



QUEEN ELIZABETH Country Park

Autumn - Winter 2012/2013

Welcome to Country Park Pages

Produced twice a year, Country Park Pages aims to keep our visitors in touch with news and events within the Country Park.

In this issue.....

- Children's Activities, Events and Guided Walks
- Caterpillar Crafts
- Exhibitions
- Christmas in the Park

Project wins Government backing to save precious South Downs chalk downland

As part of a £3 million plan to safeguard endangered chalk downland, the South Downs National Park has been awarded £608,000 by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The South Downs Way Ahead project, consisting of 28 organisations led by the South Downs National Park Authority, will trail blaze the Government's new Nature Improvement Area scheme to protect habitats and the economic and social benefits they bring. The announcement comes just one month before the National Park celebrates its first anniversary.

Through the South Downs Way Ahead partnership farmers, conservationists, NGOs, community groups, government bodies, research organisations, water companies and the National Park Authority will work together to join up vital areas of chalk downland along the famous South Downs Way National Trail.

- Chalk downland like Butser Hill is recognised internationally as an important and endangered habitat. Currently only about four per cent of the National Park remains as pristine chalk downland.
- Chalk downland is vital for the survival of species such as the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly and is a national stronghold for endangered farmland birds such as corn bunting, grey partridge and stone curlew.
- 1.2 million people depend on water filtered through and stored in South Downs chalk downland.
- Regular visitors will see activity within the Country Park and around neighbouring farms this autumn and winter including scrub management and stock fencing to enable the traditional management needed to sustain and enhance this rich habitat.



The Butser Cutting Cycle Route

The Butser Cutting Cycle Route Queen Elizabeth Country Park offers excellent off road cycling and is also a popular stopping place for road cyclists. Unfortunately there is no easy access from the north, so a cycle link along the Old A3 entering the Park from the north would resolve this problem. Most of the link would be away from traffic and provide a comparatively easy cycle crossing of the South Downs. With approximately 80,000 people living within 10km of QE Park, the link should be well used. In April 2012 the Highways Agency agreed to undertake a £15K feasibility study that Hampshire County Council have agreed to fund. This work will take place during the 2012/13 financial year. The project cost could be high, requiring community pressure to obtain approval. A petition has been raised to demonstrate the high level of support. It can be accessed at www.gopetition.com/petitions/cycle-route-through-a3-butser-cutting.html

Lots of work will be needed but there is optimism that this long-standing problem can now be resolved, and the Park is working with colleagues in Rights of Way and local members of the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) to progress.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Two Beech trees were planted at the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Forest to commemorate the Coronation back in 1953. They can still be seen just past the pay and display machine on the Forest Drive. The Queen then officially opened the Country Park in 1976. And we have played our part during her Jubilee year by planting another tree, this time a Purple Weeping Beech. The tree was donated and planted by local 'badged groups' on the 17th March.

On the 4th June there was a Jubilee Beacon, a part of the National chain of 2012 different locations, and a firework display, both held on the top of Butser Hill and attended by over 1,000 people.

And this Autumn we will be planting a Jubilee Orchard containing fruit trees with royal connections.

For more information about the Jubilee go to the official web-site at www.thediamondjubilee.org



www.hants.gov.uk/qecp



Nordic Walking

Looking for a new way to get fit and healthy in 2012? Enjoy the great outdoors and meeting new people? Then Nordic Walking could be for you.

This popular fitness technique incorporates specially designed walking poles to work the upper part of the body as well as the legs, making it a full body work out. It was first developed in Finland in the 1950s to help cross country skiers maintain their fitness. Suitable for people of all abilities, it is recommended by fitness experts and health professionals because it is simple yet highly effective.

"Why use poles?"

- Tones the upper and lower body at the same time
- Uses 90% of the skeletal muscles
- Burns up to 46% more calories than ordinary walking
- Reduces the pressure on knees and joints
- Great for the Heart and Lungs
- Ideal for neck, shoulder and back problems

Qualified Nordic walking instructor Louise Arthur will be offering taster sessions, beginner courses and guided walks at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Included in the price of the instruction. Readers can take advantage of Louise's taster offer...bring a friend for free or get a £5 refund on a 4 week beginner course.

