



# GREEN GANG

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2020

Celebrating 27 years of connecting children and their families with the environment

### WELCOME

This February 2020 Green Gang is full of ways to get involved to help wildlife in winter. Come along to events, learn and have fun!

MAGPIES are often seen in pairs or even small flocks. One on its own was once thought to be a sign of bad luck and to prevent this the magpie had to be saluted and wished good day.

#### Magpie number rhyme

One for sorrow, two for joy, three for a girl, four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never to be told, eight for a wish, nine for a kiss, ten for a story not to be missed, 11 for health, 12 for wealth, 13 for the devil himself.

How about making up your own poem about nature - send it in to us!

### Winter rain and why we should celebrate it in this area !

Although there has been some rain recently, over the last three years we've had much less rain during the winter than usual. We rely on winter rain to top up or recharge groundwater - water that is underground within the chalk aquifers. In this area, the water that we use at home is taken from aquifers (underground water). When they are not topped up over winter, groundwater levels become lower.

When groundwater levels become low this can affect the water we see around us in our environment. You might notice less water in rivers for example.

The River Dour in Dover is a chalk stream which relies on winter rain to top up groundwater and keep it full. Dry winter weather means there is less water underground to be shared between, rivers, plants, animals and us!

Unfortunately, the recent rain is not enough to make up for the dry winters we have had for the last three years but by saving water at home you can help to leave more in the ground. Try taking a super speedy four minute shower rather than a bath. Or check the tap is turned off when you clean your teeth.

So next time it rains this winter don't be fed up - it really is a good thing. Maybe you could count how many rainy days we have by marking them on a calendar or build a simple rain gauge for your garden to measure how much rain there has been.



### How can we help wildlife in winter?

(See Sunday 16th Feb event)

**Let your garden be 'a bit wild'** -Leave undisturbed piles of leaves or logs in your garden. Anything from hedgehogs to slow worms may move in to find warmth and shelter.

**Feed the birds**-Put extra food out for the birds such as apples, pears, a range of seeds or mealworms! Come to a greengang event to learn about birds too.

**Provide water**-A shallow dish of clean water in your garden or school can help birds and animals drink and wash during winter months.

**Break ice**-If you wake up on a frosty day and all water has frozen over in your pots/bowls/ponds, break it up so wildlife can drink and get into it easily.



**Pick up litter**- Animals often hide or eat plastic and other rubbish. Picking it up and putting it in the bin will help reduce harm to wildlife. Thank you to our youngest River Rangers who clear so much rubbish from the banks of the River Dour, helping trout, birds, bullheads, shrimp, mayfly and many more animals!



White Cliffs Countryside Partnership  
c/o Dover District Council,  
White Cliffs Business Park,  
Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ. Tel (01304) 241806  
Email: [wccp@dover.gov.uk](mailto:wccp@dover.gov.uk)

Website: [www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk](http://www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk)



Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership  
Romney Marsh Day Centre, Rolfe Lane,  
New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR  
Tel/Fax: (01797) 367934  
Email: [rmcp@dover.gov.uk](mailto:rmcp@dover.gov.uk)

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED  
AT ALL EVENTS**

Children under 18 must be accompanied at all times by a parent/ guardian. It is the responsibility of the adult to make sure that their children are safe and well behaved. Many events take time to set up beforehand, so please be considerate of staff.

**HAVE A GO AT VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteer events are practical conservation days where volunteers carry out practical work to improve the sites for wildlife and people. The leader will explain what to do and how to use the tools. You don't have to stay all day – why not come along for an hour or two? We provide gloves, as well as refreshments, but please wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty/torn. Wear sturdy boots to protect your toes. Bring water and lunch if you want to stay all day. These events can also count towards your Junior Ranger totals.



**THE GRADING SYSTEM** (to help you choose a suitable walk)

- Grade 1 Very easy walk generally on pavements
- Grade 2 Easy walk in the countryside with gentle hills. No stiles
- Grade 3 Typical country walk with some steeper hills, stiles or muddy paths
- Grade 4 More difficult walking with steep hills or likely to be muddy paths
- Grade 5 Difficult walks e.g. rocky shores or night walks



Junior Ranger events



Suitable for wheelchairs or prams

**Saturday 1 February to Saturday 29 February**

**11:00am - 3:00pm daily**

**EXHIBITION: WHERE DO WILD THINGS GO IN WINTER?**

An exhibition at the Samphire Hoe Education Shelter. During the summer the countryside here can be heaving with insects and wild flowers. However during autumn it slowly disappears to emerge again in spring. Come along and discover more. For information please call 01304 225649. **VENUE:** Samphire Hoe Education Shelter. Samphire Hoe is signposted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone (CT17 9FL) (pay and display parking).



