

# North Kent Walking Festival

June 2010

*take a fresh look around...*



# Welcome to the North Kent Walking Festival 2010

The event takes place throughout June and there are some great walks to try out.

You can explore some of the stunning landscapes that make up north Kent, from views of the downs, walks along rivers and estuaries, or experience a sense of wilderness out on the marshes. Find out more about the local area through stories of its past. We've also got walks especially designed for families, so everyone can get involved. You can explore your creative side as well, with photography and art walks.

We've got something really different too, with a Natural Navigation walk. Tristan Gooley will show us how to find our way round the countryside just by following the clues in the natural environment.

The walking festival is made possible by the work of many organisations and groups who want to share in celebrating the great heritage and environment that we have in north Kent. The cost of the event has been supported by Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway, an initiative to promote and improve the quality of the environment for people and wildlife in north Kent.









## How to book

All places on walks need to be booked in advance, as spaces are limited on many walks. Please do not turn up on the day unless you have pre-booked, as you may be turned away. Booking will close 24 hours before the event.

Bookings can be made through the Explore Kent website at: [www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent). Or you can phone **08458 247600** or **01634 338191** to book by telephone.

Full details of all the walks, including directions for the meeting point at the start of the walk, are available on the Explore Kent website. You are advised to check the website for full information on walks. If you do not have access to the internet, please call **01634 338191** and details of walks can be sent to you.

## Choosing your walk - key to symbols

	Easy walk		Access for all		
	Medium difficulty		Escorted older children		Break during walk
	Strenuous walk		Suitable for pushchairs		Dogs on leads welcome

# Explore Kent Walking Festival 2010

24 April - 31 July

The North Kent Walking Festival is part of the wider Explore Kent festival this summer. Explore Kent is the one-stop-shop for information about walking, riding and cycling in Kent. With ideas for great days out, free walks and rides and information about parks and open spaces, it is the perfect place to find something to suit everyone.

This summer, Explore Kent aims to organise one of the biggest and best walking festivals in the country. Explore Kent have worked with walking groups and guided walk leaders across Kent, including the North Kent Walking Festival, Gravesham Heritage Festival and Thanet Walking Festival, so whatever your ability, there really will be something for everyone.

A recent addition to the Explore Kent website is an excellent free guided walks search and booking tool. The first of its kind in the UK, this new tool makes it so easy to find and book your perfect walk. Search by postcode, location, interest, distance or date. Booking is quick and easy and once you have reserved your place(s), you will receive an email to confirm all the details about the walk. All you need to do is turn up and enjoy your guided walk in Kent and Medway, hassle-free!

Choose from over 1,000 guided walks across Kent, from short easy walks to long challenging rambles. Find out more and book your guided walk for free with the new easy to use Explore Kent Guided Walks website. Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent) or call 08458 247 600 to book your walks this summer. Please note, you must have an email address to book a guided walk on the website.

## Walks categories and colour coding

Nature



Place



Creative



Food



Family fun



Stories of the past



## Photographs

Many thanks to the following who supplied the images used in this brochure:

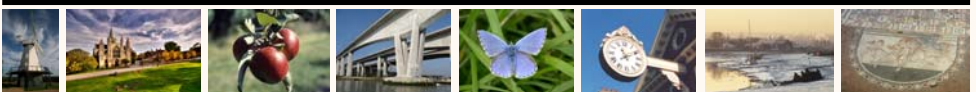
Stuart Cakebread, Dave Lee, John Miller, Barbara Sacher, Pete Keeling, Nigel Lambert, Richard Cottey, Mark Loos, Sarah Dawson, Martin Hall, Sarah Thomas, Anna Card, P-Stroud, Wayne Huzzey, Robert Canis, Explore Kent, Big Fish Arts Trust, North West Kent Countryside Partnership, Gravesham Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Medway Council.

# walks programme

Date	Start Time	Walk	Date	Start Time
Sat 29 May	12pm	Oare Gunpowder Works ●	Thur 10 June	10.30am
Sun 30 May	11am	Shorne Woods ●	Thur 10 June	11.30am
Mon 31 May	11.30am	Meopham Valley Vineyard ●	Thur 10 June	7pm
Tues 1 June	10am	Eye Spy Gravesend ●	Thur 10 June	7.30pm
Tues 1 June	10.30am	Darent River Walk ●	Fri 11 June	6.45pm
Tues 1 June	6 pm	Dartford Marshes ●	Sat 12 June	10am
Tues 1 June	8.30pm	Brooklands Lake Bat Walk ●	Sat 12 June	10am
Wed 2 June	10am	Around Meopham ●	Sat 12 June	11am
Wed 2 June	10am	Gravesend's historic cemetery ●	Sat 12 June	12pm
Wed 2 June	10am	Downs to River ●	Sat 12 June	2pm
Thur 3 June	2pm	Guided walk of New Perry Street ●	Sat 12 June	1.30pm
Thur 3 June	10.30am	High Street Public Houses ●	Sat 12 June	2.15pm
Thur 3 June	11.30am	Central Park Health Walk ●	Sun 13 June	10am
Thur 3 June	7.30 pm	Hidden Rochester ●	Sun 13 June	10.30
Thur 3 June	8.30pm	Brooklands Lake Bat Walk ●	Sun 13 June	10am
Fri 4 June	10am/1.30pm	Screen Printing from Nature ●	Sun 13 June	1pm
Fri 4 June	10am	Thames Estuary - Allhallows ●	Sun 13 June	1.30 pm
Fri 4 June	2 & 6pm	Tour of Northfleet Cemetery ●	Sun 13 June	2.15pm
Fri 4 June	7.30pm	Minster - Medieval Madness ●	Sun 13 June	2.30pm
Sat 5 Jun	10am	Nature and you ●	Mon 14 June	2.00pm
Sat 5 Jun	10.30am	Faversham Town Walk ●	Tues 15 June	10.30am
Sat 5 June	11am	A walk around Pelham Road ●	Wed 16 June	10am
Sat 5 June	1pm	Dartford Marshes ●	Wed 16 June	6pm
Sat 5 June	2pm	Discover Cobham Woods ●	Wed 16 June	10am
Sat 5 June	7.30pm	Minster - Medieval Madness ●	Wed 16 June	10.30am
Sun 6 June	10.15am	Ramble to Upper Bush ●	Wed 16 June	2.15pm
Sun 6 June	10am	Walking Tour of Windmill Hill ●	Thur 17 June	10am
Sun 6 June	10am	Discover Cobham Woods ●	Thur 17 June	11.30am
Sun 6 June	11am pick up	Naughty Nuns & Nightingales ●	Fri 18 June	4:30pm
Mon 7 June	2pm	Rochester: Eastgate Without ●	Fri 18 June	7.30 pm
Tues 8 June	9.30 am	Gillingham Parks ●	Sat 19 June	6.30 am
Tues 8 June	10am	Explore the River Darent ●	Sat 19 June	9.30 am
Wed 9 June	9.45am	Explore Faversham's Farmlands ●	Sat 19 June	10am
Wed 9 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●	Sat 19 June	10am
Wed 9 June	7pm	Medway Valley Woodland Walk ●	Sat 19 June	1.30pm
Thur 10 June	10.30am	Walk around Bedlam's Bottom ●	Sat 19 June	2 & 3.30pm



