**Events Programme 2015/2016**

This events programme will help you make the most of Hastings’ and Bexhill on Sea’s parks and countryside, learn more about its wildlife and contribute to its protection and preservation.

If you want to comment on the programme or make suggestions for improvement, please call the Ranger Team on 01424 451066.

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**General Information**

**Clothing:** Please come prepared with strong, comfortable footwear and waterproofs, especially on the all-day events. Remember that some of the events on the beach are rough terrain and that footpaths can be steep and muddy in places.

**Walking conditions:** Use this as a guide on the accessibility of each event.

- **Easy walking conditions:** Relatively flat.
- **Moderate walking conditions:** This may involve some gentle hill walking and steps.
- **More challenging conditions:** It may include walking some steep inclines, involving slippery surfaces and steps.

**Weather:** Whatever the weather, an event leader will be at the meeting point and will then decide whether to proceed or not.

**Dogs:** Welcome (except where indicated) if under control and kept on a lead.

**Public Transport:** In most cases buses and trains run regularly to all the meeting points throughout the day. Information on routes and times can be sought from Hastings Information Centre on 01424 451111 or direct from Travel Line South East on 0871 200 2233 or at www.travellinesoutheast.org.uk. Rail travel information can be obtained on 0845 748 4950.

**Children:** Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Charges:** Most events are free - check individual listings for details.

**Conservation Tasks:** These vary but for all of them you should wear suitable footwear and clothing, always bring waterproofs in case the weather changes. If staying all day, it’s advisable to bring a packed lunch and drink.

**Disclaimer:** Hastings Borough Council and Rother District Council accept no responsibility for events led by other organisations or groups. Information correct at time of printing but may be subject to change.
Meet the Team

JULIE
Position: Country Parks Ranger
Best part of the job: The opportunity of working with the community
Worst part of the job: Dog fouling

CHRIS
Position: Estate Ranger
Best part of the job: Watching habitat develop
Worst part of the job: The mud!

BOB
Position: Estate Ranger
Best part of the job: Being outside
Worst part of the job: Dog mess and litter

ALEX
Position: Combe Valley and Hastings Ranger
Best part of the job: The fresh air
Worst part of the job: Enforcement!

NICK
Position: Hastings Ranger
Best part of the job: Conservation work
Worst part of the job: Not enough hours in the day!

GUY
Position: Hastings Ranger
Best part of the job: Liasing with the public
Worst part of the job: Picking up all the litter!

Volunteers

A special thank you...
To all volunteers and groups for their time and dedication.
The council greatly values the time and commitment volunteers put into our beautiful green spaces. We look forward to all we can achieve with you in the coming years.

Project Update 2015

There are two exciting initiatives in progress this year at Combe Valley Countryside Park.

New visitor hub (pictured above)
To provide a focus for information, activities and events at Combe Valley, a new visitor hub is planned this year to be located off Freshfields Road. This is a really exciting project for the Countryside Park and the hub will be built with recycled shipping containers to be as sustainable as possible.
The hub will provide refreshment facilities, toilets and incorporate a ranger’s office and a flexible meeting space for groups using the park.

Community Interest Company (CIC)
A CIC is a company which is set up and run for the benefit of the community. Its board is comprised of individuals who have a personal interest in ensuring that Combe Valley will be developed and managed to provide facilities and activities to the benefit of the local community.
It is expected that the CIC for Combe Valley will be established by April this year, and with advice from experts, will agree a development plan for the park to provide an attractive, accessible and recreational space, which is rich in plant and animal life.
For more information email Robin Jones, Robin.Jones@groundwork.org.uk

Project Information
For more information about the Combe Valley Countryside Park visit: www.combevalleycountrysidepark.com
For more information about wildlife in the area visit: www.wildhastings.org.uk or www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk, contact the Combe Valley Ranger on 01424 451066 or email ABayley@hastings.gov.uk

The Friends of Combe Valley Park
The Friends of Combe Valley (FoCV) is a voluntary group formed by organisations and individuals committed to proactively working together to care, protect and promote the Combe Valley Countryside Park.
Our aim is to work in partnerships to develop the park for health and wellbeing, educational opportunities and improved access for all; enriching the area of people and wildlife.
For more information please visit our website www.friendsofcombevalley.co.uk
To join the Friends of Combe Valley please contact their membership secretary Willy Wilson at weewillywilson44@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01424 830376.

Volunteers

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For more information please visit our website www.friendsofcombevalley.co.uk
To join the Friends of Combe Valley please contact their membership secretary Willy Wilson at weewillywilson44@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01424 830376.
Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is steeped in history; in 1850, still surrounded by farmland, the reservoirs were constructed to provide water for the ‘growing town of Hastings’. A smallholding at the southern end of the park was acquired by the Corporation in 1859 and landscaped as a garden for the residents of St Andrews Square, re-named St Andrews Gardens in 1864. In 1849 the railway line from Hastings to Ashford was constructed, effectively dissecting the park from the Town Centre, a pedestrian underpass was provided to maintain access to the gardens. By 1878 the Corporation had acquired much of the land and now wanted to stimulate development; to achieve this it decided to landscape a much larger park extending towards Silverhill and Buckshole Reservoir. The eminent landscape gardener Robert Marnock was commissioned and much of what we see today was created. In 1882 the new Alexandra Park was opened - of huge significance in the new landscape was the tree collection, much of which was planted by Marnock.

This fine collection, which is nationally significant, means that Alexandra Park is probably one of the best public parks in Britain in which to see trees. Its sheltered valley and temperate climate allow an enormous variety to thrive, many of which have been able to grow to their full splendour. The Park currently includes nine champion trees (the tallest or largest of their kind in Britain and Ireland) and there are four more in the surrounding woodlands.

In 2000 the Heritage Lottery Fund helped restore the park, thanks to a £3.4 million grant. There is now a determination from both the Council and the Friends to sustain and wherever possible continue to develop and improve the park.

The tree collection is one of Hastings’ great assets and the Friends of the Park will be championing its development and extension in years to come so that today’s and future generations will always have beautiful trees to enjoy.

The Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve

A picturesque nature reserve of national importance with stunning coastal views sited within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The nature reserve has 342 hectares (853 acres) of ancient gill woodland, heathland, grassland and farmland together with five kilometres of dramatic sandstone cliffs and coastline.

Much of the area has been designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the unique wildlife and fossil rich soft rock cliff and slope.

Help us protect this extraordinary nature reserve. When visiting, please follow the countryside code, walk on designated footpaths and be careful of farm machinery and livestock.

For directions to this and the other nature reserves and green spaces, see the map on page 40 (back cover).
Combe Valley Countryside Park

Meeting points

MP1 Car park in Ninfield Road, opposite Lidl in Sidley

MP2 Sidley Green, outside The New Inn

MP3 Pebsham Equestrian Centre, Pebsham Lane, TN40 2RZ

MP4 Southern Water Waste Water Treatment Works, North end of Freshfield Road (pedestrian access via public footpaths)

MP5 Galley Hill, near the coastguard station

MP6 Café on the beach, Glyne Gap, through pedestrian railway tunnel

MP7 The green at the entrance to Hastings Garden Centre

MP8 Viewing platform on Bulverhythe beach, by the railway footbridge off Bridge Way

MP9 Bulverhythe playing fields car park, off Bexhill Road. Take the first turning on the left east of the entrance to Hastings Garden Centre

MP10 Crowhurst Recreation Ground

MP11 Crowhurst Station

MP12 The Pavilion, half way up Freshfields Road on the right hand side. Freshfields Road leads to Hastings Recycling Centre (tip) TN38 8AY

MP13 Reedwood Road. By the gated entrance into the field. Reedwood Road is on the left if travelling north up Harley Shute Road just after the Combe Haven Holiday park TN38 8BZ

Not all meeting points shown are being used in this year’s programme

Combe Valley Countryside Park

Parking Area

Library

Railway Station

Meeting Point

Bus Route Number

Combe Valley Countryside Park

Countryside Code

Much of the land within the park is private land. Please stay on the paths that are marked by numbered posts. Refer to leaflet ‘Nature on your Doorstep’ available on the Hastings Borough Council website: www.hastings.gov.uk/countrypark

Detailed information about The Countryside Code can be found at: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Map for illustration purposes only.
March

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 1st March, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shorneden reservoir north
Join the Alexandra Park Volunteer Team and Ranger Nick Hennessy in a practical conservation task to improve the wildlife habitats and natural areas of this award winning green space. Full training is given on the day and all tools are supplied. This is a great way to get fit, enjoy the great outdoors as well as meet likeminded people and have some fun. Just turn up wearing old clothes and stout footwear. Work location might change, to keep up to date look out for posters in notice board or get added to the email list.

For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
Join the Hastings Country Park Conservation group and help with a specific conservation task. No previous experience necessary. Wear suitable clothing and stout footwear. Bring a packed lunch if staying all day.

For more information phone 01424 451066
ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

Alexandra Park Health Walk - Sidley
The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
A lovely countryside walk of an hour. Friendly, safe and free. Please wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather on the day. In winter the walk still goes ahead and routes will go through the twittens and green spaces of Sidley and Bexhill Old Town.
An hour’s walk. Typical country walk with some hills, stiles, muddy paths and steps. In winter: some gentle inclines, steps, along pavements or public footpaths in town.
For more information contact Paula Hubens 07740899559/ p.hubens@tcv.org.uk
Charge/Donation: free
Accompanied children and well behaved dogs on leads are welcome

Combe Valley Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
The Conservation Volunteers
Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
A gentle walk in Church Wood. Friendly, safe and free. Please wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather on the day. An hour’s walk. Typical woodland walks with uneven terrain, muddy paths, some slopes. Alternative routes in winter to avoid most of the mud.
For more information contact Paula Hubens 07740899559/ p.hubens@tcv.org.uk
Charge/Donation: free
Accompanied children and well behaved dogs on leads are welcome

The Conservation Volunteers
Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
A gentle walk in Church Wood. Friendly, safe and free. Please wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather on the day. An hour’s walk. Typical woodland walks with uneven terrain, muddy paths, some slopes. Alternative routes in winter to avoid most of the mud.
For more information contact Paula Hubens 07740899559/ p.hubens@tcv.org.uk
Charge/Donation: free
Accompanied children and well behaved dogs on leads are welcome

The Conservation Volunteers
Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays
weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
A gentle walk through Ore village and parts of Hastings Country Park. Friendly, safe and free. Please wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather on the day.
An hour’s walk. On pavements, some uneven terrain, public footpaths, some hills, some steps.
For more information contact Paula Hubens 07740899559/ p.hubens@tcv.org.uk
Charge/Donation: free
Accompanied children and dogs on leads are welcome

Pubs and Breweries of the Old Town and Central St. Leonards
Friday 13th March, 7pm
Venue: The History House, Courthouse Street, Old Town, Hastings
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to a talk by Cllr. John Hodges, pub historian, on the history of local ale houses and breweries.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
For more information contact: Jan Armour on 01424 715556 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Hastings Country Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 1st March, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
Join the Hastings Country Park Conservation group and help with a specific conservation task. No previous experience necessary. Wear suitable clothing and stout footwear. Bring a packed lunch if staying all day.
For more information phone 01424 451066
ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

The Conservation Volunteers
Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
A gentle walk through the park. Friendly, safe and free. An hour’s walk. Mostly on well surfaced paths, but may also include uneven terrain, inclines and steps. Please wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather on the day.
For more information contact Paula Hubens 07740899559/ p.hubens@tcv.org.uk
Charge Donation: free
Accompanied children and well behaved dogs on leads are welcome

For more information phone 01424 451066
ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

For more information phone 01424 451066
ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

March
**March**

**Friends of Pondswood Conservation Task Day**
Saturday 28th March, 10am - 1.00pm
The meeting place is nearly opposite the end of Fern Rd on Gillsmans Hill, by the bridge on the signed public footpath just within the wood.
Ponds wood is the new addition to the Council’s holdings for woodlands and has recently received Nature Reserve status.
This woodland has its own historic Friends Of group who are very friendly / knowledgeable and ready to accept any new volunteers.
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for woodland conditions
For further information contact, John 07802867147

**Alexandra Park Wild Food Foraging**
Sunday 29th March. 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at the Bandstand
The art of foraging has become more popular these days, there’s so much healthy and delicious food to be found in nature but what is safe? This is a perfect introduction to foraging, a guided walk led by local expert Sarah Watson will look at what is and isn’t edible focusing on wild herbs, fruits and seeds. Tasters will be available.
Sarah Watson, ‘Wild Feast’ foraging and wild food cookery sessions, sarah@wildfeast.co.uk, www.facebook.com/wildfeast
For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk

**April**

**HCP midweek Conservation Task Day**
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details.

**The Conservation Volunteers Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley**
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details.

