

Events

Summer 2010



Event organised by Blackwater Valley Countryside. Ring 01252 331353 for more details.

MAY

Sat 22 EVENT: Biodiversity Day at Fleet Pond 11am-4pm

Fleet Pond Society and the Lottery-funded OPAL project are co-organising a local event at Fleet Pond to celebrate International Biodiversity Day. There will be a wide range of nature activities for all ages, including wildlife identification and pond-dipping. The reserve centres around Hampshire's largest freshwater lake and is located next to Fleet's mainline station.



Wed 26 WALK: Transported Through Ash 10am-12.30pm

Join an interesting circular walk covering around 4½ miles, that links the history of transport in the Valley. The route includes the old railway path, the Basingstoke Canal towpath and the Blackwater Valley Path. The terrain is mostly flat although there are some slopes and steps as well as uneven ground. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Walkers' Link. Meet at Coronation Garden car park, Ash Hill Road, Ash. Grid ref: SU 896 514

Sun 30 FAMILY EVENT: Water Beasts of Watchmoor 2pm

Join a Surrey Heath Ranger for an afternoon of family pond dipping at Watchmoor Reserve near Camberley. Discover some of the mysterious beasts that lurk in the muddy depths. If you're lucky you may catch a leech or even a water scorpion. Meet in the car park behind Sainsbury's petrol station, Watchmoor Park, Blackwater Valley Road,

Camberley GU15 3YN. Sorry no dogs. Ring 01276 707100 for more details or email enquiries@surreyheath.gov.uk

JUNE

Tues 1, Thur 3, Tues 22, Thur 24 & Sat 26 EVENT: Ranger Patrol - Dusk Discoveries on the Heath

9.45pm-11.45pm

Join a Surrey Heath Ranger on his two-hour moonlit patrols of Lightwater Country Park. See the dark side of the heathland and hunt for amazing nocturnal beasts such as nightjars, bats and tawny owls. Wear warm clothing as it may become cool later. Lightwater Country Park, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5RG. Suitable for adults and older children. Sorry no dogs. Ring 01276 707100 for more details or email enquiries@surreyheath.gov.uk

Sat 5 WILDLIFE WALK: Damsels and Dragonflies 1pm-2.30pm

Come and join Ranger Ian Stoneman for a walk around one of the ponds of Yateley Common to get close-up to these fascinating insects. Known as Odonata, they are amongst the most capable of flying insects, which, coupled with superb vision, makes them deadly predators. Using a net to capture them, participants will get a close-up view. A chance to look at some butterflies too. Subject to weather and interest. FREE, but please call 01252 870425 to book your place. Meet at Wyndham's Pond, Cricket Hill Lane, Yateley, Hampshire. Grid ref: SU 822 596.

Sun 13 FAMILY EVENT: Cove Brook Springwatch Wild Day Out

10.30am-3.30pm

Starts the night before with a 24-hour bio-blight of Birchbrook Reserve and a short stretch of the brook, when wildlife experts

will be surveying what's there. Come along to help or just find out what's there. On Sunday there'll be a host of events: Miller's Ark farm animals; working horses; Falcon High falconry display; local wildlife groups; recycling information; birdbox making; refreshments and more. Event in and around Blunden Hall, Blunden Road, Farnborough GU14 8QP and Birchbrook Reserve. Parking limited so please walk or cycle if you can. Ring 01252 512634 for more details.



Fri 18 WALK: Canal Connections 10am-1pm

A lovely rural walk of around five miles discovering some of the countryside around the Basingstoke Canal in the Dogmersfield area. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Walkers' Link. Meet at Dogmersfield, near the Barley Mow pub. Grid ref: SU 778 538. Optional pub visit afterwards.



Sat 26 FAMILY EVENT: Pond Dipping 2pm-4pm

During National Insect Week the whole family is invited to join this pond dipping event. Take a break from your shopping trip to Sainsbury's and discover what life there is in the ponds at Watchmoor Reserve. Adults will get an equal opportunity to dip – so you could leave the kids at home while you enjoy the delights of the underwater world. Watchmoor Reserve, Camberley is accessed from the car park behind Sainsbury's petrol station, off the Blackwater Valley road. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust. FREE, although donations welcome. Please book by phoning 01252 331353 or 01276 22574.

Sat 26 WILDLIFE WALK: Nightjar

Twilight Walk 9pm-10.30pm

Search for nightjars on this twilight walk. Join Ranger Natalie Tanzer on a walk around Castle Bottom Nature Reserve, searching for the nightjar as it takes flight in search of bugs and moths to feed on. Stout shoes and a torch advisable. Subject to weather and interest. Please call 01252 870425 to book your place. Meet at Castle Bottom National Nature Reserve. Grid ref: SU 795 596.

JULY



Thur 1 WALK: Evening Stroll from Sandhurst

7pm-9pm

Join this pleasant three mile evening stroll taking in Snaprails Park and Wildmoor Heath Nature Reserve. The reserve includes areas of wet and dry heathland and is an important habitat for a variety of species. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Walkers' Link. Meet at Sandhurst Memorial Park car park, Yorktown Road, Sandhurst. Grid ref: SU 843 613. Optional pub visit afterwards.