**Saturday 1 February 2:00pm**

**WINTER BIRDS OF THE HOE**

Come along on a guided walk to discover the winter birdlife of the Hoe. Some binoculars will be available. Donations appreciated. **LEADER:** Paul Holt, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **MEET:** Site Management Office, Samphire Hoe (pay and display car park). The Hoe is signposted off the A20 from Dover to Folkestone, CT17 9FL (TR 294 391). **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (1.5 hours). **GRADE:** 2. Dogs on leads.



**Saturday 8 February 10.30 to 12.30 & 1.30 to 3.30**

**BE A ROMAN LEGIONARY**

Try on Roman armour, make a gladius and mini trebuchet and find out why the Roman army was an unstoppable force in the ancient world. All materials are provided. Donations are gratefully received with a suggested donation of £2 or more per visit. There are three colourful donation boxes around the Museum for you to use. **LEADER:** Folkestone Museum (01303 257946). **MEET:** Folkestone Museum, The Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT201DY



**GREEN GANG HALF TERM**

**15—23 February**



**Saturday 15—Sunday 23 February 11am—3pm daily  
CUT AND COLOUR A CREATURE**

Drop into the shelter to cut out and create a colourful creature in the shelter after you have had a walk around our wildlife site. **INFO:** 01304 225649 **VENUE:** Samphire Hoe CT17 9FL (pay and display car park). **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (1.5 hours). **GRADE:** 2. Dogs on leads

**Saturday 15-22 February 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30**

**IRON AGE WEEK (please book)**

Come along to Folkestone Museum and find out what life was like in the Iron Age. 18 & 19<sup>th</sup> February – Learn about Iron Age technology with the Time Travellers! 20 February – Crafting - Make an Iron Age roundhouse. 22 February – Make Iron Age jewellery. Events and workshops will run from 15-22 February, check out our individual events for times and bookings at [www.folkestonemuseum.co.uk](http://www.folkestonemuseum.co.uk). Donations are gratefully received with a suggested donation of £2 or more per visit. There are three colourful donation boxes around the Museum for you to use. **LEADER:** Folkestone Museum (01303 257946). **MEET:** Folkestone Museum, The Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone, CT201DY **DURATION:** 2hours



**Saturday 15 February 10:30am**

**SAND, SHINGLE AND SHOVELERS**

Come for a walk through Dungeness NNR, around one of the gravel pits and out onto the shoreline to see which birds and other wildlife can be seen at Dungeness at this time of year. Please wear suitable footwear. Donations appreciated. **LEADER:** Steff D'Agorne, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (07864 608825). **MEET:** End of Derville Road (near number 13), Greatstone TN28 8SX. **DISTANCE:** 2 miles (2 hours). **GRADE:** 3 (walking on some sections of shingle). No dogs.





**Saturday 15 February 10:30am**

**BUILD A BIRD BOX (Green Gang, please book)**



Come and build your bird box from our kits supplied. Helpers will guide you through the process and when complete you can take them home (materials supplied by the Land Trust at Fort Burgoyne). Booking essential as you will need a timed slot during the day. Booking via ([bookings.wccp@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.wccp@gmail.com)). Donation appreciated. **LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, (01304 241806 or 07773 619121). **MEET:** Burgoyne Heights Preschool, Alamein Close, Guston, Dover, CT15 5LY. **DURATION:** 20 minute slot. No dogs.



**We welcome donations at all of our events to help with running Green Gang events**



**Sunday 16 February 10:00am**  
**HELP CHALK GRASSLAND AT FOLKESTONE**    
**DOWNS**

One of the richest chalk grassland sites in the country. Help to clear patches of scrub to create wildlife corridors, habitat mosaics and species-rich grassland which will benefit species such as the Adonis Blue butterfly and late spider orchid. **LEADER:** Alfie Gay, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07734 777380). **MEET:** By the bollards at the top of Castle Hill road, junction of Crete Road West, Folkestone, CT18 7AB.