**The Conservation Volunteers Ore Health Walk - Hastings**
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays
weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details.

**The Conservation Volunteers Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards**
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details.

**The Conservation Volunteers Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings**
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details.

**Friends of Church wood Conservation Task Day**
Saturday 4th April, 10.am -2.00pm
Meeting Church wood car park, Church wood Lane, Hollington
The friends of church Wood meet monthly to maintain Church Wood local nature reserve. Any one is welcome to join us for the day. Training will be given and hot drinks will be provided. Bring lunch if staying all day.
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for woodland conditions
For further information contact, Barry on 01424 853336

**Bohemia Walled Garden Association Task Day**
Sunday 5 April 10 am until 1 pm
Meeting at the Walled garden in Summerfields Woods
Conservation Tasks in and around the beautiful Bohemia Walled Garden, led by our local Ranger. Meet members of the garden, have fun and spend time in this tranquil location right in the heart of urban Hastings.
Please visit our website at bohemiawga.weebly.com or email the Garden at bohemiawga@yahoo.co.uk for further details.
April

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 5th April, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details.

Introducing the Lichens of Hastings Country Park
Saturday 11th April, 10.30am
Meet at The Milking Parlour, Place Farm, Barley Lane, off Fairlight Road
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to a talk about these fascinating organisms by local naturalist, Keith Palmer, followed by a walk in the nature reserve to find some lichens in their natural habitat.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
N.B. Booking essential for this event.
For booking and more information contact: Jill Howell on 01424 815256 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Summerfield’s Wood Conservation Task
Saturday 11th April, 10am - 1.30pm
Meeting at Summerfield’s Leisure Centre Car Park, off Bohemia Road.
Join the Rangers in helping improve this beautiful Local Nature Reserve within easy walking distance of Hastings town centre. This wood is situated behind Summerfield’s Leisure Centre and is full of wildlife. Learn about habitat management, meet people, have fun and keep fit. Tools, refreshments and training are available but please wear practical outdoor clothing and tough footwear.
For more information phone 01424 451066 or for parks, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 12th April, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shorneden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details.

Summer Migrant Birds Return to Combe Valley
Wednesday 15th April 2:00pm-4:30pm
Meet in the car park opposite Hastings Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards, TN38 8AR. MP7
As our summer birds return to Sussex we’ll search for swallows, warblers, wagtails, cuckoos and other migrants as we walk around Combe Valley Country Park. Bring binoculars if you have them. This event is free but donations to Sussex Wildlife Trust appreciated.
Contact on day – Michael Blencowe 07585901360

Shipwreck and Dinosaurs! Amsterdam Tour
Sunday April 19th Meet at 6:30pm
Meet at viewing platform at Bulverhythe beach by the railway footbridge off Bridge Way, TN38 8AP. MP7
Experienced guides from the Shipwreck Museum will lead visitors on a guided tour of the wreck of the Dutch merchant ship Amsterdam (1749), the coastline, the 4000 year old prehistoric forest and the Cretaceous rocks from the age of the dinosaurs. Please wear appropriate footwear as the walk will involve walking on wet sand and bring warm clothing as the beach is exposed.
Booking essential. Tickets £6 adults, £2 children (includes a free copy of the Amsterdam guidebook) available at the Shipwreck Museum, Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings, TN34 3DW or telephone 01424 437452

Getting to know the Wild Flowers of East Sussex - Woodland Sussex Wildlife Trust Course
Sun 19th April 10:00am – 16:00pm
Venue: The Old Milking Parlour Field Centre, Hastings Country Park, Fairlight, East Sussex, TN35 5DT
We’re now able to offer our popular “Getting to Know the Wildflowers…” courses in East Sussex! Come along and find out more about the diverse woodland flowers to be found in the county park in the first of 5 day courses covering all the habitats for wildflowers in the County. Booking Essential Tutors: Ralph Hobbs & Sarah McKenzie
Cost Non-members: £40.00
Members: £27.50
For more information and to book your place please go to the courses link on the Sussex wildlife Trust website: www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/courses
Or call 01273 497561

Alexandra Park Wild Flower Walk
Sunday 26th April. 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at End of Vale road
Alexandra Park is renowned for its trees but there’s much more to this wonderful Park. Join the Hastings Botany Group in a gentle stroll looking at the flowers to be found right under your feet. A super event for anyone with an interest in nature and wild flowers, perfect for beginners and experts alike and it’s free!
For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk

Guided Walk around Filsham Reedbed Nature Reserve
Thursday 30th April 10:30am-12:30pm
Meet at Bulverhythe Recreation Ground car park off the A259 in St Leonards. MP9
Sussex Wildlife Trust’s Alice Parfitt will show us around this reedbed – one of the largest in Sussex. We’ll look and listen out for birds and learn more about the other wildlife that lives here.
This event is free but donations to Sussex Wildlife Trust appreciated
Contact on day – Michael Blencowe 07585901360

Alexandra Park Tree Walk
Sunday 19th April. 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at Harmers Lay-by
Alexandra Park is one of the best parks in Britain for its tree collection. Join national tree expert Dr Owen Johnson for a fascinating walk around this special green space looking at some of the wonderful tree specimens. If you have an interest in trees this is a perfect event for you, always something new and interesting and it’s free!
For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk
May

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details.

Friends of Pondswood
Conservation Task Day
Saturday 2nd May, 10am - 1.00pm
The meeting place is nearly opposite the end of Fern Rd on Gilbsmans Hill, by the bridge on the signed public footpath just within the wood.
See page 12 for more details.

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 3rd May, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details.

