



Kent High Weald Partnership Events Guide April – August 2011

Welcome to the Kent High Weald Partnership's events guide. There is something for everyone to explore, whether you're looking for exciting events for the kids or a quiet stroll through the woods, you will find something of interest in the High Weald.

The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an historic countryside of rolling hills draped by small, irregular fields, abundant woods and hedges, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes. It is a unique landscape full of surprises and is home to a wide variety of rare plants and animals.

Event Information

Our aim is to 'link the local community and the countryside, by raising awareness and encouraging action'. We operate throughout the Borough of Tunbridge Wells, and are one of eight Countryside Management Partnerships in Kent. We are employed by Kent County Council with support and core funding from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

- 'Positive actions to achieve positive results on a local level'
- Events are **FREE** unless otherwise stated.
- It is essential to pre-book activities where stated; spaces are limited and provided on a first come first served basis.
- There are several ways to contact us, phone 01580 212972, e-mail info@khwp.org.uk or visit our website www.khwp.org.uk Visit our website and follow the link to 'event booking' to simply reserve your space on any of our events.
- For more information about the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty phone 01580 879500 or visit www.highweald.org.uk.
- For further detailed directions and a site map visit our website and click on directions, alternatively phone 01580 212972



Directions

Barnett's Wood (Local Nature Reserve)

From North Farm turn right up Yew Tree Lane, just before High Brooms station, take the right by St Matthew's Primary school onto Powdermill Lane. The meeting point for volunteers is the mini roundabout at the bottom of Powdermill Lane.

OS Grid Ref: TQ591421

Cinderhill Community Woodland

From the Kippings Cross roundabout on the A21 take the road to Matfield. In the centre of Matfield turn left at the crossroads, the entrance to Cinderhill is approximately 100 metres past the end of the 30mph limit and go along the track marked 'Nature Conservation Area' to the small car park which is the meeting point for volunteers.

OS Grid Ref: TQ651424

Hilbert Woods (Local Nature Reserve)

Coming from the A21 on the Pembury Road, turn right onto Sandhurst Road, then left onto Ferndale Road, turn right onto Hilbert Road and follow it to the end. The meeting point for volunteers is the entrance to the park.

OS Grid Ref: TQ594407

Crane Valley (Local Nature Reserve)

From the Wisley Pound roundabout take the A229 towards the centre of Cranbrook. Go up the High Street and turn left into the Co-op car park. The meeting point for volunteers is the recycling point in the car park.

OS Grid Ref: TQ777361

Dunorian Park

From the A264 Pembury Road, turn off into Hall's Hole Road and turn right into the car park. The car park can also be approached from Bayhall Road, turning into Hall's Hole Road and left into the car park.

OS Grid Ref: TQ600393

For directions to our other event and activity sites please see our website.

Key to Events



Family Event

Please bring warm, waterproof clothing, sturdy footwear and a packed lunch unless otherwise stated. Under 14 year-olds must be accompanied by an adult.



Dip in and Discover! Family Event

Please bring warm, waterproof clothing, sturdy footwear and a packed lunch unless otherwise stated. Under 14 year-olds must be accompanied by an adult.



Guided Walks

Please wear stout waterproof footwear and be prepared for all weathers! Bring plenty to drink and check details to see if a packed lunch is required.



Practical Skills Day

Please bring warm, waterproof clothing, sturdy footwear and a packed lunch unless otherwise stated. Under 14 year-olds must be accompanied by an adult.



OPAL Biodiversity Event

Special series of reptile and amphibian events, booking essential.

Kent High Weald Partnership Work Programme April – August 2011

www.khwp.org.uk Tel: 01580 212972

April

Sat 9 April
Barnett's Easter Bonanza, with the Friends of Barnett's Wood
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Get ahead in the great Barnett's Egg & Spoon races, get a hat at the Easter Bonnet making table, and get the bug by building one of our new design of ladybird hotels! No need to book, event will run from 10am to 2pm, with prizes for the best bonnets awarded at the end of the day.



Tues 12 April
Toddle Through Time at Dunorlan Park
Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells
We are celebrating the launch of a new series of short walks for little legs. The Weald Forest Ridge partnership is working to help people learn about, enjoy and preserve the unique heritage of the area. Come along and get involved in exciting and unusual living history activities. No need to book. Event from 11am – 3pm.

Weds 13 April
Dip in and Discover! Barnett's Easter Animal Eggstravaganza
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Join us for a fun day of building bug hotels, weaving willow bird feeders, and some really egg-cellent Easter arts & crafts! This event is free, but donations to help cover the costs of materials are welcome. Booking essential: 10am to 12pm, then 1pm to 3pm.

