trails, wide surfaced trails.

Riverside Country Park

Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2XH t: 01634 337432

Riverside Country Park covers 100 hectares alongside the Medway Estuary including Motney Hill and Berengrave Local Nature Reserve. There are various habitats within the park including mudflats and salt marsh, ponds, reed-beds, grassland and scrub which provide a haven for wildlife. The estuary has special protection as part of the Medway Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is internationally important for wintering birds that thrive on the invertebrate-rich mudflats. **Facilities:** an accessible visitor centre with toilets, an education room, a café, a children's play area, picnic facilities, ranger service, Sustrans cycle path, trails, car and coach parking.

Shorne Woods Country Park

Brewers Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 3HX t: 01474 823800 w: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

A large ancient woodland site with a new, modern visitor centre, Shorne Woods Country Park is a great place to explore. A Site of Special Scientific Interest within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there are 288 acres of woodland to enjoy. The park is a mixture of chestnut coppice woodlands that are full of wildflowers in the spring, ancient woodland with towering old trees, open meadows to play and picnic in, and ponds and wetlands that are home to dragonflies in the summer time. **Facilities:** walking, cycling, horse riding, parking, toilets, disabled toilets, disabled parking, refreshments, play area, view points, visitor centre, trim trail, waymarked trails, easy access trail.

Teston Bridge Country Park

Teston Lane, Teston, ME18 5BX t: 01622 817623

Teston Bridge Country Park is the ideal place for a family day out by the river. There is plenty to keep children busy with a large open green space to run around in and an enclosed area with children's play equipment. Teston Bridge is a local wildlife site and attracts many different forms of wildlife. Kingfishers, terns and snipe can be seen from time to time and during the summer months, bats glide up and down the banks searching for air-borne insects. **Facilities:** walking, parking, toilets, disabled toilets, fishing, play area, picnic area, view points, event programme, open 9am to dusk or 9pm (whichever is earlier). The nearest train station is East Farleigh or Wateringbury (2.5 miles).

Trosley Country Park

Waterlow Road, Meopham, DA13 0SG t: 01732 823570

Once part of Trosley Towers Estate, Trosley Country Park covers 170 acres of beautiful woodland and chalk downland on the North Downs and is home to a rich variety of wildlife. The chalk grassland in the park is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and supports a fabulous array of butterflies each summer including the Chalkhill Blue. To maintain this important habitat, grazing animals have been introduced to manage the grassland. **Facilities:** walking, cycling, horse riding, paths are largely suitable for electric scooters, easy access walks, parking, toilets, disabled toilets, refreshments, view points, visitor centre, trim trail, open 9am to dusk or 9pm (whichever is earlier).

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people and do something different. Whether practical conservation work, wildlife surveying or more office-based activities interest you, there is a breadth of volunteering opportunities available through Valley of Visions. Our partner organisations including Kent Wildlife Trust and Plantlife offer practical conservation volunteering at sites within the Medway Gap. These dedicated volunteer groups help keep these sites and other local public and open spaces in good condition, many of which are used for guided walks in this events programme. So why not join them and give volunteering a try?



Ranscombe Farm

Led by the Reserve Warden these practical work days involve a variety of tasks including plant surveying, fencing, footpath clearance, installing steps and repairing signs, scrub clearing and tree felling. Work days run from 9am to 1pm generally two Wednesdays each month. For further information please contact the reserve warden on 01474 824180 or email ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk.

Kent Wildlife Trust

Volunteer tasks are run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from September at various sites. Days generally run from 10 – 3:30pm but people can come and go as they please. Tasks include fencing, reed pulling, scrub clearing, coppicing, tree planting, footpath clearance and maintenance and other tasks. For further information please contact the reserve warden on 01622 662012 or email steve.weeks@kentwildlife.org.uk.

Leybourne Lakes

Leybourne Lakes Volunteer Group meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month 10am – 2pm to carry out a range of tasks at the park. Tasks can include fencing, pond maintenance, hedgelaying and coppicing, painting of benches and park signage, ragwort and himalayan balsam control. For further information please contact the Rangers Office on 01634 243397.

Cuxton Countryside Group

Undertake tasks within and around Cuxton to help conserve and maintain the area. For further information contact Jan Batley on 01634 712157 or Rita Hunt on 01634-295580 or email ritahunt06@tiscali.co.uk.

Jeskyns

A regular volunteer task force meets once a month on a Saturday to undertake a range of activities within the site. For further information please contact the Jeskyns ranger on 01474 825118 or email jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Riverside Country Park Volunteers

The group meets once a month on a Sunday to perform a number of tasks including step building, meadow cutting, tree pruning and planting, reed pulling, events and reception cover. For further information please contact 01634 337432 or email riversidecp@medway.gov.uk.

Capstone Park Volunteers

The volunteers carry out a wide range of tasks including planting shrubs, path clearing and repairing, coppicing, wildlife surveys and helping at park events. One group meets every Tuesday and the other group meets one Sunday a month. For further information contact the ranger on 01634 812196 or email capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk.

River Wardens

Managed by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (MVCP) and funded by Valley of Visions, the River Wardens scheme is a great way of learning about the local river environment. Local volunteers look after a stretch of the river Medway and act as the eyes and ears of the river undertaking tasks such as litter collection, wildlife recording and reporting footpath issues. For further information on how to become a river warden, contact MVCP on 01622 683695 or email medwayvalley@kent.gov.uk.

Practical volunteering at other local sites in Medway:

- Friends of Berengrave
- Friends of Rede Common
- Friends of Borstal Open Spaces
- Medway Towns Conservation Volunteers
- Friends of Broomhill
- Capstone Park Volunteers
- Friends of Hillyfields
- The Medway Urban Parks and Greenspaces Forum
- Friends of Levan Srrice Volunteer Group
- Watts Meadow Volunteers

Free Training Opportunities

Valley of Visions also offers a free comprehensive training programme to equip local people with a range of skills to help conserve the landscapes, wildlife and heritage of the local area. To find out what training opportunities are available please visit www.valleyofvisions.org.uk, email mail@vov.kentdowns.org.uk or phone 01634 242826.