A Herbal Walk in Hastings Country Park
Saturday 9th May, 10.30am
Meet at Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre, Lower Coastguard Lane, off Fairlight Road
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to join them for a walk in the Country Park Nature Reserve led by local herbalist, Ben “Fairlight” Edwards, to look for plants used in various traditional herbal remedies and tisanes.
For more information contact: Jan Armour on 01424 715556 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Alexandra Park
Conservation Task Day
Sunday 10th May, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shornden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details.

Spring Birds at Filsham Reedbed
Wednesday 13th May 10:00am - 12:00 noon
Meet at Bulverhythe Recreation Ground car park off the A259 in St Leonards
Our migrant birds have returned from Africa. Join Sussex Wildlife Trust’s Alice Parfitt for a guided walk along the Combe Haven river and into our Filsham Reedered reserve looking for birds and other wetland wildlife. Free event but places are limited so booking is required.
Please call Michael on 07585901360 to book.

Spring Butterflies of Combe Valley Country Park
Thursday 14th May 10:45am -12:30pm
Meet in the car park opposite Hastings Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards, TN38 8AR. MP7
Join us as we walk around the country park looking for admirals, peacocks, blues, coppers, brimstones and other butterflies and wildlife.
Find out where to see them and how to identify them. This event is free but donations to Sussex Wildlife Trust appreciated.
Contact on day – Michael Blencowe 07585901360

Shipwreck and Dinosaurs!
Amsterdam Tour
Tuesday 19th May Meet at 6.45pm
Meet at viewing platform at Bulverhythe beach by the railway footbridge off Bridge Way, TN38 8AP. MP8
See page 14 for more details.

Combe Valley Conservation Task Day (Green Gym)
Thursday 21st May 11am-2pm
Meeting Point to be advised on booking
Join up with Green Gym and help with a specific conservation task in the Combe valley. No previous experience necessary. Booking essential: Call the Green Gym on 07549170578
For more information on Green Gym go to www2.btcv.org/display/greengym or email greengyms1066@hotmail.com

Alexandra Park
Wild Flower Walk
Saturday 23rd May 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at Bandstand
Alexandra Park is renowned for its trees but there’s much more to this wonderful Park. Join the Hastings Botany Group in a gentle stroll looking at the flowers to be found right under your feet. A super event for anyone with an interest in nature and wild flowers, perfect for beginners and experts alike and it’s free!
For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk
May

Birds of the Powderrmill Valley with The Friends of Combe Valley
Thursday 28th May 9:00am-12:00 noon
Meet in Crowhurst Recreation Ground Car Park, Sandrock Hill, Crowhurst, TN33 9AR MP10
Join Cliff Dean of the Friends of Combe Valley for an enjoyable and informative walk through village, farm and woodland to freshwater marsh. Learn what birds use each habitat and why and learn how to identify them by sight and sound. Walk of 2-3 miles mostly on level ground. May be wet underfoot so walking boots are advised. Please bring a waterproof and binoculars if you have them. Possibility of a pub lunch at the end of the walk. Free event but donations to the Friends of Combe Valley appreciated.
No need to book, just turn up.
Contact on the day - Cliff Dean 07906560881.

Wild Beach with Sussex Wildlife Trust
Thursday 28th May 2:00-4:00pm
Meet at Café on Bulverhythe Beach at Glyne Gap MP6
Family event. Join the Sussex Wildlife Trust and explore the beach with fun games and activities. We’ll be searching the strandline and making beach mobiles and kites. Suitable for families with children aged 5-11 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
This event is free but donations on the day welcome and booking is essential.
To book contact Michael on 07585901360

Combe Valley Conservation day
Saturday 30th May, 10am to 1.00pm
Meeting at the Garden Centre top car park, Bexhill Road.
Join the Combe Valley Conservation group and help with a specific conservation task. This is a great way to get fit, enjoy the great outdoors as well as meet like minded people and have some fun. No previous experience necessary. Wear suitable clothing and stout footwear
For more information phone 01424 451066 ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

June

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays
weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Summerfield’s Wood Conservation Task
Sunday 7th June, 10am - 1.30pm
Meeting at Summerfield’s Leisure Centre Car Park, off Bohemia Road.
See page 14 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Conservation Task Day (Green Gym)
Thursday 11th June 11am-2pm
Meeting Point to be advised on booking
See page 17 for more details.
June

Combe Valley Walk with the Ranger
Saturday 13th June 10.30am till 12.00 pm
Meeting at the Top Garden centre car park
Bexhill Road
Enjoy a stroll around the Combe valley with
the ranger.
For more information call. 01424 451066 ask for
parks and gardens, leave your name and phone
number and a ranger will get back to you.

Photographing Nature
in the Country Park
Saturday 13th June, 10.30am
Meet at The Milking Parlour, Place Farm,
Barley Lane, off Fairlight Road
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to a talk by
local naturalist, Crystal Ray, on various aspects
of natural history photography followed by a
practical session in Hastings Country Park Nature
Reserve. Whether you are a complete beginner or
a seasoned professional, bring along your camera
and pick up some useful hints and tips!
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
N.B. Booking essential for this event
For booking and more information contact: Jill
Howell on 01424 815256 or visit the Friends’
website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Walk, Eat, Draw
Sunday 14th June, 10am for walk followed
by lunch and drawing from 12:30pm-3:30pm
Meet in Crowhurst Recreation Ground Car
Park, Sandrock Hill, Crowhurst, TN33 9AR.

The event starts with a walk in Combe Haven (2-3
miles, may be wet underfoot so walking boots
advised). Then lunch (soup and roll) at Crowhurst
Village Hall followed by drawing using inspiration
from the Haven. Charge made for lunch plus
a contribution to drawing materials please (or
bring your own). Suitable for adults and families,
accompanied children only please. Dogs on leads
welcome on the walk but not in hall. Disabled
access and toilets available at Village Hall.
Cost: £5 plus contribution to drawing materials
(or bring your own materials).
To book your place please email howleyplato@
gmail.com or call 01424 830349
See website for more details www.crowhursteye.
btk.co.uk

Alexandra Park
Conservation Task Day
Sunday 14th June, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shorneden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details.

