Welcome to Head for the Hills the Kent Downs Anniversary Year of events

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the designation of the Kent Downs as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the 40th anniversary of opening the North Downs Way National Trail. The rolling chalk hills and deep valleys that characterise the Kentish Countryside provide miles and miles of free open spaces for exploring. The North Downs Way is a designated National Trail that runs along the chalk ridge of the Kent Downs, providing over 100 miles of walking trails and wonderful panoramic scenery.

Head for the Hills is a year of activities and events for all the family to celebrate the beauty and unique qualities of the AONB Landscape. We have events ranging from guided walks and discovery to theatrical performances and medieval feasts so there should be something for everyone.

Read on to find out what is going on throughout the year including specific events and activities suitable for all of the family.

Head for the Hills, celebrating the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is supported by National Lottery players through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

KENT DOWNS AONB
mail@kentdowns.org.uk
01303 815170
@kentDownsAONB
@KentDownsAONB
#Head4TheHills
www.kentdowns.org.uk

Cover artwork designed and produced by Hugh Ribbands
The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty stretches from Dover to Sevenoaks along the chalk escarpment. The North Downs Way National trail snakes through this landscape covering over 153 miles of scenic routes and footpaths.
Head for the Hills is also supported by

**Royal Geographical Society**

As part of our anniversary year we have teamed up with the Royal Geographical Society’s Discovering Britain project to bring you the best views the AONB has to offer.

Discovering Britain is a major public engagement project from the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) designed to encourage deeper engagement with Britain’s extraordinary and diverse landscapes.

We will be releasing one viewpoint per month on our website and social media so you can discover the best of the AONB, each viewpoint will be followed by a guided walk to the point, these walks are listed in the events listings in this booklet.

discoveringbritain.org

**Kent Life**

Throughout the year we will be partnering with Kent Life to publish a Monthly article about the Kent Downs – just pick up a copy or visit:

kent-life.co.uk

**Shepherd Neame**

“Shepherd Neame is very much a product of and indeed a part of the Kent landscape and therefore delighted to support Kent AONB, celebrating 50 years of championing the unique beauty and diversity of the Kentish countryside”. Jonathan Neame
The Head for the Hills Charabanc is a converted 1950s Airstream caravan which will be touring Country Parks and events throughout the anniversary year giving people the opportunity to get involved with events and activities and to learn more about the AONB.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>AONB Birthday Party Shorne Woods Country Park</td>
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<td>Lullingstone Lullingstone Country Park</td>
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Head for the Hills and Discover
40th Anniversary Guided Walks

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the formal opening of the North Downs Way National Trail we have recruited a stellar programme of led walks.

For more information on how to join in visit
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/north-downs-way
@NorthDownsWay

Head for the
Theatre in the Hills

The Inn Crowd is a scheme to increase visitors to rural pubs through a programme of live literature shows which take place in those pubs. The Inn Crowd Writers in Residence opportunity has been designed to support the community engagement aspect of the project. Residencies help ensure the scheme reaches as wide an audience as possible, including those who would not normally attend or engage with live literature.

Kent Downs AONB and Inn Crowd (via Applause Rural Touring), have developed a partnership to support a Writer/performer in Residence which will focus on the North Kent Downs. The writer/performer will spend time in and around pubs in the North Kent Downs generating and developing material that will be formed into a performance piece for touring and will culminate in a commissioned work taking place within the host pubs.

For more information on where and when to catch the live performances visit
www.kentdowns.org.uk or
http://inncrowd.org.uk/

INN CROWD
Stepping into the wonderful world of swifts

Swifts are with us for just 3 months each summer, bringing their screaming cries and lending drama and excitement to our skies. These amazing birds have shared our buildings since Roman times but have suffered a 50% decline in numbers in the last 20 years. We need to help them now. Join us on a guided walk centred on the parish church to find out all about swifts, why they matter and how you can help them thrive.

The walk will culminate in a guided visit to the local church where you can learn all about its history and its central role in the parish

Guided walks will be held in Wrotham, Trosley, Boxley and Hollingbourne

For more information please see medwayvalley.org or phone 03000 422997 or follow us on Facebook @KentDowns for up to date event listings

Kent Orchards for Everyone

Celebrating the heritage of our orchards through community engagement, education and volunteering kentorchards.org.uk

Darrent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme (DVLPS) is an exciting five year scheme which will deliver a host of projects in partnership with local organisations, communities and landowners throughout the Darent Valley in West Kent.

