

*Friday 5, Saturday 6
and Sunday 7 May
2006*



Wildlife Weekend: let us show you around



This second East Sussex Wildlife Weekend brings you over 50 activities, with artists in paint and sound, countryside rangers and local enthusiasts. You don't need to be an expert or long distance hiker, we'll get you started with some easy introductions.

Bienvenue à la deuxième édition du 'Week End Nature en East Sussex', où plus de 50 activités vous invitent à découvrir la région. A cette occasion, vous aurez la chance de rencontrer des artistes, des gardes forestiers et des enthousiastes du pays. Les activités accompagnées ou dirigées par une personne qui parle le français sont indiquées tout au long de cette brochure à l'aide du drapeau français. Nous vous souhaitons de belles découvertes!



Aerial view of Camber Castle

Getting there

You can reach most Wildlife Weekend events by using public transport. Summer Sunday bus services start on 7 May from Rye to Rye Harbour and Hastings to Fairlight, Pett Level and Rye, serving both ends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Bus information is available from Traveline on 087 0608 2608 or www.traveline.org.uk. Rail information is available from National Rail Enquiries on 0845 748 49 50 or www.nationalrail.co.uk. Textphone Service for the deaf or hard of hearing are available from 0845 6 05 06 00.

The County Council's TravelChoice website provides up to date information about all forms of sustainable travel including walking and cycling maps. Visit the website at www.travelchoice.org.



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French aperitif:

Somme Wildlife Festival

Our neighbours in the Bay of the Somme hold their 16th wildlife celebration 15-23 April. In the company of conservationists, enjoy a menu of wildlife films, art exhibitions, walks across the bay, easy cycling, French food and more. Join our coach and stay with us in the historic town of St Valery.

- Date:** **Friday 14 (Good Friday) to Sunday 16 April (Easter Day)**
- Time:** leave Hastings station 10.20am; Rye station 11.00am; return 6.00pm.
- Cost:** two nights bed and breakfast for two people sharing in the Hotel Picardia www.picardia.fr, and coach travel £300 in total.
- Booking:** essential, payment to “East Sussex County Council” by 21 March.
- Contact:** Simon Hickmott, East Sussex County Council on 01273 482660.
- Notes:** For the programme of the Somme “Festival de L’Oiseau et de la Nature” see www.festival-oiseau.asso.fr. We can help to translate it for you.



Normandy coast walking weekend

Be guided around the beautiful valley of the River L’Yeres as it reaches the sea at the small town of Criel sur Mer, 20 km from Dieppe. Join a walking group and stay in a hostel. Includes tour of magnificent “Château d’Eu” and dinner with live music at a local café-théâtre.

- Date:** **Friday 21 to Sunday 23 April**
- Time:** arrive at Newhaven port by 7.00am on Friday, returning to Newhaven at 11.30pm on Sunday.
- Cost:** £180.00 per person including food, accommodation and travel.
- Booking:** essential, payment to “Office du tourisme”, send to 60 rue de la Libération, 76910 Criel-sur-mer, FRANCE, to be received by 21 March.
- Contact:** Simon Hickmott, East Sussex County Council on 01273 482660.



Rye town

Family fun at Rye Community Centre



Free exhibition and children's activities with countryside rangers and local conservation volunteers; artists and wood carvers from our area and France; and RSPB Wildlife Roadshow with 'Ticklish Allsorts' (Sunday only). At Rye Community Centre, bottom of Conduit Hill; 3 minutes walk from Rye railway station.

Un après-midi rempli d'activités pour les enfants avec des gardes forestiers, une représentation de théâtre par le RSPB Theatre, le dimanche (organsime voué à la protection des oiseaux) et les bénévoles qui veillent à la conservation de la nature aux environs de Rye; ainsi que l'opportunité de voir des sculptures en bois par des artistes français. Au community Centre de Rye, en bas de Conduit Hill à 3 minutes de la gare.

Date: **Saturday 6 May, and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 12.00 noon - 5.00pm



Pottery painting on wildlife theme

Visit Cinque Ports Pottery next to the Community Centre and paint your own piece of pottery in the studio. Bring your wildlife ideas to life with your very own work of art. Glazed and fired, your piece will be ready to be collected or posted within 10 days.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 11.00am and 2.00pm

Cost: average £5.00 (varies with size of piece chosen).

Booking: advisable.

Contact: Cinque Ports Pottery 01797 222033.

Notes: on Conduit Hill, 3 minutes walk from Rye station.

Walking introduction to Rye

A 4 km circular walk, introducing the 'Ancient Towne' of Rye, with East Sussex County Council's Andrew Whitnall. We take a tour of this historic town and find out about what was once one of the most important ports in England.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Cost: free (donations appreciated to trainee rangers).

Contact: Andrew Whitnall, East Sussex County Council 01273 481627, mobile 07786 171445 on the day.

Notes: meet at Rye Community Centre, Conduit Hill, 3 minutes walk from Rye railway station; some steep cobbled hills and narrow passages.

Textures FM - join the performance

Like a radio phone-in, call Textures FM on 07775 722888 to record the sounds of your environment. Your sounds will then be worked through the mixer and played by DJ Esther Ainsworth at the Globe Inn, Rye, to create a sonic montage.