Shipwreck and Dinosaurs!
Amsterdam Tour
Wednesday 17th June
Meet at 6.30pm
Meet at viewing platform at Bulverhythe
beach by the railway footbridge off Bridge
Way, TN38 8AP.
Experienced guides from the Shipwreck Museum
See page 14 for more details.

Bat Night in Combe
Valley Country Park
Friday 19th June 9:00pm-10:45pm
Meet in the car park outside Hastings
Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards,
TN38 8AR.
As the sun sets we’ll take a stroll around the park
looking and listening out for bats as they hunt
along the trees and hedges. The evening will start
with a brief introduction to bats and then, armed
with bat detectors, we’ll try and find some of
these amazing nocturnal animals.
This event is free but donations welcome and
booking is essential as places are limited.
To book contact Michael on 07585901360

Friends of Church wood
Conservation Task Day
Saturday 20th June, 10.am -2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church
wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details.

Evening Birdwatch in the
Powdermill Valley with
The Friends of Combe Valley
Thursday 25th June 7pm-9:30pm
Meet in Crowhurst Recreation Ground Car
Park, Sandrock Hill, Crowhurst, TN33 9AR.
Join Cliff Dean of the Friends of Combe Valley
on an early evening walk looking for birds as they
prepare to go to roost while other birds are getting
ready to start the night shift. Learn how to identify
them by sight and sound. Walk of 2-3 miles mostly
on level ground. May be wet underfoot so walking
boots are advised. Please bring a waterproof and
binoculars if you have them. Possibility of a pub
visit at the end of the walk.
No need to book, just turn up.
Contact on the day - Cliff Dean 07906560881.

Bat Night in Combe
Valley Country Park
Friday 19th June 9:00pm-10:45pm
Meet in the car park outside Hastings
Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards,
TN38 8AR.
As the sun sets we’ll take a stroll around the park
looking and listening out for bats as they hunt
along the trees and hedges. The evening will start
with a brief introduction to bats and then, armed
with bat detectors, we’ll try and find some of
these amazing nocturnal animals.
This event is free but donations welcome and
booking is essential as places are limited.
To book contact Michael on 07585901360

Friends of Church wood
Conservation Task Day
Saturday 20th June, 10.am -2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church
wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details.

Evening Birdwatch in the
Powdermill Valley with
The Friends of Combe Valley
Thursday 25th June 7pm-9:30pm
Meet in Crowhurst Recreation Ground Car
Park, Sandrock Hill, Crowhurst, TN33 9AR.
Join Cliff Dean of the Friends of Combe Valley
on an early evening walk looking for birds as they
prepare to go to roost while other birds are getting
ready to start the night shift. Learn how to identify
them by sight and sound. Walk of 2-3 miles mostly
on level ground. May be wet underfoot so walking
boots are advised. Please bring a waterproof and
binoculars if you have them. Possibility of a pub
visit at the end of the walk.
No need to book, just turn up.
Contact on the day - Cliff Dean 07906560881.
July

HCP midweek
Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays
weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details.

Shipwreck and Dinosaurs!
Amsterdam Tour
Saturday 4th July Meet at 7:30pm
Meet at viewing platform at Bulverhythe beach by the railway footbridge off Bridge Way, TN38 8AP. MP7
See page 14 for more details.

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 5th July, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details.

A Walk in the Combe Valley with the Friends of Combe Valley
Wednesday July 8th 10:00-12:30am
Meet in the car park outside Hastings Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards, TN38 8AR. MP7
Join the Friends of Combe Valley for a gentle summer stroll around the footpaths of the park. We’ll explore the Combe Valley and learn more about its wildlife and history. Everybody welcome. Free event but donations to the Friends of Combe Valley appreciated. Contact on the day: Michael 07585901360

Combe Valley Conservation Task Day (Green Gym)
Thursday 9th July 11am-2pm
Meeting Point to be advised on booking
See page 15 for more details.

Combe Valley Conservation day
Saturday 11th July, 10am to 1.00pm
Meeting at the Garden Centre top car park, Bexhill Road.
See page 18 for more details.

Meet the Country Parks Ranger
Saturday 11th July, 10.30am
Meet at The Milking Parlour, Place Farm, Barley Lane, off Fairlight Road
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to meet Country Parks Ranger, Julie Apps, for an informal chat about the management of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve and a short walk around the Nature Reserve to look at work in progress.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
For more information contact: Jan Armour on 01424 715556 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Friends of Church wood
Conservation Task Day
Saturday 18th July, 10.am -2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details.

Alexandra Park Herb Walk
Sunday 19th July. 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at End of Vale road
Plants have wonderful healing properties as well as looking pretty. Join Ben Fairlight-Edwards, local herbalist, in identifying how common plants can benefit us. A fantastic guided walk for beginners and experts and always good fun.
For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk

Summer Butterflies of Combe Valley Country Park
Thursday 16th July 10:45am -12:30pm
Meet in the car park opposite Hastings Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards, TN38 8AR. MP7
With summer in full swing we’ll search for the beautiful butterflies that are on the wing at this time of year. Learn more about these incredible insects and how to identify them. This event is free but donations to Sussex Wildlife Trust appreciated.
Contact on day – Michael Blencowe 07585901360
Wildlife Walk from Crowhurst to Powdermill Woods with Hastings Natural History Society
Thursday 23rd July 2015 10:00am
Meet in Crowhurst Recreation Ground Car Park, Sandrock Hill, Crowhurst, TN33 9AR.
A 5 mile circular walk from Crowhurst looking for wildlife at two nature reserves; Fore Wood and Powdermill Wood. We'll stop for a picnic break (please bring packed lunch) and finish at The Plough Inn in Crowhurst. Everyone welcome but places are limited so please call to book.
Free event but donations to the society appreciated.
Booking required
Contact Michael Blencowe 07585901360

Moth Night in Combe Valley
Friday 24th July 8:30pm-late
Meet in the car park outside Hastings Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards, TN38 8AR. MP7
Learn all about the incredible species of moth that fly around the park each evening at this public event run by the Sussex Moth Group, Hastings Branch. We’ll be firing up the bright moth lights and seeing what we can attract. Get ready for a fascinating encounter with a tiger, an elephant or maybe a giant hawk-moth!
Please bring warm clothes and a torch. Suitable for adults and children 12 and over. Free event but donations to the moth group welcome. Contact on the day: 07879186276

HCP midweek
Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays weekends
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers
Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details.

