

Celebrating International Year of Forests

The United Nations has declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests, aiming to raise awareness of the importance of forests as one of the world's most valuable resources. To celebrate the year, the Forestry Commission has organised events across England.

Carry the forest in your pocket with the new ForestXplorer iPhone app

As part of our celebrations surrounding the UN's International Year of Forests, the Forestry Commission has launched a free iPhone app to find your local woodland, download handy trail maps or learn about trees with an easy to use tree identifier.

Get me free!



Visitors can search for sites by event or activity, or find basic information such as opening times, things to do, directions and contact details for Forestry Commission Forest sites.

This educational and fun app includes a photo gallery, UK common tree identifier and unique computer generated tree illustrations. Users can identify a tree using its bark, seed or leaf within just a few clicks. Visitors can also download pdf trail maps via GPS so that the app can still be used when exploring amongst the trees and out of phone signal range.

Find it on the App Store or at www.forestry.gov.uk/mobileapp



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011

Forest Discovery Day 11th September

On Sunday 11th September we are holding a Forest Discovery Day along with all the other major Forestry Commission sites. This will raise awareness of local forests and the range of activities available. People will have a chance to meet rangers and to understand multipurpose forestry better. Here at Alice Holt, people will also be able to find out more about the new South Downs National Park, of which Alice Holt Forest is a part. At 2pm there will be a mass tree hug right across the country, attempting a world record!

Full details will be available nearer the time on our website and on our noticeboards – don't miss it!

yourforest

what's happening in Alice Holt Forest July – December 2011

we love aliceholt forest



Join our friendly team!

We're looking for people of any age and from all walks of life to lend a hand and have fun with like-minded people by joining our friendly team of volunteers.

As the Forestry Commission, we continually strive to offer new facilities and activities and to improve the forest for both wildlife and people. However, there is only so much we can do with our small team and we would like to do so much more. So we would like to give you, our visitors, an opportunity to help your forest by volunteering.

Most tasks do not require prior experience and with supervision from Forestry Commission rangers they are simple and achievable.

Whether you are retired, looking to learn new skills, gain work experience, meet new people or improve your health and fitness, volunteering with us could be just what you're looking for.

With your help we could build a new pirate ship in Playwood, create new pond habitats to bring back water voles to the forest, or remove vegetation to improve stream banks for wild flowers and dragonflies.

And for children aged from 4-12, you can join our very own Wild Woods Club which undertakes its own volunteer projects such as building habitat piles, creating homes for stag beetles and improving the classroom garden.

There is something for everyone to help with, from tree planting, conservation and archaeology, to forest maintenance, leading health walks, providing visitor information or even helping out in the

To register your interest and become part of our friendly team, whatever your age, please visit www.forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt or contact 01420 23666.



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.



www.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



Wet and wild at Alice Holt



An exciting new wetland project at Alice Holt Forest will benefit some very rare and threatened species of slimy amphibians, slithering reptiles and stealthy and elegant odonata. In other words, we have built some new ponds for frogs, newts, grass snakes, dragonflies and damselflies!

As part of the national Million Ponds Project co-ordinated by wildlife charity Pond Conservation, mechanical diggers have been in action to construct ten new ponds in the forest. Within weeks they were teeming with pond skaters and

diving beetles and every month they become home to even more wildlife.

We've joined Pond Conservation to create new ponds for wildlife, to help redress the increased risk of drought in the future resulting from the hotter, drier summers associated with climate change predictions. Earlier this year, volunteers planted more than 200 alder trees to create a wet woodland habitat around the new ponds, which will also help to improve the habitat for rare wildlife.

Dr Pascale Nicolet, Pond Conservation's National Co-ordinator for the Million Ponds Project, said, "These large pond complexes in forests provide some of the most valuable clean water habitats in the country, supporting extraordinarily rich wildlife habitats. We are thrilled with the progress being made by the Forestry Commission at Alice Holt Forest to restore ponds in the landscape".



Enjoy a festive family visit

This year, as well as our ever popular Christmas tree sales, we are planning to host an ice rink on site!