Walk	Date	Start Time	Walk
The Historic Parks of Rochester ●	Sat 19 June	2pm	Medway Valley ●
Central Park and Dartford Market ●	Sat 19 June	2 pm	Allhallows summer clean-up ●
Dartford Creek & Marshes ●	Sat 19 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●
Hidden Rochester ●	Sat 19 June	7.30 pm	The Incredible Hulks ●
Medway Valley Views ●	Sun 20 June	11am	Orchard Walk ●
Snap Happy: Hidden Hills Hike ●	Sun 20 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●
The Medway Bridges ●	Mon 21 June	9.30 am	Marshes, Creeks and Orchards ●
Heathland Flowers ●	Mon 21 June	9.45am	The Tonge Pond Waddle ●
Oare Gunpowder Works ●	Mon 21 June	2pm	Rochester : Eastgate Without ●
Roaming Perspectives ●	Tues 22 June	6.30am	Tune into the Dawn Chorus ●
Natural Navigation ●	Tues 22 June	1pm	Snap Happy: Jubliant Jeskyns ●
Rochester Historical Walk ●	Wed 23 June	10am	Ranscombe Farmland ●
History and Nature ●	Wed 23 Jun	11am	Enchanted Woodland Walk ●
Introduction to Nordic Walking ●	Wed 23 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●
Bredhurst Woodland ●	Thur 24 June	11.30am	Central Park Walk and Picnic ●
Mid Kent Downs ●	Thur 24 June	10am	A Battle & A Butterfly ●
Introduction to Nordic Walking ●	Thur 24 June	6pm	Saxon Shore Stroll ●
Rochester Historical Walk ●	Thur 24 June	7pm	Bredgar and Dean's Hill ●
Swanscombe Marshes ●	Fri 25 June	10.30am	Rochester Riverside ●
Strood Explored ●	Sat 26 June	9am	A Hidden Kent ●
In and Around Minster Abbey ●	Sat 26 June	10am	Marshes and Muddies ●
History and Nature come together ●	Sat 26 June	10am	Walk4Life Fun Day ●
Ranscombe Evening Ramble ●	Sat 26 June	10am	Creative Coast ●
Through the Tunnel ●	Sat 26 June	10.30am	Urban River Route ●
The Minster Cliffs Walk ●	Sat 26 June	From 10am	In the footsteps of Dickens ●
Rochester Historical Walk ●	Sat 26 June	10.30am	Tyland Round ●
From Church to Court ●	Sat 26 June	10am	Gillingham Cultural Trail ●
Central Park Health Walk ●	Sat 26 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●
Do the Strand ●	Sun 27 June	10.30am	Church and Castle ●
The Incredible Hulks ●	Sun 27 June	10.30am	St Mary's Island ●
Morning has Broken... ●	Sun 27 June	11am	Great Lines Military Heritage ●
Cliffe Pools Bird Walk ●	Sun 27 June	12 pm	Oare Gunpowder Works ●
Over and Under the M20 ●	Sun 27 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●
Creative Coast and Country ●	Tues 29 June	From 10am	Curlews, Convicts , Contraband ●
A Taste of Nordic Walking ●	Wed 30 June	From 12.30pm	Cherry Pickers ●
Court Farm Larder ●	Wed 30 June	2.15pm	Rochester Historical Walk ●





## Real Walker Story

*"I started walking when I was at my lowest self-esteem. My partner passed away and I suffered Osteo-arthritis, could hardly walk and used a walking stick as support.*

*With encouragement from fellow walkers I started walking once a week, lost weight, walking became easier and my blood pressure and cholesterol came down. My arthritis has improved to a point that I walked the Moon Walk in London 26,2 miles in 7h 45m raised £4000 for Cancer research.*

*I am now a Walk Leader and have never looked back. I enjoy every minute of walking with other people, listening and chatting. I have trained as a cascade trainer and hope to go on to train many more Walk Leaders like myself".*

**Lisa Nothbaar - South East Health Walker**

Health Walks are a great way to make friends, stay healthy, have fun and enjoy the outdoors. Walks are short, safe, free and anyone can join in!

Dr William Bird, founder of Walking for Health, famously said *"It's safer to go out walking than to remain sitting on your sofa"*.


So why not join us?

*For more information about regular walks in your area, visit our website or contact the Walking for Health Team on 0300 060 0010*



walk 4 life

[www.wfh.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.wfh.naturalengland.org.uk)



*honey bees gently sip  
wildflower nectar while  
birds call from the  
lofty trees...*

*nature*

# The Natural Navigator

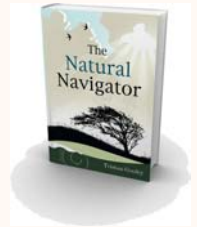


Find your way round without maps or GPS! Starting with a simple question, 'Which way am I looking?', Tristan Gooley blends natural science, myth, folklore and the history of travel to introduce you to the rare and ancient art of finding your way using nature's own sign-posts, from the feel of a rock to a glance at the moon.

With Tristan's help, you'll learn why some trees grow the way they do and how they can help you find your way in the countryside. You'll discover how it's possible to find north simply by looking at a puddle and how natural signs can be used to navigate on the open ocean and in the heart of the city.

Tristan Gooley's approach to the subject is unique in that he does not view it as a survival skill, but as a means to enrich journeys and connect with the world around us. He is an expert in the field of natural navigation. He has recently published a book on the subject and has done articles on Radio 4 and BBC1's Countryfile.

Tristan will be talking about Natural Navigation at Riverside Country Park in Rainham, and then will be leading a walk where he will show what to look for in finding your way around using clues in the natural environment. Please note that places are limited at both the talk and walk, so please book early and do not turn up on the day without booking, as you may be turned away.



Places on the Natural Navigation **walk** can be booked through the Explore Kent website, like all other walks in the festival.

If you would like to book a place at Tristan's **talk**, please telephone Riverside Country Park directly on telephone 01634 337432 or email: [riversidecp@medway.gov.uk](mailto:riversidecp@medway.gov.uk)

**Date:** Saturday 12 June

**Location:** Cuxton

**Time:** Talk, 11am, Walk 1.30 - 4pm

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.8km)

**Organisation:** The Natural Navigator





*North Kent has a rich and diverse wildlife, from the birdlife on the marshes and in the woodlands, to ancient woodland, wildflower meadows and chalk grassland. Join a walk led by a guide to the local wildlife to find out more about the area's plants and animals.*

## DARENT RIVER WALK

Explore the path of the river and the valley's history on a walk from Dartford to South Darenth. The walk includes a break at St John the Baptist church for a drink and guided tour.

**Date:** Tuesday 1 June

**Location:** Darent Valley

**Time:** 10.30am - 2.45pm

**Distance:** 6.8 miles (11km)

**Organisation:** North West Kent Countryside Partnership



## BROOKLANDS LAKE

### BAT WALK

Have you ever wondered why bats only appear at night or where they go during the day? What they feed on? Or how they can be identified in the dark? Are you curious about the family groups they live in or how they communicate with each other? If you would like to learn more about this elusive species and get the chance to see them in their natural habitat then join the North West Kent Countryside Partnership on these two bat walks at Brooklands Lake.

**Date:** Tuesday 1 June, Thursday 3 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 8.30 - 9.30pm

**Distance:** 1 mile (1.6km)

**Organisation:** North West Kent Countryside Partnership



## DOWNS TO RIVER

A long ramble about nature from the heights of Blue Bell Hill to the riverside villages at Wouldham and Burham.

**Date:** Wednesday 2 June

**Location:** Blue Bell Hill

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Distance:** 6.2 miles (10km)

**Organisation:** Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway



## DISCOVER COBHAM WOODS, FROM STROOD

Join the National Trust and Plantlife wardens for an exploration of the 600 acre Cobham Woods, home to the Darnley Mausoleum and a unique and fascinating past. Learn how the woodlands are now being managed in a variety of ways to benefit wildlife and public enjoyment.