Events 2009/10

May

Gravesham Heritage Festival:
Fri 15th – Sun 31st May

Jeskyns Discovery Walk 🚶 🚰 🚼

Wed 20th May, 10 – 12pm, Jeskyns

Run as part of the Gravesham Heritage Festival this guided walk will show you how the Forestry Commission has taken inspiration from the past to create Jeskyns – a Community Woodland for the future. Cost £2 per person. **Booking required.** Contact Towncentric on 01474 337600.

Bat Walk 🚶 🚰

**Fri 22nd May, 8:30pm,
Teston Bridge Country Park**

A chance to come along and learn about our night time wildlife. **Booking required.** Contact 08458 247600.

May Half Term Activity Trail 🚶 🚰

**Sat 23rd – Sun 31st May, 10 – 4pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park**

Follow the clues, answer the questions and completed trails will receive a prize. Trail sheets available from the visitor centre, £2 per sheet. For more information contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Dawn Chorus Walk 🚶 🚰 🚼

**Sun 24th May, 8 – 11am,
Leybourne Lakes Country Park**

Well it may not exactly be dawn but early morning is a great time to hear the birds sing! The nightingales singing are a highlight of the walk as well as seeing and hearing many other rare and common species. **Booking required.** Contact the Rangers Office on 01634 243397.

History Comes to Life 🚶 🚰 🚼

**Tues 26th May, 2 – 4:30pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park**

Guided walk through time by costumed characters; run as part of the Gravesham Heritage Festival. Children can make an historic artefact and includes refreshments after the walk at the visitor centre. Walk is approximately 2km, steep in places and not suitable for pushchairs. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Minibeast Hunt 🚶 🚰 🚼

**Wed 27th May, 10 – 12noon,
Riverside Country Park**

A must for those interested in insect life. Learn to identify creatures that can be found at Riverside in the ponds and wildflower meadows. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £1 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

**Evening Stroll around
Burham Marsh** 🚶 🚰 🚼

Wed 27th May, 7pm, Burham Marsh

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Burham Marsh on a guided walk led by Kent Wildlife Trust the manager of this local site. Learn about marshes, what wildlife they support and why they're such an important but often undervalued habitat. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

June

1st – 7th June: Volunteers' Week

Tiny Tots 🚶 🚰

**Wed 3rd June, 10 – 2pm,
Riverside Country Park**

Arts and crafts for younger children with simple finger painting and potato printing, an opportunity to develop their creative side. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 – 5. Please wear old clothes as it could get messy! Drop in anytime. £1 per child.

Ranscombe Long Loop 🚶 🚰

Thurs 4th June, 10 – 1pm, Ranscombe Farm

A 4 – 5 mile walk taking in all the main parts of the reserve, along with a look at the Darnley Mausoleum in neighbouring Cobham Park. Starting from Knights Place recreation ground in Strood. Part of the Medway Walking Festival. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191 or email capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk

**The Sights & Sounds of
Holborough Marsh** 🚶 🚰 🚼 🚼

Sat 6th June, 2pm, Holborough Marsh

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Holborough Marsh on a guided walk led by Kent Wildlife Trust. Learn about marshes, what wildlife they support and why they are such an important and often undervalued habitat. Also learn about the management work undertaken by the reserve warden and volunteers to conserve this site for people and wildlife. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Ranscombe By Railway 🚶 🚰 🚼

Sun 7th June, 10:15am, Cuxton train station

Explore Ranscombe Farm and its surrounding landscape from Cuxton train station. Witness Ranscombe's flowers at their summer peak and learn about the site from the walk leader, Ranscombe Farm Reserve Warden Ben Sweeney. There is a 1km uphill walk to reach the reserve from the station. Uneven terrain, narrow paths and a stile. Unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Approx 3 hour walk. Meet outside Cuxton train station (TQ 715667 or ME2 1AB). For further information contact the reserve warden on 01474 824180 or 07983 578201 or email ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk

Junior Ranger Club 🚶 🚰

**Mon 8th June, 3:45 – 4:45pm,
Capstone Farm Country Park**

A must for any budding David Bellamy. Become a ranger for the morning and study the nature that can be found at the park. The club meets monthly and activities can range from arts and crafts to walks, pond dipping and bird watching. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191

**Wildflowers and Butterflies
of the Downs** 🚶 🚰 🚼

Wed 10th June, 7pm, Burham Down

Guided walk around the beautiful chalk hills of the North Downs with the Kent Wildlife Trust reserve warden. Discover and identify wildflowers and butterflies whilst enjoying the panoramic views offered from this wonderful site. Approx 2 hours, 2.5 miles. Steep slopes, uneven tracks, kissing gates and steps in places. Meet at Blue Bell Hill picnic site. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.





Teston Small Kite Festival ★ 🚗

Sat 13th – Sun 14th June, 11 – 5pm,
Teston Bridge Country Park

Kite making workshop, park walks, stalls. Come and fly your kite and have a picnic.

Arable Flowers at Ranscombe Farm 📍 🚗 📅

Sun 14th June, 1 – 4pm, Ranscombe Farm

Join Plantlife botanist and reserves manager Joe Costley on a gentle stroll around the cornfields of Ranscombe Farm looking for arable flowers for which the reserve is famous. Part of the Medway Walking Festival. Meet at Ranscombe Farm car park. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191 or email capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk

Peters Pit Nature Reserve Guided Walk 📍 🚗

Sun 14th June, 2pm, Peters Pit (Burham)

Join local industrial heritage enthusiast Jim Preston and the Kent Wildlife Trust site warden on this interesting guided walk around Peter's Pit nature reserve and the surrounding area. Learn all about this old quarry and how it has become an important haven for wildlife. Approx 2 hours, 2.5 miles. Terrain: unpaved paths, some steps and stiles. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Sun 14th – Mon 22nd June: National Bike Week