Whatever your age, everyone will be able to have a go at this wonderful winter sport amidst the beautiful forest surroundings. And why not finish your visit with tea and cakes from the café? For further details on tree sales and the ice rink, please check our website.

Learning's not just for children!

As well as hosting visits for over 10,000 children each year, the education team has also been teaching the teachers.



With growing interest in learning outside the classroom and, particularly for children in the Early Years a requirement to play and learn outdoors, the team has been inundated with requests for training from teachers.

In 2010, 129 adults took part in training courses and in 2011 over 300 have already been or are booked onto courses for later in the year. Participants take part in a whole range of activities, experiencing them in a similar way to children, as well as gaining information, ideas and skills to take back to their own settings. Those teachers who have visited tell us that training days at Alice Holt are great fun and helpful, so we hope that we will see many more in the future.

Centre Stage



Snow White

Weds 3rd August, 5.30pm

A fairytale like no other, this heart-warming story of magic, mayhem and mystery from the Chapterhouse Theatre Company will delight and enthral children this summer. And of course, everyone is invited to come along to watch in fancy dress and join in with the fairytale parade during the interval – whether seven or seventy!

Adults £11, children £7, family ticket £32. Tickets and information from Farnham Maltings on 01252 745444, visit www.farnhammaltings.com, See Tickets on 0871 2200260, visit www.seetickets.com or pop into the cafe.

Get active in the forest!

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



Little Explorers investigate the forest floor

Babes in the Wood

Toddlers 14 months-2½yrs with adult. £7 per child per session or £24 for four sessions.

There's a new woodland theme to enjoy each week as we head out into the woods for a lively activity walk. This is followed by story time and woodland crafts back in the classroom. These sessions are 1½ hours of fun for children aged 14 months-2½ years with their carers. Refreshments are included. Booking in advance is essential as a parking permit will be issued. Please park in the main car park.

Series one. Monday 10.30am-12noon. Sept 26th, Oct 3rd, 10th, 17th

Series two. Monday 10.30am-12noon. Oct 31st, Nov 7th, 14th, 21st. Christmas Special see page 6.

Little Explorers

Pre-schoolers 3-4yrs with adult. £7 per child per session. £24 for four sessions

Little Explorers is similar to Babes in the Woods but is a little more challenging and 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 are included. Booking in advance is essential as a parking permit will be issued. Please park in the main car park.

Series one. Monday 2.30-4pm. Sept 26th, Oct 3rd, 10th, 17th.

Series two. Monday 2.30-4pm. Oct 31st, Nov 7th, 14th, 21st. Christmas Special see page 6

Nordic Walking

Adults mixed ability. Beginners; four week course £32 includes pole hire. Improvers; £7 per session plus £1 pole hire if required.

Nordic Walking is an increasingly popular form of exercise with poles and suits a wide range of fitness levels. Instructors all hold International Nordic Walking Instructor Qualifications. We ask "beginners" to attend 4 progressive sessions to develop good technique. Improver sessions take place at the same time but can be paid for individually.

Please wear flexible footwear for walking along the forest trails and wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions.

Booking in advance is essential as a parking permit will be issued. Please park in the main car park.

Series one. Thursday 10-11.15am. Sept 22nd, 29th, Oct 6th & 13th.

Series two. Thursday 10-11.15am. Nov 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Pushy Mothers

Mondays 11.15am-12.15pm. £7 per session. Parking charges apply.

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. Instructors accredited by the Royal College of Midwives.

For more information and bookings please call Sophie 07702 854581.

Walking for Health

Walking for Health at Alice Holt Forest provides two different levels of safe and sociable walks. During the summer, we walk every Tuesday starting at 6.30pm from the Alice Holt classroom for up to 1½ hours. From September to the end of November there are shorter walks lasting an hour on Tuesday mornings, starting at 10am at the cafe.

Walks are led by our volunteer walk leader and are a great opportunity to get out into the fresh air and meet new people.

Don't forget to wear suitable footwear to walk along the forest trails and wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions. Children under 16 years, must be accompanied by an adult. For information contact Kat or Pam 01420 23666. A parking permit will be issued by your leader on the day if required. Please park in the main car park.