Anyone interested can contact Louise by email at louisearthur@mac.com or by visiting

www.facebook.com/NordicWalkingPetersfield



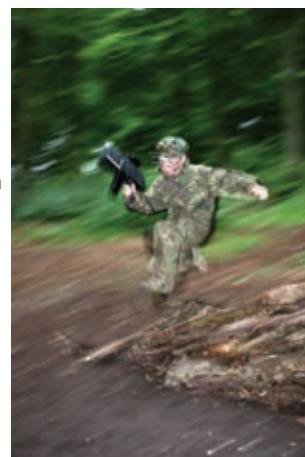
The **leading** authority on **Nordic Walking** across the UK



Laser Games

Battlefront Games laser action combat is a great way to have fun with your family and friends as you run around the beautiful woodlands of the Park. The games have none of the restrictions of old laser quest and give you all the thrill of paintball, but with no paint, no pain and no bruises! Using the latest high-tech military style guns, you have fantastic accuracy and range. So if you're looking for a great day out where you can enjoy the open air and get your heart pumping, then look no further. It's perfect for birthdays, stag and hen parties, team building and corporate events.

For more information, visit www.battlefrontgames.co.uk.



Cycling in the Park

Over the last year the QECP Trail Collective have been busy improving the mountain bike trails within the park. The group of volunteers encompass a wide variety of ages and ability in a bid to improve the quality of the trails at the park and boost the amount of visitors. The Collective have also worked with other users of the park to ensure the trails are as safe as possible, especially whenever they cross any paths used by walkers and horse riders. The group have received national acclaim, with their work featured in the National as well as mountain bike press, by upgrading the old orange "advanced" trail to a red trail which is more in line with the requirements of modern mountain biking. The group is now planning to improve the family trail, start work on a skills area as well as any pieces of maintenance required on the red trail. The group dig every four weeks and anyone is welcome to join them. For more information visit www.qecptrailcollective.co.uk or the QECP trail building facebook and twitter page.



Facilities Hire

Need a perfect countryside setting for an event or function? Have a look at our facilities...

Forest Annexe

Located by the main car park, the Annexe is ideal for children's birthday parties, school groups, meetings of a more formal nature and training sessions that may require a clear floor space. Available 8.30am to 10pm daily.



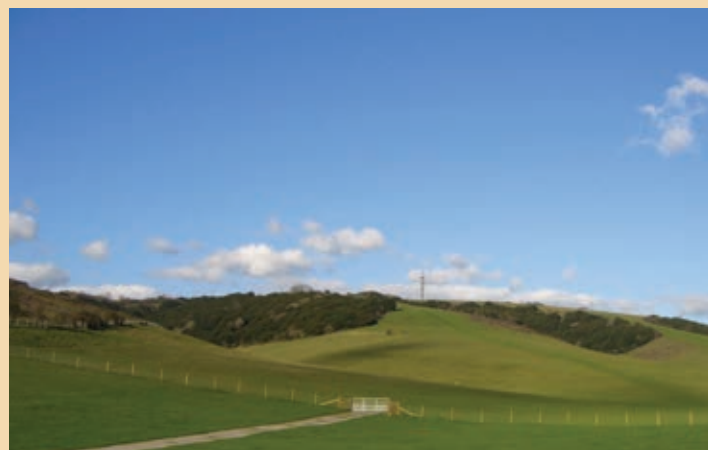
Theatre

Located in the Visitor Centre, the Theatre is a large room set out in a lecture hall style with tiered seating for 42. It is ideal for school trips, meetings, presentations and training sessions. Available 8.30am to 5pm (or 4.30pm November to February) daily.



Bottom Field/ Meadow

Located close to the Visitor Centre, these two small, flat events fields suit family parties and club events. Available from 8am to 8pm daily.



Events Field

Located on the western side of the A3 at the base of Butser Hill, the events field is perfect for large public events, shows and weddings. We are very flexible as to the nature of the events so please call 023 9259 5040 with your ideas! Available from 8am to 11.30pm daily. Camping is also available for pre-booked groups at £3 per person.

Head Down

Located to the east of the forest, near the village of Buriton, Head Down is an area that caters for clubs that require land with privacy for outdoor recreational activities, such as archery or of f-road vehicles. For more information please call 023 9259 5040 with your ideas! Available from 8am to 8pm daily.



