

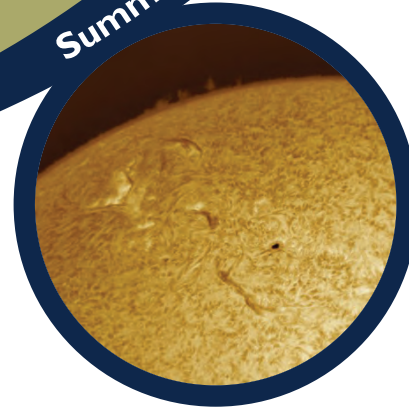


Welcome to Country Park Pages

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
- Solar Sundays
- Jubilee Beacon



HantsAstro's Solar Sundays

Join HantsAstro for their Solar Sunday events at the Visitor Centre on May 6th and August 19th to observe our nearest star using some of the latest solar telescopes available. They will be able to advise you how to modify your own telescope or binoculars to view the Sun. They will be joined by Astronomy4everyone and Worthing Astronomers, as well as solar experts who will be on hand to answer your questions. There will be shows in the lecture theatre and live images of the Sun (weather permitting). HantsAstro is now the largest astronomy observing group in the region and meet once a month on Butser Hill, the highest observing area in Hampshire and the first to be awarded Dark Sky Discovery status in the south. For details about the group please visit www.hantsastro.org, email membership@hantsastro.org or call on 02392 617092

Fit for a Duke

Butterfly Conservation and Hampshire County Council have teamed up to make QECP a fitting home for one of Britain's rarest butterflies. The Duke of Burgundy, which has declined nationally by nearly 50% in the last ten years, is found in the grassy valleys of Butser Hill and Oxenbourne Down. Funding from SITA Trust is supporting careful clearance of scrub in the Park over the next two years to create the sheltered glades that the butterfly loves. Butterfly Conservation will study how the butterfly responds and use this to guide similar management across the South Downs. For more information on Butterfly Conservation, please visit www.butterfly-conservation.org

Bioblitz

Join us on the 11th and 12th August for a 24 hour nature hunt and help discover as many of the weird and wonderful species living in the Park as possible. Throughout the period from 4pm on the Saturday until the same time on the Sunday there will be a chance to get directly involved in seeking, identifying and recording everything from bats and moths, to flowers and fungi. For more information about this and other BioBlitz events go to the Bristol Natural History Consortium on www.bnhc.org.uk. Full details about the QECP BioBlitz day which will feature walks, talks, mini-beast hunts and pond dipping will be available on the web-site nearer the date.

Open access for all

A project to improve accessibility for members of the public onto Open Access land at QECP is under way. On Butser Hill stiles are being replaced with kissing gates to allow for greater ease of use in a project funded by the South Downs National Park Authority. Open Access areas are stretches of land allocated and registered for common use so anyone is free to enjoy them on foot without having to follow any path or trail. Other sites where similar work is taking place include Old Winchester Hill and Harting Down. These cherished places are part of the living and working landscape and important for ground nesting birds and many important conservation grazing projects. Enjoy your visit to Butser Hill and help to keep the area a special place. For more information on the SDNPA, please visit www.southdowns.gov.uk



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacon Monday 4th June

A network of 2012 Beacons will be lit by communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and the Commonwealth. The Queen will be lighting the National Beacon to start the event, and Butser Hill, the highest point on the South Downs will be playing its part. It was Her Majesty who officially opened the Park back in 1976! More information about this and other Beacon sites can be found at www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk. Full details on the Butser Beacon lighting time will be posted on the Park's web-site nearer the event.



www.hants.gov.uk/qecp



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



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?"