**Date:** Saturday 5 June

**Location:** Strood

**Time:** 2 - 5pm

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Organisation:** Plantlife/National Trust



## DISCOVER COBHAM WOODS, FROM COBHAM VILLAGE

Join the National Trust and Plantlife wardens for an exploration of the 600 acre Cobham Woods, home to the Darnley Mausoleum and a unique and fascinating past. Learn how the woodlands are now being managed in a variety of ways to benefit wildlife and public enjoyment.

**Date:** Sunday 6 June

**Location:** Cobham

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Organisation:** Plantlife/National Trust



## MEDWAY VALLEY WOODLAND WALK

Explore the Downs above Halling and Cuxton, through an enchanted evening walk through the woods.

**Date:** Wednesday 9 June

**Location:** Medway

**Time:** 7 - 9.30pm

**Distance:** 4.3 miles (7km)

**Organisation:** Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway



## HEATHLAND FLOWERS

This guided walk takes us around Dartford Heath, looking at the array of wild flowers that grow here amongst the heathers and gorse. A relaxing and easy going walk to explore both open heathland and wooded areas.

**Date:** Saturday 12 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 11am - 1pm

**Distance:** Up to 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Dartford Borough Council



## RANSCOMBE EVENING RAMBLE

An evening tour of the rolling landscape of the Ranscombe Farm Reserve, which takes in ancient woodlands, poppy fields, and flower-rich grasslands, and which offers excellent views across the North Downs.

**Date:** Wednesday 16 June

**Location:** Cuxton, Medway

**Time:** 6 - 8.30pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Plantlife



## FROM CHURCH TO COURT

Enjoy a walk through the orchards and fields from Cobham to Nurstead Court.

**Date:** Thursday 17 June

**Location:** Cobham

**Time:** 10am - 1.30pm

**Distance:** 4.3 miles (7km)

**Organisation:** Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway



## DO THE STRAND

A relaxed easy paced walk along the Medway from the Strand to Riverside Country Park, with an introduction to the birds and plants of the estuary.

**Date:** Friday 18 June

**Location:** Gillingham

**Time:** 4.30 - 6pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** Greening the Gateway  
Kent & Medway



## CLIFFE POOLS BIRD WALK

A walk with the RSPB to see what birds are around and hear how work is progressing in developing this new nature reserve. Please note that the reserve is an exposed site and warm clothing is needed.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Cliffe, Hoo Peninsula

**Time:** 9.30am - 1pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** RSPB



## MARSHES, CREEKS AND ORCHARDS

Find out more about the traditional landscapes of north Kent, and their wildlife on a walk between Oare and Uplees.

**Date:** Monday 21 June

**Location:** Oare, nr Faversham

**Time:** 9.30am - 1pm

**Distance:** 4.3 miles (7km)

**Organisation:** Greening the Gateway  
Kent & Medway



## TUNE INTO THE DAWN CHORUS

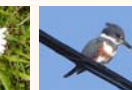
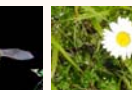
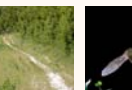
Discover the beauty of early morning midsummer birdsong on a walk with a countryside ranger.

**Date:** Tuesday 22 June

**Location:** Strood

**Time:** 6.30 - 8.30am

**Distance:** To be determined on the day  
**Organisation:** Medway Council



## RANSCOMBE FARMLAND AND PARKLAND

An easy walk guided by the Plantlife reserve ranger along the new footpaths of Ranscombe Farm to the Darnley Mausoleum and back again, with views of the wildflower meadows.

**Date:** Wednesday 23 June

**Location:** Cuxton, Medway

**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group/Plantlife



## A BATTLE & A BUTTERFLY

Starting at Dunkirk pub then into National Nature Reserve via Battle of Bossenden site, on to meet warden to see Heath Fritillaries in peak season.

**Date:** Thursday 24 June

**Location:** Dunkirk

**Time:** 10am - 1.30pm

**Distance:** 5miles (8km)

**Organisation:** The Blean Initiative



*downs grasslands gaze  
across wooded valleys as  
rivers meander through  
historic towns...*

*place*

North Kent is characterised by iconic landscapes; the estuaries and marshes associated with the Thames and its tributaries and the chalk hills of the Downs. The towns are marked by a long maritime history and their strategic position along routes to the coast.

The area has the atmospheric marshes that Dickens used as the scene setter for *Great Expectations*, and they still offer the sense of openness and remoteness today that they did in the past.

There are lots of hidden gems to discover on the doorstep, alongside the more familiar sights of the towns and countryside.



*Enjoy walks alongside the rivers that have shaped the landscapes and history of north Kent.*

## THAMES ESTUARY - ALLHALLOWS

A gentle marshland/estuary walk on the Hoo Peninsula by the side of the Thames and along Yantlet Creek, with time to watch the dramatic contrasts of life on the Thames with its birdlife and shipping.

**Date:** Friday 4 June  
**Location:** Allhallows  
**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm  
**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.2km)  
**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## NATURE AND YOU

A walk from Church Marshes Country Park to the creekside wetlands, seeing the working landscape alongside its natural wildlife.

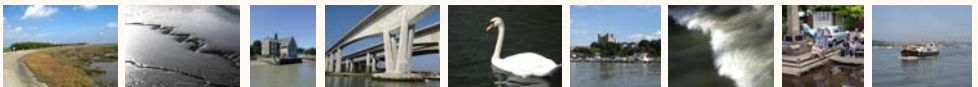
**Date:** Saturday 5 June  
**Location:** Sittingbourne  
**Time:** 10am - 12pm  
**Distance:** 6.2 miles (10km)  
**Organisation:** Swale Borough Council



## EXPLORE THE RIVER DARENT

Discover the River Darent and the charming villages of Shoreham and Eynsford.

**Date:** Tuesday 8 June  
**Location:** Darent Valley  
**Time:** 10am - 1pm  
**Distance:** 6 miles (9.7km)  
**Organisation:** Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway



## MEDWAY BRIDGES AND ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE

A walk by the Medway crossing the historic Rochester Bridge and the landmark M2 bridge, including sights new and old at Rochester Riverside and Temple Manor. The walk leader will share his professional knowledge of working by the river and the history of the bridges.

**Date:** Saturday 12 June

**Location:** Rochester

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## MINSTER CLIFFS WALK

A walk down towards the Swale estuary, enjoying views out to sea and back to the village, finishing with a tour of Minster Abbey.

**Date:** Wednesday 16 June

**Location:** Minster-on-Sea, Sheppey

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.45pm

**Distance:** Up to 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** East Kent Health Walks



## SAXON SHORE WALK

An after work stroll along the shore from Lower Upnor, with tales of the area's naval history, returning inland to enjoy great views across Medway and beyond.

**Date:** Thursday 24 June

**Location:** Upnor, nr Chatham

**Time:** 6 - 8pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Medway Council



## ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE

A walk along the riverside path remembering the area's industrial history and the use made of the river.