For more information please see www.theashproject.org.uk

The Ash Project

There are 150 million ash trees in England, Scotland and Wales. Ash dieback is widely accepted to be untreatable and could see the demise of 90-98% of these trees over the next decade. The Ash Project is an urgent cultural response to the devastating effects of ash dieback in the Kent Downs.

Join us for a series of free public ash events, walk, talks and workshops this summer. www.theashproject.org.uk

Specialist talks, family events such as orienteering and wildlife walks are just a handful of the free events on offer this year.

Visit darent-valley.org.uk to find an event suitable for you or your family and join us to explore this delightful landscape.
March

**SATURDAY 31ST**

2 - 4pm

Meet the Dexter’s and Easter Trail

**FREE**

**THURSDAY 12TH**

10 - 12noon

Blue Bell Hill Family Learning Day

**FREE**

**SUNDAY 22ND**

11 - 12:30pm

Shepherd’s Rest Guided Walk

**FREE**

**SATURDAY 27TH AND SUNDAY 28TH**

2pm

Head For the Hills blue bell and cream tea walks

**FREE**

Distance: 1.5 Miles

Meet: Near Footbridge over the A20, at the far end of Old Folkestone Road Aycliffe Dover TR 302 397 CT17 9HF

Bring: Sturdy Footwear

Lead organisation: White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

Event leader: Melanie Wrigley

To book: 01304 241806 mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk

Join us for a walk to go and meet the rare breed Dexter cattle that graze the chalk meadows of the Western Heights Nature Reserve.

**KEY TO EVENTS**

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<th><strong>FREE</strong></th>
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**Distance: 2 Miles**

Meet: Blue Bell Hill Car Park ME5 9RG

Lead organisation: Kent Wildlife Trust

Event leader: Rob Pennington

To book: 01303 815170 kwt-aonb.eventbrite.co.uk

Meet the warden and discover the wonderful variety of plants that make up this Reserve, understand how we manage the site for both wildlife and People. We will make Nature Crowns from the different leaves and plants as we explore and walk towards the Robin Hood Pub for a glass of lemonade.

**Distance: 2.5 Miles**

Meet: Woodland Trust Car Park, Church Road, Hucking ME17 1QT

Lead organisation: Woodland Trust

Event leader: Clive Steward

To book: 01303 815170 shepherds-rest.eventbrite.co.uk

Meet the Woodland Trust site manager for a circular guided walk around the estate to one of the best view points in the area. Learn about the history and wildlife of the estate and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**Distance: 2.5-3 Miles**

Meet: In Field behind Bredhurst Village Hall ME7 3JZ

Lead organisation: Bredhurst Woodland Action Group

Event leader: Vanessa Jones

To book: bwag@vanessajones.plus.com

Booking: bluebellwalk2018.eventbrite.co.uk

Join BWAG for its popular Bluebell & Cream Tea Weekend. Guided walks through Bredhurst Woods followed by cream teas at a local farm - shorter and longer walks available.

Tickets £7.00 per person and must be purchased in advance - tickets will not be available on the day (children under 16 free).
May

1ST - 31ST MAY
10 - 4pm Monday to Saturday
Art from the AONB exhibition at Folkestone Museum

Meet: Folkestone Museum
1-2 Guidhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY

Lead organisation: Folkestone Museum

A month long exhibition of artwork from the AONB

4TH - 11TH
10 - 4pm Monday to Saturday
Walk the Chalk Walking Festival

Meet: Folkestone Museum
1-2 Guidhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY

Lead organisation: Folkestone Museum

Come and Walk The Chalk during Kent’s newest walking festival. From May 4th to 11th, you may join a guided walk or take yourself on a self-guided trail.

For details visit oldchalknewdowns.org.uk/action

SUNDAY 6TH MAY
10.30 - 12:30pm
En Plein Air Sketching and painting the AONB

Meet: Outside St Mary’s Church, Ide Hill TN14 6JW

Lead organisation: North West Kent Countryside Partnership

Event leader: Catherine MacLean

To book: nwkcp-aonb.eventbrite.co.uk

A circular guided walk from Ide Hill to take in the Royal Geographical Society viewpoint and the area’s rich heritage. References Octavia Hill, Victorian Ram Pump, Emmetts Garden and much more.

