



The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership's GREEN GANG

FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR THE FEBRUARY 2017 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

WELCOME to the February 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, giving children an opportunity to learn more about local wildlife and countryside. Most of the events are free, although a donation is appreciated to help cover the running costs of Green Gang. You don't have to be a member.

MAKE A NESTBOX

February is the time of year that birds are starting to look for nesting sites. Woodpeckers make holes in trees, reed warblers make nests in vegetation, peregrins look for nooks in the cliffs or birds like blackbirds can even find a suitable nest site in a discarded teapot! You can also help the birds by providing nest boxes. Come along on Friday 17th January or Saturday 18th February to make your very own bird box.



MAKE YOUR OWN FAT CONE FEEDER

Fat balls and cake are a good source of energy for birds in the winter. You can make your own pine cone fat feeder using a mixture of fat (lard) and bird seed. Warm the lard, mix it all together and then push the mixture into the gaps of the pine cone. Tie a piece of string to it and hang it securely from a tree branch. Or you can book a place on our event on the 18th February to make your own pine cone feeders.



AFFINITY WATER—IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY IN YOUR GARDEN



Your local supply, on tap

Affinity water is supporting our Build a Bird Box event at Samphire Hoe on the 18th February. Birds are a great way to introduce nature to children in their own

gardens. It's great for children to see birds moving into the boxes they have made and watch as the birds fly in and out bringing back food for the baby birds inside. You can encourage more birds to make a home in your garden by making it as wildlife friendly as possible, with plenty of places to rest and food to eat, such as plants and insects. The materials for the bird boxes are kindly being funded by Affinity Water, with the bird box kits being made by volunteers.

JOIN THE JUNIOR RANGERS!

It costs £3 to join the Junior Ranger scheme. You start as a Trainee Ranger and receive your badge and notebook. By attending the events you progress through the levels from Junior Ranger (5 events) to Peregrine (40 events). For an application form contact Sue Bradford on (01304) 241806.



COMPETITION TIME!

Complete our wordsearch by finding and circling the 8 GARDEN BIRDS in the grid below:

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

- WREN
- THRUSH
- BLACKBIRD
- ROBIN
- GREAT TIT
- SPARROW
- BLUE TIT
- STARLING

Send your entry with your name, age and address to White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, c/o DDC, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PJ by Tuesday 28th February 2017. The first 3 correct entries out of the hat will receive a guide to rockpooling!

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

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BE A COUNTRYSIDE RANGER

Have fun being a Countryside Ranger at Samphire Hoe on Wednesday 15th February! You will spend the morning walking around Samphire Hoe looking for wildlife and doing some of the interesting jobs that rangers do, such as checking the livestock. We will also go to parts of the Hoe normally off limits to members of the public! See inside for more details.



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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

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL EVENTS

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 of the event.

HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING!

'Have a go at Volunteering' events are practical conservation days where volunteers 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. No experience is necessary and we provide gloves, as well as refreshments, but please old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or torn, and wear boots that protect your toes and have good grip. Bring a cold drink and packed lunch if you plan to stay all day. Contact WCCP 01304 241806 for details.



Junior Ranger events



Suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

Saturday 11 to Monday 13 February 11.00am to 3.00pm daily EXHIBITION: COAST AND COUNTRYSIDE

A display of artwork from the Temple Ewell Art Group. 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). Dogs on leads.



Sunday 12 February 10.00am

HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING AT FOLKESTONE WARREN

We will be clearing scrub to open the landscape and restore the chalk grassland. **LEADER:** Jan MacNicol, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07880 706993). **MEET:** Gate next to the Bowls Club, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone (TR 240 367). **DURATION:** 3-5 hours



Sunday 12 February 11.00am

MAKE A MAGICAL SUN PRINT (Art in the shelter) (Please book)

Anna Atkins (1799 – 1871) the first woman photographer created books of her sun prints. She was able to document seaweed in great detail. We shall use the power of sunlight to recreate Anna's prints. Please wear clothes that can get messy. Please book. Suggested donation of £5 appreciated. Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe Centre. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display parking). **DURATION:** 2 hours.



Monday 13 February 2.00pm

FOLKESTONE DOWNS ADVENTURE (Green Gang)

Come along and explore the Folkestone Downs creating your own 'tree book' as we go. All materials will be supplied. Suggested donation of £2 appreciated. **LEADER:** Paul Holt, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225949). **MEET:** Far end of Holywell Avenue, off Canterbury Road, Folkestone CT19 6LB. **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (1.5 hours). **GRADE:** 4 (more difficult walking with steep hills or likely to be muddy paths). Dogs on leads.



Tuesday 14 February 10.00am

HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING AT ROMNEY WARREN

Join the volunteers to learn about Hedgelaying, and do some trimming of hedges that were laid in previous years. Hedgelaying is a traditional way of managing boundaries. **LEADER:** Jan MacNicol, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (07880 706993). **MEET:** Romney Warren Visitor Centre, between New Romney and St. Mary's Bay, by railway bridge off A259, TN28 8AY.