**Date:** Friday 25 June

**Location:** Rochester

**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (2.4km)

**Organisation:** City of Rochester Society



## ST MARY'S ISLAND

This Centenary Walk takes in the old naval basins used to build and house many of the warships built at the Chatham dockyard. You will also walk around the island which was built by prisoners, offering great views of Upnor

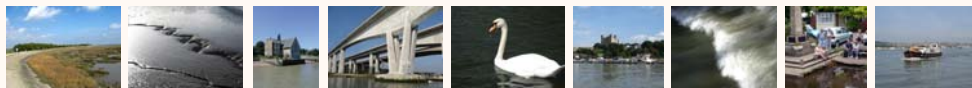
**Date:** Sunday 27 June

**Location:** Chatham Maritime

**Time:** 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Distance:** 3.75 miles (6km)

**Organisation:** All Saints Community Walking Group





*The chalk hills, valleys, meadows and woods of the Downs help to give Kent its distinctive character. They are recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to protect their special landscape.*

## UPS AND DOWNS AROUND MEOPHAM

A pleasant walk from Meopham through woods and over fields into Happy Valley and passing through the village of Harvel, with a few steep climbs being rewarded by fine views.

**Date:** Wednesday 2 June

**Location:** Meopham

**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## RAMBLE TO UPPER BUSH

This Sunday morning walk takes you up into the woods above Cuxton and onto Bush Valley, a real hidden gem, with great Downs and River Medway views.

**Date:** Sunday 6 June

**Location:** Cuxton

**Time:** 10.15am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.2km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## MEDWAY VALLEY VIEWS

We descend through woodland to find the CTRL line which we follow to Nashenden Farm then along the North Downs Way back to the start. Stunning valley views including the Medway Bridge.

**Date:** Friday 11 June

**Location:** Bluebell Hill

**Time:** 6.45 - 8.45pm

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.2km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## BREDHURST WOODLAND AND COUNTRYSIDE

Enjoy a walk through ancient woodland and the Kent Downs around Bredhurst.

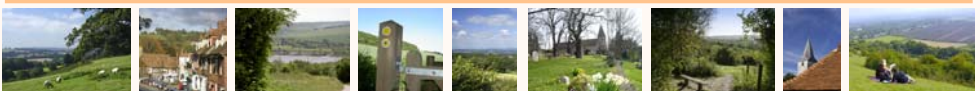
**Date:** Sunday 13 June

**Location:** Bredhurst

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group





## MID KENT DOWNS VALLEYS AND PLATEAUX

Experience the charms of the Kent Downs on a walk through woodlands, meadows, and valleys.

**Date:** Sunday 13 June

**Location:** Newnham

**Time:** 1 - 4.30pm

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** John Llewelin



## MORNING HAS BROKEN...

*This is Walk 1 of three walks that all start and finish at the roadside café. You are free to pick and mix as you chose. If you do all three you will cover 17 miles throughout the day - but it is for you to choose / perhaps decide after each walk whether to continue. These three walks could help you decide if you are up to undertaking the 18 mile walk on 26 June.*

Experience the special atmosphere of an early morning walk through the Downs and ancient yew woodland overlooking the Medway Valley. This walk is quite strenuous in places, but a certain appetite builder for breakfast at the local café at the end.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Bluebell Hill

**Time:** 6.30 - 8.30am

**Distance:** 4miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## OVER AND UNDER THE M20

An opportunity to see the countryside we mainly travel though at high speed in our cars, discovering layers of history, following the Pilgrims Way and riverside paths.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Bluebell Hill

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Distance:** 6miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## BREDGAR AND DEANS HILL

An undulating walk across fields and countryside, enjoying great views across the Thames. A perfect way to enjoy the long summer evenings.

**Date:** Thursday 24 June

**Location:** Bredgar

**Time:** 7 - 9.30pm

**Distance:** 6miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** Swale Footpaths Group



## TYLAND ROUND

An easy paced walk through the Downs, passing points of historical interest. There is a break for lunch at a pub along the route.

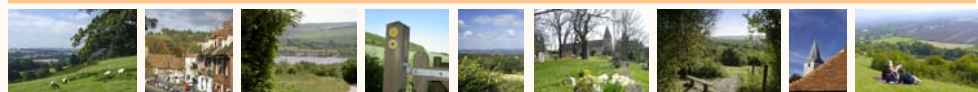
**Date:** Saturday 26 June

**Location:** Sandling

**Time:** 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Distance:** 5miles (8km)

**Organisation:** All Saints Community Walking Group



# Naughty Nuns & Nightingales Tour



Would you like a day out in the countryside without a long walk? Then this tour is designed for you.

You will be picked up at a convenient location in Gravesham and enjoy a tour to the hamlet of Church Street where you can learn the tale of the naughty nuns and visit the beautiful St Mary's Church.

You will then be driven across the marshes to the Thames, listening out for nightingales along the way before finishing with a drink at the Six Bells pub in Cliffe village.

All transport, light refreshments and a fully guided tour are included. **Please note that pick ups are from the Gravesham area.** Please bring some change to enjoy a drink in the pub. £22.00 per person. To book a place contact Carol Donaldson on **07588 727510**.

**Date:** Sunday 6 June

**Location:** Higham

**Time:** 11am - 4pm

**Distance:** Minimal walking required

**Organisation:** Little Owl Tours



*Wide open spaces, big skies, windswept reeds - an experience of wilderness and a step back in time.*

## WALK AROUND BEDLAM'S BOTTOM

The walk is mainly over marshland with lovely views and a variety of birds.

**Date:** Thursday 10 June

**Location:** Iwade

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** East Kent Health Walks



## CHURCH AND CASTLE

Circular walk through Dickens' countryside from Cliffe Church across open countryside to Cooling Castle and St James' Church.

**Date:** Sunday 27 June

**Location:** Cliffe, Hoo Peninsula

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## CURLEWS, CONVICTS & CONTRABAND

Join us for a tour of the mysterious North Kent Marshes to visit the enigmatic St Mary's and Egypt Bays once the haunt of smugglers and hiding ground for Abel Magwitch, one of Charles Dickens most memorable characters from Great Expectations. After a picnic on the shore of the Thames we make our way back inland enjoying the calls of the wild birds along the foreshore and some truly stunning views of this dramatic landscape. Break during walk, bring a picnic.

**Date:** Monday 29 June

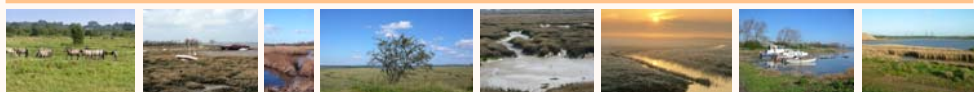
**Location:** High Halstow, Hoo Peninsula

**Time:** Coach pick ups throughout Medway Towns beginning at 10.00am.

Tour 7 hrs, walking time 5 hrs

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** Little Owl Tours



## EXPLORE FAVERSHAM'S FARMLANDS

A circular walk through a mixture of picturesque farmlands and countryside around the historic market town of Faversham, using part of the Swale Heritage Trail.

**Date:** Wednesday 9 June

**Location:** Faversham

**Time:** 9.45am - 12pm

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.7km)

**Organisation:** East Kent Health Walks



## IN AND AROUND MINSTER ABBEY

A walk down towards the Swale estuary, enjoying views out to sea and back to the village, finishing up with a tour of Minster Abbey.

**Date:** Thursday 15 June

**Location:** Minster-on-Sea, Sheppey

**Time:** 10.15am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** East Kent Health Walks



## THE TONGE POND WADDLE

A walk out to the countryside to visit Tonge Country Park with its mill and pond.

**Date:** Monday 21 June

**Location:** Sittingbourne

**Time:** 9.45 - 11am

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** East Kent Health Walks



## A HIDDEN KENT

This day-long walk explores the countryside and villages around Sittingbourne, discovering often overlooked places. This is a long walk over a full day, only suitable for experienced walkers able to walk this distance. Break during walk - bring two packed lunches.