- Date:** **Saturday 6 May**
Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm
Booking: not necessary
Contact: Saffron Summerfield on 07941 932543 or saffron@motherearthmusic.co.uk
Notes: at the Globe Inn, Military Road, Rye (8 minutes walk from the station, 5 minutes from community centre). To contribute sounds from the nature around you, call 07775 722888, normal mobile phone charges, please ensure the owner of the phone that you use gives you their permission. CDs will be available after the event. Hear Esther Ainsworth's Textures FM on www.radio4a.org.uk.



The Globe Inn

Sound workshop with DJ EST



Go behind the scenes with DJ EST (aka sound artist Esther Ainsworth) to learn how she captures and mixes wildlife sounds. Collect sounds using your mobile phone or recording equipment and hear them transformed to create a sonic ambient mix.

Venez participer à un atelier sonore proposé par 'Dj Est' le samedi 6 mai entre 12h et 13h. Enregistrez des sons en utilisant votre téléphone portable qui seront ensuite transformés pour créer un bruitage ambiant. Appelez le 00 44 (0)7775 722 888 pour transférer depuis votre portable les bruits de la nature qui vous entoure. Un montage sonore utilisant les sons des participants sera ensuite joué de 14h à 16h au Globe Inn par DJ EST.

- Date:** **Saturday 6 May**
Time: 12.00noon - 1.00pm
Booking: not necessary.
Contact: Saffron Summerfield on 07941 932543 or saffron@motherearthmusic.co.uk.
Notes: a short introduction to today's performance at the Globe Inn, Military Road, Rye. Suitable for accompanied children – bring a mobile phone if you can.

For wildlife sounds including the extraordinary 'booming' bittern, a dawn chorus in East Sussex and a marsh frog near Rye, go to:

www.wildrye.info/media/audio/

Wildlife-inspired artists on display

See the work of 10 local artists inspired by the wildlife and landscape of Rye Bay. At Rye Art Gallery, in the High Street; 3 minutes walk from Rye railway station. Meet some of the artists there on Saturday 6 May.

Date: **Saturday 6 May for one month**

Time: 10.00am - 5.00pm

French countryside artist



Noelle Le Guilouzic's beautiful watercolours of the Bay of the Somme have made her famous in northern France. See them at the Globe Inn, Military Road, Rye (10 minutes walk from Rye station).

Les peintures aquarelles de l'artiste française, Noëlle le Guilouzic seront exposées au Globe Inn, Military Road à Rye (à 10 minutes de la gare) à partir du samedi 6 mai.

Date: **Saturday 6 May onwards**

Time: opening hours of the Globe Inn.



26 Landgate • Rye • East Sussex • TN31 7LH
Tel: 01797 229999 - e-Mail: info@turtlefineart.co.uk

A celebration of the wildlife of the Rye Bay Countryside

The birds, the animals, the flowers and the landscape depicted in all media: oil, watercolour, bronze, etching, ceramic by artists of the past and present

Exhibition throughout the Wildlife Weekend and continuing throughout May

Bird's eye view

St. Mary's church tower, at the top of the town in Rye, has the best view. Climb the steep steps and around the bells, for a look over the town roofs to the Rye Bay countryside.

Time: 10.00am - 5.00pm in fair weather.

Cost: £2.00 per person.

Notes: low ceilings and narrow passages.

Curlews flying over Rye



Spring clean along River Rother

Come along and help the rangers carry out this environmental clear up of the River Rother. All rubbish will be sorted to try and recycle as much as possible. Please bring strong gloves and wear sensible footwear.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Place: Meet at Rye Community Centre, Conduit Hill (short walk down to the river).

Booking: please call to give idea of numbers interested.

Contact: Simon Fathers, East Sussex County Council 01797 226488

Notes: return to the Community Centre about 12.00pm, and join us there for refreshments and free exhibition and family activities.

Castle and nature walk from Rye

Visit Henry VIII's seaside castle, now high and dry, and a birdwatching hide at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, with the man who holds the key to Camber Castle, reserve manager Dr. Barry Yates. Easy 5 km walk on the level.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 1.00pm - 4.15pm

Cost: £5.00 for adults, free for children, proceeds to the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Contact: Miriam Inskip at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on 01797 227784; mobile 07715 812503 on the day.

Notes: Meet at Rye Community Centre, Conduit Hill.



Camber Castle and Canada Geese

Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour is 3 km to the south east of Rye and has 2 pubs, a shop, a lifeboat house, a sailing club, a Martello Tower, a church and toilets with wheelchair access. Rye Harbour Nature Reserve lies between Rye, Rye Harbour and Winchelsea Beach and is the home to over 400 species of flowering plants and nearly 300 species of bird.

Sound installation - "Rye Harbour calling"

Increased daylight in spring is accompanied by an increase in birdsong, but what are they saying, and who is saying what? This sound installation inspired by the birdlife in and around Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a collaboration between Rye Harbour artist-in-residence Saffron Summerfield and international sound artist Robert Jarvis.

Accompagné de la musicienne Saffron Summerfield, parcourez un sentier champêtre et capturer le chant des oiseaux, le son des pierres, du bois, de l'herbe et des roseaux afin de créer un montage sonore de la nature.