Introduction to Ranscombe Farm 📍 🚗 📅 🚲

Wed 17th June, 10 – 1pm, Ranscombe Farm

Join the reserve warden on a gentle stroll around Ranscombe Farm, a nationally recognised site for its rich habitats and wildlife. The route will involve a 3 mile walk around the site incorporating some of the most interesting ecological and archaeological aspects of the site. There are no stiles but a couple of steep slopes are involved but level areas offered in between! Meet at Ranscombe Farm car park. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Kite Making Workshop ★ 🚗

Sat 20th June, 10 – 2pm,
Capstone Farm Country Park

Join the rangers in making kites in the visitor centre then wrap up warm to fly them in Capstone's rather bracing winds. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £2.50 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191

Court Farm Walk and Ride 📍 ★

Sat 20th June, 1pm,
Court Farm (Upper Halling, ME2 1HR)

Come and take part in a nature walk or tractor and trailer ride around Court Farm to learn all about this working farm. Both activities start at 2pm and repeated at 3:30pm. Food matching and beer tasting also available. Admission free. For further information contact Court Farm on 01634 240547.

The Archaeology of Ranscombe 📍 🚗 📅

Sun 21st June, 10 – 1pm, Ranscombe Farm

Walk the reserve with volunteer warden Dave May and hear about the fascinating historical finds that have been discovered including a 10,000 year old flint axe, a medieval well and a musket ball! Meet at Ranscombe Farm car park. Part of the Medway Walking Festival. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191 or email capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk

Dragonfly Walk ★ 🚗

Sun 21st June, 1:30 – 3:30pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Discover Shorne's many species of dragonfly on this free introductory walk. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Solstice Fun Day ★ 🚗 📅

Sun 21st June, 2 – 4pm, Broomhill (Strood)

An event for the entire family. Find out what the friends of Broomhill have been up to and the future plans and some of the site's unusual history. You can watch a giant sundial being made, bring your teddy bear for a parachute jump or have your face painted. There will also be live music and food.

Evening Sites and Sounds of Ranscombe

Wed 24th June, 6 – 9pm, Ranscombe Farm

A walk across the landscape of the North Downs during sunset. With luck, we may witness signs of birds, mammals, badgers, bats or even deer. Starting from Knights Place recreation ground, Strood. Part of the Medway Walking Festival. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191 or email capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk

The Historic Parks of Rochester Walk

Thurs 25th June, 10 – 11:30am, Rochester

Starting from the War Memorial, Rochester High Street, the City of Rochester Society will guide the group around the historic green spaces throughout the ancient city. The walk will end at The Vines where the society will distribute its new historic leaflet. Walkers may choose to visit Restoration House at the end of the walk at a special concessionary price of £5.50. Part of the Medway Walking Festival. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191.

Tiny Tots

Thurs 25th June, 10 – 2pm, Capstone Farm Country Park

Arts and crafts for younger children with simple finger painting and potato printing, an opportunity to develop their creative side. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 – 5. Please wear old clothes as it could get messy. Drop in any time. £1 per child.

Bat Walk

Fri 26th June, 9pm, Leybourne Lakes Country Park

See and hear the bats in the Country Park using bat detectors on this very popular dusk walk. The walk will last around 1.5 hours. **Booking required.** Contact the Rangers Office on 01634 243397.

Orienteering Event

Sat 27th June, 11 – 12:30pm, Shorne Woods Country Park

Regional orienteering event offering a number of different courses. Further details www.dfok.co.uk

Dragonfly Walk

Sun 28th June, 1:30 – 3:30pm, Shorne Woods Country Park

Discover Shorne's many species of dragonflies on this free guided introductory walk. No dogs. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Burham Fun Day: Sun 28th June

Ditton Community Family Day: Sun 28th June

July

National Mammal Week: 1st – 9th July

Friars Guided Tour

Thurs 2nd July, 11am, Aylesford Priory

A fascinating guided tour around the Friars, an ancient religious house of the Order of the



Carmelites dating back to the 13th Century. 1 hour tour, disabled access. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Junior Ranger Club

Sat 4th July, 10 – 12noon, Riverside Country Park

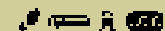
A must for any budding David Bellamy. Become a ranger for the morning and study the nature that can be found at the park. The club meets monthly and activities can range from arts and crafts to walks, pond dipping and bird watching. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Spin Along the Scarp

Sun 5th July, 10:30am, Blue Bell Hill picnic site

Join us for a gentle six mile off-road cycle ride taking in parts of the North Downs Way, descending through attractive woodland and enjoying dramatic views across the Medway Gap. This route is suitable for families or those new to off-road cycling. The majority of tracks are good quality, but some parts may prove a little more technical along with a few steep slopes. However, we can always get off and push and it's always a good excuse to spend a bit longer looking at the view! Please make sure that your bike (preferably mountain) is in good working condition and you have your own safety helmet. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Revealing Snodland's Past – Snodland to Paddlesworth



Wed 8th July, 7pm, Snodland

Guided walk from Snodland to Paddlesworth by local expert Dr Andrew Ashbee from Snodland Historical Society. Admire and learn about the rich heritage and points of interest of the local area whilst enjoying being out and about in the local countryside. Terrain: footpaths and roads. 2 hours, maximum 3 miles. Meet at Snodland car park (Rocfort Road end, ME6 5NQ TQ 704617).



Snodland Carnival: Saturday 11th July

Theme for floats is 'Countries of the World'. For more information please contact Snodland Town Council on 01634 240228

A Countryside Experience

Sun 12th July, 11 – 5pm, Riverside Country Park

An exciting countryside event packed with the best of Kent's local produce and traditional craft demonstrations. Hours of fun for all the family with animals, arena acts, live music, beer tent and country fair. £1.50 per person. Contact 01634 337432 for more details.