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 2nd August, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details.

Wild Beach with Sussex Wildlife Trust
Wednesday 5th August 10:30am-12:30pm
Meet at Café on Bulverhythe Beach at Glyne Gap. MP6
Family event. Join the Sussex Wildlife Trust and to explore the beach with fun games and activities.
We’ll be searching the strandline and making beach mobiles and kites. Suitable for families with children aged 5-11 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
This event is free but donations on the day welcome and booking is essential.
To book contact Michael on 07585901360
August

Moth Night at Filsham Reedbed
Saturday 8th August 8:00pm-late
Meet at the gate into Filsham Reedbed off Reedswood Road, Hastings, TN38 8DW (off Harleyshute Road) MP13
The Sussex Moth Group, Hastings Branch will be turning on their powerful moth lights and will give us another chance to explore the nocturnal world of the Combe Valley. Join us and learn more about some of our most beautiful and colourful insects. Will we find the rare Reed Dagger? Please bring warm clothes and a torch. Suitable for adults and children 12 and over. Free event but donations to the moth group welcome.
Contact on the day: 07879186276

Summerfield’s Wood Conservation Task
Saturday 8th August, 10am - 1.30pm
Meeting at Summerfield’s Leisure Centre Car Park, off Bohemia Road.
See page 14 for more details.

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 9th August, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shornden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details.

Wildlife Walk through the Combe Valley with Hastings Natural History Society
Thursday 13th August 10:00am
Meeting in Crowhurst Recreation Ground Car Park, Sandrock Hill, Crowhurst, TN33 9AR. MP10
A 5 mile circular walk from Crowhurst looking for wildlife in the reedbeds, marshes and woodlands of the Combe Valley. We’ll stop for a picnic break (please bring packed lunch) and finish at The Plough Inn in Crowhurst. Everyone welcome but places are limited so please call to book. Free event but donations to the society appreciated. Booking required
Contact Michael Blencowe 07585901360

Friends of Church wood Conservation Task Day
Saturday 15th August, 10.00am - 2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details.

An Exploration of the East Hill
Saturday 15th August, 10.30am
Meet at the top of the East Hill lift.
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to join them for a walk on the East Hill in the company of various experts from within the ranks of the Friends who will be exploring both the history and the natural history of this scenic area.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
For more information contact: Jill Howell on 01424 815256 or visit the Friends website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Combe Valley Conservation Task Day (Green Gym)
Thursday 20th August 11am-2pm
Meeting Point to be advised on booking
See page 17 for more details.

A Walk in the Combe Valley with the Friends of Combe Valley
Wednesday August 26th 10:00am-12:30am
Meet in the car park outside Hastings Garden Centre, Off Bexhill Road, St Leonards, TN38 8AR. MP7
See page 22 for more details.

Shipwreck and Dinosaurs!
Amsterdam Tour Shipwreck Museum
Monday 31st August Meet at 7:00pm
Meet at viewing platform at Bulverhythe beach by the railway footbridge off Bridge Way, TN38 8AP. MP9
See page 14 for more details.
September

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays 11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details.

The Conservation Volunteers

Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays 12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details.

Combe Valley Conservation Task Day (Green Gym)
Thursday 3rd September 11am-2pm
Meeting Point to be advised on booking
See page 17 for more details.

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 6th September, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details.

Church Wood Wild Food Foraging
Sunday 6th September 10.00 am
Meeting in the Church in the Wood Car Park
Wild Food Foraging – The art of foraging has become more popular these days, there’s so much healthy and delicious food to be found in nature but what is safe? This is a perfect introduction to foraging, a guided walk led by local expert Sarah Watson will look at what is and isn’t edible focusing on wild herbs, fruits and seeds. Tasters will be available.
Sarah Watson, ‘Wild Feast’ foraging and wild food cookery sessions, sarah@wildfeast.co.uk, www.facebook.com/wildfeast

Looking at Trees in Hastings Country Park
Saturday 12th September, 10.30am
Meet at Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre, Lower Coastguard Lane, off Fairlight Road
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to join them for a walk in the country park led by national tree expert, Dr Owen Johnson, who will be looking at some of the wonderful variety of trees to be found here.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
For more information contact: Jill Howell on 01424 815256 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Friends of Pondswood Conservation Task Day
Saturday 12 September 10 am until 1 pm
See page 11 for more details.

Friends of Church wood Conservation Task Day
Saturday 19th September, 10.00am -2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details

Combe Valley Walk with the Ranger
Saturday 19th September 10.30am till 12.00 pm
Meeting at the Top Garden centre car park Bexhill Road
See page 19 for more details

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 20th September, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shornden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details

Ponds Wood Wild Food Foraging
Sunday 26th September 10.00am
Meeting at the public footpath entrance opposite Gillsmans Park Road
Wild Food Foraging – The art of foraging has become more popular these days, there’s so much healthy and delicious food to be found in nature but what is safe? This is a perfect introduction to foraging, a guided walk led by local expert Sarah Watson will look at what is and isn’t edible focusing on wild herbs, fruits and seeds. Tasters will be available.
Sarah Watson, ‘Wild Feast’ foraging and wild food cookery sessions, sarah@wildfeast.co.uk, www.facebook.com/wildfeast

Bohemia Walled Garden Association Task Day
Sunday 27 September 10 am until 1 pm
Meeting at the Walled garden in Summerfields Woods
See page 13 for more details

Alexandra Park Ranger Walk
Sunday 27th September. 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at Queens Road Roundabout entrance
Join park Ranger Nick Hennessy for a guided tour of Lower Alexandra Park looking at the history of this multi award winning historically important green space. Interesting facts, strange goings-on and Park Rangers view of Alexandra Park, this walk will be fun, informative and is free.
For more information phone Nick Hennesssey 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk
October

**HCP midweek Conservation Task Day**
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details

**The Conservation Volunteers Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley**
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details

**The Conservation Volunteers**
**Ore Health Walk - Hastings**
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays
weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details