Date: **Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 April; Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Location: Church of the Holy Spirit, just before Rye Harbour village (on right from Rye)

Contact: Saffron Summerfield on 07941 932543 or saffron@motherearthmusic.co.uk

Notes: Robert Jarvis has recently been awarded the 2005 British Composer Award in the new media category for his "Disappear" installation.

Birds of Castle Water

Bird experts and enthusiasts will be on hand to show you the wildfowl and waders found at this Sussex Wildlife Trust nature reserve.

Date: **Friday 5 May**

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm at Castle Water hide, and 1.30 – 3.00pm at the Viewpoint, close to Rye Harbour road.

Cost: donations to Sussex Wildlife Trust appreciated.

Notes: for information on access to Castle Water or help finding the meeting places contact Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on 01797 227784.

Start painting wildlife

Explore the landscape of Rye Harbour through the medium of watercolour painting with local artist Robert Greenhalf. Class for those starting out (but not absolute beginners as you will need to bring your own basic outdoor watercolour painting equipment).

Date: **Friday 5 May**

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Cost: £30.00 per person.

Booking: essential, 10 maximum.

Contact: Miriam Inskip, Lime Kiln Cottage, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Rye Harbour, East Sussex TN31 7TT, 01797 227784.

Notes: Meet at Lime Kiln Cottage.

Evening whimbrel stroll

See whimbrel – a big wading bird with an extraordinary long, curved beak - coming into roost with Rye Harbour Nature Reserve's warden Chris Bentley.

Date: **Friday 5 and Saturday 6 May**

Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Contact: Chris Bentley, mobile 07742 803957 on the day

Notes: Meet at Rye Harbour car park, 4 km walk on the level.

Oystercatcher trail

Bring the family to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and learn about our breeding Oystercatchers. Follow their journey from chick to adulthood as you walk on the reserve.

Date: **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm (start anytime).

Cost: free (donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve).

Notes: starts from Lime Kiln Cottage, 5 minutes walk towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park.



Oystercatchers at Rye

Begin birdwatching at Rye Harbour

If you have never been birdwatching, let us get you started. Binoculars are a real help and we'll have some and identification books for you to borrow. Try our telescope too.

- Date:** **Saturday 6 May**
Time: 10.00 -11.00am.
Cost: free, donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.
Notes: Meet at Lime Kiln Cottage, 5 minutes walk towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park.

Seashore detective at Rye Harbour

Bring the family to explore for hidden treasures washed ashore at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Hunt for mermaid's purses and make postcards out of seaweed.

- Date:** **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**
Time: 11.00am – 12.30pm
Booking: advisable, contact Miriam Inskip 01797 227784
Cost: free (donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve).
Notes: starts from Lime Kiln Cottage, 5 minutes walk towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park.

Landrover safari with warden

Tour Rye Harbour Nature Reserve with Warden Chris Bentley, for an introduction to birdwatching and shingle flowers.

- Date:** **Saturday 6 May**
Time: 12.00noon – 2.00pm
Cost: £5.00 per person.
Booking: essential, maximum 8 people.
Contact: Miriam Inskip at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on 01797 227784.
Notes: Meet at Rye Harbour car park.

Rye Harbour shingle beach



Bird's eye view

Climb aboard a giant crane platform for a unique view of Rye Bay that only the birds know. A big hit at WoodFair 2005; crane and operator kindly provided by Orion Access Hire Services (Erith, Kent DA8 2LG, tel. 01322 348843) .

- Date:** **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**
Time: 11.00am - 4.30pm
Cost: minimum £1.00 donation to RNLI.
Booking: book on the day.
Notes: where the river Rother meets the sea at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, walk towards the beach from Rye Harbour car park.

Make treats for garden birds

Join in the fun of making tasty treats to take home to your garden birds.

Date: **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 1.00 - 4.00pm

Cost: free (donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve)

Notes: at Lime Kiln Cottage, 5 minutes walk towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park.

Digital photos through telescopes

Try this out with Dr. Barry Yates, manager of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. We'll bring some equipment and show you how it's done, but bring your digital camera if you have one.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 2.00 - 3.00pm

Cost: free (donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve)

Notes: meet at Lime Kiln Cottage, 5 minutes walk towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park. .

A selection of Barry's wildlife photos will be on display at The Place, from 28 February to 18 May.

Capture wildlife sounds



Local musician Saffron Summerfield will take you on a sound excursion, to explore and record wildlife. Have fun learning how to listen to nature. Capture bird song, sounds of stones, wood, grasses and reeds to create a 'soundscape' of wildlife.

Accompagné de la musicienne Saffron Summerfield, parcourez un sentier champêtre et capturez le chant des oiseaux, le son des pierres, du bois, de l'herbe et des roseaux afin de créer un montage sonore de la nature.

Date: **Sunday 6 May**

Time: 10.00am – 12.00noon

Cost: £5.00 per family; £3.00 per individual.

Booking: essential, maximum 12 places.

Contact: Saffron Summerfield on 07941 932543 or saffron@motherearthmusic.co.uk

Notes: at Rye Harbour, one hour walk then back to the artist's studio to listen to the recordings and blend with music. Equipment provided. See www.saffronsummerfield.co.uk.