Guided Walk to Randall Manor Dig

Sun 12th July, 2pm, Shorne Woods Country Park

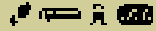
Join the Community Archaeologist for a guided walk from the archaeological dig. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Reptile Discovery

Wed 15th July, 9:30am, Burham Down

Join the reserve warden on a guided walk looking for and learning about our wonderful reptiles. Approx 2 hours, 2.5 miles. Steep slopes, uneven tracks, kissing gates and steps. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Introducing Leybourne Lakes Country Park



Wed 15th July, 2pm,
Leybourne Lakes Country Park

A great opportunity to visit and learn about Leybourne Lakes Country Park on this relaxed introductory walk by the site ranger. Discover what lives at the site, its habitats and the work undertaken by rangers and volunteers to manage the site for both people and wildlife. The walk is along a hard surface around the park and is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. 2 hours max. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Bat Walk



Fri 17th July, 8:30pm,
Teston Bridge Country Park

A chance to come along and learn about our night time wildlife. Bring a torch. **Booking required.** Call 08458 274600.

Snodland Festival:

Sat 18 – Sun 19th Jul



Festival of British Archaeology: Sat 18th July – 2nd Aug

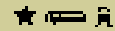
Festival of Archaeology

Sat 18th – Sun 19th July, 10:30 – 4pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Medieval history with crafts, cookery and more. Children's mini dig on Sunday. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.



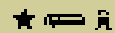
Summer Holiday Activity Trail



Sat 18th July – Wed 2nd Sept, 10 – 4pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Follow the clues, answer the questions and completed trails will receive a prize. Trail sheets cost £2 and are available from the visitor centre. Dogs must be kept on a lead. Please bring outdoor clothes and footwear and children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Wildlife Activity Day



Sun 19th July, 10 – 4:30pm,
Leybourne Lakes Country Park

Art workshop, pond dipping, wildlife walks, mini-beast walks, wildlife treasure hunt.

Guided Walk to

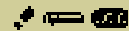
Randall Manor Dig



Sun 19th July, 2pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Join the Community Archaeologist for a guided for a guided walk from the archaeological dig. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Discover Riverside Country Park



Thurs 23rd July, 11am,
Riverside Country Park

Join the ranger on a relaxed-pace guided walk around the site learning about the sights and sounds of the surrounding estuary area along the way. Paths are narrow in places with uneven terrain making the walk unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Dormouse Discovery



Sun 26th July, 10am, Burham Down

A rare opportunity to get close to dormice by joining the reserve warden to check the dormouse boxes. Approx 2 hours, 1.5 miles. Terrain: steep slopes, uneven tracks, kissing gates and steps. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Introducing Jeskyns Community Woodland



Tues 28th July, 10am, Jeskyns

Join the ranger on an introductory guided walk and talk to show you how the Forestry Commission has taken inspiration from the past to create Jeskyns – a Community Woodland for the future. Meeting at main car park off Henhurst Road. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Moth Madness

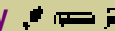


Fri 31st July, 8:30 – 10:30pm, Jeskyns

A nighttime family orientated event. Come and paint your own lantern, and discover the moonlit antics of moths at Jeskyns. **Booking required.** Call 01474 825118 or email jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

August

Westside: A Walk Along the North Downs Way



Sun 2nd Aug, 10am, Snodland to Cuxton

Join Valley of Visions on a walk along the North Downs Way from Snodland to Cuxton. Starting from Snodland railway station (TQ 707618) we will join the North Downs Way and follow the Halling –Trottscliffe escarpment (a nationally important area for wildlife) to Ranscombe Farm, to see what wildlife's about there. We will return to Snodland by train from Cuxton. Please bring a packed lunch and money for the train. Approx 10 miles, 4 hours. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Shorne Woods Country Park Discovery



Tues 4th Aug, 11am,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Discover the delights that await the visitor at Shorne Woods Country Park on this guided walk around the site along the easy access trail. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the wildlife and landscapes and learn about how the site is managed for both wildlife and people. 1.5 hours along easy access trails. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Flint Knapping



Wed 5th Aug, 10 – 12:30pm and 1:30pm – 4pm, Jubilee Hall (Upper Halling)

Learn how our ancestors used stone tools to survive through an exciting demonstration and workshop. Make your own flint knapping tool to take home. Minimum age 12 years. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Fire Lighting



Thurs 6th Aug, 10 – 12:30pm and 1:30pm – 4pm, Tyland Barn

Exciting demonstration and workshop learning how to make fire using natural materials. Have a go and see if you can make fire! Minimum age 12 years. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

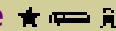
Bushcraft Survival



Fri 7th Aug, 10 – 5pm, Tyland Barn

A great hands-on opportunity to learn bushcraft survival skills including how to make a tool out of flint, how to build a safe fire, foraged food and fire lighting techniques. Minimum age 12 years. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

The History and Local Lore of Ranscombe



Sun 9th Aug, 10 – 1pm, Ranscombe Farm

This walk will be lead by local resident and volunteer warden Ken Law who has fascinating stories about the farm and village collected over the last 50 years. **Booking required.** Contact 01474 824180 or 07983 578201 or email ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk

Big Kite Festival



Sat 8 – Sun 9th Aug, 11 – 5pm,
Teston Bridge Country Park

Watch the professionals or fly your own kite. Kite making workshop, park walks and stalls.

Friars Guided Tour



Tues 11th Aug, 2pm, Aylesford Priory

A fascinating guided tour around the Friars, an ancient religious house of the Order of the Carmelites dating back to the 13th Century. 1 hour tour, disabled access. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Bat Walk

Sat 15th Aug, 8:30 – 10:30pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

An evening searching for these elusive creatures. Bring a torch. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800

Forest Crafts

Tues 18th Aug, 10 – 12pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

A chance for 8 to 13 year olds to do traditional forest craft such as whistle, jewellery and mallet making. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring outdoor clothing and footwear. No dogs. Cost £5. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Minibeast Safari

Wed 19th Aug, 11 – 2pm & 1 – 4pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Be a wildlife detective, come and meet the smaller inhabitants at the park. Ages 5 – 13 years. Booking required. Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Moth Madness

Fri 21st Aug, 7:30 – 9:30pm, Jeskyns

A nighttime family orientated event. Come and paint your own lantern, and discover the moonlit antics of moths at Jeskyns. **Booking required.** Contact 01474 825118 or email jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Halling Fun Weekend

Fri 21st – Sun 23rd Aug, Halling

The village of Halling will be holding a fun weekend on Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd of August. This will include live music events in the evenings, village heritage displays and walks during the day, and a Family Funday on the Sunday afternoon ending with a firework display. Full details are yet to be confirmed but for more information, or to become part of the activities, please call the Parish Council Office on 01634 241551 or Daryl Palmer on 07818 843202.