Staff, volunteers and partners at Queen Elizabeth Country Park offer a wide variety of walks, events and activities throughout the year.

During the Hampshire school holidays there will be various activities for children available in the Visitor Centre which do not have to be pre-booked. Just turn up and take part!

All other activities and walks must be booked in advance and start at the Visitor Centre unless otherwise stated.

Woodcarving

Demonstrations by the Crossway Carvings, a local woodcarving club, in the Visitor Centre.

15th & 16th September
6th & 7th October
10th & 11th November
12th & 13th January
9th & 10th February
9th & 10th March

Country Park Spinners

Afternoon demonstrations of Spinning and other wool crafts in the Visitor Centre.

7th & 21st September
5th & 19th October
2nd & 16th November
18th January
1st & 15th February
1st, 15th & 29th March

Woodfuel Boiler Guided Walk and Talk

A 1 hour guided walk looking at the Park's biomass project. Meet at the Visitor Centre at 1.30pm. Booking essential. £3 per person.

Saturday 10th November
Saturday 19th January
Saturday 16th March

The Wednesday Walk

A 2 hour guided walk led by members of the Park's Volunteer Ranger Service. Meet at the Visitor Centre at 10.30am £3 per person.

12th & 26th September
10th & 24th October
14th & 28th November
12th December
9th & 23rd January
13th & 20th February
13th & 27th March

Re+action First Aid

Re+action will be running a series of first aid courses under the Rescue Emergency Care scheme (REC) which is designed specifically for outdoor professionals and enthusiasts participating in activities which will place them in areas where they may be waiting for the emergency services for extended periods of time. For further information and to book a course, please call 07944 555587 and ask for Steve.

6th & 7th October	2 Day emergency course
10th & 11th November	Level 2 Emergency course
24th November	1 Day HSE course
8th & 9th December	2 Day Emergency course
19th & 20th January	2 Day Emergency course
16th & 17th February	2 Day Emergency course
16th & 17th March	2 Day Emergency course

Conservation Task Weekend

Your chance to come along and help the Volunteer Ranger Service and Youth Rangers manage the habitats of the Country Park. You will need old clothes, good footwear and a packed lunch. (You might also like to bring along a foil-wrapped potato to bake in the bonfire.)

Meet at the Visitor Centre at 10.00am. The task normally finishes at 3.00pm. Please book in advance.

20th & 21st October
17th & 18th November
12th & 13th January
9th & 10th February
9th & 10th March

Woodland Birthday Parties

Park Ranger led Outdoor Activities:

4-6 years Mini-beast/ Woodland Animals
7-10 years Woodland Animals or Survival
11-15 years Survival

The 2 hour sessions are 10:30am-12:30pm or 2pm-4pm. The Park Ranger will do a guided activity lasting 1.5 hours and then 30 minutes in a decorated room for party food. You bring your own food or contact the Cafe on 023 9259 6345. A Planet Friendly Party - to reduce the impact of waste we will provide the plates, cups and jugs. Costs of £100 for up to 12 children then £8 per child up to a maximum of 15. For more information or to book please call 023 9259 5040.



Crafts in the Park are pleased to announce an exciting new, regular craft fair at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Featuring an eclectic mix of beautiful arts, crafts and home produce all made within the local areas. Come along, browse the stalls and meet the artists, crafters and producers, then enjoy the delicious food in the Park's café. Put our special Christmas dates in your diary, and while you purchase your Christmas tree you can pick up some unique gifts and decorations.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 23 rd September	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday 28 th October	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday 18 th November	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday 2 nd December	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday 16 th December	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday 10 th February	10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Sunday 3 rd March	10.00 am – 3.00 pm

For more information for stall holders please email carol.dilley@hotmail.co.uk



HantsAstro's Solar Sundays

Hampshire's most active Astronomy group. HantsAstro is planning a series of events for 2013, starting in January with the BBC StarGazing Live event. There will be numerous scopes out on the patio area as well as talks in the theatre. Last year hundreds of people attended - even though it was cloudy!



We also have a Moon Fest planned for April and another Solar Sunday for August 2013. Some of our solar astronomers are the best on the planet and all of the public events we hold at Queen Elizabeth Country Park are free to attend. We are planning to stage a photographic exhibition later in the year at the QECP Visitor Centre called 'Heaven & Earth' that will show off the Country Park in a completely new light.

