

Countryside Walks 2010

Hart District Council's Countryside Service runs a variety of walks throughout the summer at various sites within the district. Whether you are interested in wildlife, conservation and your local countryside or maybe you are just in need of a good walk, you will find something for you and your friends and family to enjoy.

Saturday 8th May – Dawn Chorus Walk

Hartley Wintney Commons

Meet at 5am. Join local ornithologist John Collman on this walk around Hartley Wintney. With its beautiful countryside and open spaces, Hartley Wintney is the perfect place to hear a variety of early morning bird song. Booking for this walk is essential, please contact Ranger Leigh Neville on 01252 623443 to book your place.

Duration: 2 hours. All abilities welcome

Thursday 13th May - Walk in the Woods

Odiham Common

Meet at 6.30pm at Colt Hill Wharf on Old London Road. Join Ranger Steve Lyons on an informative walk round Odiham Common, a mixture of woodland and wood pasture. Conditions might be wet & muddy so good foot wear is needed. Dogs welcome on leads.

Duration: 2 hours. All abilities welcome.

Saturday 22nd May - A History of Fleet Pond; Past, Present and Future

Meet at 2pm at Fleet Pond car park. As part of our International Biodiversity Day events, join Colin Gray, chairman of Fleet Pond Society and Ranger Joanna Lawrence on a walk to explore Fleet Pond's 1000 years of history, including its use as an ancient fishery and training ground for soldiers, its present condition and status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and what the future holds for Hampshire's largest freshwater lake.

Duration: 1½ hours. All abilities welcome.

Saturday 29th May - Walk in the Woods

Odiham Common

Meet at 10am at Colt Hill Wharf on Old London Road. Join Ranger Steve Lyons on an informative walk round Odiham Common, a mixture of woodland and wood pasture. Conditions might be wet & muddy so good foot wear is needed. Dogs welcome on leads.

Duration: 2 hours. All abilities welcome.

Saturday 3rd July – Silver-Studded Blue Butterfly Walk

Hazeley Heath

Meet at 11am in the lay-by opposite Arrow Lane on the B3011 heading north out of Hartley Wintney. Join Ranger Leigh Neville to search for one of our rarest butterflies, the Silver-Studded Blue. You will be taken into the world of this heathland butterfly and find out what we do to manage heaths for its survival. Bring appropriate footwear and clothing, water and suntan lotion. Binoculars would also be useful.

Duration: 3 hours. All abilities welcome.

Saturday 24th July – Dragons Damsels & Wild Flowers

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve

Meet at 10am by the village pond, Elvetham Heath, just past Morrison's supermarket. Join local dragonfly expert Tony Mundell on a walk at Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve to see and learn more about these amazing insects and some of our native wild flowers. If you have any binoculars please bring them with you.

Duration: 2 hours. All abilities welcome.

Saturday 7th August – Invertebrate Walk

Fleet Pond

Meet at 10.30am at Fleet Pond car park. Join Ranger Joanna Lawrence for a hunt through Fleet Pond's wetlands and heathlands for insects, spiders and other invertebrates. Come and learn more about these fascinating animals and their importance to our ecosystems, plus the chance to have a go and catching and identifying some yourself!

Duration: 1½ hours. All abilities welcome.

Thursday 12th August - Wildlife Walk About

Odiham Common

Meet at 6.30pm at Colt Hill Wharf on Old London Road, Join Ranger Steve Lyons on an informative walk round Odiham Common, a mixture of woodland and wood pasture. Conditions might be wet & muddy so good foot wear is needed. Dogs welcome on leads.

Duration: 2 hours. All abilities welcome.

Friday 10th September – Bat Walk

West Green Common

Meet at 7.30pm at West Green Common opposite the entrance to West Green House. Join Ranger Leigh Neville at the historic West Green Common on an evening bat walk, to find out more about these fascinating creatures, and which ones are using your common after dark. Bat detectors will be provided, however, if you have your own, please bring it with you. Bring appropriate footwear and clothing and be prepared for mosquitoes!

Duration: 1 to 1½ hours. All abilities welcome.

Prices: Adults - £2 Children – £1 (Payable on the day)

Wednesday 15th September – Bat Walk

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve

Meet at 7pm by the village pond, Elvetham Heath, just past Morrison's supermarket. Join Rangers Steve and Tim, on an evening bat walk to find out which bats are using your nature reserve after dark. If you have a bat detector please bring it with you.

Duration: 1½ hours. All abilities welcome.

Prices: Adults - £2 Children – £1 (Payable on the day)

Wednesday 29th September - Bat Walk

Fleet Pond

Meet at 7pm at Fleet Station pay & display car park next to the reserve. Join local bat expert Paul Hope and Ranger Joanna Lawrence on an evening bat walk to find out more about bats and which ones are using the pond after dark. If you have a bat detector please bring it with you, however, some will be provided. A torch may also be useful if you have one.

Duration: 1½ hours. All abilities welcome.

Prices: Adults - £2 Children – £1 (Payable on the day)

Saturday 9th October – Fungi Identification for Beginners

Elvetham Heath Local Nature Reserve

Meet at 10am by the village pond, Elvetham Heath, just past Morrison's supermarket. Join Ranger Tim on a walk at Elvetham Heath Nature Reserve to find out more about our local mushrooms and toadstools (fungi). Please note this walk is aimed at beginners and we will not be picking or removing any fungi from the site.

Duration: Up to 2 hours. All abilities welcome.

Please note.....

All walks are weather dependent and may be altered at short notice. Unfortunately due to the possible disturbance to wildlife and grazing animals dogs are not permitted unless stated. Walks are due to begin at the times advertised so please arrive a couple of minutes early to avoid disappointment. Due to popularity, some walks may need to be booked in advance.