Bat Walk

Sat 22nd Aug, 7:30pm,
Leybourne Lakes Country Park

See and hear the bats in the Country Park using bat detectors on this very popular dusk walk. The walk will last around 1.5 hour. **Booking required.** Contact the Rangers Office on 01634 243397.

Minibeast Hunt

Tues 25th Aug, 10 – 12pm,
Riverside Country Park

A must for those interested in insect life. Learn to identify the creatures that can be found at Riverside in the ponds and wildflower meadows. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Scarp Top Stroll

Wed 26th Aug, 7pm, Burham Down

Join Valley of Visions for a gentle six mile walk taking in parts of the North Downs Way, descending through attractive woodland, and enjoying dramatic views across the Medway Gap. The majority of paths are good quality with a few steep slopes thrown in! Meet at Blue Bell Hill picnic site. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Culand Pits Guided Walk

Sun 6th Sept, 11am, Culand Pits

Join the Kent Wildlife Trust site warden and a member of Kent RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites group) on a guided walk around this disused quarry that has become a wonderful wildlife haven. Wonder at and enjoy the panoramic views offered from Blue Bell Hill as well as learning about local heritage, geology, flora and fauna. Approx 2 hours, 2.5 miles. Terrain: unpaved paths, some steps and stiles, steep on the return leg. Meet at Blue Bell Hill picnic site. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

September



Bird Walk 📍 🚶

Sun 6th Sept, 8 – 10am,
Riverside Country Park

A walk around the riverside area may well turn up a few surprises as birds pass through on their migration south. £1 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Archaeology in the Park 📍 🚶

Sun 6th Sept, 2 – 4pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Join our community archaeologist on a guided walk to discover the heritage features of the park and artefact handling. This is at least 2kms and steep in places, not suitable for pushchairs. No dogs. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Snodland Through History – part 1 (prehistory to 1800) 📍 🚶 🗺

Wed 9th Sept, 7:30pm, Snodland

The first of two fascinating talks revealing the rich heritage of Snodland and the surrounding area by local expert Dr Andrew Ashbee. Learn about what Snodland used to be like and how and why it has changed over the years. The talk will be held in the upstairs room (Moyeuivre-Grande Suite) at Snodland Town Council offices, Waghorn Road ME6 5BQ. Please note there is no lift.



Tiny Tots ★ 🚶

Wed 9th Sept, 10 – 2pm,
Riverside Country Park

Arts and crafts for younger children with simple finger painting and potato printing, an opportunity to develop their creative side. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 – 5. Please wear old clothes as it could get messy. Drop in any time. £1 per child.

Lets Go Batty 📍 🚶

Thurs 10th Sept, sunset,
Capstone Farm Country Park

A wildlife walk with a difference. Starting at dusk, it's an incredible opportunity to see bats that live around the park – led by the Kent Bat Group. £2 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191.

Heritage Open Days: Thurs 10th – Sun 13th Sept

Anniversary Guided Walk 📍 🚶 🗺

Sat 12th Sept, 10 – 1pm,
Leybourne Lakes Country Park

Celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Country Park, by joining us on the Anniversary guided walk. Learn about the history, wildlife, ecology and conservation management of Leybourne Lakes Country Park. See the Park in a different light, with this informative guided walk. Ideal for regular visitors or those new to the Park. **Booking required.** Contact the Rangers Office on 01634 243397.

Ranscombe: a Working Farm 📍 🚶 🗺

Sat 12th Sept, 1- 4pm,
Ranscombe Farm (Cuxton)

Join the tenant farmer on a guided tour of Ranscombe. Find out how farming has shaped the landscape we see today and discover how modern arable production and nature conservation can work together. Meet at Ranscombe Farm car park. **Booking required.** Contact 01474 824180 or 07983 578201 or email ben.sweeney@plantlife.org.uk

A Magnificent Megalith – Coldrum Stones 📍

Sun 13th Sept, 2pm, Coldrum Stones (Trosley)

A fantastic opportunity to learn about the history and significance of the Coldrum Stones – one of the mysterious and little understood megaliths found in the Medway valley area. Led by Kent County Council heritage team. Narrow path, uneven terrain and stile to access the site. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Junior Ranger Club ★ 🚶

Mon 14th Sept, 3:45 – 4:45pm,
Capstone Farm Country Park

A must for any budding David Bellamy, become a ranger for the morning and study the nature that can be found at the park. The club meets monthly and activities can range from arts and crafts to walks, pond dipping and bird watching. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191.

Exploring Strange Lands: the Medway Valley Prehistoric Landscapes Project 📍 🚶 🗺

Tues 15th Sept, 7:30pm, Snodland

The Medway megaliths, consisting of at least six stone-built Neolithic tombs, have long been a mysterious, much-debated but little-understood feature of the Medway valley landscape. This talk by Paul Garwood, Birmingham University lecturer in Prehistory, will describe what we know about these enigmatic structures, including the results of new fieldwork, and what they tell us about the strange and unfamiliar cultural worlds of early farming communities six thousand years ago. Talk is being held in the main hall at Holmesdale Technology College (Malling Road ME6 5HS). **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Snodland Through History – part 2 (1800 to present) 📍 🚶 🗺

Thurs 17th Sept, 7:30pm, Snodland

The second of two fascinating talks revealing the rich heritage of Snodland and the surrounding area by local expert Dr Andrew Ashbee. Learn about what Snodland used to be like and how and why it has changed over the years. The talk will be held in the downstairs room at Snodland Town Council offices, Waghorn Road ME6 5BQ.



