

Monday Morning Meanders

Walks start at 10am and last up to 2 hours.
No need to book, and the walks are free.



- 1 Jan The Chines**
Southern entrance to Alum Chine, Alumhurst Rd (BH4 8HS)
- 8 Jan Hengistbury Head**
Solent Meads golf course car park, Rolls Drive (BH6 4NA)
- 15 Jan Stour Valley (Wilderness Way)**
Granby Road car park, off Muscliff Lane (BH9 1PZ)
- 22 Jan Southbourne Overcliff**
Fisherman's Walk cliff lift (BH6 3TD)
- 29 Jan Redhill Park and Common**
Redhill Park car park, off Redhill Drive (BH9 2SW)
- 5 Feb Sheepwash**
Entrance opposite Iford Bridge pub (BH6 5RG)
- 12 Feb Kinson Common**
By play area on Common, off Poole Lane (BH11 9DP)
- 19 Feb Riverlands and Wick**
Wick Lane car park (BH6 4LF)
- 26 Feb Bournemouth Gardens**
Coy Pond, Coy Pond Road (BH12 1JU)
- 5 Mar Strouden Woods**
Side of Homebase, Castle Lane Retail Park (BH8 9PE)
- 12 Mar Throop**
Throop Mill car park, Throop Road (BH8 0DH)
- 19 Mar Boscombe Chine Gardens**
Gravel car park off East Overcliff Drive (BH1 3HP)
- 26 Mar Turbary Common**
Layby opposite 120 Turbary Park Avenue (BH11 8HJ)
- 2 Apr Stour Valley (Meadows Walk)**
Granby Road car park, off Muscliff Lane (BH9 3NZ)
- 9 Apr Littledown and Kings Park**
Steps in Littledown Centre car park (BH7 7DX)
- 16 Apr Longham Lakes**
Car park off A348, just past Kings Arms (BH22 9AA)
- 23 Apr Iford Meadows**
Playing fields car park, off Iford Lane (BH6 5NF)
- 30 Apr Stanpit Marsh**
In car park in Stanpit (road) (BH23 3ND)

Hengistbury Writers

Our creative writing group, Hengistbury Writers, is really starting to blossom now. Back in November, members of the group put on a very atmospheric event to celebrate the works of Percy Bysshe Shelley, which was very well received by those who attended. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in creative writing of any kind, or already write, then why not come along and join this friendly group of fellow writers, and take inspiration from Hengistbury Head and its flora and fauna?

The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 2pm to 4pm. Why not make that writing project you have been thinking about starting your New Year Resolution for 2018?!



Contact us



Join us on social media for the latest news and events.

Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre / Ranger Team

Phone: 01202 451618
E-mail: hengistbury.head@bournemouth.gov.uk
Address: Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre
Broadway, Bournemouth BH6 4EN

Kingfisher Barn/Stour Valley Ranger Team

Phone: 01202 451548
E-mail: stour.valley@bournemouth.gov.uk
Address: Kingfisher Barn, Stour Acres, Granby Road,
Muscliff, Bournemouth BH9 3NZ

Working in partnership



Guided Walks and Events

January to April 2018

Bournemouth Parks



PARKS



Join us on social media for the latest news, and details of events not listed here.



Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre Events

Please phone **01202 451618** for more details, or if booking required.

Tue 2 Jan 2pm – 4pm
Hengistbury Writers
Come along and join this friendly and informal group of writers. They meet once a month to share ideas and inspiration, and to look at each other's writing. No need to book. Suggested donation £2.

Sat 6 Jan 11am – 1pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.

Tue 9 Jan to Tue 20 Mar 10.30am – 12pm
Adults Pottery Club
Julie's adult pottery workshops have been very successful. So, come along to this new pottery club to explore hand building with clay. All work will be kiln-fired and returned. £100 for 10 weeks (no session on 13 Feb). **Booking essential.**



Sat 20 Jan 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.

Sat 27 Jan 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Fossil Art
Make some superb fossil art using natural materials – your work will look and feel like a real fossil. Receive a genuine fossil to keep along with your artwork. £5 per person. No need to book.

Sat 3 Feb 7pm – 9pm
The Marine Life of Poole Bay
An illustrated talk about the wildlife we can't see, living under the water off Hengistbury Head. **Booking essential.** Free.