**Date:** Saturday 26 June

**Location:** Sittingbourne

**Time:** 9am - 7pm

**Distance:** 18 miles (32km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## GILLINGHAM PARKS AND GREENSPACES

Enjoy a relaxed, friendly walk through the urban parks and greens of Gillingham, with views across the River Medway.

**Date:** Tuesday 8 June

**Location:** Gillingham

**Time:** 9.15 - 10.30am

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Medway Council Health Walks



## INTRODUCTION TO NORDIC WALKING

An introduction to the techniques of Nordic Walking in the setting of the new woodland country park at Jeskyns.

**Date:** Sunday 13 June

**Location:** Jeskyns Country Park, Cobham

**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm

**Distance:** 2miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Bodywise Nordic Walking and Pilates



## INTRODUCTION TO NORDIC WALKING

An introduction to the techniques of Nordic Walking in the surroundings of Central Park in Dartford.

**Date:** Sunday 13 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 1.30 - 3pm

**Distance:** 2miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Bodywise Nordic Walking and Pilates



## A TASTE OF NORDIC WALKING

An introduction to Nordic Walking whilst enjoying views over the estuary.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Riverside Country Park, Rainham

**Time:** 1.30 - 3pm

**Distance:** 2miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Bodywise Nordic Walking and Pilates



A good walk doesn't need to be in the countryside - discover the interesting sights and stories of the riverside towns across north Kent.

## HIGH STREET PUBLIC HOUSES - OLD AND NEW

Join Tom Baines on a guided tour of Gravesend High Street and discover where the old Taverns and Inns once stood. Did you know there was a pub named after the oldest man? Discover the alleyways named after public houses and the many pubs that have changed names.

£4.00 per adult £2.50 per child/senior citizen. Places are limited - Booking essential at Towncentric (call on 01474 337600 or email [info@towncentric.co.uk](mailto:info@towncentric.co.uk)).

**Date:** Thursday 3 June

**Location:** Gravesend

**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Council



## NEW PERRY STREET GUIDED WALK

Enjoy a walk around New Perry Street before returning to the Library for refreshments, questions and an opportunity to look at books on the local area. £1 per person. To book your place contact Coldharbour Library on 01474 534787

**Date:** Thursday 3 June

**Location:** Northfleet

**Time:** 2 - 3.30pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Council



## HIDDEN ROCHESTER

This walk will go in and around the parts of Rochester that other walks don't reach, to discover landmarks and secret parks.

**Date:** Thursday 3 and 10 June

**Location:** Rochester

**Time:** 7.30 - 9.30pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



## PELHAM ROAD WALK

A local guide will lead this walk through the town and history of Gravesend. £4.00 adult, £2.50 sen/ch. Places are limited - booking essential at Towncentric (call on 01474 337600 or emailinfo@towncentric.co.uk).

**Date:** Saturday 5 June

**Location:** Gravesend

**Time:** 11am - 1pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Council



## FAVERSHAM TOWN WALK

A short easy paced walk, with a local historian seeing how the past has left its traces on the town.

**Date:** Saturday 5 June

**Location:** Faversham

**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm

**Distance:** 1.25 miles (2km)

**Organisation:** The Faversham Society



## THE HISTORIC PARKS OF ROCHESTER

A trail through the green spaces of the city with a local historian - including the Cathedral Gardens, the castle and the Esplanade. You may then choose to visit Restoration House and gardens at a special discounted rate of £5.50.

**Date:** Thursday 10 June

**Location:** Rochester

**Time:** 10.30am - 12pm

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (2.4km)

**Organisation:** City of Rochester Society



## GILLINGHAM CULTURAL TRAIL

Starting at Chatham Historic Dockyard Visitor Car Park, take in the new Universities' Campus, Lower Lines and Medway Parks and Great Lines Heritage Park. Pre-official opening preview of No.1 Smithery.

**Date:** Saturday 26 June


**Location:** Gillingham

**Time:** 10am - 2pm

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Organisation:** Medway Renaissance





*stunning views set cameras  
clicking and writers remember  
while paint-stained brushes  
capture rolling hills...*

*creative*

# Snap Happy - Hidden Hills Hike



Join us for a guided circular walk starting and ending at Broomfield arable farm. The route covers woodland, meadows, and passes farm animals (children will love it), showcasing some of Gravesham's best views over rolling hillside.

This is a must-do event for walkers and photo-lovers (of all skills) alike. The walk returns to the farm where you can explore the farm shop.

**Date:** Saturday 12 June

**Location:** Meopham

**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 3.5 miles (5.6km)

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council





Artists across the years have been inspired by the landscape and natural environment. Take inspiration from one of our walks specially designed to bring out your creative side.

Please bring along your camera and/or sketch book to make the most of these walks.

## DARTFORD CREEK AND MARSHES - TAKING A VIEW

A unique opportunity to join this guided walk around Dartford Creek and Marshes to capture your view of this wetland landscape at dusk. It is open to all, no matter what camera you own or your level of expertise as advice will be on hand. We will provide background information on the area, lead you to some good locations for creating your images and provide on hand tips for getting the most from your camera.

**Date:** Thursday 10 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 7 - 9pm

**Distance:** 1.7 miles (3km)

**Organisation:** North West Kent Countryside Project/ Dartford & District Photographic Society



## ROAMING PERSPECTIVES, RUSHENDEN

This walk is a photographic walk to document the beauty of the natural environment in Rushenden. There will be a guest artist leading the group to promote creativity.

**Date:** Saturday 12 June

**Location:** Rushenden, Sheppey

**Time:** 2 - 4pm

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Art at the Centre



## CREATIVE COAST AND COUNTRY

A creative walk along the Saxon Shore Way to Berengrave Nature Reserve, capturing views across the Medway estuary.

Please bring cameras, paints, sketch books and a packed lunch.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Rainham

**Time:** 10am - 2.30pm

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.8km)

**Organisation:** Medway Swale Estuary Partnership



## SNAP HAPPY: JUBLIANT JESKYNS

This guided walk will explore Jeskyns Community Woodland, its history, wildlife and plans for the future. This is a leisurely afternoon stroll, with an added focus on photography. We will end with a special live performance from a local choir to round off the afternoon. If you are an avid photographer or a keen amateur, this walk will have plenty of interesting subjects, with advice on hand. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Date:** Tuesday 22 June

**Location:** Cobham

**Time:** 1 - 3.30pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council



## CREATIVE COAST

A creative walk around the beautiful Elmley Bird Reserve, offering fantastic views over across the Swale.

Please bring cameras, paints, sketch books and a packed lunch.

**Date:** Saturday 26 June

**Location:** Elmley

**Time:** 10am - 3pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** MSEP/Historical Hillwalkers



## SNAP HAPPY: URBAN RIVER ROUTE

This guided walk is perfect for walkers, historians and photographers interested in architecture, heritage and scenic views. We will start in Gravesend town centre and follow the River Thames eastward using forgotten footpaths and taking in unique historic buildings and landscapes. This is an easy and interesting route with lots of detail to capture the imagination. See parts of Gravesend you may never have known existed.

**Date:** Saturday 26 June

**Location:** Gravesend

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.8km)

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council



A close-up photograph of two ripe, red tomatoes hanging from a vine. The tomatoes are the central focus, with one in the foreground and another slightly behind it. They are surrounded by green leaves and dark stems. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture and color of the tomatoes.

*from the orchards and farmland  
to the oyster beds of Whitstable,  
Kent has numerous  
culinary delights...*

*food*

# Court Farm Country Larder



Guided woodland walks taking in the attractive countryside of the North Downs around Court Farm in Upper Halling. These walks are part of a larger event - the 'Court Farm Country Larder' - a free to enter open day run by the West Kent Downs Countryside Trust.

