Discover your local countryside

Guided walks and events programme 2016

You can download a copy of this booklet and our ‘Countryside Guide’ at www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/guidedwalks

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk
Welcome to Reigate & Banstead Borough Council’s guided walks and events programme

In Reigate & Banstead we are lucky to have some of the most beautiful and diverse habitats in Surrey on our doorstep. Our Countryside Team, our partner organisations and other integral volunteer groups have organised this varied programme of activities for 2016 so you can learn more about our impressive local greenspaces.

Exercising, getting outside and meeting other likeminded people are fantastic ways to improve your general health and wellbeing. We’d love for you to join us this year.

Don’t forget that when venturing out in the countryside you need to wear suitable, sturdy footwear and check the weather forecast in advance. We’ve provided useful information about each guided walk in this booklet but if you are still unsure about a walk’s suitability please contact the team on 01737 276624.

Most walks and events in this booklet are free; however, where there is a cost involved it is clearly marked in the walk information.

Your key to understanding this year’s guided walks programme:
- family fun
- bring your binoculars
- bring a torch
- a longer and sometimes more challenging walk

Happy adventuring!

Well behaved dogs always welcome

Thursday 25 September 10am-12pm
Fungal foray on Reigate Heath
Have you ever wondered what an Amethyst Deceiver is? Or a Greasy Bracket? Come and learn all about the weird and wonderful world of fungi on Reigate Heath with Dick Adler from the West Weld Fungi Group and the Countryside Team.

Meeting point: Flanchford Road car park, Reigate, RH2 8AB
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Sunday 25 September 10am-12pm
Christmas Crafts in Merstham
Join Surrey Wildlife Trust and learn how to make your very own Christmas wreath or centrepiece from natural resources. Mulled wine and mince pies provided!

£7 per person. Adults and young people aged 12 and over welcome.

Booking is essential: Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk

Surrey Wildlife Trust partnership event
Friday 9 September 10.30am-12pm
Tree Walk in Priory Park, Reigate
Join our Tree and Woodlands Officer for a guided tour of Priory Park. Included in the walk is the tallest recorded hornbeam in the British Isles and the remains of the storm damaged silver birch with its record breaking 400m girth. Other more unusual trees include the chestnut leaved oak, black walnut, tree of heaven, camper down elm and wingnut.

Meeting point: Priory Park Pavilion, Reigate RH2 7RL
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Monday 15 February 10am-3.30pm
Fun in Furzefield Wood
Join Surrey Wildlife Trust’s Outdoor Learning Team to build a den, practice fire lighting and roast some marshmallows! We’ll be looking for hidden sculptures and creating some woodland art. Suitable for children ages 7-11 years old. £15 per child.

Meeting Point: Entrance to Furzefield Wood opposite 154 Radstock Way, Merstham, RH1 3NT
Booking is essential: Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967 575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk

Tuesday 29 March 12pm-1.30pm
Kids Tree Walk in Priory Park, Reigate
A walk designed by big kids…for kids! Join the Countryside Team and explore some of Priory Park’s most beautiful ornamental trees. Collect leaves as you go and make a collage to capture your memories of the day.

Meeting point: Priory Park Pavilion, Reigate RH2 7RL
Contact: Helen West, Priory Park Officer on 01737 276624 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Saturday 2 April 1pm-2.30pm
Bluebell Walk in Banstead Woods
Experience a beautiful display of bluebells and woodland life with the Countryside Team. Learn a bit about woodland ecology and management.

Meeting point: Holly Lane Car Park, Chipstead, CR5 3NR
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk
Wednesday 6 April 10am-3.30pm

Easter Wildplay in Furzefield Wood

Easter isn’t over until we go back to school! Join SWT as they search for the Easter Bunny and any eggs they may have left behind. Build dens, get creative and roast marshmallows! Suitable for children aged 7-11. £15 per child.

Meeting Point: Entrance to Furzefield Wood opposite 154 Radstock Way, Merstham, RH1 3NT
Booking is essential: Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk

Wednesday 4 May 11am-12.30pm

Wildlife Walk in Nork Park, Banstead

A leisurely wildlife walk around Nork Park, exploring the past, present and future of this beautiful greenspace.

Meeting point: The Drive Road car park, Banstead, SM7 1DQ
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Thursday 12 May 11am-12.30pm

Bluebell Walk in Felland Copse, Reigate

Felland Copse is a small site with lots and lots to discover. The Countryside Team will walk you through the woodland to admire the iconic bluebells and learn about its wildlife and habitat management.