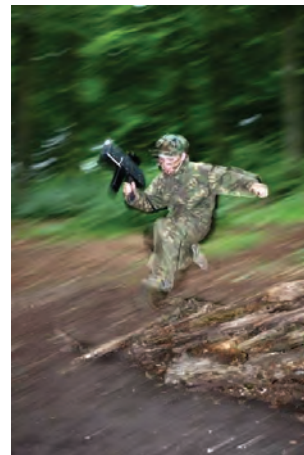
- Tones the upper and lower body at the same time
- Uses 90% of the skeletal muscles
- Burns up to 46% more calories than ordinary walking
- Reduces the pressure on knees and joints
- Great for the Heart and Lungs
- Ideal for neck, shoulder and back problems

Qualified Nordic walking instructor Louise Arthur will be offering taster sessions, beginner courses and guided walks at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Pole hire is 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 texting Nordic on 07967 736776 or by email at louisearthur@mac.com

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

The Park is a great place to mountain bike and there are two routes dedicated to novice (6km/3.7 miles) and advanced (5km/3.1miles) bikers. There are also two further trails that lead outside the Park using Rights of Way network and public roads. All information can be found at the Visitor Centre.



The Park has 17 front suspension mountain bikes that can be hired on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 9am—4pm, and a wide range of adapted bikes are also available every Friday from 10am—1pm. These need to be pre-booked through Bike Fixers. Please call Steve Eneas on 02392 430358 or email steve.eneas@bikefixers.co.uk.

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 9am to 10pm daily.



Theatre

Located in the Visitor Centre, the Theatre is a large room set out in a lecture hall style with seating for 42. It is ideal for school trips, meetings, presentations and training sessions. Available 9am to 5pm (or 4.30pm November to February) daily.



Bottom Field/Meadow

Located close to the Visitor Centre, these two small, flat events fields are close to the main facilities and 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 from £3 per head.

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 off-road vehicles. We are very flexible as to the nature of the events so 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 in the Visitor Centre.

3rd & 4th March
21st & 22nd April
26th & 27th May
2nd & 3rd June
21st & 22nd July (South Downs Wood Fair)
11th & 12th August

Country Park Spinners

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

2nd, 16th & 30th March
20th April
4th & 18th May
1st, 15th & 29th June
6th & 20th July
3rd, 17th & 31st August

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.

14th & 29th March
11th & 25th April
9th & 23rd May
13th & 27th June
11th & 25th July
8th & 22nd August

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.

3rd & 4th May	Level 2 Emergency course
9th & 10th June	Level 2 Emergency course
16th June	1 Day HSE course
14th & 15th July	Level 2 Emergency course
9th & 10th August	Level 2 Emergency course
1st September	1 Day HSE course
15th & 16th September	Level 2 Emergency course
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

Little Squirrels

10.30am – 12 noon.

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.

18th & 25th April	Signs of Spring
2nd & 9th May	Lambs
16th & 23rd May	Bug Hunting
30th May & 13 June	Pond Dipping
6th June	Half Term Activities
20th & 27th June	Butterflies & Flowers
4th & 11th July	Little Squirrels Picnic

Woodland Birthday Parties

Park Ranger led Outdoor Activities:

4-7 years Pond-dip or Woodland Animals
8-12 years Pond-dip or Shelter building

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 further enquiries and to make a booking telephone the Visitor Centre on: 023 9259 5040



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 theme days can include 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.



April

**NEW—Caterpillar Crafts
Easter Eggstravaganza**

**Monday 2nd April
10.30am—2pm**

Caterpillar Crafts are working in partnership with the Park to offer fun filled days for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families. Activities include: Easter Crafts, egg hunt and other fun stuff! £8 per child. Booking essential.

For more information, visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619.

RSPB's Date with Nature



**Tuesday 3rd—Monday 9th April
10am—4pm**

Let the RSPB take you on a Date with Nature; with staff and volunteers always on hand to answer your questions, you don't need specialist knowledge to enjoy the passing wildlife sights in the Park. Find out more about our reserves, campaigns and how you can Step Up for Nature.

Egg-tastic Easter

**Wednesday 4th April
10.30am – 12.30pm & 1pm – 3pm**

Have fun this holiday making an Easter craft. Suitable for all ages. Crafts start from £1.50. Turn up and take part.

Great Butser Egg Roll

**Monday 9th April
10am—4pm**

Join in our traditional egg-rolling day on the slopes of Butser Hill. Eggs must be bought from the Visitor Centre where you will be able to decorate them before rolling. £1 per egg. Turn up and take part.

Woolly Wonders

**Wednesday 11th April
10.30am—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm**

Walk over to Butser Hill to meet our new woolly arrivals. Then back to the Visitor Centre for some woolly natured arts and crafts. Suitable for all ages. £3 per child. Booking essential.

