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

Guided Walks and Events
September to December 2017
Bournemouth Parks

Volunteering
Our team of dedicated volunteers assists us with the day-to-day running of Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre and Kingfisher Barn, as well as with events, activities and practical work across our nature reserves and open spaces. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you would like to get involved, or find out more, please call 01202 451618, or email us at Richard.hesketh@bournemouth.gov.uk

Contact us

Working in partnership

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Events Timetable: September to December 2017

Hengistbury Head Events
For Hengistbury Head events, please phone 01202 451618. These events all start at the Visitor Centre.

Sun 3 Sep 1.30pm – 3.30pm Sand Art

Fri 5 – 8 Sep 10am Sat 9 Sep The Hengistbury Head Big Wild Sleepout
Join the RSHP and spend a night under the stars, one of Bournemouth’s most beloved landmarks. It is a unique opportunity to enjoy Hengistbury Head like never before, creating memories and experiences that you will stay with you and your family forever! Enjoy dinner over a campfire and stay up late with all the sand. A fun activity and easy to do. No need to book. Booking essential. Tues 6 – 10 Oct 10am – 12pm Adult Clay Workshop
Join ceramic artist Julie Massie to explore hand building with clay. All work will be kiln fired. £10 per person. Booking essential.

Sat 9 Sep 2pm – 3pm Fossil Art
Make some superb fossil art using natural materials – your work will look and feel like a real fossil. Receive a genuine fossil to keep along with your artwork. £5 per person. Booking essential.

Sat 10 Sep 9am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers to find out the wildlife and landscapes of Hengistbury Head. £4 per firework. Booking essential.

Thu 13 Oct 10am – 1pm The Smugglers’ Panorama
Richard Butler will give an illustrated talk featuring local smuggling stories and the smugglers of Hengistbury Head. £4 per firework. Booking essential.

Tue 18 Oct 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.

Sat 21 Oct 9am – 10am Christmas Crafts
Join Debra Marsh for glitter-sticking crafty fun, making Christmas decorations. £4 per person. No need to book.


Sun 26 Oct 11am – 2pm Saturn and Soup
Enjoy a warm bowl of celestial soup whilst chatting about the stars, then head outside to see Saturn, the crescent moon and more. Booking essential. £7 adults, £3 under-16s. Event will go ahead regardless of the weather.

Thu 30 Oct 10am – 12pm Adult Clay Workshop
Join ceramic artist Julie Massie to explore hand building with clay. All work will be kiln fired. £10 per person. Booking essential.

Fri 31 Oct 2pm – 4pm Hengistbury Writers
See Tues 5 Sep for details.

Sat 3 Dec 9am – 11.30am Moth Morning
Free – donations welcome.


Mon 10 Nov 10am – 12pm ‘A Smugger’s Child’
If you lived on Hengistbury Head, would you have liked to be a smuggler? Join ceramic artist Julie Massie to explore hand building with clay. £15 per person. Booking essential.

Sat 4 Nov 11am – 1pm Artwork under the stars

Sat 11 Nov 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Free event – no need to book.

Sat 18 Nov 2pm – 4pm ‘Art and Science for Children’
Julie Massie will engage with children to explore the science behind colour, light and texture. £4 per firework. Booking essential.

Sat 25 Nov 10am – 12pm Eye Spy Nature Trail
Eye Spy Nature Trail is a very popular annual event at Hengistbury Head, and this year’s trail will be just as spookily festive as ever. Collect the clues to provide the answer to the puzzle. Collect a small prize at the end. No need to book. £3 per child.

Sat 1 Dec 11am – 1pm Christmas Crafts
Join Debra Marsh for glitter-sticking crafty fun, making Christmas decorations. £4 per person. No need to book.

Stour Valley Events
For Stour Valley events, please phone 01202 451548 unless otherwise stated. These events all start at Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre.

Sun 4 Dec 10am – 11am The Ugly Bug Ball
Join artist, John House, to make your own colourful (pretend) firework using various craft materials. No need to book – just turn up. £4 per firework.

Mon 5 Dec 7pm – 8.30pm Shooting Stars – The Geminids
See the biggest meteor shower of the year. We should see at least 10 or more meteors on the event. £5 adults, £2 under-16s. Booking essential. Event will be moved to the 14th if cloudy or raining.

Sat 16 Dec 11am – 1pm Christmas Crafts
Join Debra Marsh for glitter-sticking crafty fun, making Christmas decorations. £4 per person. No need to book.

One-Off Events

Sun 10 Sep 2pm – 5pm Music By the River
Our first, fantastic, music festival by the river afterwards with performances from many local acoustic groups at different points along the river. Groups including Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, will be performing music composed especially for the occasion by Rick Pottier. Free – donations welcome. No need to book.

Mon 18 Sep 11am – 1pm Malth Morning
Join artist, John House, to make your own colourful (pretend) firework using various craft materials. No need to book – just turn up. £4 per firework.

Sat 24 Sep 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.

Sun 24 Sep 10am – 12pm Healthy Heritage
Get into nature in 2017 and live a healthier life! These weekly walks run by Sam will help get you active in nature! Booking essential as numbers very limited. Kingfisher Barn Visitors’ Supporter Group. Take action to maintain and improve the Stour Valley Local Nature Reserve. Please call the rangers for more details. No need to book.