Tue 6 Feb 2pm – 4pm
Hengistbury Writers
Come along and join this friendly and informal group of writers. They meet once a month to share ideas and inspiration, and to look at each other's writing. No need to book. Suggested donation £2.

Mon 12 Feb 1.30 – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.

Tue 13 Feb 10.30am – 12.30pm
Crafty Corner
Make something crafty with a wildlife theme with our crafty expert Debra, using all sorts of materials. **Booking essential.** £6 per child.

Wed 14 Feb 10.30am – 12.30pm
Children's Clay Workshop
A fun pottery workshop with Julie Massie. Very popular and only 10 spaces so please book early. £10 per child.



Thu 15 Feb 1.30 - 3.30pm
Cave Painting
Join local artist and fossil hunter John House for a fantastic cave painting session. £5 per child. No need to book.

Sat 17 Feb 1.30 – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.

Sat 24 Feb 1.30 – 3.30pm
Fossil Art
Make some superb fossil art using natural materials – your work will look and feel like a real fossil. Receive a genuine fossil to keep along with your artwork. £5 per person. No need to book.

Sat 3 Mar 1.30 – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.

Tue 6 Mar 2 – 4pm
Hengistbury Writers
Be inspired, and improve your writing, in the company of this friendly group of fellow budding writers. Get feedback and suggestions on your own writing, and offer the same to others. No need to book – suggested donation £2.



Sun 11 Mar 1.30 – 3.30pm
Cave Painting
Join local artist and fossil hunter John House for a fantastic cave painting session. £5 per child. No need to book.

Sat 17 Mar 1.30 – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.



Sun & Mon 1 & 2 of Apr 10.30am – 3.30pm
Easter Trail
Follow our popular Easter Trail to solve the clues and win a small prize. Starts at the Centre. No need to book. £3 per person.

Tue 3 Apr 10.30am – 12.30pm
Crafty Corner
Make something crafty with a wildlife theme with our crafty expert Debra, using all sorts of materials. **Booking essential.** £6 per child.

Tue 3 Apr 2 – 4pm
Hengistbury Writers
Be inspired, and improve your writing, in the company of this friendly group of fellow budding writers. Get feedback and suggestions on your own writing, and offer the same to others. No need to book – suggested donation £2.



Wed 4 Apr 1.30 – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.



Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre Events

Please phone **01202 451548** for more details, or if booking required.

Regular events

Tuesdays from 2 Jan 10.30 – 11.30 am
Nature Tots
Give your little ones a love of nature. Come along for a different activity each week. For ages 2 – 4. Suggested donation £2.50 – free hot drinks for accompanying adults. No need to book.

Thursdays from 4 Jan 10.30 – 11.30am
Nature Club
Give your little ones a love of nature with these fun activities. Suggested donation £2.50 – free hot drinks for accompanying adults. No need to book.



Mondays from 8 Jan 10 – 11.30am
New Leaf Health Walks
Get into nature in 2018 and live a healthier life! These weekly walks run by the rangers will help you get active in nature. No need to book. For more information on health benefits call LiveWell Dorset on 0800 840 1628 and ask about Natural Choices.

Thu 5 Apr 1.30 – 3.30pm
Fossil Art
Make some superb fossil art using natural materials – your work will look and feel like a real fossil. Receive a genuine fossil to keep along with your artwork. £5 per person. No need to book.



Tue 10 Apr 10.30am – 12.30pm
Crafty Corner
Make something crafty with a wildlife theme with our crafty expert Debra, using all sorts of materials. **Booking essential.** £6 per child.

Wed 11 Apr 1.30 – 3.30pm
Cave Painting
Join local artist and fossil hunter John House for a fantastic cave painting session. £5 per child. No need to book.

Thu 12 Apr 1.20 – 3.30pm
Sand Art
A fun activity for children (and adults!). Make a picture using colourful sand. Easy to do. No need to book. Pictures cost between £2.50 and £5.

Tue 17 Apr 10.30am – 12.30pm
Adult Craft Workshop
Needle Felting
Join craft expert Debra for this popular workshop. All tuition and materials provided, as well as tea and coffee. **Booking essential.** £10 per person.