**Explore and Discover
Oxenbourne Down**

**Saturday 7th April
1pm—3pm**

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger looking at this nationally important conservation area. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

Buriton Chalk Pits Day

Saturday 28th April

Discover the wonders of Buriton Chalk Pits Local Nature Reserve at it's annual Open Day. It will be held in the chalk pits if it is fine, but in Buriton Village Hall if the weather is bad. There will be a story teller, art activities, the results of an overnight moth hunt and guided walks. In the village hall, there will be an exhibition showing the history of the site and what discoveries have been made over the years. Parking is available at the Halls Hill public car park in Kiln Lane (Grid Reference SU 733 197). For more information, please email carolyne@cmhaynes.co.uk.

May



Reptiles

**Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th May
11am—1pm**

Information and displays in the Visitor Centre about the Reptile Monitoring Project which runs in the Country Park. There will also be a guided walk led by a Park Ranger on both days. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking Essential.

**NEW—Family Fun Days
Reptiles**

**Sunday 6th May
10.30am—3.30pm**

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

HantsAstro Solar Sunday

**Sunday 6th May
11am—6pm**

Join HantsAstro for their Solar Sunday to observe our nearest star using some of the latest solar telescopes available. They will be able to advise you how to modify your own telescope or binoculars to view the Sun and answer your questions. For more information, visit www.hantsastro.org or call on 02392 617092.

NEW—Bits & Bobs

**Monday 7th May
10.30am—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm**

All sorts of arts and crafts for this Bank Holiday special. £1.50 per activity. Suitable for all ages. Turn up and take part.

**Dawn Chorus Walk and
BBQ Breakfast**

**Sunday 13th May
4am—7am**

For the early risers there is the chance to experience the wonderful dawn chorus followed by the equally wonderful organic barbecue breakfast. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £6 per person. Booking essential.

Bat and Moth Evening

**Friday 18th May
7.30pm—9.30pm**

Find out more about the creatures that haunt the Park at night. This activity is led by the Park's Volunteer Ranger Service. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

Hargroves QE Cycle Fest

**Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th May
9am—4pm**

The QE Cycle Fest 2012 is a cycling festival which encompasses road and off road cycling. This year we have partnered with British Cycling to put on a series of events over the weekend to raise money for Cancer Research UK. This includes a multi distance road sportive, Kids racing, a 4hr Mountain Bike Enduro with music and camping. Hargroves Cycles has pledged a charity fundraising donation of £10,000 in 2012 to Cancer Research UK in memory of late friend and cycling event organiser Paul Coates. For more information, visit www.hargrovescycles.co.uk.

**The Argus Appeal South
Downs Way Challenge**

Friday 25th—Sunday 27th May

We are now in our 9th year of organising this cycle event for The Argus Appeal, the charity of The Argus Newspaper, Brighton. It supports local charities in the Sussex area, which range from supporting the elderly at Christmas to buying mini-buses for other charities. For more information, visit www.theargus.co.uk/argusappeal/cyclechallenges/southdowns/

**Annual Classic Vehicle
Show and Autojumble**

**Sunday 27th May
10am—4pm**

South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society's Annual Classic Vehicle Show and popular Autojumble, with over 300 cars, motorcycles and vehicles dating from 1903 to 1986. There will full refreshments, a live band, fairground organ, children's entertainment and club displays. With over 150 stalls of Autojumble, toys, flowers and bric-a-brac, this will be a memorable day out for all the family whatever your interest. Adults £5, under 16's free. Stall holders: 07757 353194. Exhibitors: 07807 351316. For more information, please visit www.shvps.org.uk.



June

Wild Flowers of Butser Hill

Saturday 2nd June
1pm—3pm

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger looking at the wild flowers of Butser Hill National Nature Reserve. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

NEW—Family Fun Days Bug Hunting

Sunday 3rd June
10.30am—3.30pm

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

Pond Dipping

Wednesday 6th June
10am—11.30am, 12 noon—1.30pm
& 2pm—3.30pm

This event will open your eyes to the world beneath the water's surface. Join us to look for the mini – beasts that have made the pond their home. Suitable for all ages, please bring an adult. £3 per child. Booking essential.