Fri 15 April
Cinderhill Easter Animal Eggstravaganza
Cinderhill Woods, Matfield
Join us for a fun day of building bug hotels, weaving willow bird feeders, and some really egg-cellent Easter arts & crafts! This event is free, but donations to help cover the costs of materials are welcome. Booking essential: 10am to 12pm, then 1pm to 3pm.

Sat 16 April
Adders in Decline – Reptile Survey Training
Brenchley Memorial Hall, Brenchley (TN12 7NX)
The Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group will be holding a day of reptile survey training, including a field trip to the heathlands of Cinderhill. If you are interested in wildlife recording, and can commit some time to help with survey work this coming year, then book your FREE place on this course! 10am to 4pm.



Weds 20 April
Toddle Through Time at Popenbury
Popenbury at Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells (TN2 4QU)
Another treat for little feet! We are celebrating the launch of a new series of short walks for little legs. The Weald Forest Ridge partnership is working to help people learn about, enjoy and preserve the unique heritage of the area. Come along and get involved in exciting and unusual living history activities. No need to book. Event from 11am – 3pm.

Weds 27 April
Dip in and Discover! Bluebell and Wildflower Walk
Start at Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Discover the bluebell and wildflower-rich ancient woodlands that are just a short stroll away from Barnett's Wood. Meeting at 9.45am at the mini-roundabout on Powdermill Lane, we will dip into Barnett's Wood, and then head out through the countryside beyond. Bring refreshments as we will have a break at lunchtime. 10am to 2pm.

May

Weds 4 May
Bluebells of Strawberry Wood
Start at Benenden Village Hall, Benenden (TN17 4DY)
Starting from Benenden Village Hall, we will make our way through the Wealden countryside to Strawberry Wood for a spectacular show of bluebells. Meeting at 9.45am for a 10am start, we will aim to finish at 2pm. Bring refreshments for a picnic lunch along the way.

Weds 11 May
Tool Tidy
Swattenden Centre, near Cranbrook (TN17 3PR)
After another winter of wear, we'll be fixing up our store of tools to their shiny and sharpest best.

Weds 18 May
Wildlife Pond Dipping Platform
Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells
We will be building a new pond dipping platform this spring to help showcase the wider side of Dunorlan Park! Tunbridge Wells Museum will make use of the platform as part of their summer events; exploring the diversity of wildlife that lives across the park.

Sat 21 May
Wildlife Pond Dipping Platform
Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells
Join us on this second day of dipping platform construction work, and help a new generation of wildlife explorers to learn all about the world of underwater minibeasts.



Weds 25 May
Wildlife Pond Dipping Platform
Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells
Your last chance to help build a new pond dipping platform for Dunorlan. Join us for a day of construction work in this much-loved, historic parkland.

June

Weds 1 June
Bird and Wildflower Census
Reynolds Lane, Tunbridge Wells (TN4 9UJ)
Help us to monitor the birds and wildflowers of this Local Wildlife Site. The morning will be spent identifying and mapping different birds, and the afternoon identifying and logging the wildflowers that grow in the meadows. Meet at the entrance to St. John's Recreation Ground – 10am to 2pm



Thurs 2 June
Bird and Bug Hotel Bonanza!
Forge Orchard, Cranbrook
All budding nature lovers are invited to join us and Cranbrook in Bloom on this special morning of bird and bug hotel building. 10am to 12pm – please call to book a place.

Thurs 2 June
Stories from the Orchard
Forge Orchard, Cranbrook
A special afternoon event dedicated to story-telling and natural art & crafts against the backdrop of this beautiful, traditional orchard. 1pm to 3pm – please call to book a place.

Sat 4 June
Dip in and Discover! Minibeast Adventure
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Explore the hidden world of minibeasts on this hunt through the undergrowth at Barnett's Wood. Nature detectives are welcome to bring their own magnifying pots and pooters, although we'll have plenty to go around! Suitable for all ages – please call to book a place. 10am to 12pm



Sun 5 June
Cranbrook Family Fun Day
Rammel Field, Bakers Cross, Cranbrook
The parade will start at 11.30am from the Co-op carpark on Cranbrook High Street. The Fun Day will then take place at Rammel Field from 12 noon with stalls, games, and activities for all!

Weds 8 June
Space Invaders!
Hilbert Woods LNR, Tunbridge Wells
A few invasive plants are taking up more space than they should in our lovely ancient woodland. Help us to keep the floral menace at bay with a day of cherry laurel and Himalayan balsam control.

