

Autumn and Winter 2013-14 Parks and Green Spaces Events Programme

Welcome to the Ranger Team's Events Programme for the autumn and winter of 2013-14. We have tried to retain our informal and fun elements when leading walks and events in our wonderful parks and surrounding countryside, as well as adding a sprinkling of exercise. We have kept children's activities running in the school holidays, keeping them educated and entertained through these breaks, and adding a hint of natural magic in the festive periods.

For more information about any of the our services please contact us at-

**The Ranger Centre
Coate Water Country Park
Marlborough Road
Swindon
SN3 6AA**

phone- **01793 490150**

email- parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Event Information

- ❖ As usual we prefer people to book in advance, allowing event leaders to plan more effectively.
- ❖ All our walks return to the starting point and are aimed at the pleasure walker.
- ❖ Please wear suitable footwear and clothing for walking over rough or muddy ground.
- ❖ Waterproofs are essential due to the unpredictable nature of the British weather.
- ❖ We suggest bringing something to eat and drink for the longer walks.
- ❖ Well-behaved dogs are welcome on most walks, although they must be kept on leads when crossing fields containing livestock.



***Why not make a booking by emailing us at
parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk
Please include a contact telephone number when booking by email***

Please leave your name, number of spaces required and contact phone number when making a booking.

If you have made a booking, and cannot attend, please inform the Rangers, and we can offer those spaces to others.

October

Art in the Park

Sunday 6 October, 10 am to 12 noon

Using Andy Goldsworthy as inspiration come along to our art in the park event to create some beautiful ephemeral art using just the natural resources we find.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm clothes to suit the weather, and stout footwear.

Bring along a camera to record your beautiful artwork.

Workshop leader Linda Knight.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

A Social History of Stanton Park

Saturday 12 October, 1 pm to 2.30 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!! Take a fascinating journey through the social and architectural history of Stanton Park and surrounding area with Clive Carter, Chairman of the Wiltshire Buildings Record. Learn about some of the many changes that the local area has seen thanks to reasons including farming, fashion and even family feuds.

Suitable for wheelchair users.

£3 donation per ticket, with proceeds going to the development of the park.

Meet in The Great Barn at Stanton Park.

Please wear warm clothes.

Event leaders David Boase and Clive Carter.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Richard Jefferies; Route to Inspiration

Sunday 13 October, 10 am to 5 pm

A 12-mile walk from Coate, Richard Jefferies' childhood playground, passing his home and with extensive walking over the Downs, we see the source of much of the inspiration for his musings and writings.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm waterproof clothes and stout footwear.

Please bring a packed lunch, a warm drink, and binoculars if you have them.

Walk leader Michael Lilley.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

A Coate full of Autumn Colours

Saturday 19 October, 2 pm to 4 pm

Join us with our local tree expert for a stroll around the Coate Tree Collection to learn about the trees. With over 800 trees from around the world the autumnal colours should be a spectacular sight. Don't miss out on our own local mini Westonbirt right on your doorstep and enjoy a hidden part of Coate that a few people have discovered.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm clothes and stout footwear.

Bring any identification books you may have.

Walk leaders Dave Absalom and Ian Barker.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

An Introduction to the Indlekith

Saturday 26 October, 1 pm to 2.30 pm

This summer, a number of magical timber structures appeared at Stanton Park, but Who built them? What do they do, and why have they suddenly appeared?

Join one of our Rangers on an adventurous walk through the fields and forests of Stanton, as we investigate strange goings, a tale of ancient civilisation and the story of mysterious creatures known only as... the Indlekith

Suitable for children of all ages.

Meet in The Great Barn at Stanton Park.

Please wear warm clothes, and stout footwear.

NOT Suitable for pushchairs.

Indlekith Tracker David Boase.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Woodland Works for Older Kids

Monday 28 October, 10.30 am to 1 pm

Help manage a woodland by coppicing – cutting down – small hazel trees to create a mosaic of open glades for butterflies in the wood.

Suitable for 12 year olds and over

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear old warm waterproof clothes and stout footwear.

Please bring a snack and a warm drink.

Activity leader Michael Lilley.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

The Grufallo at Coate Water

Monday 28 October, 10 am to 11 am, or 12 noon to 1 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!! This story telling event will see us take a walk in the deep, dark woods, where we will be investigating reports of a creature at Coate Water with terrible tusks and terrible claws! All woodland creatures are welcome.