**Sunday 16 February 10:30am**    
**WALK AND TALK: MAKE YOUR GARDEN BETTER FOR WILDLIFE (Please book)**

Whether you have a garden, back yard, allotment or window box, come and learn and share about the many practical ways you can improve your space for wildlife. An illustrated talk (1 hour); followed by a guided walk looking at how the natural surroundings are used by animals and plants. **COST:** £5 or free for volunteers and Junior Rangers (children must be accompanied by an adult). Please book via (<https://wccpbook.eventbrite.com>). **LEADER:** Melanie Wrigley, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806 or 07880 706990). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe education (pay and display car park) CT17 9FL **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (1-1.5 hour walk). **GRADE:** 2, No dogs.



**Monday 17 February 11am - 12.30pm**   
**DOUR POWER (Green Gang)** 

Learn about the chalk river that runs through Dover whilst making a special trout. **LEADER:** Iona White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (07740561012) **MEET:** The River Dour Centre, 122 London Road, Dover, CT17 0TG – please walk if you can. No dogs.


**Tuesday 18 February 11am**   
**TWEET TREAT (green gang)**

Join a walk to look for winter wildlife and make a winter bird feeder. Not suitable for peanut allergy sufferers. **LEADER:** Flora Haynes (01304 225649). **VENUE:** Samphire Hoe Education Shelter. Samphire Hoe (pay and display) CT179FL. **DISTANCE:** 1 mile 1.5 hours **GRADE:** 2 Dogs on leads.





**Tuesday 18 February 10am—12pm & 1pm-3pm**  
**Wednesday 19 February 10am—12pm & 1pm-3pm**  
**VALENTINE LOVE BUGS (please book)**

Inspire a love of nature in your little ones this Valentines Day by joining us for our Valentines themed Love Bugs Event! Race around our forest school finding hidden hearts, learn about the bugs that live here at Brockhill and make a clay love bug to take home, all before warming up around the campfire, toasting marshmallows and making smores. **COST:** £7 **BOOKING:** [kent.gov.uk/CountryParks](http://kent.gov.uk/CountryParks) **MEET:** Brockhill Country Park, Sandling Rd, Hythe CT21 4HL

**Wednesday 19 February 1pm**   
**BE CREATIVE AT DUNGENESS STEM ANIMATION WORKSHOP (please book)**



Come along to the EDF Visitor Centre to part in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event. No charge however booking essential. **BOOKING:** [DungenessBtours@edf-energy.com](mailto:DungenessBtours@edf-energy.com) (tel 01797 343728) **LEADER:** Dungeness B Power Station, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, TN29 9PX, 01797 343728 **DURATION:** 2 hours. No Dogs.

**Thursday 20 February 10:00am –12pm**    
**KEARSNEY PARKS CHALK GRASSLAND RESTORATION**

Volunteer task at Kearsney Park. Get the kids involved in the morning to create a special reptile habitat! **LEADER:** Flora Haynes, WCCP, 07923241079 **MEET:** The car park at Kearsney Parks, Alkham Road, Temple Ewell, Dover, CT16 3DZ (TR 287 438).

**Friday 21 February 10am – 12pm**    
**BUILD A BEE BEETLE BUNGALOW**

Volunteer at Samphire Hoe to help make a home for this special insect. **LEADER:** Steve WCCP 01304 225649 **VENUE:** Samphire Hoe Education Shelter (pay and display parking). CT179FL. No dogs.

**Friday 21 February 10:00am**    
**WARBLING ALONG AT ROMNEY WARREN**

Join us for our quarterly bird survey at Romney Warren and learn how to identify the different birds that call the reserve their home. Wear sturdy shoes and binoculars if you own them. **LEADER:** Steff D'Agorne, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (07864 608825). **MEET:** Romney Marsh Visitor Centre, between New Romney and St. Mary's Bay, by railway bridge off A259, TN28 8AY. **DISTANCE:** 1 mile (1.5 hours). **GRADE:** 3. No dogs.