Sun 12 June
Toddle Through Time at Birchden Woods
Birchden Woods, Tunbridge Wells (TN3 9NJ)
It's your last chance to celebrate the launch of a new series of short walks for little legs. The Weald Forest Ridge partnership is working to help people learn about, enjoy and preserve the unique heritage of the area. Come along and get involved in exciting and unusual living history activities. No need to book. Event on from 11am – 3pm



Weds 15 June
Bracken Decker
Cinderhill Woods, Matfield
Bracken control is a vital part of heathland management, keeping in check an otherwise highly competitive species. Join us for a day of bracken bashing and path clearance to keep this important habitat in good health for another year.

Weds 22 June
The Prickly and the Poisonous
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Thistles and ragwort are a less than tasteful addition to our cattle-grazed wildflower meadows. Help us to control their spread, and that of a few other green meanies, through the meadows and into the wood.

Weds 29 June
Horses and Watercourses
Crane Valley LNR, Cranbrook
We'll be tackling the potentially invasive greater horsetail plant to prevent it swamping the delicate wildflowers of Crane Valley, before monitoring the minibeasts of our watercourses with an afternoon of kick sampling and pond dipping. Wellies recommended.

July

Weds 6 July
Bracken Decker III!
Cinderhill Woods, Matfield
The first cut only weakened them, so now we're back for more! Another important day of bracken bashing and path clearance to help maintain a healthy balance of plants, invertebrates and reptiles on our heathland.

Sat 9 July
Pond Dipping and Dragonfly Art
Cranbrook Library Pond (TN17 3JT)
Explore what lurks beneath! After we've spent a while pond dipping, we'll have an arts & crafts session with a range of natural materials, making crafty creatures and toys to take home. Booking is essential – 10am to 12pm or 1pm to 3pm



Weds 13 July
Boarding School
The Gravel Pit, Lamberhurst (carpark: TN3 8HA)
Learn the skill of dipping platform construction on this special project day. We will be building a platform from recycled plastic boards for use by local schools and the community, to help support learning about the important wildlife of the Gravel Pit pond.

Sat 16 July
All Aboard
The Gravel Pit, Lamberhurst (carpark: TN3 8HA)
A special weekend community volunteering day, where we will continue work on a new pond dipping platform for use by the local Lamberhurst community.



Weds 20 July
Boarder Line
The Gravel Pit, Lamberhurst (carpark: TN3 8HA)
We'll be taking to the boards again, as we complete the installation of the dipping platform, and begin work towards installing a boardwalk over the wettest sections of pathway in the Gravel Pit.

Sat 23 July
Boardwalk Building
The Gravel Pit, Lamberhurst (carpark: TN3 8HA)
We'll be continuing work on this new community project, building a boardwalk over the wettest sections of the circular path at the Gravel Pit. All tools and training provided on the day.



Tues 26 July
Pond Dipping and Dragonfly Art
Cranbrook Library Pond (TN17 3JT)
Explore what lurks beneath! After we've spent a while pond dipping, we'll have an arts & crafts session with a range of natural materials, making crafty creatures and toys to take home. Booking is essential – 10am to 12pm or 1pm to 3pm



Tues 26 July
Bat Detective Night
The Gravel Pit, Lamberhurst (carpark: TN3 8HA)
Can you spot the signs, and help the Friends of Lamberhurst Common to eek-out the squeaky night – flying residents of the Gravel Pit? Booking is essential for this popular event. Starts at 9pm from the carpark adjoining The Brown Trout pub.

Weds 27 July
On the Verge ...
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
To keep the wildflowers flowering around our dipping pond we need to cut and rake off the long grass each year. Join us for a day of traditional hay meadow management, and help to maintain this area as a floral treat for years to come.

Thurs 28 July
Brilliant Bats and Marvellous Moths
Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells
Dunorlan Park comes alive after dusk ... Join us for a spot of bat tracking and moth monitoring in the grounds of this historic park. Booking is ESSENTIAL for this popular event. Meet at 8.45pm at Halls Hole Road carpark.

Sat 30 July
Bridge Building – Special Youth Volunteering Event
Crane Valley LNR, Cranbrook
A special day dedicated to young people who want to help make a difference in their local community. As part of a bigger project to improve access into the recreation ground and nature reserve, we'll be rebuilding and extending a bridge alongside the stream. All tools and training provided – contact us to find out more.



August

Tues 2 August
Dip in and Discover! Bat & Moth Detective Night
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Can you spot the signs and help the Friends of Barnett's Wood to eek-out the squeaky night-flying residents of the reserve? Booking is essential for this popular event. Starts at 8.45pm in the picnic area.