**The Conservation Volunteers**
**Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards**
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details

**The Conservation Volunteers**
**Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings**
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details

**Conservation Task Day**
Sunday 4th October, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details

**Summerfield’s Wood Conservation Task**
Sunday 4th October, 10am - 1.30pm
Meeting at Summerfield’s Leisure Centre Car Park, off Bohemia Road.
See page 11 for more details

**Combe Valley Conservation Task Day (Green Gym)**
Thursday 8th October 11am-2pm
Meeting Point to be advised on booking
See page 17 for more details

**Autumn Migration Watch**
Saturday 10th October, 8am
Meet at Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre, Lower Coastguard Lane, off Fairlight Road
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to join local ornithologist, Andrew Grace, for a gentle walk through the Country Park Nature Reserve to observe the movements of various migrating birds from different vantage points in this scenic area.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
For more information contact: Jill Howell on 01424 815256 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

**Friends of Pondwood Conservation Task Day**
Saturday 10th October, 10.am -1.00pm
See page 12 for more details

**Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day**
Sunday 11th October, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shornden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details

**Illustrated Talk:**
**A Sussex Wildlife Safari**
Wednesday 11th November. Doors 7:00pm (Talks starts 7:30pm)
John Taplin Centre, 3, Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LQ
Fasten your seatbelts as Michael Blencowe of Sussex Wildlife Trust takes us for a (virtual) tour of the nature reserves of Sussex looking for some of our county’s most beautiful (and bizarre) wildlife. We’ll encounter vicious beetles, bizarre plants, thousands of birds and maybe a wild boar along the way. Michael will also focus on some of the nature reserves found around Hastings.
Entrance fee: £2.
Event organised by the Hastings Natural History Society.
More details at www.hastingsnaturalhistory.org

**Friends of Church wood Conservation Task Day**
Saturday 17th October, 10.am -2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details

**Alexandra Park Tree Walk**
Sunday 25th October. 2pm to 4pm
Meeting at Harmers Lay-by
Alexandra Park is one of the best parks in Britain for its tree collection. Join national tree expert Dr Owen Johnson for a fascinating walk around this special green space looking at some of the wonderful tree specimens. If you have an interest in trees this is a perfect event for you, always something new and interesting and it’s free!
For more information phone Nick Hennessy 07813750011 or email nhennessey@hastings.gov.uk
November

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays
weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays
10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 1st November, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 8th November, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details

Illustrated Talk:
A Sussex Wildlife Safari
Wednesday 11th November. Doors 7:00pm
(Talks starts 7:30pm)
John Taplin Centre, 3, Upper Maze Hill,
St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LQ
Fasten your seatbelts as Michael Blencowe of Sussex Wildlife Trust takes us for a (virtual) tour of the nature reserves of Sussex looking for some of our county’s most beautiful (and bizarre) wildlife. We’ll encounter vicious beetles, bizarre plants, thousands of birds and maybe a wild boar along the way. Michael will also focus on some of the nature reserves found around Hastings.
Entrance fee: £2.
Event organised by the Hastings Natural History Society.
More details at www.hastingsnaturalhistory.org

A Naturalist in the Country Park
Friday 13th November, 7pm
Venue: The History House, Courthouse Street, Old Town, Hastings
The Friends of HCPNR invite you to an illustrated talk by local naturalist, Alan Parker, on the profusion of animals and plants to be found in Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve through the seasons.
Charge: £2, free to Friends of HCPNR
For more information contact: Jill Howell on 01424 815256 or visit the Friends’ website: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org

Friends of Pondsmoor Conservation Task Day
Saturday 14th November, 10.00 am - 1.00pm
The meeting place is nearly opposite the end of Fern Rd on Gillsmans Hill, by the bridge on the signed public footpath just within the wood.
See page 12 for more details

Friends of Church wood Conservation Task Day
Saturday 21st November, 10.00 am - 2.00pm
The meeting Church wood car park, Church wood Lane, Hollington
See page 13 for more details
December

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday 12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 10 for more details

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 6th December, 10am - 4pm
See page 11 for more details

Friends of Pondswood Conservation Task Day
Saturday 12th December, 10am - 1.00pm
See page 12 for more details

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 13th December, 9am - 1pm
See page 10 for more details

Church Wood Conservation Task Day
Saturday 19th December, 10am - 2.00pm
See page 13 for more details

Natural Christmas Decorations
Sunday 20th December, 2.00 to 3.30pm Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard.
Come and make Christmas decorations with natural materials provided by the Rangers at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve.
For more information phone 01424 451066 ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.

January 2016

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 11 for more details

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 3rd January, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details

Alexandra Park Conservation Task Day
Sunday 10th January, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shornden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Ore Health Walk - Hastings
Every Saturday except Bank Holidays weekends 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting outside Ore Community Centre, Old London Road, Hastings
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers Church Wood Health Walk – Hollington, St. Leonards
Every Friday except Bank Holidays 10.30 – 11.30am
Meeting at Church in the Wood car park, just off Church Wood Drive, Hollington, St. Leonards
See page 11 for more details

Natural Christmas Decorations
Sunday 20th December, 2.00 to 3.30pm Meeting at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard.
Come and make Christmas decorations with natural materials provided by the Rangers at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve.
For more information phone 01424 451066 ask for parks and gardens, leave your name and phone number and a ranger will get back to you.
February 2016

HCP midweek Conservation Task Day
Most Thursdays please ring to check, 9.30 to 4.00
Meeting at Hastings Country Park
Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers
Combe Valley Health Walk - Sidley
Every Monday except Bank Holidays
11.00am – 12 noon
Meeting Sidley Green, outside the New Inn, Sidley, Bexhill
See page 10 for more details

The Conservation Volunteers
Alexandra Park Health Walk - Hastings
Every Wednesday except Bank Holidays
12 noon – 1.00pm
Meeting at Alexandra Park, outside the café, Hastings
See page 11 for more details

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 7th February, 10am - 4pm
Meeting at Hastings Country Park
Nature Reserve Place Farm Yard
See page 11 for more details

Conservation Task Day
Sunday 14th February, 9am - 1pm
Meeting at Shornden reservoir north
See page 10 for more details

The Bohemia Walled Garden Association
This historic walled garden is in Summerfields Wood just off Bohemia Road in Hastings. It is run as a Community Garden and has plots to rent as well as various educational, cultural and community events throughout the year. To find out what’s on at the Garden, go to bohmiawga.weebly.com or visit us on Wednesdays or Sundays between 10 am and 12 pm.

