



Out & about Forest Holidays opens at Blackwood Forest

SPECIAL READER OFFER!
10% off
Quote FOREST10 on all bookings made by 1 September 2013 via www.forestholidays.co.uk or calling 0845 130 8223.*

Just opened in May 2013, the new Forest Holidays location at Forestry Commission owned Blackwood Forest (near Micheldever) in Hampshire offers visitors the chance to holiday in one of 60 brand new luxury woodland cabins.

Whether you're after a family holiday, a luxury romantic retreat or a getaway with a group of friends, Forest Holidays has something to suit everyone. You can even bring the dog in specific pet friendly cabins! And being only 40 minutes away from Alice Holt Forest, there's no long journey involved!

Built in harmony with their woodland surroundings and furnished with every comfort imaginable, Blackwood Forest

cabins will delight you whether you choose the Golden Oak hideaway (complete with hot tub and wood burning stove!) or one of the large four bedroom cabins for the whole family.

Forest Holidays is part-owned by the Forestry Commission and share with them a responsibility for sustaining and conserving our forests for the enjoyment of everyone now and into the future.

The cabins have been developed with the environment in mind. They're heated using wood pellet generators, which efficiently and 'carbon neutrally' convert biomass in the form of wood pellets into heat while giving off almost no wood smoke. The carbon dioxide released by burning is balanced by that absorbed by the tree during its growth. The ash from the Wood Pellet Fuel which is rich in minerals is then recycled to fertilise the forest.

For full details of prices, availability and bookings see www.forestholidays.co.uk

*Discovery Pass holders get 15% discount; refer to your exclusive code in the recent e-newsletter.

How to find us

By car
Alice Holt is 4 miles south of Farnham on the A325. Parking charges apply. See website for details.

By bus
Stagecoach no.18 operates regularly between Aldershot and Haslemere, picking up from Farnham

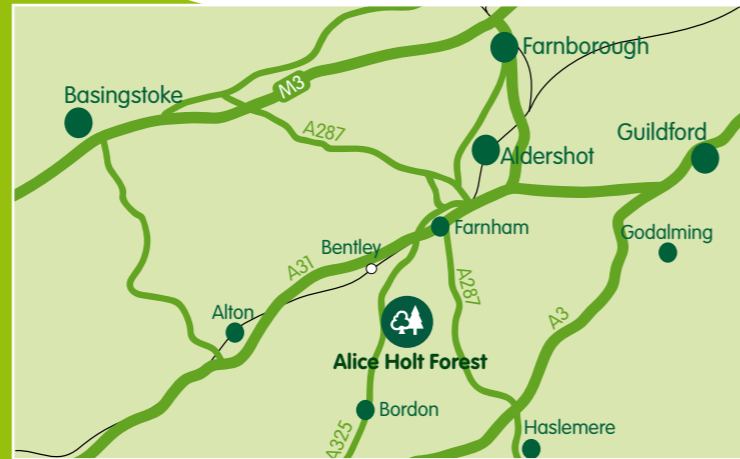
station and stopping at the Halfway House pub in Bucks Horn Oak.

Contact
Forestry Commission,
Alice Holt Forest,
Bucks Horn Oak,
Farnham,
Surrey GU10 4LS.
Tel. 01420 23666.

Find us on [facebook.com/aliceholtforest](https://www.facebook.com/aliceholtforest)

forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt

If you need this publication in large print or in another language please contact The Diversity Team. Tel. 0131 314 6575
Email. diversity@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