Meeting point: New Pond Farm car park, RH2 7QB
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Wednesday 31 August 8pm-9.15pm

The Moths and Bats in Banstead Woods, Banstead

Another chance to check out our night time flyers. Join the Countryside Team and Surrey Moth Group’s Paul Wheeler to explore this ancient woodland’s moths. Is it a papilionid, a noctuid or a geometrid moth? Please note that the walk may be cancelled if weather conditions are too wet or windy for bat flight.

Meeting point: Holly Lane car park, Chipstead, CR5 3NR
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Thursday 8 September 7.15pm-9.15pm

Bat Walk in Priory Park, Reigate

Our fourth bat walk of the season. We are very pleased to have Martyn Cooke from the Surrey Bat Group out with us again to explore our park’s bat populations. What will we find this time?

Bat detectors will be available to borrow during the walk. Please note that the walk may be cancelled if weather conditions are too wet or windy for bat flight.

Meeting point: Priory Park Pavilion, Reigate RH2 7RL
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Surrey Wildlife Trust partnership event
Thursday 2 June 10.30am-12pm

Wildlife on the Wing at Riverside Garden Park, Horley

A family friendly guided walk lead by Tom Forward to explore what's on the wing at Riverside Garden Park in Horley. We’ll be checking the moth trap and taking a short stroll around the ponds and glades to look out for butterflies, dragonflies and listen to birdsong.

Meeting Point: Riverside Garden Park car park, Horley, RH6 7LN
Booking is essential: Contact 07771 375 254 or tomforward@sussexwt.org.uk. This event is free for Wildlife Trust Members but for non-members there is a £3 suggested donation.

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Friday 26 August 10am-2pm

A Day at Memorial Park, Redhill

Join our Countryside Ranger Hannah Roughley for a fun filled event celebrating the park’s 2014 renovation. Start by learning about the trees in the community orchard, followed by a stroll around the trim trail to burn off some energy, before some mini beast hunting and crazy learning games in the sensory garden. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meeting point: Memorial Park Pavilion, Redhill RH1 1SZ
Contact: Helen West, Priory Park Officer on 01737 276624 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Friday 3 June 10am-11am

Froggy Hunt at Earlswood Lakes

Frogs and toads will be venturing back into the water to find mates, so let’s see how many we can spot! Pond dipping kits provided.

Meeting point: Earlswood Lakes car park, Woodhatch, RH2 7QB
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

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Sunday 5 June 10am-12pm

Butterfly Walk in Stagbury Downs, Banstead

The Countryside Team are joining up with The Woodchips, a local conservation group, to tell you all about chalk grassland butterflies and other creepy crawlies!

Meeting point: Holly Lane Car Park, Chipstead, CR5 3NR
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

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Thursday 25 August 8.30pm-9.30pm

Bat Walk in Earlswood Lakes, Redhill

Come and join Martyn Cooke from the Surrey Bat Group and our Countryside Team on a walk around Earlswood Lakes. Furry Fact: bats use echolocation to stop themselves bumping into each other in the dark. Bat detectors will be available to borrow during the walk. Please note that the walk may be cancelled if weather conditions are too wet or windy for bat flight.

Meeting point: Earlswood Lakes car park, Woodhatch, RH2 7QB
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

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Saturday 11 June 10am-12pm

**Flying invertebrates at Earlswood Lakes**

See them swoop and soar across the water! Simon Elson from the Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers and our Countryside Ranger Hannah Roughley will introduce you to the flying insects that live at Earlswood Lakes. Butterfly nets and identification guides will be supplied for budding entomologists who would like to have a go at catching these critters.

**Meeting point:** Earlswood Lakes car park, Woodhatch, RH2 7QB

**Contact:**
Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Saturday 18 June 2.30pm-3.30pm

**Reigate Heath: its Ecology and Management**

Lowland Heath is one of the most threatened habitats in the world. Come and admire the heather at its best and find out why lowland heath is so important to the wildlife of this country.

**Meeting point:** Flanchford Road car park, Reigate, RH2 8AB

**Contact:**
Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Saturday 2 July 10am-12pm

**The Bees of Priory Park, Reigate**

Jeremy Early, published author and chairman of The Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society will be leading a walk around Priory Park; exploring the flower beds and grassy areas to see which pollinators are visiting this site.

**Meeting point:** Priory Park Pavilion, Reigate, RH2 7RL

**Contact:**
Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Monday 15 August 10am-3.30pm

**Fun in Furzefield Wood**

Come and join us as we search for wooden sculptures, look for minibeasts, build dens, play games and roast marshmallows. Suitable for children aged 7-11. £15 per child.