Wed 27 Sep 7pm – 8pm Halloween Trail
‘The Smugglers’ Panorama’
This walk was very popular last year. £5 adults, £2 under-16s.

Sat 30 Sep 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.

Sun 1 Oct 2pm – 3pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.


Fri 6 Oct 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.

Fri 6 Oct 2pm – 4pm ‘Art and Science for Children’
Julie Massie will engage with children to explore the science behind colour, light and texture. £4 per firework. Booking essential.


Sat 14 Oct 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.


Sat 28 Oct 11am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm The Ugly Bug Ball
A fun activity for children. Make a colourful (pretend) firework using various craft materials. No need to book – just turn up. £4 per firework.

Firework Fun
Another fun craft event with Debra. Make your own colourful (pretend) firework using various craft materials. No need to book – just turn up. £4 per firework.

Sat 1 Nov 11am – 1pm Artwork under the stars

Sat 2 Nov 11am – 1pm Artwork under the stars

Mon 20 Nov 9am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.

November Events

Sun 5 Nov 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.

Sun 12 Nov 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.


Christmas Events

Sat 3 Dec 10am – 4pm Christmas Crafts
Join Debra Marsh for glitter-sticking crafty fun, making Christmas decorations. £4 per person. No need to book.

Sat 3 Dec 5pm – 7pm The Ugly Bug Ball
Join artist, John House, to make your own colourful (pretend) firework using various craft materials. No need to book – just turn up. £4 per firework.

Sat 10 Dec 10am – 12pm Tree Walk with the Rangers
Join the rangers for some tree identification. Free event – no need to book.
5 Wild Ways to Wellbeing

Natural Choices is a nationwide scheme to encourage people to get out and about in nature, to improve their physical health and mental well-being through different activities within the natural environment. These activities would be things such as mindfulness, Park Yoga, gardening, health walks and conservation activities.

Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre is running ‘New Leaf’ sessions as part of this scheme. These are referable from your GP.

1. Take Notice

By being present in nature, focusing on the sights, smells and sounds around you, you can find some peace away from the hectic life we all lead (maybe leave your phone behind?!).

2. Keep Learning

Keep your brain active by learning from being in nature: what is flying past me? How did the River Stour make its course? What is swimming in the river? An active mind can help hold off degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s. Engaging the brain often encourages physical and emotional rejuvenation.

3. Connect with others

Loneliness is a big problem in our busy, transient world. Meet others at our events, make new friends and enjoy developing an interest in ‘being in nature’ together.

4. Be more active

The NHS advise that there is evidence to show that there is a link between being physically active and good mental wellbeing. Stour Valley has a number of trails of varying lengths, many with good paths, that can be enjoyed – just stop by the Visitor Centre for a trail idea and we can advise on accessibility too.

5. Give to others

Giving your time, skills or experience to nature is a great way of ‘giving back’ and feeling part of the place in which you live. Volunteer with us and be part of making our world richer in nature – and improve your health and wellbeing at the same time.

For more information, call 0800 840 1628 and ask about Natural Choices.

Welcome to Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre, gateway to the Stour Valley Local Nature Reserve.

This award winning, riverside nature reserve is part of an exciting adventure. Bournemouth Borough Council and the RSPB are working together to make 14km of the River Stour Valley, between Christchurch Harbour and Longham, more accessible for you to explore and discover some fascinating local history and amazing wildlife.

Adventure awaits

You can take part in this adventure too! You can follow the trails - long or short, there are lots to choose from, with good accessibility. You can take part in our many events. Look out for wildlife - don’t forget your spotter’s guide! Why not share your discoveries? If you have taken a good photo, we’d love to see it!

Volunteer Opportunities

We’re currently on the look out for volunteers to help us to make the Stour Valley Trail an even more exciting place to visit and enjoy. We are open from 10am daily, so our volunteers can offer a warm welcome and provide information for visitors to Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre.

They also help with research and monitoring, recording the wildlife in and around the Stour. The wildlife gardeners help to develop and maintain the garden, whilst learning guides assist with guided walks. Volunteers also work with the Rangers to carry out habitat management and conservation, and those with a crafty side can help with creating displays, willow sculpting, pine cone animals and lots more.

Call in at Kingfisher Barn to see how you can help, or email Tom.bennett@bournemouth.gov.uk

Look to the Skies

Now that the darker nights are returning, it is once again time to start looking to the skies at Hengistbury Head. If you are interested in astronomy, you will be able to: find out about the moon’s phases; learn about the best times to look for satellites and the Space Station; look for Saturn and other planets; watch for shooting stars, and lots more. We will also be trying a couple of new events this autumn, combining a stargazing experience with a warming bowl of soup. See the listings in this leaflet for all the details.

We are also hoping to run a ‘Stargazing for Beginners’ course in the New Year, so look out for details of that in the next walks and events leaflet (January to April).

Creative Writing at Hengistbury Head

If you enjoy creative writing, there are plenty of opportunities to get inspired. On Sunday 1st October, there will be an event to celebrate the winning poems from our 2017 Hengistbury Head Poetry Competition (closing date 10th September), and poetry in general.

Our Hengistbury Writers Group is growing nicely, with a small band of friendly and enthusiastic writers. They meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month to talk about writing, and share ideas and work. They have also been running some ‘Pop-up Poetry’ events at the Head, when they are on hand to write poems for people on request.

If you would like to know more, or get involved, please email Richard on Richard.hesketh@bournemouth.gov.uk