



The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership's

GREEN GANG

FAMILY ACTIVITIES—MAY TO JUNE 2017

WELCOME to the Spring edition of the Green Gang magazine produced by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership. The Green Gang is a special programme of fun events for children and their families that has been running for 24 years that gives an opportunity to learn more about local wildlife and countryside. Most of the events are free, although donations are appreciated to help cover the running costs of Green Gang. You don't have to be a member.



HAVE A GO AT POND DIPPING!

Pond dipping can be great fun as there are many different types of animals that live in or around ponds. Some creatures that you can find in ponds include leeches, fresh water shrimps, pond snails and newts (see pic left). The most common newt you will see in your garden pond is the smooth newt.

Romney Marsh is also lucky enough to have the endangered great crested newt too. Newts breed between February and June. The female newt lays single eggs on leaves of pond plants. She then carefully wraps the leaf around the egg. The eggs then hatch to produce newt tadpoles or 'efts'. The newt eft produces their front legs first and then their back legs, feeding on larvae, tadpoles and other creatures in the water. Between July and October the young newts then emerge and go in search of damp places to live, hibernating during the winter until the following year, having an average lifespan of 6 years. Join our pond dipping events at Kearsney, Dover on Tuesday 30 May, or Peene, Folkestone on Saturday 3 June to learn more about life in a pond!



Newt egg on leaf

COMPETITION TIME!

Complete our wordsearch by finding and circling the 8 chalk grassland plants in the grid below:

VIOLET
ORCHID
COWSLIP
DAISY
HAREBELL
RAGWORT
CLOVER
YARROW

H	B	C	R	E	V	O	L	C
R	V	I	O	L	E	T	H	O
W	H	B	R	K	R	H	K	W
D	A	M	C	L	E	I	X	S
A	R	R	H	E	Y	S	E	L
I	E	T	I	W	A	T	R	I
S	B	O	D	Q	R	L	U	P
Y	E	E	Y	U	R	E	H	I
A	L	H	G	R	O	H	U	O
C	L	T	R	O	W	G	A	R

Send your entry, with your name and address to WCCP, C/o Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PJ by Monday 19 June 2017. The first 3 correct entries out of the hat will receive a guide to plants found in grasslands.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____ GG Spring 17

MAKE A TOAD ABODE!



With all this dry weather at the moment, toads and frogs need a place to shelter from the sun. Why not make them a safe place to go! Dig out a small hole in a shady area and place an old clay flower

pot inside the hole on it's side. Then replace the soil to bury the pot half way. Collect some dead leaves, and compost if you have some and place it inside the pot for the toad or frog to sit amongst.



BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER!



The Junior Ranger events take a closer look at wildlife and ecology. Make notes in your nature notebook to earn special Junior Ranger badges and certificates. It costs £3 to join. For an application form contact Sue Bradford on 01304 241806.

JUNIOR RANGER CONGRATULATIONS

Parents, please let us know when your child completes a stage of the Junior Rangers in order for us to send out their award. Thank you!

White Cliffs Countryside Partnership
c/o Dover District Council,
White Cliffs Business Park,
Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ. Tel (01304) 241806
Email: wccp@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk
Website: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk




Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership
Romney Marsh Day Centre, Rolfe Lane,
New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR
Tel/Fax: (01797) 367934
Email: mail@rmcp.co.uk
Website: www.rmcp.co.uk

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AT ALL EVENTS

Please note that children under 18 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian. It is the responsibility of the adult to make sure that their children are safe and well behaved, not the responsibility of the leader.

HAVE A GO AT CONSERVATION 'CARING FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE'

 'Caring for the Countryside' events are practical conservation days where local people carry out practical work to improve the sites for wildlife and people. The leader will explain about the work and how to use the tools. You don't have to stay all day – why not come along for an hour or two. We provide gloves, as well as refreshments, but please wear boots that protect your toes and have good grip, and clothes appropriate for the weather. Bring a hot/cold drink and packed lunch if you want to stay all day. Contact us on 01304 241806 for more details.

Saturday 27 May to Sunday 4 June 10.00am to 4.00pm BECOME A BUG CATCHER AT DUNGENESS!

Come on a bug safari at RSPB Dungeness. Pop into the visitor centre and you'll be given an ID booklet, spotter sheet, sweep net and bug pot to borrow to try and catch as many different mini beasts as you can in our Discovery Area. This is a self-led activity. Children need to be supervised at all times. Please read instructions given. No need to book, just turn up for this drop-in event anytime throughout the day. Equipment subject to availability. **CHARGE:** £2 per child. Entry fee applies to walk the trail. **LEADER:** RSPB (01797 320588). **MEET:** RSPB Dungeness, Boulderwall Farm, Dungeness Road, Lydd, TN29 9PN.