NEW—Caterpillar Crafts Native American Experience

Friday 8th June
10.30am—2pm

A fun filled day for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families. £8 per child. Booking essential. For more information, visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619.

South Downs Marathon, Relay Marathon & Family 5km Fun Run

Saturday 9th June

Now in its 7th year, the South Downs Marathon is considered to be one of the UK's leading running events. Starting at Slindon College, it picks up the South Downs Way and then heads west to finish at the Park. The route is a mixture of chalk and flint tracks, grassy meadows and forest paths with a number of long climbs to test the stamina and has the choice of the full marathon, a relay or half marathon. For more information, visit www.209events.com.

Butser Festival of Flight

Sunday 10th June
10am—4pm

From Butser Hill top, enjoy displays of various forms of flight, from hang gliders, paragliders and kites. A great family day out, even for your teddy bear, who can enjoy a parachute jump!

An Evening on Butser Hill

Thursday 14th June

7pm—9pm

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger looking at the natural history on the highest point of the South Downs. Meet at the Butser kiosk. £3 per person. Booking essential.

Diabetes UK Woodland Walk

Sunday 17th June

Diabetes UK is the largest charity in the UK for all people living with diabetes. Taking place to support Diabetes Week, a sponsored walk will raise money for Diabetes UK. With two and five mile routes this is the ideal outing for family and friends while supporting Diabetes UK's search for a cure. To register, contact fundraising.southeast@diabetes.org.uk or telephone 01372 720148.

An Evening in Queen Elizabeth Forest

Thursday 21st June

7pm—9pm

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger exploring the natural history of the Forest. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

Homestead Dog Show

Sunday 24th June

It's that time of year again! For the 5th year Homestead Dog Training Club are running their Super Pet dog competition with lots of activities for you and your dog to tackle together. You are guaranteed to have a great time whether it's retrieving or clambering over straw bales. We have a Companion dog show with Breed, Novelty and two Obedience classes. This year we also have a limited unaffiliated charity Agility show—entries to be in by May 10th (forms on www.agilitynet.com). We hope to have an "enter on the day" class if time and weather permit. Proceeds go to Canine Partners based in Midhurst. There will be full refreshments and doggie stalls. For more information, call Brenda on 02392 597160.



Discovering Butterflies

Saturday 30th June

1pm—3pm

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger looking at the Butterflies at Oxenbourne Down. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

July

NEW—Family Fun Days Flowers

Sunday 1st July
10.30am—3.30pm

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

Trailbreak South Downs 100 MTB Enduro

Sunday 8th July

Starting from the Park, this is a fantastic day of cycling, taking in parts of the classic South Downs Way and linked trails. You can tackle the epic climbs and amazing descents of the South Downs for a classic biking day out! There is a choice of distances to ride, with 25, 40, 60 and 80km route options. All routes are marked making them easy to follow, and drinks and support stations will help you on your way. Hot and cold food and drinks will be available at the event HQ, so you can relax after your ride. For more information, visit www.trailbreak.co.uk.



Trailwalker UK 2011

Saturday 14th—Sunday 15th July

Trailwalker UK is an epic 100km team challenge along the South Downs Way starting at the Park. Teams of four attempt to cover the 100km course together, and within 30 hours. It's an incredible experience that combines stamina, adventure, endurance but most of all – teamwork. The Queen's Gurkha Signal regiment started the event in 1981 and when redeployed to the UK in 1997 they established the event across The South Downs Way. Now in its 31st year, Trailwalker UK attracts over 500 teams to take on the challenge of a lifetime and raise money for Oxfam and The Gurkha Welfare Trust. For more information, please visit www.oxfam.org.uk/trailwalker.