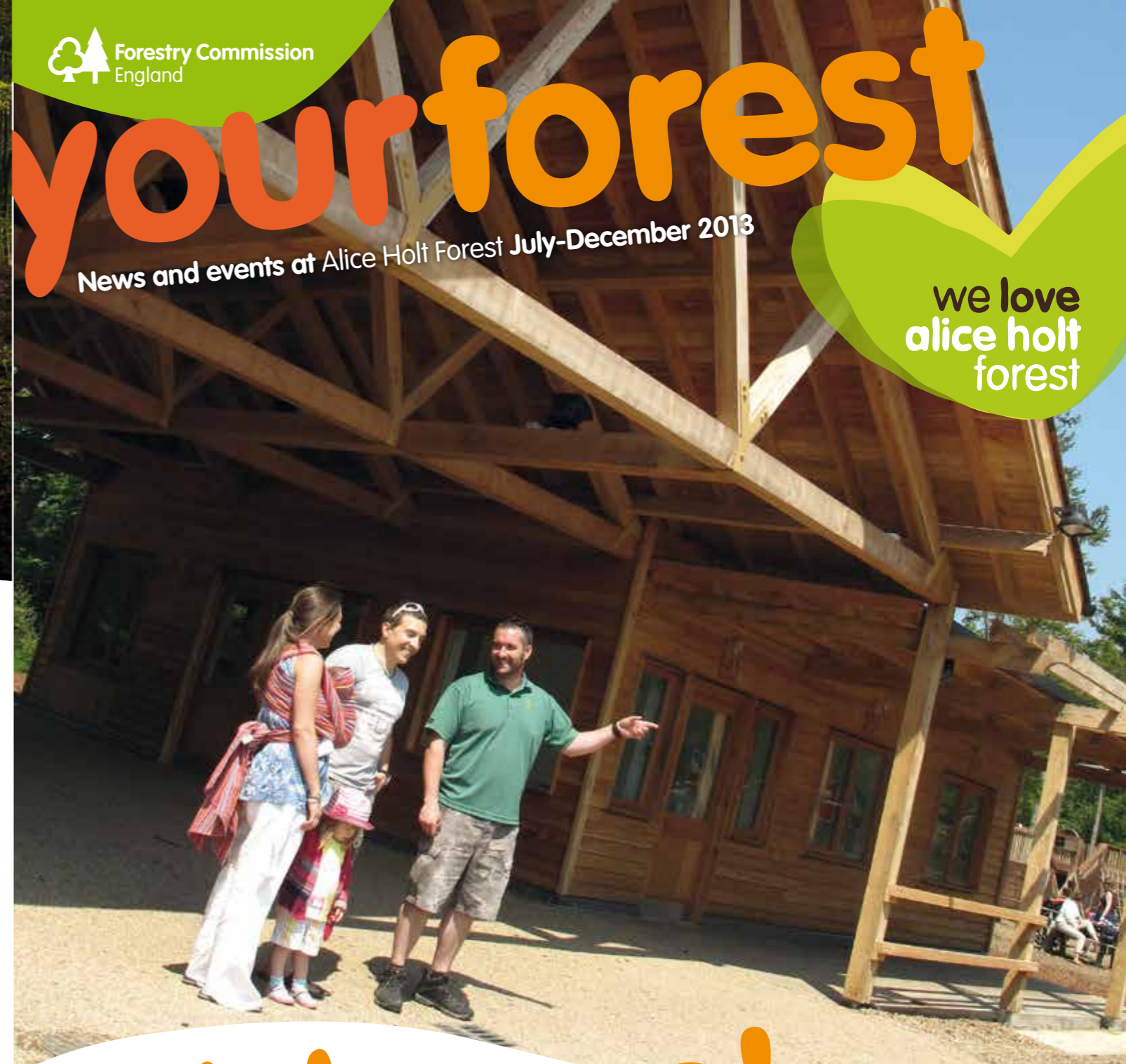
Alice Holt is cared for by:



yourforest

News and events at Alice Holt Forest July-December 2013

we love
alice holt
forest



Welcome!

Have you seen our fantastic new eco-friendly visitor centre?

There's plenty of covered space for meeting up with friends, especially when the weather's bad, an information point and lots of toilets, including state of the art facilities for people with disabilities.

A little later, new displays will provide more information about the forest and its place in the South Downs National Park and they'll help tell the fascinating story of Alice Holt Forest from Roman potteries and supplying timber for naval ships to the major recreation site it is today.

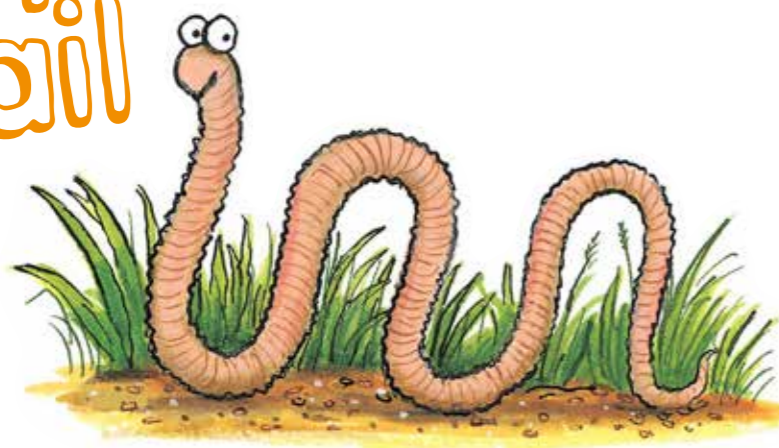
We're now recruiting volunteers to help us run the information point. If you love the forest, enjoy meeting new people and would like to help, please email: julian.williams@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Want to have a super adventure? Check out our Superworm Trail this summer! More info p2.