BodyFit Bootcamps

Tuesday and Thursdays. 9.30 am term time. Parking charges apply

Bootcamp sessions are great for building fitness and are led by a personal trainer who can ensure that you get the best exercise format for your needs.

For more information and booking, please visit www.BodyFitBootcamp.co.uk or call Mark on 07970 521848.

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 walks we lead. The Forestry Commission cannot be held responsible for the consequences if such participants do not take this advice.

What's on?

Here's what we've got lined up for the super summer hols!



Barking Mad Masks

Tuesday 2nd August

Float your Boat!

All ages. Lasts 1hr starting from 10am, 11.15am, 1.15pm, 2.30pm. £4.

Calling all aspiring sailors! This is an opportunity to make a boat that will float. Use natural materials from the forest and we will help you design your very own raft or QE2 for the paddling pool. Floatability testing included.



Den Building

8yrs+. 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm. £8.

It's the holidays and that means den building is back! It's summer time so it doesn't matter if your den is waterproof... or does it? Come along and find out!

Wednesday 3rd August

'Snow White' with the Chapterhouse Theatre Company 5.30pm. Adult £11, child £7, family tickets £32 (2 adults & 2 children).

A show to delight all ages and performed in the great outdoors! Come and watch this classic fairytale and join in a fancy dress parade during the interval.

Tickets and information from Farnham Maltings 01252 745444 www.farnhammaltings.com, SEE tickets 0871 2200260 www.seetickets.com or call into Café on the Green. All children to be accompanied.

Thursday 4th August

Lazy Afternoon Pond Dipping 6yrs+. ½ hour sessions starting at 1pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm, 3.15pm. £2.

Discover tiny watery wonders under the surface! We provide all the equipment and know-how. Book in at the pond by the café from 12.45pm. Maximum 15 accompanied children at a time.

Camp Fire and Food

8yrs+ 4-7pm. £10.

Learn essential camp skills like fire lighting and tasty cooking. Join Nigel, one of our rangers, for an outdoor forest supper. Sizzling sausages, marshmallow heaven – whether you're 8 or over 11, come join the fun.

If you have younger children why not organise your own Teddybears' Picnic while the older children are busy?

Friday 5th August

Ancient Hunting Skills

10yrs+. 10am-4pm. £25.

Have you ever wondered how we used to catch our dinner? Take a trip back in time to discover the ancient hunting and stalking skills and make your very own bow and arrow with Mollie from bushcraft specialists Gone to the Woods. Bring a packed lunch with you. For bookings please call Mollie on 07979 321369 or email molliebatters@hotmail.com

Tuesday 9th August

Barking Mad Masks

5yrs+. 10-11.30am, 1-2.30pm. £6.

Come along and have a go at creating your own mystical, magical or even monstrous mask. Using clay, bark and natural materials you will go out and collect from the forest. You never know what amazing artistic skills you may possess.

Stick in the Mud

Under 5yrs. 10.30-11.30am, 1-2pm. £4.

Natural arts and crafts in the woods for adults with children under 5yrs. Magical or messy, simply muddy.

Wednesday 10th August

Let's Explore!

3-4yrs. 10-11am and 2-3pm. £3.

A fun-filled session out in the woods for young explorers. There'll be games and we hope some amazing discoveries!

Mini Beast Hunting

4-7yrs. 10.30-11.30am, 1.30-2.30pm. £3.

Centipedes, millipedes, beetles, spiders, worms, magnifying glasses, bug pots, leaf shaking, log lifting, stone turning...

Den Building

8yrs+. 10am-12noon, 1pm-3pm. £8.

More shelters in the trees led by our lively rangers. Book early!

Thursday 11th August

Family Orienteering

7yrs+. 10am-12noon. £3 per group (max 6 people, must include one adult).

An introduction to orienteering, we supply map pack and ranger's top tips. You bring walking shoes, a keen group and plenty of energy. Join our competition or go at your own pace. The choice is yours. Certificates presented to winners.

Note. some paths are not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs

Dr Seuss in the Forest

4yrs+ 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm £2

"I speak for the trees" said Dr Seuss' Lorax. In our magical woodland clearing hear 'The Lorax', a tale of trees, greed and the last "truffula seed". Then meet our own friendly tree characters, guess their names and take home some seeds to care for your own tree.