Nashenden Down – a New Nature Reserve in the Medway Valley 📍 🚶 🗺

Thurs 17th Sept, 7pm, Tyland Barn

Come and learn about Kent Wildlife Trust's plans for the site which include chalk grassland creation, hedge planting, tree planting and new access routes. **Booking required.** Contact Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012 or email info@kentwildlife.org.uk

Beyond Ranscombe 📍 🚶 🗺

Sun 20th Sept, 10am, Ranscombe Farm

Join the Ranscombe warden for an extended tour of the reserve and its neighbouring countryside. See how Ranscombe fits into an exciting new network of countryside sites from Medway to Gravesend and find out what has been going on at nearby places like Cobham Hall and the Darnley Mausoleum. 7 miles, approx 3.5 hours at a relaxed pace. Meet at Ranscombe Farm car park. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Kent Goes Wild: Sat 26th – Sun 27th Sept, Mote Park ★ 🚶

The biggest wildlife and conservation event in Kent. For more information, call 01622 221468 or email kent.goeswild@kent.gov.uk

Bird Box and Animal Home Making ★ 🚶

Sun 27th Sept, 10 – 12pm,
Riverside Country Park

An opportunity to enrich the wildlife found in your garden by creating new habitats. £5 per home. For more details call 01634 337432.

October

Tiny Tots ★ 🚗

Wed 7th Oct, 10 – 2pm,
Capstone Farm Country Park

Arts and crafts for younger children with simple finger painting and potato printing, an opportunity to develop their creative side. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 – 5. Please wear old clothes as it could get messy. £1 per child. Drop in any time.

Autumnal Leaves ★ 🚗

Sun 10th Oct, 10 – 12pm,
Riverside Country Park

Celebrate the end of the summer and start of autumn with this children's craft workshop making collages with the seeds, berries and autumn leaves which you will collect from around the park. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £1 per child. Drop in any time.

Autumnal Leaves ★ 🚗

Sat 17th Oct, 10 – 12pm,
Capstone Farm Country Park

Celebrate the end of the summer and start of autumn with this children's craft workshop making collages with the seeds, berries and autumn leaves which you will collect from around the park. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £1 per child. Drop in any time.

Junior Ranger Club ★ 🚗

Sat 17th Oct, 10 – 12pm,
Riverside Country Park

A must for any budding David Bellamy. Become a ranger for the morning and study the nature that can be found at the park. The club meets monthly and activities can range from arts and crafts to walks, pond dipping and bird watching. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432

Shore Birds ★ 🚗

Sun 18th Oct, Motney Hill,
Riverside Country Park

A must for local bird enthusiasts. Learn more about

the estuary birdlife and watch out for the autumn migrants. This event is not for total beginners. Suitable for over 12s. £2 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 338191

Cementing the Past – Industrial Heritage in the Medway Gap



Tues 20th Oct, 7:30pm,
Aylesford Community Centre

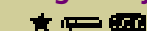
Discover and learn about the rich industrial heritage of the Medway Gap from local enthusiast and expert Jim Preston. Learn about the various cement, paper and brick industries of the Medway Gap's industrial past that have shaped the landscape we see today. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Half Term Activity Trail ★ 🚗

Sat 24th Oct – Sun 1st Nov, 10 – 3pm,
Shorne Wood Country Park

Follow the clues, answer the questions and completed trails will receive a prize. Trail sheets available from the visitor centre. £2 per sheet.

Night Skywatch – Autumn



Sun 25th Oct, 7pm, Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site

When the skies are clear, have you ever wondered what you are looking at in the night sky? This workshop will provide the answers as we explore the wonders of the night skies, as well as giving an introduction to small telescopes, binoculars and their use. Approx 2 hours. Minimum age 10 years. Please bring a torch covered with a red film (such as a plastic red folder) as this enables you to still find your way but not affect your 'night eyes'. Wear warm clothes. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.



Feed the Birds ★ 🚗

Tues 27th Oct, 1 – 3pm, Trosley Country Park

Make bird feeders out of natural and recycled materials to take home and feed the birds in your garden. £5 per child.

Halloween Walk ★ 🚗

Thurs 29th Oct, 5:30 – 6:30pm and 7 – 8pm, Riverside Country Park

Prepare to be scared out of your skin on our annual spooky ghost walk, only for the very brave. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £3 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Halloween Fun Day ★ 🚗

Fri 30th Oct, Teston Bridge Country Park

Come make Scary Halloween Hats, Masks, Spiders – Arts and crafts day with the Rangers in our Marquee. £5 per child.

Halloween Walk ★ 🚗

Fri 30th Oct, 5:30 – 6:30pm and 7 – 8pm, Capstone Farm Country Park

Prepare to be scared out of your skin on our annual spooky ghost walk, only for the very brave. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £3 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Shorne Scream ★ 🚗

Fri 30 – Sat 31st Oct, 6:30 – 8:30pm, Shorne Woods Country Park

Self-led spooky trail after dark in the woods. Not recommended for children under 6. Fancy dress



welcome. Refreshments available. No dogs. £7, children £4. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Terrifying Teston Halloween Event ★ 🚗

Sat 31st Oct, 10 – 2pm, Teston Bridge Country Park

Join us to make spooky spiders and ghoulish masks amongst other things. £4 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 08458 247600 to book.

November

Tiny Tots ★ 🚗

Wed 4th Nov, 10 – 2pm, Riverside Country Park

Arts and crafts for younger children with simple finger painting and potato printing, an opportunity to develop their creative side. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 – 5. Please wear old clothes as it could get messy. £1 per child. Drop in any time.