NEW Superworm Trail

Enjoy a super wormtastic day in the forest!



Inspired by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's recently published Superworm story book, the Forestry Commission has created an enchanting trail through the forest for children to enjoy throughout the summer. Families can share in the adventures of Superworm as they follow him along the Easy Access Trail. There are questions to answer and plenty of activities along the way, including discovering minibeasts, making magic mixtures and finding hidden treasure! Trail leaflets can be purchased for just £2 from Café on the Green.

You can also buy a special pack (50p) to help you make your own wormy creations! Each completed sheet handed into the café receives a special wormy treat and will also be entered into our prize draw to win a copy of the Superworm book or Waterstones voucher.

And if you get hungry after being on the trail, then the café have come up with some beastly food including cheesy slugs and ant's blood sandwiches! Will you dare to eat them?

Superworm, Text copyright © Julia Donaldson, 2012. Illustration copyright © Axel Scheffler, 2012. Reproduced with the permission of Alison Green Books. An imprint of Scholastic Ltd. All rights reserved.

Did you know...

Romans in your forest

Alice Holt Forest was once the centre of a major Roman pottery industry. There were hundreds of kilns producing pots of all shapes and sizes over a period of four centuries. Pots were transported down river to London and further afield, including Brittany. In its 4th Century heyday the forest has been likened to the Staffordshire Potteries during the Industrial Revolution.

Abundant local resources enabled the industry to flourish. The Gault Clay, which underlies the forest was ideal for pottery, there was plenty of kindling and fuel for the kilns, and the pots could be carried to market on streams and rivers.

A major excavation in the 1970s revealed the true extent of the industry and archaeologists were able to reconstruct a Roman kiln in the woods.



Centre Stage



Treasure Island

Wednesday 31 July, 5.30pm

Shiver me timbers! All aboard at Alice Holt as we join our two young heroes, Jim and Ruth, as they find a treasure map and set sail for adventure.

Suitable for all ages, this open-air performance is interactive, full of laughs and catchy tunes. Relax and enjoy a picnic on the grass with the whole family. Boys and girls are invited to come along in their best pirate fashion and have a photo taken with members of the cast.

And for those aged 5-10, there's the chance to join a Treasure Island workshop before the show where you can learn the songs and practice being a pirate. Arrrrrrrr!

Adults £12, children £9, family ticket £38. Tickets and information from Farnham Maltings on **01252 745444**, visit www.farnhammaltings.com, Quay Tickets on **0843 208 0500** or www.cambridgetouringtheatre.co.uk

To book the children's workshop £3/child (4-4.45pm at the Forest Classroom) call 01420 23666.



They enlisted the help of art students from Farnham who made pots and fired them in the kiln. Sadly the kiln has fallen into disrepair but the sites of many Roman kilns remain, a number of which are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Above left: A typical Roman Alice Holt kiln. Right: Pots made in the reconstructed kiln.



In addition to school visits, group bookings and our own events, we run a number of regular activities for children and adults.



Get active in the forest!

Babes in the Wood B P C

Toddlers 14 months-2½ yrs. £6 per child per session or £20 for all four sessions.

Mondays 10.30am-12noon.
30 September, 7, 14 & 21 October.

Thursdays 10.30-12noon. 7, 14, 21 & 28 November (repeat series).

There's a new woodland theme to enjoy each week as we head out into the woods for an activity walk, followed by story time and crafts back in the classroom. Refreshments are included.

Little Explorers B P C

Pre-schoolers rising 3-4yrs. £6 per child per session or £20 for all four sessions.

Thursdays 2-3.30pm.
7, 14, 21 & 28 November.

Little Explorers is suitable for older pre-school children. There's plenty of scope for children and adults to use their imaginations in these lively and fun-filled activity sessions. Refreshments included.

Babes and Little Explorer Christmas Specials

See page 5.

Nordic Walking B P A

Nordic Walking is an increasingly popular form of exercise with poles and suits a wide range of fitness levels. Instructors all hold Nordic Walking UK Instructor Qualifications.