Through the eye of a telescope

Visit the Crittall Hide on the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve to explore the world through the warden's telescope.

- Date:** **Sunday 7 May**
Time: 11.00am - 1.00pm
Cost: free (donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve)
Notes: Crittall Hide is 2 km walk from Rye Harbour car park, for directions call 01797 227784.



Choosing binoculars

The company "In Focus" will have a range of binoculars and telescopes to help you decide which is best for you, whether you are a beginner or an advanced birdwatcher.

- Date:** **Sunday 7 May**
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Notes: at Lime Kiln Cottage, 5 minutes walk towards the sea from Rye Harbour car park.

Easy access walk

Let us give you a gentle one hour introduction to the wildlife of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. RHNR is ideal for anyone who has mobility difficulties as paths are flat and several hides are wheelchair-accessible.

- Date:** **Sunday 7 May**
Time: 3.00 – 4.00pm
Cost: free, donations to Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve welcome.
Booking: please book if you need one of our wheelchairs 01797 227784.
Notes: meet at Rye Harbour car park. We can provide binoculars if you don't have your own.

Virtual tour of Rye reserve

Take a tour in advance of your visit by CD (to run on a PC). Hundreds of 'pages' packed with photos, maps, sounds and video that gives a real taste of the wildlife and countryside of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

- Cost:** £6.50 (including post) from Lime Kiln Cottage, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, Rye Harbour, East Sussex TN31 7TT.
Contact: Miriam Inskip 01797 227784.



Winchelsea

Walk with Wetland Trust at Pett Level

The Wetland Trust has been studying bird migration across the world from their base in East Sussex for 20 years. The trust's Phil Jones will show you their land and introduce you to their work. A walk of 5 km on fairly level ground.

Date: **Friday 5 May**

Time: 15.00-18.00.

Cost: free, but donations to Trust welcomed.

Contact: Miriam Inskip, 01797 227784.

Notes: meet at the roadside Pool at Pett Level. Circular walk with a visit to birdwatching hide on the Trust's reserve. Bring binoculars if you can and wear wellingtons or walking boots.

Prize wildlife photos at Winchelsea

Lower Court Hall, where Winchelsea mayors have been elected for over 400 years, is the stunning setting for a free display of competition-winning wildlife photographs. These are the competition winners from the annual Somme bird and nature festival.

Date: **Friday 5 – Sunday 7 May;**
Friday 11 – Sunday 14 May

Time: 9.30am – 5.00pm.

Cycle with ranger

Join East Sussex County Council's ranger Vicky Pannell for a 20 km ride around historic Winchelsea and the undulating High Weald countryside, passing through the villages of Pett and Pett Level to Winchelsea Beach.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 10.30am – 2.30pm

Cost: free (donations welcome for trainee rangers).

Contact: Vicky Pannell, 01273 481654, mobile on the day 07876 037552.

Notes: meet outside St Thomas' Church, opposite the New Inn. Suitable for all bicycles; some hilly sections (but we can walk on these), leisurely pace.

Bike hire

If you don't have a bicycle in roadworthy condition but would still like to join us, call Rye Hire, 1 Cyprus Place, Rye (close to Rye station), tel/fax 01797223033, out of office hours 01797 227826, e-mail: ryehire@tiscali.co.uk. Bike hire from £12.00 per day; adults and children's, tricycle and tandem; deposit and proof of identity required. For small numbers of bikes they may even deliver to Winchelsea.

Pett Level shore



Spring birds and flowers of Brede valley

Join East Sussex County Council's ranger Steve Diserens for a 5 km walk in the valley of the river Brede, returning by bus from Icklesham. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Cost: free (donations welcome for trainee rangers).

Booking: not necessary.

Contact: Steve Diserens 01273 481654, mobile on the day 07718 522683

Notes: walk starts at Lower Court Hall museum, Winchelsea; to join by bus catch 711 bus from Rye station at 9.35am (arriving Winchelsea 9.45am), or from Hastings station/town centre at 8.55am (arriving Winchelsea at 9.24am); the 711 bus will return you to Winchelsea at 12.24pm or Hastings at 1.18pm.



Sea Pea

Introduction to Winchelsea town

A 6 km circular walk introducing the 'Ancient Towne' of Winchelsea. Tour around this 13th century 'new' town to find out what happened to Old Winchelsea, and what led to the decline of this grand planned town and the disappearance of its harbour.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Cost: free (donations appreciated for trainee rangers).

Contact: Andrew Whitnall, East Sussex County Council 01273 481627, mobile on the day 07786 171445

Notes: walk starts at Lower Court Hall museum, Winchelsea; to join by bus catch 711 bus from Rye or Hastings; no dogs (except guide dogs), includes cross-field paths.

Discover National Trust countryside

The National Trust owns much of the countryside around Winchelsea, join the National Trust's warden David Lewis for a 5 km walk to discover how they conserve wildlife and farm the land.

Date: **Saturday 6 May and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Cost: free (donations appreciated towards the National Trust work in the area)

Contact: David Lewis mobile on the day 07778 170452 on the day

Notes: walk starts at Lower Court Hall Museum, Winchelsea. Stout footwear required as these walks will be across farmland around Winchelsea, including stiles and hills.