Weds 3 August
National Play Day – Stand up for Play!
Hilbert Woods LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Come and celebrate your right to play! We'll be taking over part of the Grosvenor and Hilbert Recreation Ground with our outdoor arena of games, crafts and 'wild child' challenges. Find your way along our ancient woodland trail, make your own bow & arrow to test your aim, and have fun in the sun with our nature based play activities. No need to book as we'll be playing all day! 10am to 2pm

Thurs 4 August
Pond Dipping and Woodland Craft Workshop
The Gravel Pit, Lamberhurst (carpark: TN3 8HA)
Explore what lurks beneath! After we've spent a while pond dipping, we'll have an arts & crafts session with a range of natural materials, making crafty creatures and toys to take home. Booking is essential – 10am to 1pm

Thurs 4 August
Brilliant Bats and Marvellous Moths
Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells
Dunorlan Park comes alive after dusk ... Join us for a spot of bat tracking and moth monitoring in the grounds of this historic park. Booking is ESSENTIAL for this popular event. Meet at 8.45pm at Halls Hole Road car park.

Sat 6 August
Dip in and Discover! Walking in the Summer Hum
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
A gentle 2-hour guided walk starting at Barnett's Wood, and exploring the wildflower grasslands of the wider Local Wildlife Site. Some moderate slopes, gates and stiles will feature along the route, so sturdy footwear is recommended. Meet at the picnic area (TN4 9XS) at 11am.



Tues 9 August
Dip in and Discover! Pond Dipping and Wild Craft Workshop
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Explore what lurks beneath at Barnett's specially designed dipping pond. Learn all about the wild minibeasts of the deep, and create your very own bug to take home! Booking is essential – 10am to 12pm, and 1pm to 3pm

Weds 10 August
Walk This Way
Public Footpaths nr Cranbrook
We'll be improving the PROW around Cranbrook in time for the launch of "a Walk Through Time" – a project to create a number of circular walks around Cranbrook. Contact us to find out more.

Thurs 11 August
Barnett's Wood – Pond Dipping and Wild Craft Workshop
See Tues 9 August for details. Booking is essential – 10am to 12pm, and 1pm to 3pm

Sun 14 August
Minibeast Hunt!
Reynolds Lane, Tunbridge Wells (TN4 9UJ)
Explore the hidden world of minibeasts on this hunt through the undergrowth at Reynolds Lane, just next door to the St. John's Recreation Ground. Nature detectives are welcome to bring their own magnifying pots and pooters, although we'll have plenty to go around! Suitable for all ages – please call to book a place. 10am to 12pm



Tues 16 August
Lamberhurst – Pond Dipping and Woodland Craft Workshop
See Thurs 4 August for details. Booking is essential – 10am to 1pm

Weds 17 August
Culvert Clearwater Revival
Strawberry Wood, Benenden
Time to remove some silt and debris from the stream to improve the water flow 'up around the bend' and through the ancient and locally significant historic structure.

Thurs 18 August
Dip in and Discover! Survival Skills
Barnett's Wood LNR, Tunbridge Wells
Are you a wild child? Learn how to make fire, build a shelter, and identify the wild plants of the woodland that could help you to survive. Suitable for ages 8 and upwards. Booking is essential – 10am to 1pm

Tues 23 August
Barnett's Wood - Pond Dipping and Wild Craft Workshop
See Tues 9 August for details. Booking is essential – 10am to 12pm, and 1pm to 3pm

Weds 24 August
Site for Sore Eyes!
Crane Valley LNR, Cranbrook
We'll be saying a big thank you to our volunteers for another year of hard work, and taking the time to enjoy the sites and sounds of the reserve. Join us for a morning activity, a barbecue lunch, and a special session of bat box building in the afternoon.

Thurs 25 August
Barnett's Wood – Pond Dipping and Wild Craft Workshop
See Tues 9 August for details. Booking is essential – 10am to 12pm, and 1pm to 3pm

Sat 27 August
Crane Valley 20th Anniversary Celebration
Crane Valley LNR, Cranbrook
Join KHWP for this special event to celebrate 20 years of 'linking community and countryside'. Try your hand at some traditional arts & crafts, build a minibeast ark to take home, enjoy a local produce BBQ. Find out more about volunteering, and the wildlife on your doorstep. This is a free event suitable for all the family. NO need to book. 10am to 2pm



Weds 31 August
Paths and Rides
Cinderhill Woods, Matfield
Help us to keep the paths and rides of Cinderhill open and accessible on this day of overhead clearance work.

Key to Events	Guided Walks	Family Event	OPAL Bio-diversity Event
	Practical Skills Day	Dip in and Discover! Family Event	

All events are FREE unless stated, and run from 10am until 3pm unless other times are given. You can book your place on a Family Event online at www.khwp.org.uk, or by ringing the Kent High Weald Partnership on 01580 212972. All donations go towards the running of our events programme, so keep an eye out for a bucket wherever we go!

*Dip in and Discover logo © Deborah Fajerman