Suitable for children of all ages.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm clothes, and stout footwear.

Grufallo Tracker David Boase.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Please remember to state which session you wish to book on.

The Grufallo at Stanton

Tuesday 29 October, 10 am to 11 am, or 12 noon to 1 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!! This story telling event will see us take a walk in the deep, dark woods, where we will be investigating reports of a creature at Stanton Park with terrible tusks and terrible claws! All woodland creatures are welcome.

Suitable for children of all ages.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm clothes, and stout footwear.

Grufallo Tracker David Boase.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Please remember to state which session you wish to book on.

Spooky Orienteering at Coate

Wednesday 30 October, 10 am to 1pm, drop in between these times.

There's ghostly goings on at Coate Water, come and follow the trail and find the spooks and ghouls, before it gets dark when they come to life.

Suitable for children of all ages, accompanied by an adult.

Come along dressed as your favourite spook.

Pick up a map at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Head Ghost Hunter Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

November

Winter Woods

Saturday 9 November, 11.30 am to 2.30 pm

A gentle 5-miler taking in the winter landscape around Stanton and the open surrounding countryside landscape. A break in a local watering hole before returning to the great outdoors.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm waterproof clothing, and stout shoes.

Bring a snack with you, and some money for the stop.

Walk leader Tom Murawicki

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Autumn Colours in the Secret Valley

Sunday 10 November, 1 pm to 3.30 pm

Discover this secret valley, surprisingly near to Coate Water but only accessible by foot, and enjoy the changing tree colours of autumn.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please bring waterproofs, wear warm clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Walk leader Michael Lilley.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Calendar and Cards

Saturday 16 November, 10 am to 12 noon.

An opportunity to create a calendar for your family using the Park to find things to photograph.

We will be out and about taking photos of things that catch our eye in the Park before coming back to the cottage to create your calendar and a Christmas card to take home.

Suitable for wheelchair users.

Suitable for children over 6 years of age.

Cost £6 per head to cover materials.

Please come prepared for the weather and wrap up warm.

Bring along your digital camera and don't forget the download usb cable too.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Head Elf David Boase.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Pest Control through the Ages

Saturday 23 November, 1 pm to 2.30 pm

A look at ancient and modern pest control methods. This presentation explains how 'unwanted guests' have influenced our lives through history and how the methods employed to control them have evolved over time. There will be information on how to spot pest problems as well as the opportunity to look at a selection of pest control equipment both ancient and modern.

Suitable for wheelchair users.

There will be tea, coffee and biscuits available during the interval.

£3 donation per ticket, with proceeds going to charity.

Meet in The Great Barn at Stanton Park.

Please wear warm clothes.

Event leaders David Boase and Stuart Searl.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Coate Water Lanterns on the Lake

Saturday 30 November, 3 pm to 4.30 pm.

Using the materials provided you will be creating a raft and colourful lantern to light and set sail on the Lake at the end of the session.

Suitable for the whole family.

Cost £1 per head to cover materials.

Please bring a torch.

Please come prepared for the weather and wrap up warm, and wear stout shoes.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Event leaders Linda Knight and Ian Barker.

Spaces limited so book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

December

Stanton Lanterns on the Lake

Sunday 1 December, 3 pm to 4.30 pm.

Using the materials provided you will be creating a raft and colourful lantern to light and set sail on the Lake at the end of the session.

Suitable for the whole family.

Cost £1 per head to cover materials.

Please bring a torch.

Please come prepared for the weather and wrap up warm, and wear stout shoes.

Meet at the Great Barn, Stanton Park.

Event leaders Linda Knight and Ian Barker.

Spaces limited so book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Tree Dressing

Saturday 7 December, 10 am to 12 noon.

This national celebration is to remind us of the beauty and importance of trees in our lives at a time when everything is cold and grey. Come along for some stories, singing and shouting and decorating up the trees in our wonderful tree collection.

Suitable for the whole family.

Please come prepared for the weather and wrap up warm, and wear stout shoes.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Event leader Linda Knight.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Have yourself a merry Stanton Christmas!