HantsAstro also observe on various dates throughout the year at the top of Butser Hill and also at Butser Ancient Farm and an Annual Multi Site Observing Pass costs just £18. For more details on observing dates and all our events please visit the website www.hantsastro.org

Little Squirrels

10.30am – 12pm & 1pm – 2.30pm

Come along to our under 5's group where you will go for a themed walk in the Park and then back to the Visitor Centre for art, craft, stories and songs. £4 per child. Booking essential.

12th & 19th September	Trees and Bark Rubbing
26th Sept & 3rd Oct	Seeds and Berries
10th & 17th October	Spiders at Juniper
24th October	Autumn Colour
31st October	Half Term Activities
7th November	Autumn Colour
14th & 21st November	Animals in the Park
28th Nov & 5th Dec	Hibernation
12th & 19th December	Christmas Fun
9th & 16th January	Winter in the Park
23rd & 30th January	Rainbows
6th & 13th February	Feed the birds
20th February	Half Term Activities
27th Feb & 6th March	Adventure in the Woods
13th & 20th March	Signs of Spring

Caterpillar Crafts Country Park Family Fun!

We've teamed up with our friends at Queen Elizabeth Country Park to deliver some exciting fully inclusive family fun days including:

- Pirates of the Country Park
- Enchanted Forest
- Elves Crafty Christmas
- Space Invaders
- Outdoor Adventures

Our themed days have included various outdoor activities (some ranger led) such as; mini beast hunts, pond dipping, natural art, mountain bike trails, tractor rides, den building & the chance to experience the Park's range of specially adapted bikes!

You'll also get to do a craft activity using our own exclusive designs, including funky wooden pirate mobiles, fantastic flying tropical birds, lovely lanterns with LED light, blast off rockets & flags. And to finish off our fun-packed days exciting trails to follow around the Park giving families a great opportunity to explore the countryside together.

Caterpillar Crafts are now also offering themed children's parties. For more information, visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call Clair on 07830 256 619. Making craft accessible to all is what inspires us! Our passion is giving youngsters, whatever their age and ability, the chance to make something crafty out of almost nothing.



September

South Downs Lemming Trail

Saturday 1st September



Trail Break

Every aspect of the weekend's logistics is taken care of, leaving you to concentrate on the ride. The two day Lemming Trail package provides you with full route marking along the whole 100 miles (in addition to the permanent SDW signs), a choice of start points for 100 or 80 mile overall distance, on the trail checkpoint and feed station support, luggage transportation to the overnight stop, a choice of hostel bed or camping space, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast, plus a packed lunch option for Sunday, coach transport option back to the start from the finish and a free finishers t shirt. And new for 2012 is a single day option, allowing you to take on the Saturday section of the event on it's own! Full details can be found on trailbreak.co.uk.

Family Fun Day Trees

Sunday 2nd September
10.30am – 3.30pm

Come and learn about the wildlife in the Park and have some fun. Turn up and take part £2 per child. Suitable for all.



Bat and Moth Evening

Friday 7th September

Your chance to find out more about the creatures that 'haunt' the Country Park. Meet at the Visitor Centre at 7.30pm. £3 per person. Booking essential.



Butserfest

Saturday 15th September
11am – 10pm



Butserfest is an alcohol/drug-free rock festival aimed at young people. The festival features the best local and national up-and-coming bands performing at the base of Butser Hill.

The main stage this year sees: Kids In Glass Houses, Lower Than Atlantis, Yashin, Futures, Canterbury, Don Broco, Mallory Knox, Mike TV, Burn The Fleet, Contraband, England Road, Middy Committee, Spartan.

New for 2012 is the Small Town Records and Friends stage, featuring: Feed the Rhino, Shadows Chasing Ghosts, Heart in Hand, Polar Floods, The Elijah, Violet, Death of an Artist, Housefires, Prolong the Agony

There will be free activities available on site, along with food, drink and market stalls.

Tickets are available now from the visitor centre at Queen Elizabeth Country Park and online for £20 (plus booking fee for online purchases, cash only at the visitor centre).

Tickets will be on sale at the door for £25 if available.

For more information, www.butserfest.co.uk.