National Trust farm open day

Wickham Manor provides organic meat to some of the most select restaurants. Take a look behind the scenes to see how the Palmer family combines conservation with food production, and celebrate the opening of the farm shop. See lambs, calves and piglets. Spit roast and teas available.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Cost: £5.00 per car, ticket goes into a draw for half a jointed lamb.

Contact: Sally Palmer on 01797 226216 or 07885 790597, see www.wickhammanor.co.uk.

Notes: from Winchelsea go along Wickham Rock Lane, first farm on the right.



Wickham Manor cattle

Don't Waste Wildlife!

Your waste affects wildlife. You can help by:

- composting your green waste – this will reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, reduce our use of peat-based fertilisers and the compost is great for your garden!
- not dropping litter – litter can stay around for hundreds of years and can injure or kill wild animals.

To find out more visit the Rethink Rubbish Bus at Rye Harbour on Saturday 6 May or Shinewater Park on Sunday 7 May, or call 01273 482323.

Three easy things to do for wildlife

- 1 **Join an environmental organisation.** Your subscription will help and they always need people to spread the word. Try Sussex Wildlife Trust or the National Trust, both have active local groups.
- 2 **Eat local food.** Animal grazing looks after important habitats. Organic production, avoiding pesticides, is even better. Try Brede farmers market on Friday mornings, or Rye Farmers Market on Wednesday mornings.
- 3 **Be a practical volunteer.** Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, the Romney Marsh Countryside Project and others always need more hands to distribute leaflets, pull weeds and repair fences.

Fairlight

Bird walk with conservationist

Winchelsea teacher and birdwatcher Cliff Dean will help you to pick out some of the many birdsongs at Hastings Country Park, on behalf of the Sussex Ornithological Society.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 8.00 – 10.00am

Location: information centre, Hastings Country Park.

Cost: free (donations to the Sussex Ornithological Society).

Notes: Steep slopes in the park.

Bluebell walk with RSPCA

The RSPCA centre at Mallydams Wood, Fairlight, cares for wild animals. Join them for a guided walk around their managed woodlands, looking for signs of wildlife.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 2.00 – 3.30pm

Cost: suggested donation £3.00.

Booking: essential.

Contact: Lucy Owen 08700 101850.

Notes: leisurely pace, suitable for accompanied children, not suitable for dogs.

Bird's eye view

You can see France from St. Andrew's church tower at Fairlight on a very clear day but you always get a good view of nearby Hastings Country Park.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 2.00 - 5.00pm.

Cost: £1.00 per person.

Notes: Steep steps.

Hastings Country Park



Camber Sands

Giant sand at Camber

A short walk around the dunes at Camber with East Sussex County Council ranger Darryl Major. An opportunity to learn about the management of this special, habitat, and to see the plants that thrive in this sometimes harsh environment.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 11.00am – 12.00noon

Cost: free (but please note possible car park fee).

Booking: desirable.

Contact: Darryl Major 01797 226488, mobile on the day 07974 654871

Notes: meet at Western Car Park, Camber (next to main flag pole).

Make sand sculpture with artist

Join artist Paul Harrington at a drop-in sculpture event on the beach at low tide. Paul will be using sand and other natural beach materials to form sculptures of sea creatures and to help you make yours. Open to everyone, and suitable for accompanied children.

Date: **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Contact: Valerie Alford, East Sussex County Council 01273 481121.

Notes: 711 bus leaves Rye station on Saturday at 38 minutes past each hour, returning from opposite The Place hotel at 11 minutes past each hour (every 2 hours on Sunday).

Film night at stylish hotel

“The Place” has brought a new style to Camber Sands. Join local resident, nature author and presenter of wildlife films, John Gooders, in the intimate surroundings of the ‘micro-cinema’ for a special screening of local wildlife films.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 7.00pm, films start at 8.30pm

Cost: £19.95 for dinner and film.

Booking: essential.

Contact: The Place 01797 225057.

Notes: see also at The Place a display of local wildlife photographs, from 28 February to 18 May.



art at the place
exhibition of wildlife festival
photographs
films at the place
for film shows please
check on our website
food at the place
seasonal produce, simply
cooked to bring out the
fullest flavours

“...a brasserie serving some of the best food in the region...” Time Out
“...a calming, stylish an informal atmosphere....” The Independent
“...camber sands the secret haunt of fashionistas for years.” The Observer
— The Good Food Guide The Good Hotel Guide The Michelin Guide

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tel: (01797) 22 50 57
fax: (01797) 22 70 03

the place
camber sands

enquiries@theplacecambersands.co.uk www.theplacecambersands.co.uk

Romney Marsh and Dungeness

Family day at Romney Marsh Centre

Come and join in the pond and minibeast hunts and have a go at the other fun activities at this eco-friendly visitor centre, made from straw bales and with wood heating. Bring a picnic and stay for the day in the park around the centre.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 11.00 – 4.00pm, drop in throughout the day.

Cost: £2.00 per child, £4.00 per family.