Beginners' 4 week Courses

£36 including pole hire.

Tuesdays 10-11.15am: 24 September, 1, 8 & 15 October. Thursdays 10-11.15am: 7, 14, 21 & 28 November.

Each course consists of four progressive sessions to develop safe, effective technique.

Guided Nordic Walks B P A

For adults with prior experience.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11.30am, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings until the end of September 6.30-8pm £2 per session plus £1 pole hire if required.

Weekly walks led by our trained volunteers offer a chance to put your technique into practice and meet other Nordic walkers who have completed instruction. Please check dates when booking.

On Thursday 18th July and Tuesday 8th October these will be special walks led by FC leaders with a focus on how the staff at Alice Holt manage the forest and what can be seen in the woods in summer and autumn.

Walking for Health A

Until the end of August we walk every Tuesday evening. Walks start at 6.30pm from the Alice Holt classroom and last up to 1½ hours. From September to mid December we offer short, safe, sociable walks lasting an hour on Tuesday mornings at 10am from the café.

Wear suitable footwear and clothing for the forest. Children under 16 years must

be accompanied by an adult. Contact Kat on **01420 520212**. A parking permit will be issued on the day if required. Please park in the main car park.

Buggy Fitness B P A

£7 per session.

Mondays 9.45am-10.45am.

Tailor made sessions for mothers, offering more exercise benefits in the shortest time – and baby comes too. Weight loss, better posture, muscle tone and a psychological boost are all included in these fun workouts. Royal College of Midwives accredited instructor.

For more information and bookings please call Sophie on **07702 854581**.

Booking is essential, please call **01420 23666**. All activities start at the Forest Classroom. Price does not include parking.

The small print

For all events, park in the main car parks where normal parking charges apply. Events start from the classroom unless specified. Wear suitable clothing and footwear for weather conditions.

- B** Booking in advance is essential.
- P** Parking charges apply. If you're a regular visitor have you considered getting a Discovery Pass and saving money on parking? (See page 7)
- A** Adults only
- C** Children must be accompanied. Under 8's must always be accompanied and for some events over 8's also need to be with an adult.

Health Warning. Please note that people who do not exercise regularly and might have concerns about their health should check with their doctor before taking part in exercise. The Forestry Commission cannot be held responsible for the consequences if participants do not take this advice.

What's on?



Forest Survival Day



Den building

Here's what we've got lined up for the next few months

Saturday 13 July

Forest Survival Day B P C
Ages 11-14yrs. 10am-3pm £18 per child.

Do you know anything about surviving in the woods? Learn the skills like Ray Mears and Bear Grylls. Join Nigel and one of the rangers for some serious fun. Bring your own packed lunch.

Tuesday 16 July

Babes in the Wood NEW Summer Special B P C
Ages 14 months-2½ yrs. 10.30-12noon and 2-3.30pm £6 per child.

Due to popular demand Babes in the Wood is returning for a Summer Special.

Pond, meadow and forest floor, rain or shine, so much to explore. Join our ranger for some outdoor forest fun and then back to the classroom for refreshments and summery crafts.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Saturday 27 July

Family Bushcraft Day B P C
All ages. 10am-4pm Adults £25, under 16yrs £15, under 3 free. Minimum one adult per group.

As a family, discover the secrets of the forest around the camp fire. From ancient fire lighting, to building a hunting shelter,

seasonal crafts and a spot of open fire cooking. You will learn some of the skills you need to feel at home in the wildest woods. Please remember to bring your own packed lunch but refreshments will be available all day.

To book call Mollie on **07979 321369** or email info@fieldfarmproject.com. For more information, visit www.fieldfarmproject.com

Wednesday 31 July

Treasure Island workshop B P C
Ages 5-10 yrs. 4-4.45pm £3 per child.

Join the cast in the forest classroom for a pre show workshop to get into the spirit.

Treasure Island open air performance B P C
All ages. 5.30-7.30pm Adults £12, children £9, family ticket £38.

Why not enjoy a picnic on the grass before this open air performance from the acclaimed Cambridge Touring Theatre Company. See page 2 for booking information.

Thursday 1 August

Superworm Adventure B P C
Ages 3-7yrs. 10.30-12noon and 2-3.30pm £6 per child.

Super games, super crafts, all on a super wormy, minibeasty theme!