The South Downs MaXx Night Enduro

Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd September

The South Downs MaXx Night Enduro, the biggest challenge on the mountain biking calendar, takes place from Queen Elizabeth Country Park every September. Organised by Trail Break, the event is a full scale overnight epic, pitting you against 80 miles of the South Downs Way between sunset and sunrise. Supported by Exposure Lights and the South Downs finest bike shops, the MaXx features support stations along the route, special hi-viz night signage, GPS routes and tail riders to keep you on the right track. There are transport options to get you to the start, camping space at the finish and a finishers breakfast to remember! And if the full 80 mile MaXx 80 is too much for your lights or legs, there's the worthy challenge of the 40 mile MaXx 40 and an easier 20 mile MaXx 20 to choose from.

You can find out more at trailbreak.co.uk.



Nature's Harvest

Sunday 23rd September
11am – 3pm
 Forest Annexe

Our ever popular look at how man and the animal kingdom use the flowers, trees, seeds and fruits of the Countryside. This takes place in the Forest Annexe. There is a small charge of £2 per person.

Butser Hill Challenge

Sunday 23rd September



This is a demanding grade B Short Fell run with three steep ascents and descents of Butser Hill. The events whole morning of Junior events for School years 4 – 12 starting at 10:00 culminating in the 4.5 mile senior race at 12.30. The course is run on the grassy slopes of Butser and provides a challenge even for the serious fell runner. The views across the countryside are stunning. The atmosphere is fun and friendly attracting a wide range of runners of all abilities. Last year saw 25 schools participating in the junior events. It is hoped to increase the number of schools this year. The senior event of 4.5m attracts runners of all abilities. Last year's eldest runner was 73. For more information, visit www.butser.org.



Spider Walk

Sunday 30th September
11am – 1pm & 2pm – 4pm

Buriton Chalk Pits.



Join spider expert Simon Moore for a walk around the Chalk Pits looking for and learning about these amazing creatures. Meet at Halls Hill Car Park, Please wear suitable stout footwear.

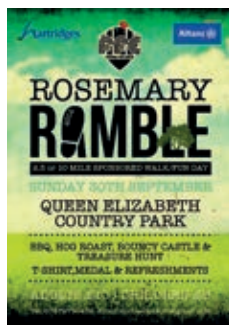
Pre-booking required.

Rosemary Foundation Ramble

Sunday 30th September
9am – 4pm

QCEP plays host to the first annual "Rosemary Ramble".

Organised by Michael Wait, one of the team behind Football for Cancer, this is a fun day out for the whole family to enjoy. With all proceeds going to local hospice at home charity, the Rosemary Foundation*, there will be three sponsored walks: 5 or 10 miles, depending on level of fitness, and a 2 mile stroll which will incorporate a treasure hunt for the children. There will be a barbecue and hog roast to enjoy after your walk, a bouncy castle and games for all ages. *(Does your club, pub or office have a team which would like to take part in a tug-of-war?)*



All walkers will receive a T-shirt at the start, kindly sponsored by Allianz Engineering, and a medal on completion.

Drinks will be supplied by Hartridges. To take part, please visit the Eastfield Hotel or Kits 2000 in Portsmouth or One Tree Books in Lavant Street, Petersfield to collect your sponsor packs. Entry £10 adults and £5 children. More information from Michael Wait, telephone 07879 750432 or email michaelwait.ffc@gmail.com

October

Specialized Consumer Demo Day

Sunday 13th October
10am – 3pm

Specialized's 'Test The Best' events have been designed for riders of all levels to try out our 2013 29er bikes and to meet the Specialized Bicycles Components University Professors.



Specialized staff will be on hand to help you choose which bike best suits your riding style, to set up the demo bike and to answer any technical questions you may have. We will be bringing along up to 18 bikes (across all sizes) from the Epic, Camber and Stumpjumper FSR families.

No pre registration required - just turn up on the day between 10am and 3pm. All demo rides are free.

Please note that the use of a helmet is compulsory for demos. You must be 18 or over to participate.

For further information, www.specialized.com or Tel no: 020 8391 3578.

A Butser Modular Railway Group Event

Saturday 20th October
10am – 4pm Visitor Centre



The BMRG is an N gauge model railway club started by a small group of enthusiasts in November 2009. Members construct their own modules to a defined set of specifications. Their modules are assembled into a large running layout on club nights. Construction and alteration of the modules is on going with members sharing modelling, electrical and other skills. Visitors are welcome to join us on club nights which are held in the Annexe on the first Monday of each month from 7pm to 10pm.