Tuesday 16th August

Beat the Drum

3-5yrs: 10-10.30am.
5-7yrs: 10.45-11.15am.
5-7yrs: 11.30am-12noon. £4.

Join Carol from 'Beat the Drum' to create rhythm and excitement in this very popular workshop.

Bat Watch with introductory talk

9yrs+. 8-9.45pm. £6.

A fantastic evening to learn about bats with members of the Hampshire Bat Group. After an introductory talk and seeing convalescent bats, it's into the woods at dusk to see and hear them in action! You need transport to transfer a short distance to the walk site. All children to be accompanied.

Wednesday 17th August

Family Den Building

7yrs+ (with adult). 10am-12noon or 1-3pm. £5 per child, adults free.

Our ranger will show you how to build a weatherproof shelter in the woods. Small groups will 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.

Soft Dens

All ages. 10am-12noon, 1-3pm. £3 per group.

Too young for our den building sessions? Come and create your own camp, shelter or play house using cloth, ropes, pegs and ground sheets. You could even build a den for a teddy.

Thursday 18th August

Lazy afternoon Pond Dipping

6+yrs. ½ hour session starts 1pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm and 3.15pm. £2.

Details as 4th August

Camp Fire and Food

8yrs+ 4-7pm. £10.

Details as 4th August

Tuesday 23rd August

Clay Animals

All ages, accompanied. 10.45-11.15am, 11.30am-12noon, 1.45-2.15pm, 2.30-3pm. £2.

Using finds from the forest floor and air drying clay you can create your own creature to take home.

String Craft

8yrs+ 10.30am-12noon, 1.30-3pm. £6.

What can you do with a piece of string and forest materials? Knots, lashings, belts, bracelets even baskets! We will teach you simple skills and techniques for string, rope, raffia and yarn. Then you can choose and create your own project.



Pond dipping

Wednesday 24th August

Family Orienteering

7yrs+. 10am-12noon. £3 per group.

Details as 11th August.

Dr Seuss in the Forest

4yrs+. 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. £2.

For details see 11th August.

Thursday 25th August

Bike Fun

8yrs+. 9.30am-12noon. £9.

Get on your bike and ride! Enjoy a cycle around the forest, with lots of games and activities on the way. You need to bring your own fully serviced bike and helmet so you're ready to go. Early booking essential!

Friday 26th August

Family Bushcraft Day

Minimum of one adult per group 10am-4pm. Adult £25, child £15.

As a family, learn the secrets of the forest! From fire lighting to shelter building and a spot of open fire cooking. Mollie, from bushcraft specialists Gone to the Woods, will cover skills to help you feel confident and comfortable in the forest. Bring a packed lunch with you. For bookings please call Mollie on 07979 321369 or email molliebatters@hotmail.com

The small print

For all events, park in the main car parks where normal parking charges apply. Most events start from the classroom unless specified.

All children under 8 years must be accompanied on all activities. Over 8s do not normally need to be accompanied but for some activities it is essential that they are. Please check when booking.

All activities are to be booked in advance with the exception of pond dipping, when you can just turn up.

Seasonal surprises

Have fun with fungus or take your little explorer on a festive walk! Here's what's happening from September through to December.



Sunday 11th September

Forest Discovery Day

To celebrate International Year of Forests. For details see article on page 8 or go to our website.

Autumn Half Term

Tuesday 25th October

Lantern Making

Under 8yrs: 10-11am, 1-2pm. 8yrs+: 10-12pm, 1-3pm. £8 per lantern.

A very popular event lighting up the darker days. Make a colourful lantern from willow and tissue. Children under 8yrs will decorate a simple ready made frame. Safety LED lights can be purchased at £2.50 if booked in advance.

Wild Woods Club, After Dark Adventure

All ages with adult. 6-8pm.

Wild Woods Club returns with an after dark adventure. We'll go out into the dusk, play games, listen to a story or two, enjoy a hot drink in the woods and get back in the dark. Bring a torch and wear long trousers and sturdy shoes. You need to be a member to come along so why not contact us and join the club – don't miss out!