Visitors can enjoy tractor & trailer tours around the farm (fun for all the family), BBQ using local produce, beer tasting, and arts & craft stalls.

Tractor rides leave at regular intervals throughout the afternoon - no need to book, whilst for the walks priority will be given to advance bookings.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Upper Halling, Medway

**Time:** 12 - 3.30pm and 3.30 - 5pm for 1.5 hours

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Plantlife



*Enjoy the tastes of the countryside and find out more about food and drink from the Garden of England*

## TOUR OF MEOPHAM VALLEY VINEYARD

Enjoy a guided tour of this local organic vineyard, tasting their different wines along the way. The two hectare vineyard grows a wide range of grapes and makes white, red, rosé and sparkling wines plus grape juice.

£2.00 booking fee per head. Places are limited - booking essential at Towncentric (call 01474 337600 or email [info@towncentric.co.uk](mailto:info@towncentric.co.uk)).

**Date:** Monday 31 May

**Location:** Meopham

**Time:** 11.30am - 1pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council



## CENTRAL PARK HEALTH WALK AND SMOOTHIE MAKING

This short walk will take in the gardens and outdoor gym equipment of Central Park and go onto Brookland Lakes, before returning to Dartford Library for smoothie making session with a difference.

**Date:** Thursday 3 and 17 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 11.30am - 1pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** Dartford Borough Council



## CENTRAL PARK AND DARTFORD MARKET WALK

This short walk will move through the green heart of Dartford, Central Park, taking in the views of the beautiful formal gardens, the newly built bandstand, and the River Darent which runs through the park. The walk will then move into Dartford Town Centre visiting the weekly market. The Living Well Healthy Living Centre will be at the market with their Community Chef who will be giving out lots of helpful cooking tips and advice, as well as some delicious tasters.

**Date:** Thursday 10 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 11.30am - 1pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** Dartford Borough Council



## ORCHARD WALK

Join this guided walk around the orchards at the National Fruit collection at Brogdale - a treasure house of old varieties. The National Fruit Collection is one of the largest fruit collections in the world and includes over 3,500 named apple, pear, plum, cherry, bush fruit, vine and cob nut cultivars. You will see the part of the orchard that is seasonally most interesting, with a guide providing witty and historical commentary.

**Date:** Sunday 20 June

**Location:** Faversham

**Time:** 11am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 1.6 miles (2.5km)

**Organisation:** Brogdale Collections



## CENTRAL PARK WALK AND PICNIC

A short walk enjoying the gardens, views of the river and the outdoor gym equipment in Central Park. After the walk, you can enjoy a picnic in the park if you would like to bring a lunch along. Free tea and coffee will be available from Dartford library.

**Date:** Thursday 24 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 11.30am - 1pm

**Distance:** 2.5 miles (4km)

**Organisation:** Dartford Borough Council



## CHERRY PICKERS

What better way to spend a June afternoon than a stroll in a cherry orchard, one of the best kept secrets in Kent. We begin our stroll in the historic village of Cooling and take a scenic walk learning about orchard wildlife and traditions before trying our hand at making our very own bottle of cherry brandy. (All ingredients provided)

**Date:** Wednesday 30 June

**Location:** Cooling, Hoo Peninsula

**Time:** Coach picks up throughout Medway and Gravesham, starting at 12.30pm in Medway.. The tour lasts 5 hours, with the walk 2 hours.

**Distance:** 1.5 - 2 miles (2.4 - 3.2km)

**Organisation:** Little Owl Tours



*grandparents stroll slowly  
as parents walk hand in hand  
and children run ahead to see  
what's round the corner...*



*family  
fun*

# Eye Spy Gravesend



Many people will remember enjoying 'I Spy' books when they were young. They were a great way for children to look out for things in places they were visiting - and to understand a little about what they were seeing. Local families are invited to spend a day with South East Planning Aid and have fun helping to develop and produce an 'Eye Spy' book for Gravesend town centre and riverside. This day-long event includes a sandwich lunch, refreshments and certificates.

Suitable for children aged seven and over with accompanying parent/guardian. One parent or guardian per two children please. Suitable outdoor clothing is required as we will be out and about exploring, sketching and photographing for some of the day.

£3.00 per child including refreshments. Places are limited - booking essential at Towncentric (call on 01474 337600 or [emailinfo@towncentric.co.uk](mailto:emailinfo@towncentric.co.uk)).

**Date:** Thursday 1 June

**Location:** Gravesend

**Time:** 10am - 3pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council





*Walks for all the family to enjoy. Although many of the walks in the festival are suitable for children, we have designed some to have a special appeal for families.*

## A WALK THROUGH TIME

A fun family event for all ages, led by our community archaeologist who will reveal the park's fascinating historical past on a guided walk. A great chance to handle and discover the park's hidden archaeology from Stone Age to the present. £2.00 booking fee per person. Normal car parking charges apply.

**Date:** Sunday 30 May

**Location:** Shorne Woods Country Park

**Time:** 11am - 1pm

**Distance:** 1.22 miles (2km)



## FOLLOW THE NUMBER TRAIL AT GRAVESEND'S HISTORIC CEMETERY

Pick up a leaflet from the chapel and follow the trail to discover interesting features. Suitable for children aged 7 - 14 who must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required.

**Date:** Wednesday 2 June

**Location:** Gravesend

**Time:** 10am - 3pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council



## SCREEN PRINTING FROM NATURE

Take inspiration from a walk to gather ideas for images such as leaves, flowers, insects, that can be used to create a paper stencil and then screen print the image onto a bag or T- Shirt to take away. Children aged 5 - 8yrs will need to be accompanied by an adult, those aged 8 and above can come unsupervised.

**Date:** Friday 4 June

**Location:** Riverside Country Park

**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm, 1.30 - 4pm

**Distance:** 1 mile (1.6km)

**Organisation:** Stitch and Print



## ALLHALLOWS SUMMER CLEAN-UP AND BBQ

This family friendly event will be a guided walk with a difference. It is a chance to find out more about the history and wildlife of the area and help clean up the village all at the same time! A FREE community barbecue will reward litter pickers at the end of the day.

**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Allhallows

**Time:** 2 - 5pm

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.8km)

**Organisation:** Kent Wildlife Trust/  
Allhallows Parish Council



## Walk4Life - FAMILY WALK AND ACTIVITY DAY

This walk is for all the family to enjoy, it will start from the memorial garden and will venture into Central Park passing through the Princes Tunnel and will follow the paths around the lakes in a loop before heading back to the starting point.

After the walk the Don't Sit Get Fit and Naturally Active teams will be hosting lots of fun activities and games in the park including, disc golf, cricket, football, smoothie-making, interactive cooking and much more. After all the fun and games why don't you make a day of it and bring along a picnic too.