Explore the Stour
Guided walks exploring the River Stour, its habitats, wildlife and history. Dates to be confirmed. Call 01202 451548 for details or check the Kingfisher Barn Facebook page

Sundays from Feb 10am – 12pm
Junior Rangers Club
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday. A new fun club aimed at 11-15 year olds who have an interest in conservation and the outdoors. It will involve carrying out practical conservation tasks, learning about countryside practices and the wildlife on the reserve.

Wednesdays from 18 Apr 11am – 3pm
Pond Dipping
Come to Kingfisher Barn and pick up a pond ID sheet and tray, then go for a dip. Take a look at the amazing creatures to be found in the wildlife pond, or why not check out the river! Lots of fun for all ages. Children must be supervised. Free – no need to book.



Other Events

Mon 8 Jan 10am – 12pm
A Fresh Start Walk
Join the rangers for a guided walk along the 7-mile 'Throop loop'. We will be looking for wildlife and taking in the fantastic waterways. Walking boots or wellies advised. **Booking essential.** Free.

Tue 9 Jan 9.30am – 3pm
Rural Crafts
Join the rangers for some hedgelaying on the nature reserve, and find out why it is so important for wildlife. No need to book. Free.

Sun 21 Jan 10.30am – 12pm
Winter Time on the Stour
Come along for a guided walk along the river with one of our rangers – see what wildlife is still active during these colder months. Good walking boots/wellies advisable. No need to book. Free.



Tue 23 Jan 9.30am – 3pm
Rural Crafts
Join the rangers for some hedgelaying on the nature reserve, and find out why it is so important for wildlife. No need to book. Free.

Half Term – 10 – 18 Feb
Spring Into Action
As the weather starts to warm and day length increases nature gets a kick start – follow our trail starting at the Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre to find out what some of these are. Then why not take a walk along the river and see which ones you can spot? No need to book. Free.



Mon 12 Feb 11am – 3pm
Nature Prints
An activity for all ages – use leaves and twigs to create your very own nature print to take home! No need to book. £2.

Tue 13 Feb 10 – 11am
What's Going On Down At The Stour?
At Charminster Library Find out what's happening on your local nature reserve, events, and the wildlife that can be found. Join our ranger Nina for a talk about our sites and what the rangers do to maintain and protect them. No need to book. Free.



Friday 16 Feb 11am – 3pm
Half-term Crafts
Come and make your very own Spring-themed headdress. Create and draw the plants and wildlife found out and about during Spring then use them to decorate your own seasonal headdress. No need to book. £2.

Mon 26 Feb 11am – 3pm
Working With Hazel
Work with the rangers in the Visitor Centre wildlife garden – we will be using coppiced hazel to replace our pond and willow sculpture borders. Learn how to create a miniature weaved fence and the other uses of hazel. No need to book. Free.

Sat & Sun, 3 & 4 and 17 & 18 Mar 11am – 1pm
Make A Bird Box
Join the rangers to make your very own bird box to put up in the garden and see who turns up to use it this Spring! **Booking essential.** £7 per box.

Tue 6 & 20 Mar 9.30am – 1pm
Volunteer Taster Day
Love nature, being outdoors and have some time to spare? Come along to our Stour Valley Supporter work party to see what we're all about. Tasks vary from pathways, scrub clearance (winter works), fencing, gardening and pond restoration just to name a few. Not all are heavy going as we have lighter options available, and supply hot drinks and biscuits! No need to book. Free.



Mon 12 Mar 10am – 12pm
Springwatch Walk
Join the rangers for a guided walk along the 7-mile 'Throop loop'. We will be looking for wildlife and taking in the fantastic waterways. Then it's back to the barn for a well deserved homemade soup and roll! Good sturdy walking boots or wellies advised due to ground conditions. **Booking essential.** £5 per person.

Fri 30 Mar – Sun 15 Apr 11am – 3pm
Easter Trail
Follow the trail, solve the clues and win a prize (not suitable for under 3's)! Pick up your trail leaflet from the Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre then head out along the river. Can you find the Easter Bunny's hiding place? No need to book. £2.

Fri 30 Mar 11am – 3pm
Easter Bonnets
Come and make your very own Easter-themed hats/bonnets to take home. No need to book. £2.

Sat 31 Mar, 7 & 14 Apr 11am – 3pm
Egg Rolling
Great family fun – come to the Visitor Centre to collect your rubber egg then head to the slope to race your eggs – who can get the fastest (scrambled), best rolling technique (poached) and bounciest (scrambled) egg of the race! Then when you're finished come back to the centre to decorate them! No need to book. £2.