Contact: Helen Waters 01797 369487;
helen@romneymarsh-vc.wanadoo.co.uk

Notes: Centre open 11.00am – 4.00pm Fri-Mon.
From New Romney take the A259 to Dymchurch. Turn left immediately before the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway bridge, opposite the golf course.



Woodlouse spider

Hidden wetland adventure

Secretive by nature, the Bittern gives itself away with its evocative and distinctive 'booming'. Seek the Bitterns' boom deep in the reedbeds of Romney Marsh in the nature reserve of conservationist farmer Philip Merricks.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 18.00 - 20.00.

Cost: £5.00 adults (not suitable for children), proceeds to the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

Booking: essential by 4 May, 10 maximum.

Contact: Simon Hickmott, 01273 482660.

Notes: You should also be able to see large numbers of breeding waders and other birds. Meet 6 km east of Rye; travel in a cross country vehicle.

Bird's Eye View

168 steps and 140 feet up the Old Dungeness Lighthouse you can see the 500 or more ridges of shingle that show how Dungeness grew. The best view of the nearby National Nature Reserve.

Date: **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.30am - 5.00pm.

Cost: adult £3.00, child £2.00.

Contact: info@dungenesslighthouse.com,
01797 321300.

Notes: From Rye, take A259 towards New Romney, at the roundabout turn right, after 6 km turn right onto the B2075 sign posted for Lydd see www.dungenesslighthouse.com.

RSPB new arrivals guided walk

Come and look for typical summer visitors to RSPB Dungeness, such as terns, warblers and wheatears.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am – 12.00noon

Cost: RSPB members £2.50, Wildlife Explorers £1.00; non-members: adults £5.00, concessions £4.00, children £2.00.

Booking: essential.

Contact: RSPB 01797 320588,
dungeness@rspb.org.uk.

Notes: equipment, materials and supervision provided; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Join RSPB family day, Dungeness

Come and explore the underwater wildlife at Dungeness where frogs, beetles, leeches and lots of other amazing creatures can be found. Then in the new classroom to work on arts and crafts inspired by the pond wildlife.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 10.00am – 12.00noon and 1.00 – 3.00pm

Cost: Wildlife Explorer members £2.00 per session, non-members £3.00 per session; accompanying adults free.

Booking: essential.

Contact: RSPB 01797 320588,
dungeness@rspb.org.uk.

Notes: equipment, materials and supervision provided; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Dungeness walk with ranger

Join Owen Leyshon, Dungeness shingle and wetland specialist, for a 4 km stroll around Dungeness Point to look at the wildlife of this National Nature Reserve. Find out more about the history and unusual buildings found on the Point.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 2.00 – 4.00pm

Cost: free (donations to the Romney Marsh Countryside Project).

Contact: Owen Leyshon 01797 367934.

Notes: start at Dungeness Old Lighthouse.

Greenshank



Further afield

Beach wildlife at Normans Bay



Join Dr. Kate Cole and Dr. Patrick Fitzsimons, coastal ecologists, for a stroll along the beach and an introduction to rare and shingle plants. Find out why the beaches of Sussex are so important for wildlife. Une balade le long de la plage de 'Normans Bay', accompagnée des écologistes Dr Kate Cole et Dr Patrick Fitzsimons vous fera découvrir pourquoi les plages du Sussex sont si importantes pour la faune et la flore environnante. Point de rencontre à 11h à la gare de Normans Bay.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 11.00am -1.00pm

Cost: free (donations to Sussex Seasearch appreciated).

Contact: Kate Cole mobile on the day 07786 171465.

Notes: meet at Normans Bay station (trains leave Brighton at 9.53am, Hastings 10.25am). Walking across shingle so wear outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear. Suitable for all, including accompanied children.



Wildlife Trust wood walk at Beckley

Explore this Sussex Wildlife Trust nature reserve with the SWT's Alice Parfitt. May at Flatropers is a good time for woodland birds and flowers. Watch out for signs of wild boar.

Date: **Saturday 6 May**

Time: 10.00am – 1.00pm

Cost: free (donations to Sussex Wildlife Trust).

Contact: Alice Parfitt 01273 497543, mobile 07880 716653 on the day.

Notes: meet at the track at the southern end of Flatropers Wood off Bixley Lane, near Beckley. Unsurfaced footpaths and several wooden bridges; may be muddy. Please wear outdoor clothing and footwear. No toilets available. No dogs please.

Pestalozzi estate at Sedlescombe

Join local naturalist Dr. Patrick Roper for a guided tour of this estate of woodland, fields and riverside; a great time to see early butterflies. Pestalozzi offers support for students from Africa and Asia to study the International Baccalaureate in Hastings.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 3.00 – 5.00pm

Cost: £2.00 includes walk, tea and cakes afterwards.

Contact: Pestalozzi International Village 01424 870444.

Notes: an easy ramble through the woodland, suitable for children accompanied by an adult. Please wear sturdy shoes or boots. Dogs allowed on leads.

Shinewater Park, Eastbourne

Award-winning Shinewater Park has lakeside views, flat, easy paths and a newly-discovered history that goes back thousands of years. Join us for an afternoon celebrating nature and this special place. Explore the park with a storyteller, try a family cycle ride off-road to the Cuckoo Trail, or go by bike with a wildlife guide to Pevensey Levels, enjoy locally-produced food, meet the rangers, archaeologists and landscape architects who created the park, and the Friends of Shinewater who care for it. For a full programme call 01273 482660.