**Date:** Saturday 26 June

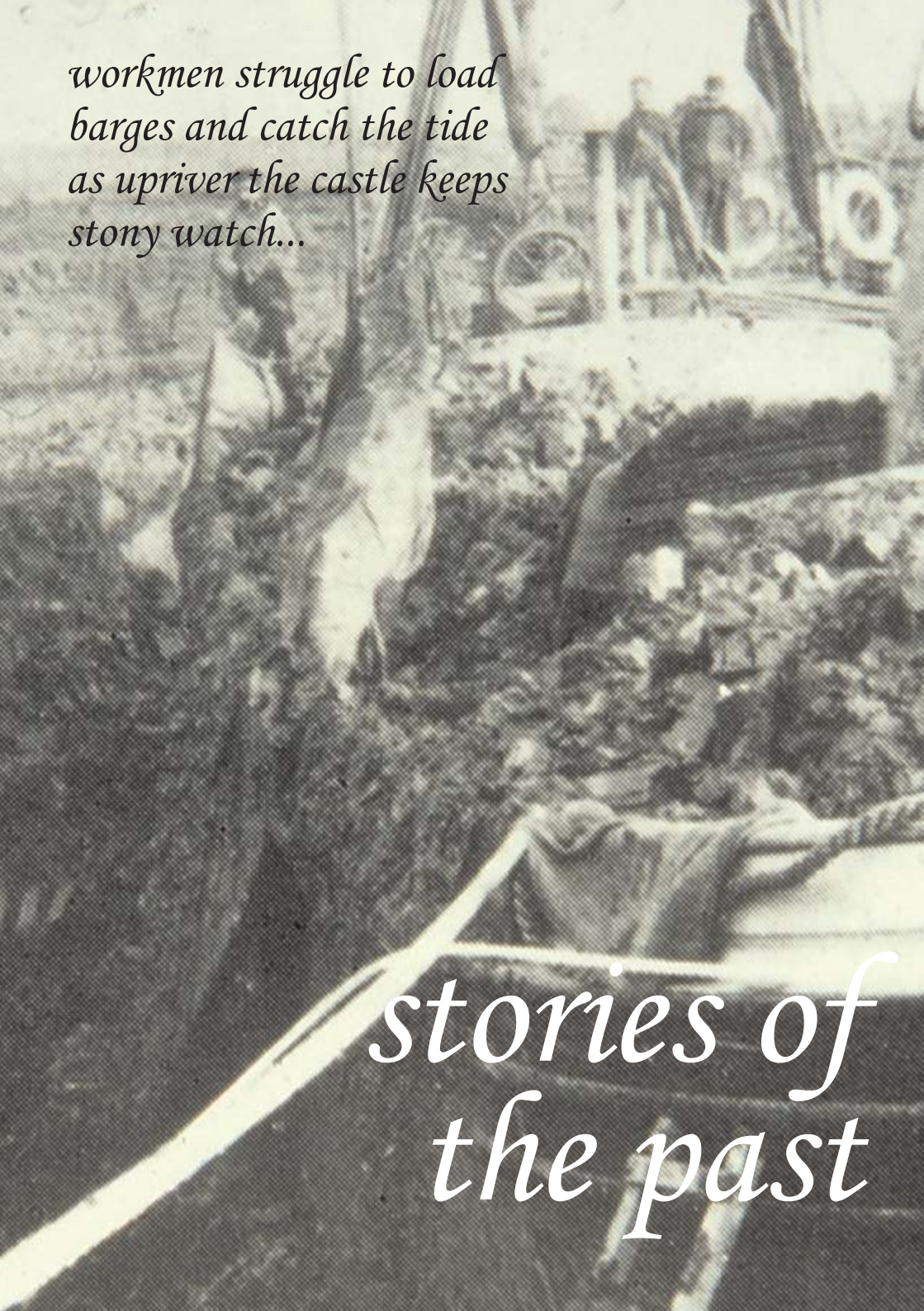
**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 10am - 1pm

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Don't Sit Get Fit & Naturally Active





*workmen struggle to load  
barges and catch the tide  
as upriver the castle keeps  
stony watch...*

*stories of  
the past*

# Minster Medieval Madness



Costumed characters tell their stories and bring the history of Minster to life.

Witness the establishment of the Abbey, romantically inclined Vikings, smugglers telling their tales and local ghosts ceaselessly haunting as we explore the streets and pathways in and around Minster Abbey with music and songs and finally enjoy a dram with Mr. Hogarth.

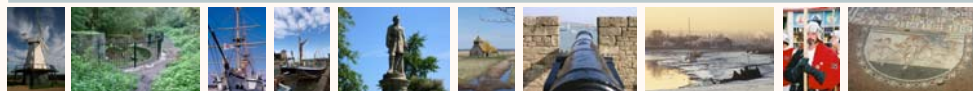
**Date:** Friday 4 and Saturday 5 June

**Location:** Minster-on-Sea, Sheppey

**Time:** 7.30 - 9pm

**Distance:** 1 mile (1.6km)

**Organisation:** Big Fish Arts Trust



*Discover the stories behind local landmarks, find out how past industries and people have left their mark on the landscape and how they have shaped the character of our towns today.*

## HISTORY OF OARE GUNPOWDER WORKS

An experienced guide will walk you around this beautiful site, pointing out the wildlife and fabulous industrial remains of a once thriving industrious site, sharing stories of gunpowder production, explosions and the people who worked there.

**Date:** Saturday **29 May**, Saturday **12 June** and Sunday **27 June**

**Location:** Oare, nr Faversham

**Time:** 12 - 2pm

**Distance:** 1 mile (1.6km)

**Organisation:** Groundwork Kent & Medway



## HISTORY & WILDLIFE OF DARTFORD MARSHES

Join a local historian and a conservation officer for a tour of the Marshes. Learn about their history, including their use as an airfield, fever ships and the Longreach Tavern. Sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline.

**Location:** Dartford Marshes

**Date 1:** Tuesday 1 June

**Time:** 6 - 8pm

**Distance:** 3.1 miles (5km)

**Date 2:** Saturday 5 June

**Time:** 1 - 4.30pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Groundwork Kent & Medway



## TOUR OF NORTHFLEET CEMETERY

Enjoy an informative presentation in the chapel of Northfleet Cemetery about the history of the site and then explore the grounds on a guided walk to hear about the characters buried there. These include Carl Ekman, who had the flats in Northfleet named after him and the Rosher family. £2.00 booking fee per person. Places are limited - booking essential at Towncentric (call on 01474 337600 or email [info@towncentric.co.uk](mailto:info@towncentric.co.uk)).

**Date:** Friday 4 June

**Location:** Northfleet, nr Gravesend

**Time:** 2 - 4pm and 6 - 8pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council



## WINDMILL HILL WALK

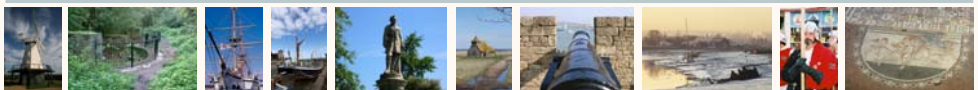
Discover the history of Windmill Hill with local historian Tony Larkin. Look at the properties and hear about some of the characters who lived there. £4.00 per adult, £2.50 per child/senior citizen. Places are limited - Booking essential at Towncentric (call on 01474 337600 or email [info@towncentric.co.uk](mailto:info@towncentric.co.uk)).

**Date:** Sunday 6 June

**Location:** Gravesend

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Organisation:** Gravesham Borough Council



## EASTGATE WITHOUT

This walk will explore the eastern end of the City of Rochester, with a local historical guide pointing out places of interest and their role in the development of the city.

**Date:** Monday 7 June and Monday 21 June

**Location:** Rochester

**Time:** 2 - 4pm

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** City of Rochester Society



## ROCHESTER HISTORICAL WALKS

An exploration of the historic city centre of Rochester, providing the background to the buildings and their connections to the past and tales of Dickens.

**Date:** Every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 June (9, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27 and 30 June)

**Location:** Rochester

**Time:** 2.15 - 3.45pm

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (2.4km)

**Organisation:** City of Rochester Society



## HISTORY AND NATURE COME TOGETHER

The walk covers Berengrave Local Nature Reserve, which is the old site of Rainham chalk quarry and Motney Hill cement works. Learn about the history, geology and nature of the area. See the current archaeological dig which has exposed early 20th century industrial artefacts associated with cement production.