Saturday 14 December, 4 pm to 8 pm

Join us at Stanton Park, for an afternoon and evening of festivities. Between 4 and 6pm, come and make your own Christmas wreath using locally sourced natural materials (and a bit of Bling!), tuck into a festive treat or two, and get the whole family into the spirit of things with storytelling, games and a children's craft workshop. Then from 7pm, we will be joined by Rev. Helen Baber of St Leonard's Church, Stanton Fitzwarren and the Gorse Hill Salvation Army Band, as we gather in the Great Barn for a torch lit carol service to end the day on a real high note!

Suitable for the whole family.

Donations will be welcome, shared between the Salvation Army and a charity nominated by St Leonard's Church.

Head Elf David Boase

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Coate Christmas Wreath Workshop

Sunday 15th, 10 am to 3pm.

Come along and join the elves at Coate to make your very own festive wreath, choosing from a range of locally sourced natural materials.

Suitable for children aged 8 and over accompanied by an adult.

Some tool use required.

If you would like to incorporate any of your own decorations please bring them along.

Cost £3 per wreath to cover materials.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Head Elf David Boase.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Boxing Day Bust-Out

Thursday 26 December, 11.30 am to 2.30 pm

Time to break out and get away from the roast turkey and banana sandwiches, that Jamie Oliver said would taste so pukka. Get your boots on and join us on this festive 5-mile skip through the crisp winter landscape surrounding Coate Water, with a stop at a local watering hole.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm waterproof clothing, and stout shoes.

Bring a snack with you, and some change for refreshments at the stop.

Walk leader Tom Murawicki

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

January

Stroll in the New Year

Wednesday 1 January, 10 am to 12.30 pm

Walk off the excess festive season indulgence on this 5 mile stroll. Start the New Year by blowing out the cobwebs and take in the fresh, crisp air of the winter landscape surrounding Coate Water.

Suitable for dogs.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please bring waterproofs, wear warm clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Walk leader Ian Barker

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Bird Feeding Bonanza

Sunday 12 January, 10 am to 1 pm

Our feathered friends need all the help they can get at this time of year so come along to find out how you can help and create a few delicious treats to pop out in your garden when you get home.

Suitable for the whole family.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear old warm clothes you do not mind getting dirty.

Event leader Linda Knight.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Young Ranger

Saturday 25 January, 10 am to 12 noon

Spend the morning in a Ranger's shoes, and learn what skills you need to prepare yourself for this rewarding and exciting vocation.

Suitable for children aged 10 to 16, accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear old clothes to suit the weather, stout footwear and bring a rain coat too.

Event leader Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Big Bird Watch

Sunday 26 January, 10 am to 12.30 pm

Come along to Coate Water to help in the annual national Big Bird Watch organised by the RSPB. We will be creating some tasty snacks for the birds before putting them out on the feeders and counting how many come along for the survey.

Suitable for the whole family.

Bring binoculars if you have them.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear warm clothes to suit the weather.

Event leader Linda Knight.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk



February

Bleak Barbury

Sunday 2 February, 1 pm to 3.30 pm

Experience the majesty of the high Downs at their bleakest. Depending on the weather, it can also reveal the stark beauty of these wide open spaces on this 4 mile walk.

Meet by the toilet block at Barbury Castle.

Please bring waterproofs, wear warm clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Walk leader Michael Lilley.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Junior What's that Tree?

Tuesday 18 February, 10 am to 12 noon.

Come along to learn about Trees. Discover what that tree is by looking at its bark and buds, how old is that tree? How tall is that tree? Join us to answer these questions.

Suitable for children aged 6 to 12 accompanied by an adult.

Bring along any tree identification guides you may have.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather, and sturdy boots/shoes.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Walk leader Ian Barker.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Junior Survival Skills

Wednesday 19 February, 10 am to 12 noon.

In this day and age it is easy to pick up a burger at a drive-thru, so do we really need survival skills? This Junior event will take you deep into the wilderness at Stanton LNR and show you how adventures begin, and how to survive without the local corner-shop.

Suitable for children aged 6 to 16 accompanied by an adult.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather, and sturdy boots/shoes.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Head Guide and Tracker Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Young Ranger

Saturday 22 February, 10 am to 12 noon

Spend the morning in a Ranger's shoes, and learn what skills you need to prepare yourself for this rewarding and exciting vocation.

Suitable for children aged 10 to 16 accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear old clothes to suit the weather, stout footwear and bring a rain coat too.