Sun 4 WILDLIFE WALK: Bird Walk

9.30am-11.30am

Join a Surrey Heath Ranger for a circular bird walk starting from Frimley Lodge Park taking in the Basingstoke Canal woodlands on the way. Meet outside the pavilion, Frimley Lodge Park, Sturt Road, Frimley Green, Surrey GU16 6HY. Family event. Dogs on leads welcome. Ring 01276 707100 for more details or email enquiries@surreyheath.gov.uk

Sun 4 FAMILY EVENT: Brickfields 25th Anniversary Wildlife Fun Day

11am-4pm.

A popular local event at Brickfields Country Park with farm animals, birds of prey display, stalls from local environment and wildlife groups, refreshments, games, quizzes, tombola, cake stall and their own brand 'Brickfields Park' jams. Visit www.brickfieldspark.org for more details. Brickfields Country Park, off Boxalls Lane, Aldershot GU11 3QJ.

Wed 21 WILDLIFE WALK: Nightjar

Twilight Walk 9pm-10.30pm

Search for nightjars on this twilight walk. Join Ranger, Jean Evans on a walk around Yateley Common, searching for the nightjar as it takes flight in search of bugs and moths to feed on. Stout shoes and a torch advisable. Subject to weather and interest. FREE but please call 01252 870425 to book your place. Meet at Heathlands Cemetery car park off Stevens Hill, Yateley GU46 6AY. Grid ref: SU 824 596.

AUGUST

Thur 5th FOR CHILDREN: Mini-Beast Hunting

10am-12noon

Children are invited to join Surrey Heath Rangers to search for the mini-beasts that live in the meadows at Lightwater Country Park. All equipment is provided, pre-booking essential by calling 01276 479582. Costs £10 per child. Suitable for children 8-12 years. Heathland Visitor Centre, Lightwater Country Park, Surrey GU18 5RG. Ring 01276 707100 for more details or email enquiries@surreyheath.gov.uk. Also on 12th August.



Fri 20 WALK: At Your Leisure

10am-1pm

Join this pleasant 5-6 mile walk taking in some of the heathland and countryside found to the south of Frimley Lodge Park. Could be muddy after rain. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust. FREE, although donations welcome. Please call 01252 331353 to book a place. Meet at Frimley Lodge car park, Sturt Road, Mytchett, Surrey. Grid ref: SU 887 562.

SEPTEMBER

Wed 1 WILDLIFE WALK: Bats at Zebon Copse

7.30pm-9pm

Come and join Zebon Copse Ranger Natalie Tanzer and local bat expert Paul Hope for this dusk-walk, watching these fascinating flying mammals as they dart around hunting for insects in Zebon Copse and over the Basingstoke Canal. Bat detectors available. Please wear stout footwear and bring a torch. Subject to weather and interest. FREE but please call 01252 870425 to book your place. Meet at Velmead Community Centre, Zebon Copse Estate, Church Crookham, Hampshire. Grid ref: SU 800 518.



Sun 5th EVENT: Moor Green Lakes Open Day

Find out more about this beautiful nature reserve on this special open day to include guided walks around the site. Visit the website www.mglg.org.uk or ring 01252 331353 for more details. Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve, Lower Sandhurst Road, Eversley. Grid ref: SU 805 627.



Fri 17 WILDLIFE WALK: Searching for Bats

7pm-8.30pm

Your chance to find out about bats and to see, and hear, some of the bats found in the Blackwater Valley. This popular event has been organised by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust and will be led by Steve Bailey. Please bring a torch. FREE, although donations welcome. Please call 01252 331353 to book a

place. Meet in the car park at Sandhurst Memorial Park car park, Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire. Grid ref: SU 843 613.



Sun 19 EVENT: Snaky Lane Family Open Day

11am-3.30pm

Come along and discover Snaky Lane wildlife area at this special family event. Meet the cattle. See the birds of prey display. Go on a bug hunt. See 'aliens' from the pond. Learn about the site management. Try your luck at the tombola. Refreshments. Snaky Lane Wildlife Area, off Stratford Road, Ash Vale, Surrey GU12 5PY. For more details ring: 01252 331353.



Thur 23 WALK: Rural Roam

10am-1.30pm

Discover the countryside around the lower reaches of the River Blackwater on this pleasant walk covering about six miles. The route will include some field tracks which may be muddy. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Walkers' Link. Meet for a 10am start at Riseley Memorial Hall. Grid ref: SU 722 629.

OCTOBER



Sat 9th WALK: In the Footsteps of Highwaymen

10am-1pm

A five-mile walk taking in heathland and flower meadows. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Walkers' Link. Meet at Yateley Common gravel pit car park off A30 nr Blackwater. Grid ref: SU 838 594.

NOVEMBER



Wed 3rd WALK: With the Water Babies of Eversley

10am-1pm

See some of the rural parts of the Blackwater Valley on this 5½ mile walk, organised by the Blackwater Valley Walkers' Link. Meet in lane leading to St Mary's Church, Eversley opp. Eversley Antiques Barn. Church and barn are signed from A327. Church post code: RG27 0PX. Grid ref: SU 779 609.

DECEMBER



Sun 5th WALK: Identifying Trees in Winter

2pm

How do you identify trees in winter. Come along and find out. Organised by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust and led by Bernard. Donations welcome. Phone 01252 331353 to book a place. Meet at Frimley Lodge car park, Sturt Road, Frimley, Surrey. Grid ref: SU 887 562.

We advise you to always phone the organisers to check the details before making a special journey to any event.