SATURDAY 12TH
10 - 4pm
Ide Hill Guided walk

Meet: Folkestone Museum
1-2 Guidhall Street, Folkestone, CT20 1DY

Event leader: John Wiltshire

To book: 07895588970

Distance: ¼ Mile carrying materials

Bring: Field Easel, chair and drawing board if you have them. All other materials will be provided for free

Lead organisation: Folkestone Museum

Join Artist John Wiltshire to learn how to create your own AONB work of art. The event will start form the museum and will involve a walk out to the Folkestone Downs AONB to immerse yourself in the landscape.
May

18TH - 27TH
Thursday – Sunday
The ASH Archive

FREE

WEDNESDAY 31ST
11 - 3pm
Ranscombe Open Farm
Sunday event

Meet: LIMBO, 2 Bilton Square,
High Street, Margate

To book: No Booking Required

The Ash Archive is a growing collection of objects, artworks, poems and drawings that chart a unique materialist perspective on the history that we share with the ash tree. With artworks by Ackroyd & Harvey, Adam Chodzko, French and Mottershead, Magz Hall, Max Lamb, Autumn Richardson and Richard Skelton, Sheaf & Barley, David Nash, and a growing collection of objects made from ash wood, including “things” from Rob Penn’s The Man Who Made Things Out of Trees.

SUNDAY 3RD
10 - 1.30pm
Common Ground
Guided Walk

FREE

Meet: Ranscombe Farm Car Park,
Sundridge Hill, Cuxton,
TQ 71734 67386

Bring: Warm, waterproof clothing and sturdy boots

Lead organisation: Plantlife

Event leader: Wynona Legg

A free Open Farm event for all the family. Come along on a guided arable plant walk, meet the farmer to learn about how the land is managed here at Ranscombe Farm Reserve and join in the fun with a range of family friendly activities.

June

SUNDAY 10TH
Open Farm Sunday

Events throughout the Kent Downs AONB.
Check farmsunday.org

SUNDAY 3RD
10 - 1.30pm
Common Ground
Guided Walk

Distance: 4.5 Miles

Meet: Outside the Coffee Cabin,
Canterbury Road, Lyminge
CT18 8HT

Bring: Sturdy Walking Boots

Lead organisation:
White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

Event leader: Alfie Gay

'Come on a circular walk through the landscape of the Kent Downs, starting and finishing at the Coffee Cabin in Lyminge. We’ll head towards the attractive viewpoint of Farthing Common and look out for wildflowers in the hedgerows, field margins and meadows as we go.'
June

SUNDAY 10TH
2 - 4pm
Open Farm Sunday at Hollingbourne Farm

FREE

Distance: 2 Miles
Meet: Hollingbourne Farm, Hollingbourne, ME17 1QJ
Bring: Sturdy walking boots and clothing suitable for the weather
Lead organisation: John Boyd
Event leader: John Boyd
To book: Booking not required but numbers limited please contact John for more information: jarthurboyd@aol.com 07791040578

Join John the farmer for an afternoon stroll around Hollingbourne Farm. Learn more about farming in the Kent Downs and meet the white park cattle.

SUNDAY 1ST
10 - 12noon
Pastoral Poems-a walk with the poet

FREE

Distance: 1.5-2 Miles
Meet: Romshed farm Underriver, Sevenoaks, TN15 0SD
Bring: Sturdy footwear and suitable outdoor clothing
Lead organisation: Romshed Farm
Event leader: Fidelity Weston
To book: 01732 463372

Adam Horovitz spent each of the four seasons at four farms across the UK, including Romshed Farm. From this he has written “The Soil Never Sleeps”, an anthology of poems. This event is an opportunity to walk with Adam to the places and sites that inspired him at Romshed Farm, followed by a reading of his poetry in the farm’s 15th century Kent Barn.

July

5TH - 18TH
Thursday – Wednesday
10 - 4pm
The ASH Archive

FREE

Distance: N/A
Meet: Halpern Art Gallery, 272 High St, Chatham
To book: No booking required

The Ash Archive is a growing collection of objects, artworks, poems and drawings that chart a unique materialist perspective on the history that we share with the ash tree. With artworks by Ackroyd & Harvey, Adam Chodzko, French and Mottershead, Magz Hall, Max Lamb, Autumn Richardson and Richard Skelton, Sheaf & Barley, David Nash, and a growing collection of objects made from ash wood, including “things” from Rob Penn’s The Man Who Made Things Out of Trees.
**July**

**SUNDAY 15TH**

**10 - 12noon**

*FREE*

**A view fit for a queen**

**Guided Walk**

Distance: 2 Miles

Meet: Queen Down Warren Car Park ME9 7XH

Lead organisation: Kent Wildlife Trust

Event leader: Alison Ruyter

To book: 01303 815170 kwt-aonb.eventbrite.co.uk

Bring the whole family to explore the different kinds of nature on this lovely reserve. Get a rare opportunity to explore areas that are usually closed to the public.