Le parc de Shinewater est un endroit idéal pour passer des moments en famille près de son étang où sur ses sentiers faciles à parcourir. Nous vous convions à une après-midi de découvertes, où vous pourrez entre autres, explorer les environs avec un guide conteur d'histoire, parcourir à bicyclette la piste du coucou ou bien aller à bicyclette jusqu'à Pevensey Levels accompagné d'un guide.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Lend a Hand

Help us to look after Shinewater Park and prepare for events of the Wildlife Weekend

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 10.00am - 12.00noon

Booking: desirable.

Contact: Ranger Jessie Leamy on
01273 482670.

Notes: litter pick, setting up stalls and other tasks, wear outdoor clothes.

Record sound with artist



Local musician Saffron Summerfield will take you on a sound excursion, to explore and record wildlife. Have fun learning how to 'listen' to nature: bird song, sea sounds, sounds made with stones, wood, grasses and reeds and to create a 'soundscape' of wildlife.

Accompagné de la musicienne Saffron Summerfield, parcourez un sentier champêtre et capturez le chant des oiseaux, le son des pierres, du bois, de l'herbe et des roseaux afin de créer un montage sonore de la nature.

Date: **Sunday 7 May**

Time: 3.00 - 5.00pm

Cost: £5.00 per family; £3.00 per individual.

Booking: essential, maximum 12 places.

Contact: Saffron Summerfield on 07941 932543 or
saffron@motherearthmusic.co.uk

Notes: One hour walk then listen to the recordings and blend with music. Equipment provided. Hear Saffron's at www.saffronsummerfield.co.uk.



Shinewater Park

More . . .

If you enjoyed the East Sussex Wildlife Weekend, here are some more events that might take your fancy.

More guided cycle rides and walks

Pick up free copies of "Exploring East Sussex" and "Cycling East Sussex" for hundreds of guided walks and cycle rides. Available at libraries, Tourist Information Centres, or call Vicky Pannell on 01273 481654.

French cycle ride for children

To explore the Normandy countryside, join us on bikes from Dieppe up the "Avenue Verte" off-road cycle route. Especially suitable for accompanied young people 12-16, able to cycle on road. One night in Dieppe, two nights in Mesnieres near Neufchatel.

Dates: Saturday 29 July - Tuesday 1 August

Time: arrive at ferry terminal, Newhaven by 11.30am; return Newhaven 4.00pm.

Cost: £100.00 for adults; £50 for children; includes ferry, dinner, bed and breakfast; cheques payable to "East Sussex County Council" by 5 June.

Contact: Isabelle Boudaud 01273 482660.

RYE MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL 2006

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th July

'The Siege of Rye'

A joyous celebration of Rye's medieval history with a Great Archery Tournament, Battles, Minstrels, Mummers and a Market on the Town Salts, Living History in the Gungarden, and entertainers and skirmishes in the streets.

For further information contact
The Rye Partnership 01797 229600

www.ryemedieval.co.uk



RYE FESTIVAL 2006

2-17 September

CLASSICAL, JAZZ, FOLK AND WORLD MUSIC, LITERATURE,
COMMUNITY EVENTS, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Now in its 35th year, the annual Rye festival is a general arts festival which offers a consistently high standard of programmes over two weeks.

For details contact the Festival Office at PO Box 33, Rye TN31 7YB Tel: 01797 224442 email: info@ryefestival.co.uk

To become a friend, Patron or Sponsor of the Rye Festival, contact the above

A Taste of Rye

Friday 22 September to
Sunday 1st October

Featuring creative dishes made only from locally-sourced food, matched with superb local wines.

For further information contact
The Rye Partnership
01797 229600.



11th WoodFair

Weald WoodFair is the largest forestry and wood-use event in the South East. It features over 100 stalls, demonstrations and exhibitions. See working horses, hedgelaying, charcoal making, wood sculpture, locally-made furniture, wood crafts and even 'woody' food.

Dates: Friday 15 - Sunday 17 September

Time: 9.30am - 5.00pm

Location: Bentley Wildfowl, between Lewes and Uckfield; free bus service from Lewes rail and bus stations.

Contact: Bentley on 01892 840573.

Notes: no dogs please as Bentley is also a bird reserve



**Brighton & Hove
Goes Wild**

Saturday 27th May to Sunday 1st June

Join us in celebrating our city's wildlife. From bees, badgers and bats to fish, frogs and flowers!

- **Stanmer Park Family Fun Day, Sunday 4th June, 12pm to 4pm**
- **Wild Activities and Events over the fortnight**
- **Wild Garden Open Days**

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/goeswild
or call 01273 292140


Brighton & Hove



16^{ème} Festival de l'Oiseau et de la Nature en Baie de Somme

C'est en Baie de Somme, du 15 au 23 avril prochain qu'aura lieu la 16^{ème} édition du Festival de l'Oiseau et de la Nature. Le printemps est un moment propice pour l'observation de la faune et pour la découverte des milieux naturels. En famille ou entre amis, chacun pourra passer ici un excellent moment.