Horror Night

Saturday 27th October
7pm



Are you afraid to come into the woods at night?

The evening will be filled with menacing movies, creepy characters, gruesome games, including for all those wishing to partake a fancy dress competition, and spooky stories from Red Phoenix.

The highlight of the evening will be a movie premiere. Mancini Pictures Ltd are welcomed back again this year with an all new instalment in the 'October 31st' series. There will be an opportunity to meet the director and cast.

Aged 15 and above. £10 per ticket. Booking essential.



**Grimm's Fairytales-
Family Halloween Activities**

Monday 29th October – Friday 2nd November

Join us for our enchanting Halloween experience, We start with some magical arts and crafts and then take a tractor ride to the enchanted forest, follow the toadstools through the woods to the wishing tree and finish with a story told by a professional story teller. This is a two hour activity. Cost £5per child. Booking is essential.



November

**Caterpillar Crafts
Enchanted tales with the
Brothers Grimm**

Saturday 3rd November
10.30am – 2pm

Enjoy a tractor trailer ride through the forest, fairytale woodland trail and magical crafts. This promises to be a fun filled day for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families! Booking essential. £8 per child. For more information, please visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619

December

**Caterpillar Crafts
Elves Crafty Christmas**

Saturday 1st December
10.30am – 2pm

Enjoy a tractor trailer ride through the magical forest, Visit Santa in his grotto & have your photo taken. Follow the Park's festive trail and don't forget to hang your wish on our very special Christmas wishing tree. This promises to be a fun filled day for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families! Booking essential. £10 per child. For more information, please visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619.

Christmas in the Park

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd December
Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th December
Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th December
Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th December

Our ever popular Christmas festivities are back! Meet Father Christmas in his grotto with his fantastic gifts. Go on a festive nature trail and tractor ride and enjoy children's crafts. This is a 2 hour activity. Booking essential. From Saturday 29th Sept contact the Visitor Centre for costs.



There will also be Christmas shopping and Christmas tree sales at competitive prices. We have a wide selection of types and sizes - something for every taste.



January

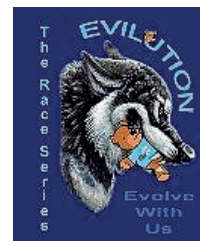
Canicross Trailrunners

Sunday 13th January

The Canicross Trailrunners are launching their brand new race series called EVOLUTION, the title refers to the fiendishly cunning nature of the race routes.



The race series will offer varying lengths of routes, catering for Juniors, Beginners and the more experienced Canicrossers. The club has plumped for some more unusual race categories, rather than the usual age based categories. Every breed or cross breed of dogs are offered a warm welcome (age restrictions apply for young dogs), as is every level of runner from novice to the elite, we simply want you to have fun, bond and get healthy with your dogs! For further Canicross and race series information please visit www.canicross.org.uk.



February

Brilliant Birds

Tuesday 19th February
10.30am – 12.30pm & 1pm – 3pm

Decorate your Own Mini Bird Feeder Join us for this booked activity, where you can make and decorate a feeder for the birds that live in the garden. Please book in advance £3 per child, suitable for all ages.

Bird Bonanza

Thursday 21st February
10.30am – 12.30pm & 1pm – 3pm

Join us for this turn up and take part activity, where you can make and decorate all types of different bird crafts. Turn up and Take Part £1.50 per Child, suitable for all ages.

South Downs Way Challenge

Saturday 23 February 2013



This is a circular route and the option of three distances, to walk or run it. There is something for everyone. Start and finish at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Start times: runners 7.30am, Hikers and walkers 8am.

8.5 miles (walk approx 3-4 hours, run approx 1-2 hours) Perfect challenge for the family to walk or a great distance for a regular runner to tackle an off-road route. This undulating route passes an ancient Roman Farmstead and takes in the stunning open space of the Downs, taking you through the beautiful tiny village of Chalton.

15 miles (walk approx 5-6 hours, run approx 2-3 ½hours) Ideal for regular walkers and runners who like to push themselves. This route continues across the Downs with challenging ascents and descents and passes the delightful village of Finchdean.