South Downs Wood Fair

Saturday 21st—Sunday 22nd July
10am—5pm

As well as a chance to see timber in all its forms and learn about what goes on "behind the scenes" in forestry, there will be craft displays and demonstrations, children's entertainment, local foods and a bar. This event showcases all aspects of wood, its production and it's uses, with exciting entertainment for the whole family. A wood fair in name, but in reality a whole lot more! Adults £7, Seniors £6, accompanied under 16's free. For more information, please visit www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk

British Heart Foundation's South Downs Way Off Road Bike Ride

Saturday 21st July

Formerly know as the Randonee, this is known to many as the toughest off-road bike ride in the UK. If you're an experienced off-road rider, make this event your next challenge and become part of an extra special group of Heart Heroes! Choose from 100 miles, 65 miles or 35 miles along various sections of the South Downs. For more information and to register visit www.bhf.org.uk or call 0808 100 2109.



Discovering QE Forest

Saturday 28th July

11am—1pm

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger discovering the natural and not so natural history of Queen Elizabeth Forest. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

Wildlife Wind Chimes

Tuesday 31st July

10.30am—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm

Nature in harmony—decorate a wooden wind chime for your garden. Cost £2 per wind chime. Suitable for all ages. Turn up and take part.

August

Monster Mini-beast Hunt

Thursday 2nd August

10.30am—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm

Explore the different habitats within the Park. See what lives in the woodland and the grassland. Suitable for 4 yrs and upwards. £3 per child. Booking essential.

NEW—Family Fun Days Butterflies

Sunday 5th August

10.30am—3.30pm

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

NEW—Caterpillar Crafts Big Bug Hunt

Monday 6th August

10.30am—2pm

A fun filled day for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families. £8 per child. Booking essential. For more information, visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619.

Magnificent Flying Machines

Wednesday 8th August

10.30—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm

Two craft activities on the theme of butterflies and dragonflies. £2 per activity. Suitable for all. Turn up and take part.

BioBlitz

BioBlitz

Saturday 11th—Sunday 12th August

4pm—4pm

Join us for a 24 hour nature hunt and help discover as many of the weird and wonderful species living in the Park as possible. Throughout the two days there will be a chance to get directly involved in seeking, identifying and recording everything from bats and moths, to flowers and fungi. For more information about this and other BioBlitz events go to the Bristol Natural History Consortium on www.bnhc.org.uk. Full details about the QCEP BioBlitz day which will feature walks, talks, mini-beast hunts and pond dipping will be available on the web-site nearer the date.

RSPB's Date with Nature

Saturday 11th—Sunday 19th August

10am—4pm

Let the RSPB take you on a Date with Nature; with staff and volunteers always on hand to answer your questions, you don't need specialist knowledge to enjoy the passing wildlife sights in the Park. Find out more about our reserves, campaigns and how you can Step Up for Nature.



NEW—Caterpillar Crafts Love Nature

Sunday 12th August

10.30am—2pm

A fun filled day for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families. £8 per child. Booking essential. For more information, visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619.

Clay Critters

Tuesday 14th August

10.30am—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm

Come along to the Park and create a creature out of clay and other naturally found materials. £1.50 per activity. Suitable for all. Turn up and take part.

Teddy Bears Adventures

Thursday 16th August

10.30—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm

Bring your teddy along to this family fun activity. This fun packed adventure will be filled with craft activities, games and a nature treasure hunt. After the activity why not stay at the Park and have a teddy bear's picnic. Suitable for under 5yrs (parents must attend). £3 per child. Booking essential.

HantsAstro Solar Sunday

Sunday 19th August

11am—6pm

Join HantsAstro for their second Solar Sunday to observe our nearest star using some of the latest Solar Telescopes available. For more information, visit www.hantsastro.org or call on 02392 617092.

NEW—Caterpillar Crafts Go Wild!

Monday 20th August

10.30am—2pm

A fun filled day for children & young people with disabilities or additional needs and their families. £8 per child. Booking essential. For more information, visit www.caterpillar-crafts.com or call 07830 256 619.

Pirates in the Park

Wednesday 22nd August

10.30am—12.30pm & 1pm—3pm

Ahoy me hearties, set sail on an adventure of pirate games, face paints, crafts and treasure hunt. Dress the part. £4 per child. Suitable for 4 years and upwards. Booking essential.

Discovering QE Forest

Saturday 25th August

11am—1pm

A guided walk led by a Park Ranger discovering the natural and not so natural history of Queen Elizabeth Forest. Meet at the Visitor Centre. £3 per person. Booking essential.