Junior Ranger Club ★ 🚗

Mon 9th Nov, 3:45 – 4:45pm, Capstone Farm Country Park

A must for any budding David Bellamy. Become a ranger for the morning and study the nature that can be found at the park. The club meets monthly and activities can range from arts and crafts to walks, pond dipping and bird watching. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432

England's Past for Everyone: The Medway Towns Project 🗣️ 🚗 🏠

Wed 18th Nov, 8pm, Halling Community Centre

A fully illustrated talk which will explore the history of the Medway Towns between 1550 and 1900. Hear about the exciting new research done by a group of local volunteers who have been working with Dr Sandra Dunster from the University of Greenwich to produce a new paperback book. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

EVENTS

Bats on the Downs 🦇 🚗

Fri 20th Nov 7:30pm, Tyland Barn

A summary of the new and exciting project being led by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership. We will be reporting on the survey work undertaken and results, as well as the community involvement with the project.

Traditional Crafts ★ 🚗

Sat 21st Nov 10 – 12pm, Riverside Country Park

Come and try your hand at a traditional craft; activities may vary from mallet making and pottery to finger weaving. £2.50 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Woodlands in Winter 🌲

Sun 22nd Nov, 10am, Holly Hill & Ladd's Farm

Help us celebrate National Tree Week! We will be looking out for interesting trees in the fantastic woodlands above Upper Halling and seeing if we can identify them without their leaves?! Meet at Holly Hill public open space car park TQ 669629. Approx 3 miles, 2 hours. Some steep slopes and stiles. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

National Tree Week: Wed 25th November – Sun 6th December

The Rise and Fall of the Cement Industry on the River Medway 🗣️ 🚗

Thurs 26th Nov, 7.30pm, Wouldham Village Hall

A fascinating insight into the world of the cement industry. Hear about why it came to exist in the Medway valley, the importance of this industry for the local area and how the cement industry has become an important part of the heritage of the Medway Gap as well as playing a role in its future. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Tree Dressing ★ 🚗

Sat 28th Nov, 10 – 1pm, Riverside Country Park

Join the ranger in a tree dressing morning, Tree dressing aims to encourage the celebration of trees

in city and country, in the street or village green. Spend some time in the visitor centre making decorations for the trees around the park, then pop outside and decorate. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £1 per child.

Tree Dressing ★ 🚗

Sun 29th Nov, 10 – 1pm, Capstone Farm Country Park

Join the ranger in a tree dressing morning, Tree dressing aims to encourage the celebration of trees in city and country, in the street or village green. Spend some time in the visitor centre making decorations for the trees around the park, then pop outside and decorate. For accompanied children aged 5 – 12. £1 per child.

December

Tree Dressing Day ★ 🚗

Sat 5th Dec, 10 – 12pm, Shorne Woods Country Park

Make decorations for the trees at Shorne as part of the Tree Dressing Day celebrations. Suitable for children aged between 5 and 11. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Winter Visitors ★ 🚗

Sun 6th Dec, 10 – 12pm, Riverside Country Park

Come to Riverside Country Park and identify the winter birds around the park. Binoculars are available. Suitable for over 12s. £2 per person. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Winter Walk in Cuxton 🗣️ 🚗 🏠

Sun 6th Dec

Join Cuxton countryside group on a winter walk around Cuxton, enjoying the site and sounds offered during the winter months. For further information contact 01634 295580.

EVENTS



Junior Ranger Club ★ 🚗

Sat 12th Dec, 10 – 12pm,
Riverside Country Park

A must for any budding David Bellamy. Become a ranger for the morning and study the nature that can be found at the park. The club meets monthly and activities can range from arts and crafts to walks, pond dipping and bird watching. For accompanied children aged 5 to 12. £1 per child. **Booking required.** Contact 01634 337432.

Observing Meteors and Skywatch ★ 🚗 📡

Sat 12th Dec, 7pm, Ranscombe Farm

Around Christmas is the best time for observing meteor showers. Spectacular shows are predicted for 12th December. Why not come along and observe these fascinating meteor showers and learn all about them and the night sky – a gentle respite from the seasonal chaos! Please bring a torch covered with a red film (such as a red plastic folder) as this enables you to still find your way but not affect your 'night eyes'. Approx 2 hours. Minimum age 10 years. Wear warm clothes. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Tiny Tots ★ 🚗

Sat 12th Dec, 10 – 2pm,
Capstone Farm Country Park

Arts and crafts for younger children with simple finger painting and potato printing, an opportunity to develop their creative side. Suitable for accompanied children aged 2 – 5. Please wear old clothes as it could get messy. £1 per child. Drop in any time.

Boxing Day Walk 📍

Sat 26th Dec, 11 – 1pm,
Shorne Woods Country Park

Join our warden on this 2 hour walk covering 4 to 5 miles and including 20 minutes at a local pub (church visit alternative). Dogs on leads. £3.50 per person. **Booking required.** Contact the visitor centre on 01474 823800.

Jan 2010

The Sights & Sounds of Holborough Marsh 📍 🚗 📡 📺

Wed 6th Jan, 11am, Holborough Marsh

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Holborough Marsh on a guided walk led by Kent Wildlife Trust. Learn about marshes, what wildlife they support and why they're such an important and often undervalued habitat. Also learn about the management work undertaken by the reserve warden and volunteers to conserve this site for people and wildlife. Uneven terrain, narrow paths, kissing gates and likely to be a little boggy at this time of year! **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Burham Marsh Guided Walk 📍 🚗

Sun 10th Jan, 10:30am, Burham Marsh

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Burham Marsh on a guided walk led by Kent Wildlife Trust. Learn about marshes, what wildlife they support and why they're such an important habitat. Uneven terrain, narrow paths and likely to be a little boggy at this time of year! **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Friars Guided Tour ★ 🚗 📡

Wed 20th Jan, 11am, Aylesford Priory

A fascinating guided tour around the Friars, an ancient religious house of the Order of the Carmelites dating back to the 13th Century. 1 hour tour, disabled access. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Night Skywatch – Winter ★ 🚗