Weekdays 5-16 August

Wild Learning Holiday Club Adventure Camp B P
Ages 5yrs+. 10.15am-4pm
£37.50 per day per child.

From our secret camp deep in the woods, we venture out to try den building, fire making, tracking and stalking, mud sculptures, environmental art, whittling, forest games, tree climbing, stream dipping and more. For more details and booking, visit www.wild-learning.net

Parking charges apply if adults remain in the forest, no charge for drop-off.

Tuesday 6 August

Float Your Boat B P C
Ages 5 yrs +. 10-11am, 11.15-12.15pm and 1.30-2.30pm £5 per child.

Weave a willow raft, build a bark boat or create a cork canoe. Come and experiment with natural tree products to see what floats.

Thursday 8 & Monday 12 August

Den Building B P
Ages 8 yrs+. 10-12noon £8 per child.

Always popular! From natural shelter to green hideaway we show you how to safely build in small teams. Dens will be rated for structure, style and waterproofing. You might need a coat... if it might rain on your den!

Monday 12 August

Lazy Summer Afternoon Pond Dipping P C
Ages 6 yrs+. 1-3pm. 50p.

Discover tiny watery wonders under the surface! We provide all the equipment and know-how. No need to book. Just turn up at the pond by the café. Dipping time may be limited at busy periods.

Tuesday 13 August

Family Orienteering B P C
Ages 5yrs+. 10-12noon. £5 per group.

Your family group can use our fixed orienteering course around the forest to test out your map reading skills and see how quickly you can find the controls. Rangers will be on hand to give you top tips before you start and there's a small prize for everyone as an incentive to keep going! Not suitable for buggy or wheelchair users.

Tuesday 20 August

Superworm Adventure B P C
Ages 3-7yrs. 10.30-12noon and 2-3.30pm £6 per child.

See 1 August.

Thursday 22 August

Caterpillar Crafts B P C 10.30am-2pm.

An exciting opportunity for young people with a disability or additional needs, and their families, to have a fun-filled day in the woods. There'll be a theme for the day and exciting trails to follow as well as some WOW crafts!

See www.caterpillar-crafts.com for more events and www.facebook.com/CaterpillarCrafts or call Clair on **07830 256619**.

Tuesday 27 August

Mini Beasts & Clay Critters B P C
Ages under 7yrs. 10-11am and 11.15-12.15pm £4 per child.

We go in search of centipedes, millipedes, beetles, spiders and worms with magnifying glasses, bug pots, leaf shaking, log lifting, stone turning... an outdoor session ending with clay craft to make your own mini beast to take home.

Family Den Build B P C
Ages 7 yrs+. 1-3pm £6 per child, adults free.

Our ranger will show you how to build a weatherproof shelter in the woods. Small groups can join together to create 'family' dens and large groups can aim for a mansion. All the fun of den building with your own adult helpers.

(Please don't bring younger siblings to this event as it isn't suitable for them. There needs to be at least one adult working with every three children.)

Saturday 31 August

Forest Survival Day B P
Ages 11-14yrs. 10am-3pm £18 per child.

See 13 July.

Sunday 15 September

Solar Sunday P C
Family event. 10am-4pm. FREE.

Come and view the sun safely with the Farnham Astronomical Society using a special solar telescope. Society members will be on hand to explain things. Visit www.farnham-as.co.uk for more information. No booking required.

Saturday 28 September

Forest Survival Day B P
Ages 11-14yrs. 10am-3pm £18 per child.

See 13 July.

HALF TERM

Tuesday 29 October

Fun with Fungus! B P C
Ages 6yrs+. 10am-12noon £6 per child.

A great chance for you to explore the woodland floor with Professor Fungus and learn more about the fantastic world of fungi... the good ones, the bad ones and the ugly ones!

Wednesday 30 October

Wicked Woodcraft B P
Ages 10yrs+ 10-12noon £10 per child.

Wands, walking sticks, weird and wacky objects, we can help you drill, hammer, sand and create all sorts of things from wood. 'Crafty' adults are welcome to stay. Plenty of ideas from us or make your own creation.

Thursday 31 October

Lantern Making B P C
Ages 5yrs+. 10-11am, 11.30-12.30 and 1.30-2.30pm £6 per lantern.

A very popular event lighting up the darker days. Cover and decorate a lantern made from willow and colourful tissue.

All children will need adult help. Small groups advised.

Safety LED lights can be purchased at £3 if booked in advance.