Sunday 28 May 3.00pm GUIDED WALK: SOUTH FORELAND AT WAR

An easy afternoon walk to discover about the history and wildlife of the South Foreland Valley. A chance to find out more about the new proposed interpretation trail about the World War Two military defences. There is a chance to go underground briefly to explore one of the magazines (although this is optional). Please bring a torch if you wish to go underground. Suggested donation of £2 appreciated. **LEADER:** Kirk Alexander, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806 or 07885 599182). **MEET:** At the car park (Near the Church), High Street, St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Village, near Dover CT15 6AT. **DISTANCE:** 3 miles (2 hours). **GRADE:** 3


Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June 8.30am to 4.00pm BAY TRUST HOLIDAY CLUB (Please book)

An action packed four days of outdoor activities for kids between 7 and 14. Booking on line (www.baytrust.org.uk) or by phone Call Tracey on 01304 851737, Ext: 2007 (Between 9:00 and 14:30 Monday – Friday). **CHARGE:** Just £25 per day or £80 for the week. Siblings are £20 per day and £70 for the week. Flexible longer stay till 5pm for £2 per child. Please pay on day. **LEADER:** Pete Evans, Skills Horizon. **MEET:** The Pines Garden, Beach Road, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6DZ.


Tuesday 30 May 10.00am HAVE A GO AT CONSERVATION: NEW ROMNEY WARREN

Repairing fences and clearing footpaths in this coastal nature reserve. **LEADER:** Jan MacNicol, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (07880 706993). **MEET:** Romney Warren Visitor Centre, between New Romney & St. Mary's Bay, by railway bridge off A259, TN28 8AY. 


Tuesday 30 May 10.00am HAVE A GO AT CONSERVATION: HIGH MEADOW, DOVER

Footpath clearing, litter clearing and vegetation management on this chalk grassland nature reserve. **LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07773 619121). **MEET:** Noah's Ark Road, by the concrete steps opposite the junction of Anselm Road, Dover (TR 303 418). 


Tuesday 30 May 11.00am POND-DIPPING AT BUSHY RUFF (Green Gang)

Have fun pond-dipping at Bushy Ruff, and learn about the fascinating wildlife and ecology of water. Please bring a pond net if you have one. Please wear sturdy or waterproof footwear and bring water to drink. Suggested donation of £2 appreciated. **LEADER:** Nature Table for White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01795 535504). **MEET:** Outside the café, Kearsney Abbey Gardens, Kearsney, near Dover (TR 287 438). **DISTANCE:** 0.5 miles (2 hours). **GRADE:** 2. No dogs. 


Wednesday 31 May 10.00am HAVE A GO AT CONSERVATION: FOLKESTONE DOWNS

Footpath clearing, step repairs and vegetation management on this chalk grassland nature reserve. **LEADER:** Alfie Gay, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07734 777380). **MEET:** By the bollards at the top of Castle Hill road, junction of Crete Road West, Folkestone CT18 7AB (TR 213 382). 

Thursday 1 June 10.30am ROCKPOOLING AT FOLKESTONE WARREN (Green Gang)

Join us for a chance to discover the crabs, anemones and other wildlife of a rocky shore. Please bring wellies or footwear for walking on a rocky shore and that can get wet, and bring dry clothes to change into! Suggested donation of £2 appreciated. **LEADER:** Tony Rouse, Bug Roadshow, for White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806). **MEET:** Outside Pavilion Restaurant, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT19 6BL. **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (2 hours). **GRADE:** 5 (rocky shore). 

Thursday 1 June to Thursday 31 August 11.00am to 3.00pm daily EXHIBITION: THE MAKING OF SAMPHIRE HOE


This year Samphire Hoe celebrates its twentieth birthday of being open to the public. Over this time it has become an important place for wildlife and a favourite place to visit. This exhibition documents the construction of the site and subsequent colonisation by wildlife. For information please call 01304 225649. **VENUE:** Samphire Hoe Education Shelter. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display parking). 

Thursday 1 June Sessions at 11.00am & 2.00pm


SHEEP, WOOL AND FELT (Please book)

A fun day with lots of wool related activities! Using wool tops to make some felt then turn it into a badge and make a Romney Rainbow Sheep out of colourful rainbow wool. There will also be Romney Rainbow Sheep's trail around the grounds. Suitable for adults and children age 5+. Booking is essential. Book online www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk. **CHARGE:** £6 per person. **LEADER:** Kent Wildlife Trust (01797 369487). **MEET:** Romney Marsh Visitor Centre, Dymchurch Road, New Romney, TN28 8AY (TR 078 261). **DURATION:** 2 hours. Dogs on leads.