Wear appropriate clothing and shoes, wellies or walking boots if there has been rain. The walk is through the Nature Reserve and it may not be easily travelled with a pushchair. The way is steep in places with narrow, uneven paths that may be muddy or slippery after rain. No stiles, all gates.

18TH - 1ST

**10 - 12.30pm**

**Cobham Landscape Detectives**

Meet: Shorne Woods Country Park, Brewers Road, Gravesend DA12 3HX

Lead organisation: Cobham Landscape Detectives

Event leader: Andrew Mayfield

To book: shornewoodsarchaeology.co.uk

Cobham Landscape Detectives will be a three year discovery project covering the Cobham landscape, using LiDAR, geophysics, field walking, metal detecting, research, oral history, small scale trenching and test pitting.

19TH - 1ST

**10 - 12pm**

**Cobham Landscape Detectives**

Meet: Shorne Country Park, Brewers Rd, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HX

Lead organisation: KDAOND

Join the party to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Kent Downs AONB Unit. Events, activities, music, games, cake and much more.

**SUNDAY 22ND**

**11 - 3pm**

**AONB Big Birthday Bash**

**FREE**

Distance: 0.5 Miles

Meet: Shorne Country Park, Brewers Rd, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HX

Lead organisation: KDAOND

This gentle walk will take you from the countryside of St. Margaret’s at Cliffe with stunning views out to sea. We will walk along the cliffs where a National Trust volunteer will tell us all about the history of the recently unearthed sound mirror on the White Cliffs of Dover. This walk can also be translated into French.

**FRIDAY 2ND**

**2.30 - 5pm**

**Hear Hear Guided Walk**

Distance: 4 Miles

Meet: Village car park (near the church), off High Street, St. Margaret’s-at-Cliffe Dover, CT15 6AA (TR 348 447).

Lead organisation: White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

01304 241806 mail@whitecliffscountyside.org.uk

Event leader: Sue Bradford

To book: Booking not required

**August**

**FRIDAY 3RD**

**2.30 - 5pm**

**AONB Big Birthday Bash**

**FREE**

Distance: 0.5 Miles

Meet: Shorne Country Park, Brewers Rd, Shorne, Gravesend DA12 3HX

Lead organisation: KDAOND

Join the party to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Kent Downs AONB Unit. Events, activities, music, games, cake and much more.

**SUNDAY 22ND**

**11 - 3pm**

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Lead organisation: White Cliffs Countryside Partnership

01304 241806 mail@whitecliffscountyside.org.uk

Event leader: Sue Bradford

To book: Booking not required

This gentle walk will take you from the countryside of St. Margaret’s at Cliffe with stunning views out to sea. We will walk along the cliffs where a National Trust volunteer will tell us all about the history of the recently unearthed sound mirror on the White Cliffs of Dover. This walk can also be translated into French.
August

SUNDAY 5TH
10-5pm (1pm - 5pm for those joining at Samphire Hoe)
CHALKUP21 Poets and Writers Walk

FREE

Distance: 8 Miles
Meet: Section1: Meet at The wing car park, battle of Britain memorial, Capel le Ferne CT18 7JJ
Section2: Samphire Hoe Education Shelter CT17 9FL
Bring: Sturdy walking boots, weather appropriate clothing, note book and something to write with
Lead organisation: Dover Arts Development
Event leader: Chris Poundwhite and Louise Webb
To book: 01303 815170 poets-and-writers-walk.eventbrite.co.uk

The event is open to poets and writers whether established or aspiring and participants will need a notebook and something to write with. There will be a chance to perform the works inspired by the trail at a poetry event at Samphire Hoe in September. Please wear good walking boots and weather appropriate clothing.

For more information on the CHALKUP21 trail and its 9 structures, please visit chalkup21.com

TUESDAY 7TH
2 - 4pm
Rock Pool Rockstars

FREE

Distance: 0.5 Miles
Meet: Samphire Hoe Rangers Hut CT17 9FL
Bring: Appropriate footwear and clothes and bring spares as you might get wet
Lead organisation: White Cliffs Countryside Partnership
Event leader: Paul Holt 01304 225649
To book: Booking not required

Discover the incredible creatures that make their homes in the rock pools at Samphire Hoe.
We have plenty of nets and tanks but you’re welcome to bring your own.