The small print

For all events, park in the main car parks where normal parking charges apply. Events start from the classroom unless specified. Wear suitable clothing and footwear for weather conditions.

P Parking charges apply. If you're a regular visitor have you considered getting a Discovery Pass and saving money on parking? (See page 7.)

Friday 1 November

'Magic Forest' Lantern Walk B P C
All ages. 5-6pm FREE.

Gathering at dusk by the classroom, we will turn on our lanterns and wind our way through the woods, ending by the café. Bring your own lantern or torch and join the procession. The café will remain open late for those wanting to purchase food or hot chocolate after the walk. Booking essential so we have an idea of numbers.



Little Explorers

Sunday 8 December

Caterpillar Crafts B P C
10.30am-2pm.

See 22 August.

Monday 9 December

Babes in the Wood Christmas Special B P C
Ages 14 months-2½ yrs.
10.30-12noon or 2-3.30pm. £9 per child.

Festive forest fun! There'll be plenty of seasonal crafts along with a story and some songs after a short walk in the winter woods. Refreshments and a gift included. Very popular, early booking essential.

Tuesday 10 December

Babes in the Wood Christmas Specials B P C
Ages 14 months-2½ yrs.
10.30-12noon or 2-3.30pm £9.

See 9 December

Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 December

Little Explorers Christmas Special B P C
Ages rising 3 to 4yrs. £9. 11 Dec, 2-3.30pm (no am session). 12 Dec, 10.30-12noon or 2-3.30pm.

Similar to Babes in the Wood but suitable for older children.

B Booking in advance is essential.

C Children must be accompanied. Under 8's must always be accompanied and for some events over 8's also need to be with an adult.

A Adults only



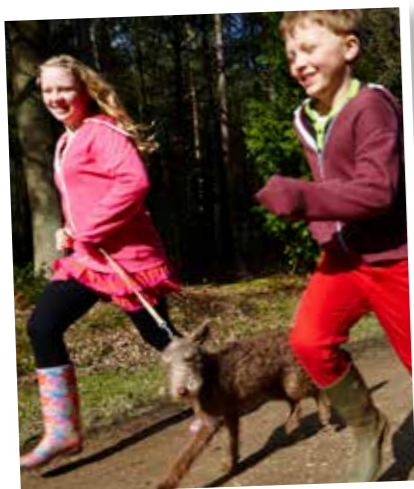
25% off tickets to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard!

Take the family to visit the world famous historic ships at the home of the Royal Navy (some of which were built from timber from Alice Holt), plus the stunning new Mary Rose museum – all at 25% off and tickets are valid for a year!

Don't have a Discovery Pass yet? If you're a regular visitor, then at £45 for the year, it is excellent value for money (£3.75 a month). Cheaper than other local annual family memberships, it is perfect for getting the family out and about in the fresh air without breaking the bank. The pass provides free car parking, discounts at the café, Quench Cycles and Go Ape, as well as a host of other local and national benefits. These include discounts at local outdoor retailers, offers for family attractions and 15% off Forest Holidays (see back page).

The money from the pass provides a large part of the funding for our work and goes into maintaining the forest.

For details of benefits and to buy online visit forestry.gov.uk/pass (purchase also possible onsite from the forest office).



Party on in the forest!

At Alice Holt we believe that there's really no better place to celebrate your birthday than in the great outdoors!

Wilderness Watch

Bushcraft and outdoor activities with Nigel Netley. (Note: Two accompanying adults essential for all parties, except overnight survival where one adult per child is required).

Den Building and Bushcraft Skills
1½ hours. Maximum 20 children aged 8+. £120.

Bushcraft, Campfire and Food
3hrs. 10-15 children aged 8+. £220 (£20 deposit required).

Fun Field Games
1½ hrs. Maximum 20 children aged 8+. £100.

Overnight Survival

£50 per person. For further details contact Nigel or Caroline: **01420 476808 / 07989652757** caroline.netley@sky.com

And if you'd like to run your own party, you could hire one of our classrooms or barbecues in the park:

Barbecues: £33 per session (10am-3pm or 4pm till closing)

Classroom 1: £80 for 4 hours / £40 for 2 hours

Classroom 2: £70 for 4 hours / £35 for 2 hours (no toilets)

Call **01420 23666** for booking, or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt

Activities just for adults

Tuesday 22 October

Fungal Foray B P A
Adults. 10-12 noon
£9 per person



This is an opportunity for adults to investigate the amazing fungi to be found in the woods at this time of year and to gain new facts about them. Very popular, book early.