**Meeting Point:** Entrance to Furzefield Wood opposite 154 Radstock Way, Merstham, RH1 3NT

**Booking essential:** Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk

Saturday 20 August 11am-3pm

**Fruity Fun on the Merstham Bund**

Fill your boots with berries, cherries and plums at this drop in fruit-pick on The Merstham Bund. Bring a picnic and round the day off with a minibeast hunt. Suitable for all ages. Adults £4, children £1.

**Meeting Point:** Meet us on the Bund: access to the Bund via the gate next to 19 Malmstone Avenue, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3ND

**Booking is essential:** Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk
Friday 8 July 12pm-2pm
The History of Nork Park, Banstead
Join local archaeologist Peter Harp and the Countryside team for an afternoon tour of Nork Park to discover some of its lesser known hidden treasures.

Meeting point: The Drive car park, Banstead, SM7 1DQ
Contact: Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Friday 5 August 10am-11.30am
Kids mini beast hunting and diving beetle dipping at Tanyard Pond, Horley

The Horley Volunteer Group has been integral to the care and preservation of this small but highly valuable wetland site. Join our Countryside Team, members of the group and our partner organisations in a fun exploration of the pond’s minibeasts. Pond dipping kits provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meeting point: Tanyard Pond, off Langshott, Horley, RH6 8PB
You can reach the pond using footpaths through Heritage Lawn or Hazlehurst. There is also a small footbridge on the right hand side just after the Farmhouse Pub. If unsure, please call Hannah Roughley Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Thursday 11 August 8.15pm-9.30pm
Bat Walk in Priory Park, Reigate
If you are barmy about all things batty why not join the Countryside Team on a bat walk around Priory Park? Furry Fact: the comparatively rare serotine bat lives around here! Bat detectors will be available to borrow during the walk. Please note that the walk may be cancelled if weather conditions are too wet / windy for bat flight.

Meeting point: Priory Park Pavilion, Reigate RH2 7RL
Contact: Helen West, Priory Park Officer on 01737276624 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Saturday 16 July 10.30am-12pm
Dragons and Damsels at Riverside Garden Park, Horley
A guided walk by Tom Forward around this beautiful urban wetland site to search for as many dragonflies and damselflies as we can find while also learning about dragonfly identification, ecology and conservation.

Meeting Point: Riverside Garden Park car park, Horley, RH6 7LN
Booking is essential: Contact 07771 375 254 or tomforward@sussexwt.org.uk. This event is free for Wildlife Trust Members but for non-members there is a £3 suggested donation.

Gatwick Greenspace partnership event
**Wednesday 27 July 10am-3.30pm**

**Fun in Furzefield Wood**

Create some smelly potions, meet a tree, build a den…and roast some more marshmallows with SWT! An action packed day with wild fun and traditional games! Suitable for children aged 7-11. £15 per child.

**Meeting Point:** Entrance to Furzefield Wood opposite 154 Radstock Way, Merstham, RH1 3NT

**Booking is essential:** Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk

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**Thursday 4 August 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Butterfly Walk in Stagbury Downs, Banstead**

If you missed our last walk then try and flap to this one! We’re lucky to have Andy Keay and The Woodchip volunteers here to take us on another Butterfly foray.

**Meeting point:** Holly Lane Car Park, Chipstead, CR5 3NR

**Contact:** Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

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**Friday 29 July 7pm-9pm**

**Fables in Furzefield Wood**

Settle down for a cosy night of folklore and fables! Refreshments provided. Suitable for all ages. Adults £7, children £3.

**Meeting Point:** Entrance to Furzefield Wood opposite 154 Radstock Way, Merstham, RH1 3NT

**Booking is essential:** Please contact SWT Community Engagement Officer Laura Ashfield on 07967575255 or email laura.ashfield@surreywt.org.uk

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**Friday 5 August 7.30pm-8.45pm**

**The Moths and Bats in Memorial Park, Redhill**

Paul Wheeler from the Surrey Moth Group will be joining us for a slightly different night time walk. Moths are closely related to butterflies but a large majority of moths only fly at night. To see some of these up close, Paul and the Countryside Team will be setting up moth traps the night before to see which ones visit our newly established park! Please bring torches if possible.

**Meeting point:** Memorial Park Pavilion, Redhill, RH1 1SZ

**Contact:** Hannah Roughley, Countryside Ranger on 07814 718123 or email countryside@reigate-banstead.gov.uk