20 miles (walk approx 7-8 hours, run approx 3-5 hours) Spot on for the those looking for a demanding walk or for the hard core runners. Starting at QECP and heading south to Staunton Country Park and back, this route takes in a variety of terrain and villages. Website:bhf.org.uk/sdwchallenge.



EXHIBITIONS

Regular art exhibitions are held at QECP showing a wide range of work by local artists. Exhibitions are displayed in the Pumfrett Room in the café.

Barbara Jones and John Robinson

Friday 11th August – Sunday 23rd September

Barbara Jones is an accomplished watercolour artist who lives and works in Purbrook. She initially learned her craft under the excellent tutelage of Godfrey Samuels but has spent the past ten years cultivating and developing her own personal style. The subjects of her pictures range from still life through to coastal and floral studies. Her floral work often embraces the sensual and alluring mystery of her subject whilst her most recent coastal related pictures capture images and happy thoughts of days by the seaside.



Barbara Jones

John Robinson paints mainly in watercolour and covers a wide range of subject matter especially landscapes and animal life. He derives particular inspiration and pleasure from the form and mood of the Hampshire and

Sussex countryside, particularly the Downs. While his interpretations tend toward literal, he aims to exploit the spontaneity and freshness of watercolour, suggesting details rather than labouring it. His work today is popular and he exhibits widely in the two counties. He is a member of Sussex Artists and participates annually in the Chichester Open Studios Trail.



John Robinson

JOHN STARLING

BA (Hons) Dipl. Arch.
Friday 28th September –
Sunday 4th November

Born in 1937 in South London and lived in Central London until seven years ago when he moved to Liss in Hampshire. Studied architecture at University College London and spent several years travelling and working in Africa, including Nigeria and South Africa. Spent his time in London undertaking small building projects as an architectural consultant and teaching architecture. Most projects in the past forty years have been for local authorities or community groups, upgrading schools, community buildings or environmental improvements on estates in the more deprived areas of London, including access for wheelchairs and accessible toilets, for children with learning difficulties.



Line drawings at Christmas were sent as cards to friends but In 2008 he followed his father's footsteps painting watercolours of landscapes that reflect seasons of the year. Some pictures are of views in Hampshire, others are France, Scotland or other parts of England, these are also available as prints or cards. Originals or prints are on display, and can be purchased for the prices shown or can be obtained to order as mounted prints. The website www.johnstarling.co.uk gives personal contact details and the full range of 100 pictures.

Oliver Nares

Friday 28th September –
Sunday 4th November

Oliver Nares is a photographer who sees himself as an opportunist. Of these photographs are made out in the landscape where, as well as more conventional images, he likes to capture elements of the landscape that others may have missed, or to see it in a different way.

www.olivernares.co.uk



QECP celebrates the Olympics

Friday 9th November – Friday 4th January

The Olympics in Hampshire covers Olympians and Paralympians with Hampshire links from modern stars such as the 400m runner Iwan Thomas of Southampton, judo medalist Kate Hoey of Andover and swimmer Rosalinda Hardiman of Portsmouth to historic figures such as 1932 gold medallist Tommy Green of Eastleigh and cycling champion Charles Kingsbury of Portsmouth. The display describes venues in Hampshire used for the 1908 and 1948 Games in Aldershot, Church Crookham, Portsmouth and Southampton. It also gives information on the Olympic torch route through Hampshire in 1948 including a local link to the lighting ceremony itself.



On Sunday 1 August 1948, the Olympic flame was carried by a relay of runners from Wembley to Torquay, where the Olympic sailing was due to start. The route took the flame through parts of Hampshire where throngs of cheering people assembled. As the various torchbearers passed the flame from torch to torch, they were given a rapturous reception at every village and town, just as they have in 2012.



Francesca Concannon

Friday 1st March – Sunday 14th April

A relative newcomer to the area Francesca Concannon became involved with the Buriton Chalk Pits Project and has led children's art workshops in conjunction with the Chalk Pits Open Days and also with Buriton Primary School. This body of work is inspired by the nature reserve and the architectural remnants of the working chalk pits: the natural and the man-made, the juxtaposition between the two. The themes of rebirth and renewal are all around - the cycle of life is relentless, regardless of man's intervention plants regenerate covering the cuts in the land made by man. Working with natural materials collected on walks through the woodland in combination with plaster, echoing the chalk products, to produce fossil-like creations capturing the spirit of the site.