Friday 2 June 10.00am SAMPHIRE HOE: EASY-TO-DO 1/2 DAY CONSERVATION

A programme of easy to do half day conservation tasks (10am to 1pm) take part at Samphire Hoe. The work could include path clearing or vegetation management. **LEADER:** Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07899 758748). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe (off A20 from Dover towards Folkestone) (TR 294 391). 

Friday 2 June 10.00am HAVE A GO AT CONSERVATION: RIVER DOUR: LITTER CLEARING

Come along and help keep the River Dour that runs through the centre of Dover tidy and help conserve the wildlife. All equipment provided. **LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07773 619121). **MEET:** Morrison's car park, Charlton Green, Dover (TR 315 422) then to the sites that need cleaning. 

Saturday 3 June 10.30am POND DIPPING AT GEORGE'S BARN

Join us to catch watery beasts in our pond and stream. Learn about the life cycles of some of the animals that we catch. Donation appreciated. **LEADER:** Clive Nuttman, Elham Valley Line Trust (07913 347467 or clivenuttman@outlook.com). **MEET:** George's Barn, Elham Valley Line Trust Railway Museum & Countryside & Craft Centre, Peene, near Folkestone, CT18 8AZ. **DURATION:** 2 hours.


Saturday 3 June 1.30pm & 3.15pm NATURE'S ART AT GEORGE'S BARN (Please book)

Two sessions on the first Saturday of each month from April to November. We use art to explore the nature of the Tangled Bank – a small wooded area and grassy bank that is full of wildlife. Use clay, paint, papier maché and other materials to create your own piece of art. **CHARGE:** £2. **LEADER:** Annie Begley, Elham Valley Line Trust (01303 840665 or annie@anniebegley.co.uk – places limited so please book). **MEET:** George's Barn, Elham Valley Line Trust Railway Museum & Countryside & Craft Centre, Peene, near Folkestone, CT18 8AZ. **DURATION:** 1.5 hours.


Saturday 3 June 2.00pm MINIBEASTS & MICROSCOPES AT GEORGE'S BARN

Join us to catch bugs on our grass and wildflower bank and see them under the microscope (if it's raining!). Donation appreciated. **LEADER:** Clive Nuttman, Elham Valley Line Trust (07913 347467 or clivenuttman@outlook.com). **MEET:** George's Barn, Elham Valley Line Trust Railway Museum & Countryside & Craft Centre, Peene, near Folkestone, CT18 8AZ. **DURATION:** 1 hour.


Sunday 4 June 11.00am (please book) CREATE AN AMAZING NIGHT SCENE (Art in the Shelter)

Now Samphire Hoe is a tranquil wildlife site however back when TML were fitting out the Channel Tunnel it was an amazing night time scene of industry. We shall create a dramatic night scene in vivid colour. Family event for all ages, all abilities. Suggested donation of £5 appreciated. **LEADER:** Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **MEET:** The new teaching room at the Samphire Hoe Shelter. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display car park). **DURATION:** 2 hours. No dogs. 

Sunday 4 June 10.00am HAVE A GO AT CONSERVATION: DUNGENESS NNR

Clearing footpaths, repairing boardwalks or other site work on this National Nature Reserve. **LEADER:** Lee Malbon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (07969 822691). **MEET:** Dungeness Old Lighthouse/RHD Light Railway car park, Dungeness, TN29 9NP (TR 085 187). 

Saturday 15 July 8.00pm BAT WALK AT FOLKESTONE WARREN

An evening walk through the dramatic landscape of Folkestone Warren in search of bats and other night wildlife, with stories of smugglers and wildlife. Please bring a torch and wear suitable footwear as we will be out after dark. Suggested donation of £2 per person appreciated. **LEADER:** Kirk Alexander, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806 or 07885 599182). **MEET:** East Cliff Pavilion, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT19 6BL (TR 239 365). **DISTANCE:** 3 miles (2.5 hours). **GRADE:** 5 (night). No dogs please. 

THE GRADING SYSTEM Grade 1 Very easy walk generally on pavements.
Grade 2 Easy walk in the countryside with gentle hills. No stiles.
Grade 3 Typical country walk with some steeper hills or stiles.
Grade 4 More difficult walking with steep hills or likely to be muddy paths
Grade 5 Difficult walks e.g. rocky shores or night walks.

 Junior Ranger events  Suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

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