FRIDAY 17TH
11 - 2pm
Green Heritage event at Samphire Hoe

FREE

Meet: Samphire Hoe Coach Car Park CT17 9FL
Lead organisation: Kent Downs AONB and the University of Kent
Event leader: Mary Tate 013030 815170
To book: Booking not required

Join us in the airstream caravan for talks and workshops on the green heritage of the Kent Downs with Dr Karen Jones from the University of Kent.
**August**

**WEDNESDAY 22ND**
10 - 12noon

**Family Farm Walk at Bore place**

**FREE**

Meet: Bore Place, TN8 7AR
Bring: Appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather
Lead organisation: Bore Place (Commonwork Trust)
Event leader: Becky Baldock
To book: boreplace.org/whats-on

It is a bountiful time of year on the farm. The dairy cows are calving, the organic market garden is bursting with ripe produce and the hedgerows that line the grazing pastures are rich in ripening blackberries. So bring the children out for a fun-filled guided walk to explore the farm and be tempted by some tasty nibbles along the way. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the Green Man Glade. Ages 5+ accompanied by responsible adult. Not suitable for buggies. The walk involves gentle slopes, uneven ground, crossing over stiles and squeeze gaps.

**WEDNESDAY 22ND**
6 - 9pm

**Lines Made By Walking**

**FREE**

Meet: TBC
Lead organisation: Folkestone Quaterhouse, Go To The Pine, Folkestone Fringe
Event leader: Chris Poundwhite and Helen Lees
To book: Via Folkestone Quaterhouse (details available closer to the event date)
www.quarterhouse.co.uk

Celebrating 40 years of the North Downs Way and 50 Years of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this creative workshop takes us by foot from sea to hill and hill to sea, connecting Folkestone with one of England’s greatest walking routes and landscapes. Led by Ecopoet Chris Poundwhite and Artist, Helen Lee, we will work with pen and paper on poems and drawings that respond to the landscapes that we pass through and witness.

**September**

**1ST - 30TH**
9:30 - 17:00 Monday-Saturday

**Dover Museum Exhibition**

**FREE**

Meet: Dover Museum, Market Square Dover, CT16 1PH
Lead organisation: Dover Museum
To book: No booking required

A month long exhibition of artwork and pictures from the AONB.

**6TH - 22ND**
Thursday - Sunday

**The ASH Archive**

**FREE**

Meet: SALT Festival, Brewery Tap Gallery, Tontine St, Folkestone
To book: No booking required

The Ash Archive is a growing collection of objects, artworks, poems and drawings that chart a unique materialist perspective on the history that we share with the ash tree. With artworks by Ackroyd & Harvey, Adam Chodzko, French and Mottershead, Magz Hall, Max Lamb, Autumn Richardson and Richard Skelton, Sheaf & Barley, David Nash, and a growing collection of objects made from ash wood, including “things” from Rob Penn’s The Man Who Made Things Out of Trees.
Green Pilgrimage is a 5 year project funded by Interreg Europe to show how growth and development policies can economically benefit AND protect natural and cultural heritage. Key to this is our focus on the power of pilgrimage - recognized today as one of the fastest growing segments of the travel industry (UNWTO, 2015) with more than 300 million pilgrims every year.

Ancient pilgrim routes such as The Way of St James to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, report an annual 10% increase in numbers, particularly among non-religious. Policy influence will increase pilgrimage across Europe through creating a greater awareness of its benefits. The project will hold exchanges and workshops on sustainable pilgrimage promotion, pilgrimage tourism impact, environmental protection and European best practice. More information can be found at kentdowns.org.uk

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**September**

**6TH - 9TH**

**SALT Sea and the Environment Festival**

**FREE**

Meet: Folkestone

SALT festival of the Sea and Environment will take you on a creative and inspiring journey through the landscape and culture of the coast. There will be opportunities to walk, talk, make, write, observe, have fun, and share ideas over good food. SALT is cocurated by Quarterhouse, Folkestone Fringe and Chris Poundwhite of Go to the Pine with ideas gathered from the local community. The festival explores the way coastal environments shape who we are and how we think, and asks what the future might hold for the people and places that exist on the edge.