Wed 20th Jan, 7pm, Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site

When the skies are clear, have you ever wondered what you are looking at in the night sky? This workshop will provide the answers as we explore the wonders of the night skies, as well as giving an introduction to small telescopes, binoculars and their use. Please bring a torch covered with a red film (such as a red plastic folder) as this enables you to still find your way but not affect your 'night eyes'. Approx 2 hours. Minimum age 10 years. Wear warm clothes. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Feb 2010

Winter Wonderland 📍 🚗

Wed 10th Feb, 10am, Burham Down

Guided walk around the beautiful chalk hills of the North Downs with the reserve warden. Discover and identify wildlife and habitats in winter whilst enjoying the panoramic views offered from this wonderful site. Approx 2 hours, 2.5 miles. Steep slopes, uneven tracks, kissing gates and steps in places. Meet at Blue Bell Hill picnic site TQ 744 622. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Surviving the Ice Ages: Early Man in the Medway Valley 📍 🚗 📡

Sat 13th Feb, 11:30am,
Rochester Guildhall Museum

Come and discover the intriguing Palaeolithic heritage of the Medway area by expert Dr Francis Wenban-Smith. Opportunity to handle fascinating artefacts. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.

Mar 2010

Revealing Snodland's Past – Snodland to Holborough Marsh 📍 🚗 📡

Sun 7th March, 2pm, Snodland

Join local expert Dr Andrew Ashbee from Snodland Historical Society on a guided walk offering a fascinating insight into the rich heritage of Snodland and the surrounding area. Listen out for sights and sounds of wildlife at Holborough Marsh whilst enjoying views of the local countryside along the way. Terrain: footpaths (narrow in places) and roads with kissing gates in Holborough Marsh. 2 hours, maximum of 3 miles. Meet at Snodland car park (Rocfort Road end, ME6 5NQ TQ 704617).

Night Skywatch – Spring ★ 🚗 📡

Thurs 18th March, 7pm, Ranscombe Farm

When the skies are clear, have you ever wondered what you are looking at in the night sky? This workshop will provide the answers as we explore the wonders of the night skies, as well as giving an introduction to small telescopes, binoculars and their use. Please bring a torch covered with a red film (such as a red plastic folder) as this enables you to still find your way but not affect your 'night eyes'. Approx 2 hours. Minimum age 10 years. Wear warm clothes. **Booking required.** Contact Valley of Visions.



**Capstone Farm Country Park**

Capstone Road, Gillingham, ME7 3JG
t: 01634 338191
e: capstonefarmcp@medway.gov.uk

Gravesham Heritage Festival

Towncentric, 18a St George's Square,
Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0TB
t: 01474 337600
e: info@towncentric.co.uk
w: www.towncentric.co.uk/
heritagefestival

**Jeskyns Community
Woodland and Greenspace**

Henhurst Road, Cobham, Kent,
DA12 3AN
t: 01474 825118
e: jeskynsranger@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
w: www.forestry.gov.uk/jeskyns

Kent Archaeological Society

w: www.kentarchaeology.org.uk

Kent Bat Group

w: www.kentbatgroup.org.uk

Kent County Council

County Hall, Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 1XQ
t: 08458 247247
w: www.kent.gov.uk

Kent Geologists Group

w: http://www.kgg.org.uk

Kent Mammal Group

w: www.kentmammalgroup.org.uk

Kent Ramblers

w: www.kentramblers.org.uk

Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group

e: KRAGevents@btopenworld.com
w: www.kentarg.org

**Kent RIGS (Regionally Important
Geological Sites group)**

w: www.kentrigs.org.uk

Kent Wildlife Trust

Tyland Barn, Sandling Road,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3BD
t: 01622 662012
e: info@kentwildlife.org.uk
w: www.kentwildlife.org.uk

Leybourne Lakes Country Park

Malling Road, Larkfield,
Kent, ME20 6AA
t: 01634 243397
e: leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk
w: www.tmbc.gov.uk

Maidstone Health Walks

w: www.whi.org.uk

Medway Council

Gun Wharf, Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR
t: 01634 306000
e: customer.first@medway.gov.uk
w: www.medway.gov.uk

**Medway Swale Estuary
Partnership**

Riverside Country Park, Lower
Rainham Road, Gillingham,
Kent, ME7 2XH
t: 01634 337432
e: msep@kent.gov.uk
w: www.msep.org.uk

**Medway Valley
Countryside Partnership**

3 Lock Cottages, Lock Lane, Sandling,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3AU
t: 01622 683695
e: medwayvalley@kent.gov.uk
w: www.medwayvalley.org

**Medway Valley Line
Community Rail Partnership**

w: www.ruralkent.org.uk/
community-rail/
medwayvalley-line.htm

**Ranscombe Farm
(managed by Plantlife)**

Cuxton, TQ 718 675
Reserve warden: Ben Sweeney.
t: 01474 824180
e: ben.sweeney@gravesham.gov.uk
w: www.plantlife.org.uk

Riverside Country Park

Lower Rainham Road, Rainham,
Gillingham, ME7 2XH
t: 01634 337432
e: riversidecp@medway.gov.uk
w: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Shorne Woods Country Park

Brewers Road, Gravesend,
Kent, DA12 3HX
t: 01474 823800
w: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

Teston Bridge Country Park

Teston Lane, Teston,
Kent, ME18 5BX
t: 01622 817623
w: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

**Tonbridge & Malling
Borough Council**

Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings
Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ
t: 01732 844522
w: www.tmbc.gov.uk

Trosley Country Park

Waterlow Road, Meopham, Kent,
DA13 0SG
t: 01732 823570
w: www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent



Valley of Visions is a three year Landscape Partnership Scheme funded primarily by the Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered through the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit (AONB). The £2.5 million scheme is investing in the landscape and countryside of the Medway Gap, the wide valley between Rochester and Maidstone, whilst providing new opportunities to engage the local community to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural beauty and heritage of the area.

Valley of Visions Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Cedars, Holborough Road
Snodland, Kent, ME6 5PW

e: mail@vov.kentdowns.org.uk

t: 01634 242826

f: 01634 243639

www.valleyofvisions.org.uk



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