Wednesday 26th October

Art Adventure

8yrs+. 1.30-3.30pm. £8.

We start with an hour's walk through the forest collecting materials and inspiration. Stopping along the way we might sketch, rub, observe and record. Back in the classroom there will be supplies for drawing, painting and creating collages, and plenty of artistic fun too.

The small print

Booking is essential for all events and parking charges apply. Please park in the main car parks and walk to the classroom for your event unless otherwise stated. Children under 8yrs must always be accompanied.

For adults only...

Wednesday 12th October

Fungal Foray

Adults only. 10am-12noon. £8.

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.

Wednesday 19th October

Fungal Foray

Adults only. 10am-12noon. £8.

See 12th October for details.

Arty Autumn Morning

4-7yrs. 10.30am-12noon. £6.

An opportunity to explore and create with clay, seeds, leaves, twigs, crayons, paints and even charcoal made from willow. There will be a short walk followed by creative fun in the classroom.

Thursday 27th October

Fun with Fungus

6yrs+ with adults. 10am-12noon. £6.

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!

Last Den Build

8yrs+. 1-3pm. £8.

The last in the 2011 season of den builds. Join us for a final flourish of fabulous forest shelters. Don't miss it!

Friday 28th October

Family Bushcraft Day

10am-4pm. Adults £25, child £15 (minimum of one adult per group).

As a family, learn the secrets of the forest! From fire lighting to shelter building and a spot of open fire cooking. Mollie, from bushcraft specialists Gone to the Woods,

December

Christmas Crafts

Adults only. Tues 6th December: 10am-12.15pm, 12.45-3pm. Wednesday 7th December: 10am-12.15pm, 12.45-3pm. Parking permit included. £18.

Come and join the creative fun by making an evergreen wreath and natural table decorations. Our resident enthusiasts will show you how it's done. Price includes use of our warm, cosy classroom, tools, all materials, instruction and ample festive refreshments! Book early as these sessions are very popular.

will cover skills to help you feel confident and comfortable in the forest. Bring a packed lunch with you. For bookings please call Mollie on 07979 321369 or email molliebutters@hotmail.com

December

Little Explorer Christmas Specials

3-4 years. £10

Parking permit included. Lots of festive fun! A short walk in the winter woods, games and activities, followed by a seasonal story and crafts in the cosy classroom. Refreshments included.

Monday 12th December: session A

2-3.30pm. Tuesday 13th December: session B 10.30am-12noon, session C 2-3.30pm

Babes in the Wood Christmas Specials

14-24 months. £10.

Parking permit included. Just like the Little Explorers there'll be lots of seasonal crafts along with a story and songs after a short walk in the winter woods.

Wed 14th December: Session A 10.30am-12noon, Session B 2-3.30pm.

Thurs 15th December: Session C 10.30am-12noon, Session D 2-3.30pm.



Bike hire

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.

We also offer:

- Free Bike Health Checks
- Servicing
- Birthday Parties
- School groups
- Cycle Coaching
- Kids Holiday cycling sessions
- Maintenance courses
- Adapted Cycles

We're open seven days a week between 9am and 5pm, year round. For more information contact Quench Cycles on **01420 520 355** or email alice.holt@quenchuk.co.uk or visit www.quenchcycles.co.uk

Cafe gets going

The refurbishment of Café on the Green is now complete and the café is proving extremely popular with all our visitors. There is a wide choice of freshly prepared meals including nachos, panninis, soup and steak burgers, as well as sandwiches and nice cups of coffee! Having the new kiosk open during peak periods means that children can get their ice creams much more quickly,

and diners can enjoy home cooked food in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The café is launching its new website www.cafeonthegreen.co where you will be able to find a detailed menu plus information on group catering for birthday parties, barbecues, picnic boxes and corporate events. For more information call **01420 521267**.



Cafe on the Green
alice holt forest



If you're itching to swing through the trees, try some monkeying around at Go Ape! You need to be at least ten years old and 4ft 7in to have a go. Liking bananas helps, but is not essential!

Open daily to 30th October. Closed Wednesday (during term time). Weekends only throughout winter. For more information visit www.goape.co.uk or call **0845 643 2036**.