Event leader Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

March

Spring Day

Saturday 1 March, 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Get out and watch mother nature wake from her long winter slumber. This 8-miler will stretch our legs in the awaking countryside to sample its vibrant colours and new life. A short stop in a local watering hole to sample fresh spring water, before trekking on.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather and stout shoes.

Bring waterproofs just in case and some money for the stop, along with a packed lunch.

Walk leader Tom Murawicki

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Ridge Routes

Sunday 16 March, 12 noon to 4.30 pm

Enjoy the feeling and views of being up in the sky as we take a 12-mile circular walk from Barbury Castle along two high level ridgeways - with a refreshment stop in a village pub.

Meet by the toilet block at Barbury Castle.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Please bring some money for the stop and a waterproof coat.

Walk leader Michael Lilley.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Hérons in the Tree Tops

Saturday 22 March, 10 am to 12 noon

The young herons will have hatched at Coate Water's Nature Reserve. We'll watch them from both hides as they are fed by their parents, and learn more about these beautiful birds. This is a very popular event with limited spaces please book early to avoid disappointment.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather and bring waterproofs, just in case.

Please bring binoculars if you have them.

Walk leader Ian Barker.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Young Ranger

Saturday 22 March, 10 am to 12 noon

Spend the morning in a Ranger's shoes, and learn what skills you need to prepare yourself for this rewarding and exciting vocation.

Suitable for children aged 10 to 16 accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear old clothes to suit the weather, stout footwear and bring a rain coat too.

Event leader Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Owl Puke

Sunday 23 March, 10 am to 12.30 pm

Come along to meet a real barn owl and discover the secrets of an owl's puke!

We will also be dissecting a pellet of a wild owl to find out what it has been eating as well as creating owl masks to take home.

Suitable for the whole family and wheelchair users.

Meet at the Great Barn, Stanton Park.

Wrap up warm for this event.

Event leader Linda Knight.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Barbury's Lumps and Bumps

Sunday 30 March, 1.30 pm to 4 pm

Apart from the Iron Age hillfort the lumps and bumps at Barbury Castle represent some 4,000 years from the Bronze Age to WW2 – find out which are which on this 2-mile walk of discovery.

Meet by the toilet block at Barbury Castle.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Walk leader Michael Lilley.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

April

Glorious Food

Tuesday 8 April, 10 am to 2 pm

Come and enjoy some simple food cooked over an open fire in this fabulous Green Flag award winning site. We'll start with a simple walk around Stanton, to collect the wood, before building our fire, and enjoying the taste of freshly cooked food.

Suitable for children aged 10 to 16 accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear old clothes to suit the weather and stout footwear.

Head cook Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk



Young Ranger

Saturday 19 April, 10 am to 12 noon

Spend the morning in a Ranger's shoes, and learn what skills you need to prepare yourself for this rewarding and exciting vocation.

Suitable for children aged 10 to 16 accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear old clothes to suit the weather, stout footwear and bring a rain coat too.

Event leader Cristian Starmer.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Stanton Photography; The Great Outdoors

Saturday 26 April, 1.30 pm to 4 pm

A chance to capture the vibrant colours of new life in this great Local Nature Reserve. A bit of time spent in the classroom with our expert Gary Pictor, before being let loose outside for some practice. We'll return back to the classroom to study the results.

Suitable for people of all abilities with any type of digital camera.

Meet at Stanton Park Ranger Centre.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather.

Don't forget to bring your digital camera, and any leads to download files to a pc.

Event leaders Gary Pictor and Tom Murawicki.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk

Coate Photography; Water and Waterfowl

Sunday 27 April, 1.30 pm to 4 pm

Come and capture the beautiful mirrored landscape around Coate Water Reservoir, along with all the wildfowl found on this great body of water. A bit of time spent in the classroom with our expert Gary Pictor, before being let loose outside for some practice. We'll return back to the classroom to study the results.

Suitable for people of all abilities with any type of digital camera.

Meet at Coate Water Ranger Centre.

Please wear clothes to suit the weather.

Don't forget to bring your digital camera, and any leads to download files to a pc.

Event leaders Gary Pictor and Tom Murawicki.

Book in advance on 01793 490150 or parksandwaste@swindoncommercialservices.co.uk