Bug Hunt at Buriton

Tuesday 28th August

10.30am—1pm and 1.30pm—4pm

Explore the different habitats within the chalk pits. See what lives in this amazing woodland. Then we will walk back to the village hall collecting natural material so you can make your very own clay mini-beast. Please meet at Buriton village pond. Suitable for all. Booking essential.

Outdoor Adventures

Thursday 30th August

10.30am—3pm

Join us for a day in the great outdoors, making shelters, drinking hot chocolate and generally exploring the Park. Please bring a packed lunch and wear suitable outdoor clothing. Suitable for 8yrs and upwards. £5 per person. Booking is essential.

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.

**The Enchanted Country:
The extraordinary world
of Ursula Moray Williams**

Friday 16th March—Sunday 29th April

The children's author and illustrator Ursula Moray Williams spent her first eleven years in Petersfield, where she was born in 1911. Her early years of playing with hobby-horses and walking past a shop selling wooden model horses, influenced *Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse* – perhaps the most famous of her 68 books, alongside *Gobolino the Witch's Cat*. She illustrated many of her books, in styles ranging from lively figure drawings to intricate scissor-cuts. From the age of 11 she lived at North Stoneham Park near Eastleigh, a magnificent yet dilapidated mansion set in magical grounds, which inspired such books as *Bogwoppit* –featuring cuddly yet ferocious animals living beneath a mansion. She was a keen Brownie and Guide in Petersfield and North Stoneham, and many of her early stories were written for Hampshire Brownies. Browsing copies of a selection of her books will be available for visitors to enjoy.



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TEXTILE SPECIAL!

Embroiderers' Guild and Interwoven

Friday 22nd June—Sunday 5th August



Embroiderers' Guild

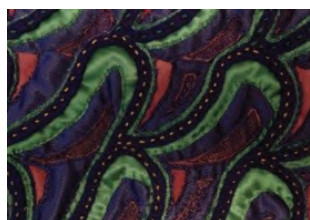
The Portsmouth & District Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild is celebrating it's 40th anniversary this year. To mark this occasion, they are staging an exhibition of members' work entitled 'Simply Red'.

The pieces display a range of techniques including hand and machine embroidery, gold work, appliqué and beadwork to name but a few.



Interwoven are a group of seven Hampshire based artists who enjoy producing a very diverse range of artwork. Their pieces range from Elizabethan inspired to yarn bombing! Covering a multitude of disciplines from felting, knitting, glass making, hand and machine embroidery, this exhibition presents Interwoven's Spirit of the Olympics!

Interwoven



Interwoven



**Carol Ellen
Stickland**

Friday 4th May—Sunday 17th June

Carol Ellen paints because life and colour excite and inspire her, compelling her to explore new styles and avenues of self expression. She is self taught and is still exploring and experimenting with styles and media, ranging from Chinese brush and pastels through to photography. However, her heart is in painting because "however imperfect a painting may be, it is an impression of feeling, an expression of love."



Barbara Jones and John Robinson

Friday 10th August—23rd September



Barbara Jones

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.

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



A Poplar Hawk Moth

Buriton Chalk Pits Update

This Local Nature Reserve is situated just to the south of the village. The Chalk Pits Project was started by Buriton Parish Council in 2008 when the future of the site was in question and is funded by the Heritage Lottery.

We are now half way through the project and things are going very well. Last year a number of guided walks were held on site and two new rare species were found. Over the winter, a successful volunteer team was started to help with site maintenance. After the success of our first Open Day last year we have decided to make this an annual event. This year it is on 28th April (see the events listings).

If you would like to know more about the project or find out about volunteering please get in touch with Carolyne Haynes, the Project Manager by emailing carolyne@cmhaynes.co.uk

Visitor Centre & Shop opening hours

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

QECP Café opening hours

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



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 at the Visitor Centre.

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. Allowing your dog to be out of control 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 used bags.

Horses

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

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.

Adapted Bikes

Adapted bikes available at QECP every Friday from 10am until 1pm. Contact the Park for more information.

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

General Information

Bookings

A charge of 50p will be made for all telephone bookings when using a credit card as payment.

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.