There will be two guided walks led by Chris Poundwhite during the week which celebrate the Kent Downs. For more information and events listings visit folkestonefringe.com

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**SUNDAY 9TH**

**2 - 4pm**

**The end is in Sight Guided Walk, Chillham**

**FREE**

Distance: 0.5 Miles
Meet: TBC
Bring: Sturdy Boots
Lead organisation: Pavement Pounders

A guided walk led by Pavement Pounders, Artist with a passion for heritage. Or follow us on Facebook @KentDowns for up to date event listings.
**SUNDAY 16TH**  
10.30 - 1.30pm  
**Out on a Lympne Guided Walk**

**FREE**

**Distance:** 3.5-3 Miles  
**Meet:** Royal Military Canal Car Park, West Hythe, CT21 4NT  
**Bring:** Sturdy Footwear  
**Lead organisation:** Kent Downs AONB Unit and Royal Geographical Society  
**Event leader:** Mary Tate and Caroline Millar  
01303 815170 (Mary)  
**To book:** out-on-a-lympne.eventbrite.co.uk

Join us on a guided walk to one of the best viewpoints in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Lympne. Led by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and Kent Downs AONB Unit, we will walk through woodland and open countryside to reach Lympne Church where you will be promised spectacular views of the Romney Marsh and surrounding landscape. Please Note: This walk involves a steep climb and muddy, slippery decent back down to the Royal Military Canal.

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**SUNDAY 29TH**  
11am and 3pm  
**Arts and Crafts at Dover Museum**

**FREE**

**Meet:** Dover Museum, Market Square, Dover CT16 1PH  
**Bring:** Sturdy Footwear  
**Lead organisation:** LV21  
**To book:** Please phone the Museum on 01304 201066 or drop in to book  
Try your hand at creating some artwork inspired by the Kent Downs with help from a local artist. There will be two drop in sessions throughout the day. Please drop in to or call Dover Museum to book your places or follow us on Facebook @KentDowns for up to date event listings.
Wye Pilgrims Festival 2018
September 24th- 30th

Film, Walks, Talks, Literature, Medieval Feasts, Refugee Tales, Plays, Singing, Music, Ales, School Activities and all things pilgrimage.

The success of St James Way to Santiago de Compostela, Spain in providing an economic lifeline to rural communities has been documented by the BBC and will soon be the subject of a major new report. Tuscany, the jewel in the crown of Italian tourism, has recognised the Via Francigena pilgrimage route as their ‘tourism product of the future’ and has invested more than €20 million in its development. Beyond economic benefits pilgrimage and distance walking also help protect cultural and natural heritage as well as providing spiritual and wellbeing benefits.

Of the many pilgrim routes in Kent, the Pilgrims Way to Canterbury is the most famous. The North Downs Way National Trail largely mirrors this ancient route and offers walkers a well maintained and signposted route to Canterbury. The North Downs Way was launched in Wye 40 years ago in 1978. To celebrate the 40th anniversary and to promote Kent’s fantastic pilgrimage heritage we are organising Wye Pilgrims Festival. This will be a week-long series of events and workshops to explore the full range of pilgrimage experiences. For those of faith and no faith, for 5km routes to 1700 km routes, for those interested in natural and cultural heritage, drama, music, film and more.

The organiser is Catherine Bradley at the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty who is working with local people to run all the events as part of the Wye Pilgrims Festival 2018.

We are very grateful to have the use of the beautiful St Gregory and St Martin church in Wye for the week. Local clubs, schools and businesses will also be involved through their own venues as well as through the church. So whether your interest lies in pilgrimage, distance walking, church heritage or just the concept of a special journey please contact Catherine to become involved.

Come explore all things relating to Kent’s rich tradition of Pilgrimage and what it meant in the past and what it means today. Whatever your beliefs pilgrimage and long distance walking are fast being recognised as the world’s fastest growing tourism industry (UNWTO).
Wye Pilgrims Festival 2018
September 24th- 30th

Film, Walks, Talks, Literature, Medieval Feasts, Refugee Tales, Plays, Singing, Music, Ales, School Activities and all things pilgrimage.

DRAFT PROGRAMME – Final Programme and booking information will be posted at kentdowns.org.uk New Kent Downs Website

Monday 24th - Friday 28th September
Launch of Pilgrims Festival
Pilgrims Menus in local eateries
Film Night - Showing of Martin Sheen’s “The Way” and other pilgrim related films – Wye Film Society

Literary Evening – featuring published authors who have completed some of Europe’s long distance pilgrim routes including North Downs Way, Via Francigena, St Augustine’s Way, and St James Way Spain.