The 16th Bird and Nature Festival will be held in the Bay of the Somme from April the 15th to the 23rd. Spring is one of the best times to do bird watching and to discover the natural habitats; with family or with friends, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Wildlife art : each wildlife artist exhibiting during the festival wants to share their enthusiasm and love for nature, for the birds and wildlife in both the Bay of the Somme and Rye Bay. Each with their own individual style, the artists express their passion for nature through their work.

Office de Tourisme et Musée Boucher de Perthes – Abbeville; Parc du Marquenterre – St Quentin en Tourmont; Maison de l'Oiseau et de la Baie de Somme- Lanchères

Wildlife photography : several photographic exhibitions will be held during the Festival. The exhibitions will deal with biodiversity and many other themes. The photos in the exhibitions encourage travel and discovery, whilst at the same time demonstrate a respect for our fragile natural world.

Salle Toulouse Lautrec Le Crotoy - Casino de Saint-Valery sur Somme - Salle des fêtes de Cayeux sur Mer - , Parc du Marquenterre Saint Quentin en Tourmont – Maison de l’oiseau et de la Baie de Somme Lanchères

Wildlife films : each year, the festival organises an international wildlife film competition. About 30 films which treat a variety of themes will be shown on a main screen at the Abbeville theatre. 7 awards will be given by the jury.

Théâtre Municipal – Abbeville

Maison de l’oiseau et de la Baie de Somme : a point of departure for walks round the estuary, children’s activities and a display of bird tableaux.

Lanchères

Le Parc du Marquenterre : on the north bank of the bay in the heart of the nature reserve, le parc du marquenterre is a beautiful place to discover the fauna, the flora and birds of the Bay. Many species can be seen here, including ducks, avocets and storks.

St Quentin en Tourmont

A programme of more than 200 guided visits will help you to discover the natural habitats of the area; including, the bay, cliffs, the forest and marshes. This programme includes guided walks, cycle rides, horse-riding, kayaking, boat trips and rides in a horse drawn carriage.

Festival de l’Oiseau et de la Nature –
Bird and Nature Festival

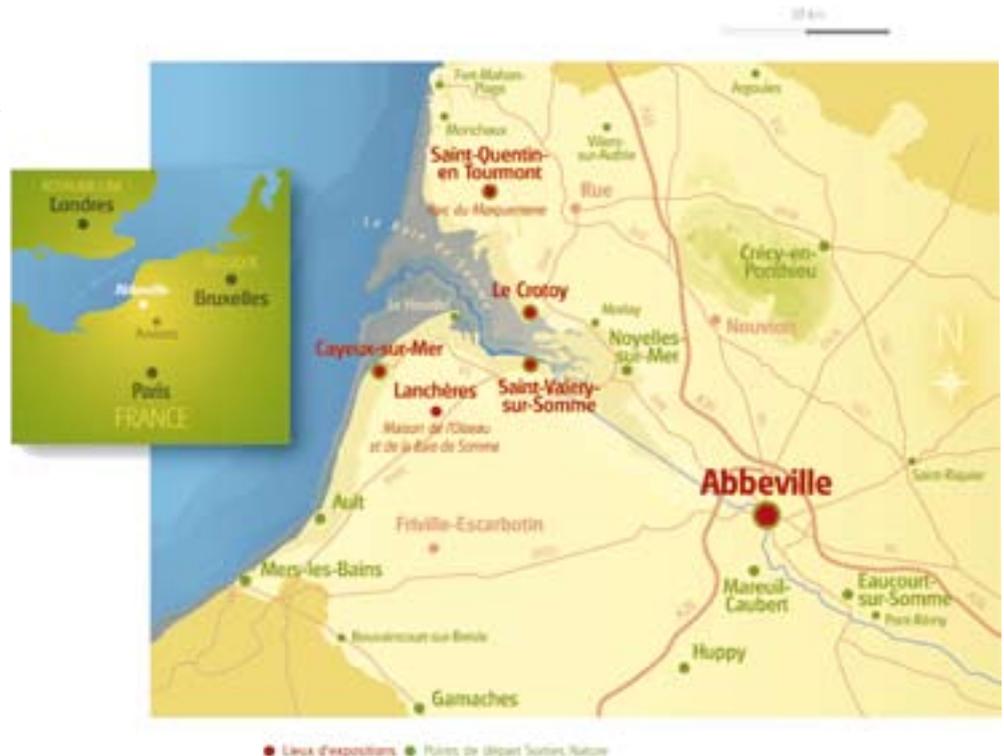
30 rue lesueur

80142 ABBEVILLE CEDEX

Tél : 03.22.24.02.02

Courriel : contact@festival-oiseau.asso.fr www.festival-oiseau.asso.fr

For English translation of programme details call
01273 482660.



Birds that go boom, hundreds of different flowering plants, medicinal leeches, Henry VIII's seaside castle stranded inland and a coastline that changes shape all the time. We are passionate about the nature, history and landscape of the East Sussex coast and we want to show you around.



INTERREG III

Supported by
European Union

www.wildRye.info
www.RXwildlife.org.uk
for more events all year