**Friday 21 February 1.30pm**  
**SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST WALK**  
Come along for a walk with people who know nature! **COST:** £3 **LEADER:** Graham Goodwin (07443 221010) **MEET:** SBBOT Field Centre. CT13 9PF. TR 355 575 Full details [www.sbbot.org.uk](http://www.sbbot.org.uk)

Sunday 1 March 10:30am

**FAMILY FRIENDLY TOUR OF FORT BURGOYNE (Please book)**



Bring the kids along for an introductory tour of Fort Burgoyne, with an activity booklet to complete to gain a certificate. Please note that owing to bat hibernation there will be no access to the basement levels of the Fort on this tour. Please wear stout footwear and bring a torch. Booking essential (<https://wccpbook.eventbrite.com>). Donation appreciated.

**LEADER:** Paul Sampson, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 241806 or 07773 619121). **MEET:** Entrance to former Connaught Barracks, off Dover Road (Just off A258 junction with Dover Road and Dover Castle Coach Park), Dover, CT15 5LP. **DISTANCE:** 1.5 miles (2 hours).

**GRADE:** 2, Easy countryside walk with gentle hills, no stiles. No dogs.

Sunday 8 March 2:00pm

**EXPERIENCE ANCIENT CAVE ART**



We will explore different ways of looking at and doing art. We shall attempt to put ourselves in the place of the cave artists over 12,000 years ago. All ages, all abilities. Donations appreciated. **LEADER:** Steve Walker, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **MEET:** Samphire Hoe (pay and display car park). **DURATION:** 1.5 hours. No dogs please.

Saturday 14 March 10:30am

**GUIDED CYCLE RIDE - A SLOE AND SHORT PEDAL ON THE MARSH**



Come on a relaxing family ride through the heart of the Romney Marsh. Passing Marsh Churches, the ruins of Hope All Saints, and keeping an eye out for the elusive marsh harrier as we go. Donations appreciated. **LEADER:** Steff D'Agorne, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (07864 608825). **MEET:** Outside the front of St Nicholas church, Church Lane, New Romney, TN28 8AS. **DISTANCE:** 12 miles (1-2 hours).

Sunday 15 March 10:30am—12 pm

**STONE AGE PICNIC**



Join a walk through Samphire Hoe to the beach, have a look in the rock pools for some Stone Age delicacies and have a go at Stone Age fire lighting. Bring a picnic to eat by the fire, marshmallows for toasting provided! Donations appreciated. **LEADER:** Flora Haynes, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (01304 225649). **MEET:** Site Management Office, Samphire Hoe (pay and display car park). **GRADE:** 2, Easy countryside walk with gentle hills, no stiles. Dogs on leads.

**We welcome donations at all of our events to help with running Green Gang events**

# Winter Rain

V	E	A	O	Q	W	K	X	E	X
D	S	A	B	D	R	T	L	I	A
K	C	X	C	E	F	Q	O	D	F
L	O	I	T	P	T	B	D	Y	R
C	M	N	V	Z	H	P	R	Y	M
I	J	W	K	Y	J	S	Y	U	Y
W	J	W	Q	R	W	D	O	E	G
S	R	E	C	H	A	R	G	E	S
R	A	I	N	I	N	G	G	P	V
K	S	W	A	Q	U	I	F	E	R

Winter Dry Raining Recharge  
Aquifer

Find the five words above and send your entry to -

White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, c/o DDC,

Whitfield, Dover, CT16 3PJ or email it to [WCCP@dover.gov.uk](mailto:WCCP@dover.gov.uk) by Friday 28 February 2020. The first 3 correct entries win a wildlife guide!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ FEB GG 20



## JUNIOR RANGER CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to

**JACOB MCCARTHY** and **ANNA MCCARTHY**,

both of whom have reached Junior Ranger status!

## JOIN THE JUNIOR RANGERS

**Join the hundreds of Junior Rangers in the area!** The Junior Ranger events take a closer look at wildlife and ecology. Make notes in your nature notebook to earn special Junior Ranger badges and certificates. It costs £5 to join the Junior Ranger scheme. You start as a Trainee Ranger and receive your badge and notebook. By attending the events you progress through the levels from Junior Ranger (5 events) to Peregrine (40 events).



Please contact us to apply [wccp@dover.gov.uk](mailto:wccp@dover.gov.uk)

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