Wed 4 & 11 Apr 11am – 3pm
River Dipping
Join the rangers to go river dipping in the Stour and see what creatures you may find! No need to book. £2.

Wed 25 Apr 11am – 1pm
Spring Flowers
Join the rangers for a guided walk through the meadows and grassland to find out what flowers are blooming. Meet at the Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre for 11am start. No need to book. Free.

Mon 30 Apr 6.30 – 8.30am
Early Morning Bird Walk
Join the rangers for a walk along the river just at dawn to discover what birds live along the reserve. Learn to identify their songs as well as their plumage. A fantastic time of year as they will be courting and displaying. **Booking essential.** £2.

Volunteering Opportunities

We are always looking for more volunteers across Bournemouth's Parks and Open Spaces, and we can now offer a very comprehensive and diverse range of experiences and opportunities to potential and existing volunteers. These include:

- **Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre and Land Train**
- **Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre (Stour Valley)**
- **King's Park Nursery**
- **Queen's Park Golf Course**
- **Park Cafes Catering**
- **Tree Works**
- **Grounds Maintenance**

These areas mean that we can offer real experiences in areas such as retail, customer service, marketing, health and safety, grounds maintenance skills, countryside management, tourism, horticulture, livestock handling, archaeology, hospitality and more.

Our volunteers and work experience 'students' come from various backgrounds, from students keen to gain experience to people looking for a change of career direction. People volunteer for different reasons, including to gain confidence, meet new friends, learn new skills and more.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit www.bournemouth.gov.uk/parksvolunteer or email richard.hesketh@bournemouth.gov.uk



Events highlights at Hengistbury Head

Local artist Julie Massie is running a **Pottery Club** for adults in the New Year. This will take place on Tuesday mornings, 10.30am to 12.00pm, from 9th January to the 20th March. Julie will be exploring various hand-building with clay, and all work will be kiln-fired and then returned to those taking part. The cost is £100 per person for the ten sessions. Spaces are very limited so do book early.



Easter will no doubt be here before we know it, and the Rangers will be setting up another super Easter trail for everyone to follow. The trail will take place on Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd April.

As ever, it will start from and finish at the Visitor Centre, and there will be various clues along the way, the answers to which will combine to solve the trail.

Events highlights at Kingfisher Barn

There are two opportunities in the New Year to walk the Throop Loop with the Rangers. This 7-mile walk will take you along the River Stour and its waterways, looking for various flora and fauna, including kingfishers and otters.



There will also be an Easter Trail at the Stour Valley, daily from the 30th March to the 15th April - the challenge of the trail is to find the Easter Bunny's hiding place!

And you can even have a go at Egg Rolling! This will involve racing rubber eggs down a slope before decorating them for Easter. There will be three chances to have a go at this eggciting event - 30th March, and the 7th and 14th April.

Nature Spotting in Bournemouth

With ten Local Nature Reserves in Bournemouth, and many other open spaces, the Borough is a great place to explore wildlife - very often right on your own doorstep.

At the start of the year, with the trees still leafless, birds can be easy to spot. In the winter, several species move around in feeding flocks, often of mixed species. Winter visitors can also be obvious at this time, including Redwings and Fieldfares, two northern members of the thrush family. Brent Geese can be seen in the harbour at Hengistbury Head, along with Teal, Wigeon and other winter visitors.

After the quiet of winter, bird song starts to increase with longer daylight hours, and it should be possible to hear Skylark song on warm, sunny days in February, and certainly in March.



Flowers will start to appear with the onset of spring. One of the earliest to be seen is the easy-to-recognise Lesser Celandine, the yellow, star-shaped member of the buttercup family. Like the Daisy and some other flowers, the celandine tends

to close its petals in dull weather. William Wordsworth was clearly a fan of the flower, and spotted this dull-weather behaviour - the start of one of his celandine poems reads:

*There is a flower, the Lesser Celandine,
That shrinks, like many more, from sun and rain,
And, the first moment that the sun may shine,
Bright as the sun himself, 'tis out again!*

Why not head out in the New Year to see what flora and fauna you can find? Pick up one of the ever-popular I-Spy guides to give you some things to look for. You could even keep a photographic or written diary of the things you find. Be sure to let us know what you see and hear.