The Millers Tale – a play by the Dour Players
A Pilgrim’s Musical Concert
School and Youth activities

Saturday 29th September
Multiple themed walks converging at Wye Church: Foraging walk, British Pilgrimage Trust Walk, Church History walk, Landscape walk

Refugee Tales - Walk Chilham to Wye featuring professional writers recounting stories of refugees currently at Gatwick Detention Centre

Charing Palace Restoration Display
Street Play of St Martin’s Tale
Pilgrimage by Flute and Spoken Word
Fair Trade Stall
Evening Pilgrim’s Feast Medieval Style

After Feast Entertainments
Sunday 30th September
Pilgrim Breakfasts
Celebratory Service at Wye Church
Parade to Wye Crown for 40th Anniversary of North Downs Way

Celebratory Launch of 40th Anniversary North Downs Way ‘Ales of the Trail’

SUNDAY 7TH
11 - 1pm
Butterflies, Blossom and Brandy Guided Walk

FREE

Distance: 2.5 Miles
Meet: Cherry Downs Raymers Hill Warren Street Lenham, ME17 2PE
Bring: Sturdy Boots

Lead organisation: Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Event leader: Mark Pritchard
To book: 01303815170 eventbrite.co.uk/o/medway-valley-countryside-partnership-17010855249

Join us for a walk from the wonderful Cherry downs which give a stunning view of the Kent Downs from the car park. Learn about the management of ancient orchards, grasslands and understand more about the ecology of this site and the surrounding area. Please bring sturdy walking boots and be prepared for a steep climb.

October

10- 20TH
Wednesday - Saturday
The ASH Archive

Meet: Kaleidoscope Gallery, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks
To book: No booking required

The Ash Archive is a growing collection of objects, artworks, poems and drawings that chart a unique materialist perspective on the history that we share with the ash tree. With artworks by Ackroyd & Harvey, Adam Chodzko, French and Mottershead, Magz Hall, Max Lamb, Autumn Richardson and Richard Skelton, Sheaf & Barley, David Nash, and a growing collection of objects made from ash wood, including “things” from Rob Penn’s The Man Who Made Things Out of Trees.
**October**

**MONDAY 22ND**
10 - 1pm
Apple day at Bore Place

Meet: Bore Place, TN8 7AR
Bring: Wellies/Boots
Lead organisation: Bore Place
Event leader: Becky Baldock
To book: boreplace.org/whats-on

Join us for a celebration of the end of WW2. Poems will be written to hang from the trees and crosses named for the fallen from the village war memorials.

For more information visit kentdowns.org.uk and kentishstour.org.uk or follow us on Facebook @KentDowns for up to date event listings.

**November**

**SUNDAY 4TH**
11 - 1pm
A Tomb with a View Guided Walk

Meet: Pinesfield Lane, Trottestcliffe, TQ649307
Lead organisation: Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Event leader: Mark Pritchard
To book: 01303815170 eventbrite.co.uk/o/medway-valley-countryside-partnership-17010855249

Join us for a walk up escarpment and back down to view the ancient and mystical Coldrum long barrow. Learn why it is there and admire the wonderful views from the site and along the route where you can admire the beauty of the Kent Downs. Please bring sturdy footwear and be prepared for a sharp climb up the escarpment.

**SATURDAY 17TH**
1 - 3pm
The Smugglers of Hougham Guided Walk

Distance: 5 Miles
Meet: TR290 390
Bring: Sturdy Footwear/waterproofs
Lead organisation: White Cliffs Countryside Partnership
Event leader: Melanie Wrigley
01304 241806 mail@whitecliffscountryside.org.uk
To book: No booking required

Join a walk in the beautiful Hougham valley, with hilltop down land views, ancient woodland and a historic sunken lane. Hear the story of the Smugglers; call into a farm café for refreshments before returning to the start.

**Battle’s Over: A Nation’s Tribute**

Join us for a walk in the beautiful Hougham valley, with hilltop down land views, ancient woodland and a historic sunken lane. Hear the story of the Smugglers; call into a farm café for refreshments before returning to the start.