Tuesday 14 February 10.00am – noon

HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING AT WHINLESS DOWN

We will spend the morning cutting material ready for the Green Gang Den Building family activity in the afternoon. **LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07773 619121). **MEET:** Elms Vale Recreation Ground car park, Elms Vale Road, Dover (TR 299 414).



Tuesday 14 February 12.30am (Please book) (Green Gang) DEN BUILDING & SURVIVAL SKILLS, WHINLESS DOWN



Join us for an afternoon of den building at the base of Whinless Down nature reserve. Build a shelter largely of natural materials cut by the volunteers in the morning; learn how to find fuel, and build and light a small campfire. Please bring your own drinks and packed lunch, appropriate weather clothing and sturdy footwear. Suggested donation of £5 per person appreciated. Booking is essential as there are limited spaces (01304 241806). **LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806 or 07773 619121). **MEET:** Elms Vale recreation ground car park, Elms Vale Road, Dover, CT17 9NN (TR 299 414). **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (2.5 hours). **GRADE:**



3 (Typical country walk with some steeper hills and muddy).

Wednesday 15 February 10.00am

HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING AT FOLKESTONE DOWNS

We will be clearing scrub to open the landscape and restore the chalk grassland on Round Hill. **LEADER:** Alfred Gay, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07734 777380). **MEET:** Start of Crete Road West, off Canterbury Road, Folkestone (TR 221 384).



Wednesday 15 February 10.30am (Please Book)

BE A COUNTRYSIDE RANGER FOR A MORNING (Green Gang)

Have fun walking around Samphire Hoe looking for wildlife and doing some of the interesting jobs us rangers do, such as checking the livestock. We will go to parts of the Hoe normally off limits to members of the public which might be a bit muddy so please wear clothes and footwear that can get messy. Please book. Suggested donation of £2 appreciated. **LEADER:** Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe Rangers Hut. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display parking). **DURATION:** 2 hours. No dogs please.



Thursday 16 February 10.00am

HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING AT FOLKESTONE WARREN

This winter we will be continuing with the work to improve the steps and footpaths around Folkestone Warren as well as doing scrub clearing in the grazing area to help with restoring the nationally rare chalk grassland habitat. **LEADER:** Jan MacNicol, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07880 706993). **MEET:** Gate next to the Bowls Club, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone (TR 240 367).



Thursday 16 February 2.00pm

BE A NATURE DETECTIVE (Green Gang)

Come on an adventure into the Folkestone Warren to discover the mysterious winter wildlife activity and test your nature detective skills. Suggested donation of £2 appreciated. **LEADER:** Alfie Gay, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07734 777380). **MEET:** Outside former Pavilion, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone CT19 6BL. **DISTANCE:** 1.5 miles (1.5 hours). **GRADE:** 3 (muddy paths)



Friday 17 February 10.00am – 1.00pm

SAMPHIRE HOE: HAY DAY AND BBQ (Please book)

A morning of easy to do half day conservation tasks take part at Samphire Hoe. Today we will be cutting and clearing hay with a BBQ and sausage fry up! Please book for catering purposes. **LEADER:** Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07899 758748). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe (off A20 going from Dover towards Folkestone) CT17 9FL (TR 294 391).



Friday 17 February From 10.00am (Green Gang)

MAKE A BIRD BOX AT DUNGENESS (Please book)

Join us and build yourself a bird box from our specially prepared kits. When finished, you can take it home together with instructions on where best to site it. Booking essential. Please phone Dungeness Power Station Visitors Centre on 01797 343728 to book your 30 minute time slot (4 bird boxes per 30 minute session x 5 sessions = 20 boxes max). Free although donations are welcome to Breast Cancer Now, which is the current EDF nominated charity. Kits kindly supplied by EDF. **LEADER:** Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934). **MEET:** EDF Dungeness Visitor Centre, Dungeness B Power Station, Dungeness, Romney Marsh TN29 9PX. **DURATION:** 30 minutes. No Dogs.



Affinity Water Saturday 18 February From 10.30am (Please book) (Green Gang)

BUILD A BIRD BOX & MAKE A PINE CONE FEEDER

Help the birds this year by providing a nest box and seed feeders. Join us and build yourself a bird box from our specially prepared kits. When finished, you can take it home together with instructions on where best to site it. We will also be making bird seed fat balls using pine cones. Booking essential. Please phone WCCP on 01304 241806 to book your 30 minute time slot. Free—kits kindly funded by Affinity Water. **LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806 or 07773 619121). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe Centre. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display car park). **DURATION:** 30 minutes. No Dogs.



Sunday 12 March 11.00am

BE INSPIRED TO PAINT FLOWERS LIKE ANNE PRATT (Art in the shelter) (Please book)

Anne Pratt (1806 – 1893) lived in Dover and made beautiful illustrations of wild flowers. We shall colour in drawings or make our own drawings and colour them. Please wear clothes that can get messy. Please book. Suggested donation of £5 appreciated. **LEADER:** Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **VENUE:** Samphire Hoe Centre. Samphire Hoe is sign-posted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display parking). **DURATION:** 2 hours. No dogs.