Buriton volunteers

Buriton Chalk Pits

The Chalk Pits at Buriton are coming towards the end of the Lottery project and are looking really good. There are new paths, wooden sculptures, interpretation boards and an old skip wagon erected on rail track as it would have been when the site was working. In April we held an open day. It was very wet but that didn't seem to spoil the fun. Events were held in the village hall with guided walks out into the nature reserve. The rain did have one big advantage and that was the abundance of molluscs and the rare Cheese Snail was found in a new area of the site which was great news. We held a bat walk in July for volunteers. Most of the bats that were seen (and heard with the help of receivers) were of the Pipistrelle variety, not particularly rare but it is still good to see them making use of the nature reserve for foraging. There have also been photography and art workshops to encourage people to be inspired by the site. The results were put on show at the Flora Twort gallery in Petersfield in August.

The new volunteer team has been busy clearing undergrowth during the winter months. A new project has just started to reinstate the old pond just by the South Downs Way. We are always looking for more help, if you would like to find out about volunteering please get in touch with Abi Peett, Queen Elizabeth Country Park on 02392 595040.

Visitor Centre & Shop opening hours

10am—5.30pm daily from 1st March to 31st October 2012
10am—4.30pm daily from 1st November 2012 to 23rd December 2012
10am—4.30pm daily from 26th December 2012 to 28th February 2013
10am—5.30pm daily from 1st March 2013 to 31st October 2013

QECP Café opening hours

9am—5.30pm daily from 1st March to 31st October.
9am—4.30pm daily from 1st November to 28th February.
Closed Christmas Day

Contact Details

Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Gravel Hill, Horndean, Waterlooville, Hampshire,
PO8 0QE

Telephone: **023 9259 5040**

Fax: 023 9259 2409

www.hants.gov.uk/qecp

Enquiries: qecp.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

Blog: www.qecp.wordpress.com

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

A park map is available from the Visitor Centre at £1.



QECP Café

Refreshments. Private parties can be catered for by arrangement.
Contact 023 9259 6345

South Downs National Park Authority

Telephone: 023 9259 1362.

Website: www.southdowns.gov.uk

Rights of Way

For all Rights of Way queries please contact 0845 603 5636.

Laser Games

For birthday parties, team building and corporate events.
Further information visit www.battlefrontgames.co.uk

Rother Valley Organics

For Organic Hog roasts and outside catering contact 01243 839394
or visit www.rothervalleyorganics.com



Public Transport

National Traveline – For journeys by bus and train – 087 1121 0190 or visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Bus—From Havant and Petersfield, contact Stagecoach Coastline on 0845 121 0190 or visit www.stagecoachbus.com

Train—Contact 0845 748 4950 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

Codes of Conduct

Over 300,000 visitors use the Park every year. To ensure that every visitor has a safe and enjoyable time and to protect the special interests of the site we would appreciate the help and cooperation of all visitors.

BBQs

- Only use the BBQ hearths provided. These need to be booked in advance. This can be done online at www.hants.gov.uk/qecp.

Litter

- Take all of your litter home. Please recycle.

Mountain Biking

- Only ride on the designated routes and be aware of other Park users. Avoid riding on the pavements around the Visitor Centre.
- Always wear a safety helmet.

Dog Walkers

- Keep your dog under strict control at all times. Your dog must be kept on a lead at all time in a field containing livestock is an offence.
- Clean up after your dog, especially in the car park and picnic areas. Use the bins provided for bagged waste.

Horses

- Only ride on the designated routes and be aware of other Park users. Please do not ride along the Forest Drive.

General Information

Guided walks

If you are unable to attend a walk that you have booked a place on, please let us know, as we often have a waiting list. Visitors should wear strong boots or shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. In very warm weather, plenty of liquid should be taken. The Park is hilly and therefore the walks can be challenging.

Children's Guided Activities

Children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult. Children over 8 years may be left if a consent form is signed. We encourage adults to stay and help (all adults must stay during 'turn up and take part' activities). Visitors should wear strong boots or shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Every effort is made to follow the programme, but we reserve the right to modify or cancel at short notice.