TCV
TCV is the UK’s largest practical conservation charity, helping to inspire people and improve the environment. Activities include NVQ training, short courses, Practical tasks, Health Walks, Green Gym and community support and advice.
For more information contact 01424 446395.

Friends of Alexandra Park
A large and active group of residents and Park users hold regular meetings to help maintain and enhance the Park and act as a consultation group in partnership with Hastings Borough Council. If you would like to know more about the running of this multi award winning and nationally important park joining the Friends of Alexandra Park is a great opportunity. The Friends also have a volunteer team who carry out monthly conservation tasks lead by Park Ranger Nick Hennessy, if you would like to join in please Contact email rangers@hastings.gov.uk hastings.gov.uk.

Friends of St Leonards Gardens
Recently renovated with the aid of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the Gardens today offer a tranquil oasis in the Maze Hill area of St Leonards, with views to the sea.
For more information contact Christine Francis on 01424 421207 or Email FrancJhn@aol.com

Friends of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve
The Friends of Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve was originally founded by members of the Volunteer Rangers. Our aim is to protect, promote and enhance the natural environment of this area of outstanding natural beauty and to encourage others to join us in this work so that the value of the Nature Reserve and its wildlife is protected for future generations to enjoy.
More information about us can be found on: www.friendsofhastingscountrypark.org and on our Facebook page or email: fhcprn@hotmail.com

The Friends of Church and Robsack Wood Local Nature Reserve
Established for many years this group of volunteers manage and maintain this local nature reserve in Hollington, together with Hastings Borough Council. The Friends meet on the second Saturday in the month to undertake a variety of tasks from undergrowth clearance to putting in steps and benches.
For more information contact Barry on 01424853336 jillbaz@btinternet.com
Community Noticeboard

Friends of Summerfields Wood Local Nature Reserve
Summerfields Wood LNR is located at the back of Summerfields Leisure Centre of Bohemia Road. It is a beautiful Local Nature Reserve with over seven hectares of semi-natural woodland and streams and a series of ponds. This fantastic bluebell wood is only a few minutes’ walk from the town centre.
If you’d like to become a Friend of Summerfields Wood or help out on conservation tasks, email the Rangers at rangers@hastings.gov.uk titled ‘Summerfields Needs Me’. Alternatively call 01424 451050 leave your details and a Ranger will contact you.

Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Conservation Group
The Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve conservation group has been set up to help with hands on practical work within the park.
For more information contact Julie Apps, Country Park Ranger on 01424 812767.

St Helens Park Preservation Society
The Society is a local registered charity managed and maintained by unpaid volunteers. It is dedicated to the management of over 150 acres of natural ancient woodland and meadows, most of which is a local nature reserve. The area is open to the community to enjoy and many free fundraising events are held.
Information can be obtained from our website www.sthelenspark.co.uk or from Mrs Pat Collins 01424 712940. If you would like to book the BBQ site for Your own event, please contact Mrs Joyce Foster 01424 432730.

Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT)
SWT is the leading conservation organisation covering East and West Sussex, supported by more than 30,000 members to look after over 3,000 acres of downland, woodland, wetland and heath. Our work also includes environmental education, wildlife advice, working with landowners, companies and local communities to conserve Sussex. For free Wildlife advice, call: 01273 494777. Contact details to be changed for the friends of Combe Valley
“For more information please visit our website www.friendsofcombevalley.co.uk
To join the Friends of Combe Valley please contact their membership secretary Willy Wilson weewillywilson44@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01424 830376.”

Volunteering with the Sussex Wildlife Trust
The Filsham Reedbed volunteers meet once a month on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10am at the Reedwood Road entrance to the reserve. For more information or to volunteer please call Anthony Brown, Volunteer Manager on 07933 607926 or email antbrown1983@gmail.com Tasks include scrub bashing during the winter months with path maintenance, bramble control etc during the summer.
The Sussex Wildlife Trust Saturday Hit Squad is often busy in the area too and need your help. Call Sarah Quantrill 07824 151935 or email sarahquantrill@sussexwt.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

The Friends of Combe Valley Park
The Friends of Combe Valley (FoCV) is a new voluntary group formed by organisations and individuals committed to proactively working together to care for, protect and promote the Combe Valley Countryside Park.
Our aim is to work in partnerships to develop the park for health and wellbeing, educational opportunities and improved access for all; enriching the area for people and wildlife.
For more information or to join the Friends of Combe Valley call the Combe Valley Ranger on 01424-451066

Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve Conservation Group
The Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve conservation group has been set up to help with hands on practical work within the park.
For more information contact Julie Apps, Country Park Ranger on 01424 812767

Clean Seas Please
Clean Seas Please is a community campaign to increase awareness and encourage action regarding the sea bathing quality in Hastings and Bexhill. The new sea bathing quality standards come into action in October 2015 and our aim is to not only meet them, but to exceed them and gain a blue flag.
Find us on Facebook (Clean Seas Please) and Twitter (@cleanseaspleast). Also check out our website: cleansesplease.net and sign up to our campaign.

TCV: Inspiring People, Improving Places
Make the most out of your local beauty spots with TCV! You can join our Healthy Walks that run all year round in the Hastings and Rother area. Or get stuck in with our Midweek Conservation Group and Green Gym, and do some practical environmental conservation to improve the local area. Activities are free.
If you fancy a career in practical conservation, why not enroll on one of our NVQ courses?
For more info go to www.tcv.org.uk/southeast or call our East Sussex office on 01424 444675

Active Hastings/Rother/Women
Combe Valley Countryside Park is one of many opportunities across Hastings and Rother to get out, get active, enjoy the area and meet up with other people. For information on further physical activity opportunities, both outdoors and indoors: Call 01424 451051
Visit www.activehastings.org.uk
Friend Active Hastings on Facebook
Visit www.activehastings.org.uk