Tues 3 & Wed 4 December

Evergreen Christmas Wreaths B P A
Adults. 10-12.15pm £16 per person

Come and join the creative fun by making an evergreen wreath from

forest materials. Our resident enthusiasts will show you how it's done. Price includes use of our warm, cosy classroom, tools, all materials, instruction and refreshments. If you're a quick worker you might also have time for some table decorations.

Thurs 5 & Sat 7 December

Festive Willow Crafts B P A
Adults. £16 per person.
10-12.15pm or 12.45-3pm

Learn to craft a willow wreath, a frame for an "Ivy kissing ball" and festive foliage decorated willow stars. Price includes use of our warm, cosy classroom, tools, all materials, instruction and refreshments.

Caterpillar Crafts



Caterpillar Crafts offers a range of workshops and fun days which are accessible to children of all abilities at Alice Holt and in lots of other places, too. Their activities are designed to give parents and carers of children with disabilities a much needed break, either relaxing away from the activity, or participating with their children in a supported environment.

www.caterpillar-crafts.com

Wild Learning – Holiday adventures for children!

Are you looking for some childcare with a difference during the school holidays or do you just want to give your children great outdoor experiences? Wild Learning has the answer!

Safe, high ratio supervision by well qualified and inspiring staff, combined with freedom to explore, discover and learn new skills. Children can try den building, tracking and stalking, mud sculptures, whittling and forest games to name but a few.

www.wild-learning.net



The Sky Rainforest Discovery Trail

Follow the new Sky Rainforest Rescue Discovery Trail at Alice Holt Forest and find out what's happening in the rainforests! There are five interactive boards along the way with fascinating facts, pictures and sound effects – look out for the jaguar and listen to the sounds of the rainforest along the way!

The Forestry Commission is hosting the trail to help Sky and WWF raise awareness of deforestation in the Amazon and to contrast it with the success of sustainable forest management in England which benefits of people, wildlife and the economy.

Pick up a trail leaflet from the car park dispensers and have fun discovering! The trail will be open for a whole year from June 2013! For more information visit rainforestrescue.sky.com



No one loves adventure more than kids!

We're excited to announce that Go Ape Tree Top Junior will be coming to Alice Holt this summer. Swing through the tree-tops with your Tiny Tarzans and enjoy a fun filled experience of tree-to-tree crossings, finishing with a Zip finale. It's one for the whole family to enjoy and it's great for a birthday party. For more information visit www.goape.co.uk/junior

Go Ape for bigger people is also available. Book up for your tribe now!

To book, visit www.goape.co.uk or call **0845 643 2036**.

Quench Cycles



Quench cycles offers great mountain bikes for hire, including push-a-long balance bikes, go karts, bikes for 5yrs+, as well as tag-a-longs, baby seats, carriages and tandems. A full service and repair service is also available. In addition, Quench offer:

Cycling skills classes for children
Running every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer holidays. £7.50 per session

10am-12noon. Age 6-9 years
2-4pm. Age 10-13 years.

Kids afterschool club
Mondays 4.30-6pm

Birthday parties

Stuck for ideas? Try 2 hours cycling in the forest with an experienced coach on single track and off road trails as

well as skills coaching and plenty of fun and games! All group sizes, ages and abilities catered for. Parties cost £70 for up to 10 children and £140 for up to 20.

Courses and guiding

One to one coaching for cyclists from complete beginners to seasoned trail riders. Learn new skills, improve confidence and expand maintenance knowledge with a qualified coach. £40/hr.

Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm all year. For more information contact Quench Cycles on **01420 520355** or email alice.holt@quenchuk.co.uk or visit www.quenchuk.co.uk



Café on the Green



The café is going from strength to strength, fuelling our hungry visitors come rain or shine! Using fresh local produce, the menu offers a selection of homemade cakes, soups and seasonal daily specials, with something to suit every taste. This summer, going along with our Superworm theme – children can sample the delights of cheesy slugs and worms on toast, as well as fish out unexpected surprises from their minibeast mud pies!

Bookings can also be taken for events and birthday parties. Why not combine your visit with an organised party from Quench Cycles or Go Ape? For more information on menus, group catering, birthday parties, barbecues, picnic boxes and corporate events, please call **01420 521267** or visit www.cafeonthegreen.co