For more information visit kentdowns.org.uk and kentishstour.org.uk or follow us on Facebook @KentDowns for up to date event listings.
Learn how to geocache – the modern-day version of treasure hunting! Follow the geotrail along the picturesque North Downs Way and admire the views as you hunt. We will instruct you on how to download the Geocache app before the day of the walk.

Distance: 4 Miles
Meet: Meet at the bottom of Brasted Lane, Knockholt, TQ 466 586
Bring: GPS handset or smartphone. Walking boots and suitable outdoor clothing
Lead organisation: North West Kent Countryside Partnership
Event leader: Sara Spellman
sara.spellman@kent.gov.uk
03000 415 217
To book: nwkcp-aonb.eventbrite.co.uk

A 3 mile circular walk, taking in spectacular views over the surrounding North Downs and Medway Towns.
Warm, waterproof clothing and sturdy boots - paths are muddy and uneven in places.

Meet: Ranscombe farm Reserve car Park, Sundridge Hill Cuxton TQ 71734 67387
Bring: Warm waterproof clothing and sturdy boots
Lead organisation: Plantlife
Event leader: Richard Moyse
To book: No booking required

A small exhibition containing artefacts from the bygone era of industries on the Kent Downs AONB.

Meet: Sevenoaks Museum Buckhurst Lane Sevenoaks TN13 1LQ
To book: No booking required

A small exhibition containing artefacts from the bygone era of industries on the Kent Downs AONB.
25 YEARS OF GREEN GANG!

The Green Gang is a special programme of fun events for children and their families that has been running for 23 years, giving children an opportunity to learn more about local wildlife and countryside for more information and full listings of Green Gang events during the anniversary year in the AONB visit: www.whitecliffs countryside.org.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY

Have Your Say on how the Kent Downs is managed in the future by following this link and completing this short survey. www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RCJVRDC

For further information and updates on how to be involved in the Kent Downs Management Plan please visit kentdowns.org.uk

A PLEDGE FOR THE HILLS

What will you promise to do to help the Kent Downs?

• Walk a section of the North Downs Way
• Visit a Royal Geographical Society view point to see the best view the Kent Downs has to offer.
• Volunteer your time in the Kent Downs
• Attend an event in the Kent Downs during the anniversary year
• Visit the ASH project art installation/exhibition

• Plant a native tree, hedgerow or wildflower meadow
• Have a picnic on the Kent Downs or in a local Country Park
• Visit a Kentish Vineyard, Brewery, Micro Pub or Farmers Market
• Spread the word; Like and share what we are doing to protect the Kent Downs on Social Media
• Visit one of Kent’s top spots for Orchids or traditional Orchards

For more information and to find out how you can do all of these things visit www.kentdowns.org.uk
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
VIEW POINTS

Discovering Britain is a major new walking project from the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) to encourage deeper engagement with Britain’s extraordinary and diverse landscapes.

Our website features over 350 long walks, short trails and viewpoints which will unlock and explore the stories of Britain through its geography, history and culture. Encompassing both the countryside and the townscape, the focus of the walks will be on discovering and exploring the stories of our rich diverse landscapes.

www.discoveringbritain.org/activities/south-east-england/

With Thanks To:

- The Heritage Lottery Fund
- Royal Geographical Society
- INN Crowd
- Shephard Neame
- Kent Life
- White Cliffs Countryside Partnership
- Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
- Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
- North West Kent Countryside Partnership
- The Woodland Trust
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- The Bay Trust
- Bredhurst Woodland Action Group
- Bore Place
- Kent County Council
- Kent Country Parks
- LEAF Open Farm Sunday
- Pavement Pounders
- Folkestone Museum
- Dover Museum
- Sevenoaks Museum
- Chalk up 21/Dover Arts Council
- SALT Festival
- The Charing Place Project
- Romshed Farm
- LV21
- ASH Project
- John Wiltshire
- Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Orchards for Everyone
Hugh Ribbans trained at Canterbury College of Art and runs a graphic design business. Relief printmaking was his craft subject at college, particularly linocutting, and in 1989 he purchased a restored Columbian press, circa 1830. He now spends as much time as his graphic work allows, producing woodcuts and linocuts, mixing heavily grained wood - often driftwood - and lino in his prints. Subject matter is derived from images of animals and birds often with a stylised treatment much influenced by ethnic art and his graphic background.

He has exhibited at the Barbican Gallery, the National Theatre, the National Print Exhibition, the Printmakers Council Open, The Society of Wood Engravers, the Society of Wildlife Artists and the Affordable Artfair.