**Date:** Sunday 13 June and Wednesday 16 June

**Location:** Berengrave, Rainham

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (2.4km)

**Organisation:** Friends of Berengrave



## GUIDED HISTORICAL WALK ACROSS SWANSCOMBE MARSHES

To celebrate reopening of the Pilgrims Road pathway onto the marshes, local historian Christoph Bull will lead a walk across the marshes and through the Northfleet/Swancombe border area talking about the cement industry and the local history of the area. This is the first time this walk has been done since 1999 shortly before the path was blocked off by the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

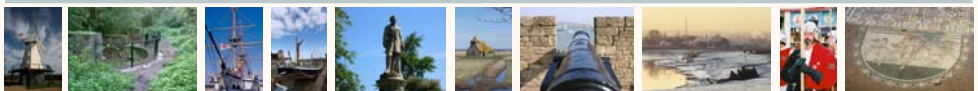
**Date:** Sunday 13 June

**Location:** Swancombe

**Time:** 2.30 - 5pm

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.4km)

**Organisation:** Gravesend Historical Society/Swancombe & Greenhithe Town Council



## STROOD EXPLORED

A historical walk through Strood. Sights include Rochester road and rail bridges, St Nicholas Church, the site of the Thames and Medway Canal and Strood riverside.

**Date:** Monday 14 June

**Location:** Strood

**Time:** 2 - 4pm

**Distance:** 1.5 miles (2.4km)

**Organisation:** City of Rochester Society



## THROUGH THE TUNNEL

An easy walk looking at the history of Central Park, learning about the construction of the Princes Tunnel before passing through it, examining the hidden stories of Brooklands Lakes and then discovering the Powder Mills. The walk will be illustrated throughout by a collection of A4 photographs showing how places on the walk used to look in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Date:** Wednesday 16 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Dartford Borough Museum



## THE INCREDIBLE HULKS

Costumed characters tell their stories and bring the history of Blue Town to life. Experience the early years of Sheerness Dockyard and life in the raw on the 'Hulks', meet the heroes and raucous villains of Blue Town as we explore the streets and back alleys, with music and songs and a chance for a drink at the end.

**Date:** Friday 18 and Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Sheerness

**Time:** 7.30 - 9pm

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Big Fish Arts Trust



## MEDWAY VALLEY AND EARLY INHABITATION

A walk full of history along the River Medway and the Downs, passing the sites of a Roman palace, the Neolithic Whitehorse community and the Pilgrim's Spring / St Stephen's Chapel and two megaliths.

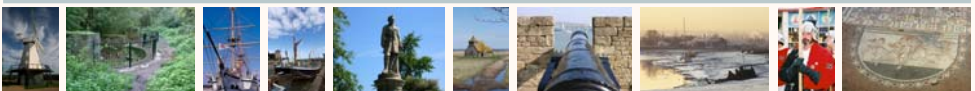
**Date:** Saturday 19 June

**Location:** Bluebell Hill

**Time:** 2 - 5.30pm

**Distance:** 7 miles (11.3km)

**Organisation:** Ramblers Association - Medway Group



# In the footsteps of Dickens



Follow in the footsteps of Charles Dickens with a visit to his home at Gads Hill and a walk from there through the woodlands to picturesque Shore village. From there we travel across country to Cooling village with the option of lunch in the Horseshoe & Castle country pub before taking a stroll to visit Pip's graves at St James's Church, reputedly the setting for the opening pages of Great Expectations.

Here we will also sample a favourite homemade Victorian tippie before returning home in our comfy coach.

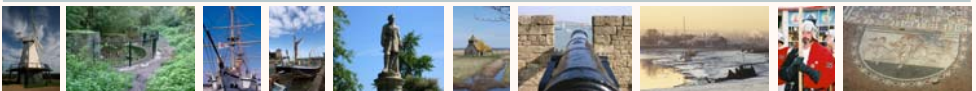
**Date:** Saturday 26 June

**Location:** Higham, Cooling

**Time:** Coach pick ups throughout Medway and Gravesham beginning at 10am. Tour 4-5 hrs depending on pick up location. Walking time 1hr approx.

**Distance:** 1.5 - 2 miles (2.4 - 3.2km)

**Organisation:** Little Owl Tours





## ENCHANTED WOODLAND WALK

Join us for a summer saunter through the Enchanted Woodland, the site of the old Joyce Green Hospital's cemetery. Find out about the history that surrounds the Woodland through this fascinating narrative of local lore, brought to you by the new owners of the land, the Temple Hill Trust.

**Date:** Wednesday 23 June

**Location:** Dartford

**Time:** 11am - 1pm

**Distance:** 2 miles (3.2km)

**Organisation:** Temple Hill Trust



## MARSHES, MUDDIES AND HOGARTH'S BUDDIES

Discover the hidden history of Stoke and its surrounding marshland. Join us for a family-friendly walk through the Stoke villages and along the sea wall, where you'll find out about vanished buildings and industries, colourful characters from the past, and the unique wildlife of Stoke Saltings. The walk will also feature a demonstration of Bat and Trap at a local pub, and spectacular views of the Medway estuary from the church tower.

**Date:** Saturday 26 June

**Location:** Hoo Peninsula

**Time:** 10am - 12.30pm

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.8km)

**Organisation:** Kent Wildlife Trust/Alan Marshall



## GREAT LINES MILITARY HERITAGE TRAIL

Discover the military history associated with Fort Amherst, and the Great Lines. It follows a trail around and across the Great Lines, taking in the development of the fortifications, their history, the Royal Marines, Royal Engineers, Chatham barracks, siege operations and the role played during the Second World War.

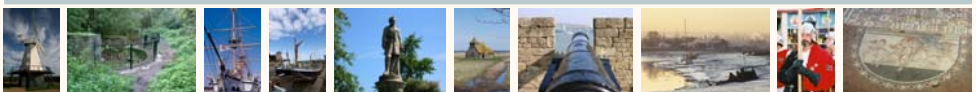
**Date:** Sunday 27 June

**Location:** Chatham

**Time:** 11am - 2pm

**Distance:** 3.5 miles (5.6km)

**Organisation:** Fort Amherst Heritage Trust



## **List of partners**

Greening the Gateway Kent & Medway  
Medway Council  
Kent County Council  
Swale Borough Council  
Gravesham Borough Council  
Dartford Borough Council  
Medway Renaissance  
Ramblers Association - Medway Group  
Swale Footpaths Group  
East Kent Health Walks  
Medway Primary Care Trust  
Naturally Active (North West Kent Countryside Partnership)  
Bodywise Nordic Walking and Pilates  
All Saints Community Walking Group  
Plantlife International  
Kent Wildlife Trust  
RSPB  
Friends of Berengrave  
Little Owl Tours  
Medway Swale Estuary Partnership  
The City of Rochester Society  
The Faversham Society  
Fort Amherst Heritage Trust  
Blean Heritage & Community Group  
Big Fish Arts Trust  
Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works  
Stoke Parish Council  
The Natural Navigator  
Groundwork Kent & Medway  
National Trust  
Dartford and District Photographic Society  
Art at the Centre  
Historical Hillwalkers  
Meopham Valley Vineyard  
West Kent Downs Countryside Trust  
Brogdale Collections  
Stitch and Print  
Allhallows Parish Council  
Don't Sit Get Fit  
Gravesend Historical Society  
Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council  
Dartford Borough Museum  
Temple Hill Trust

## Advice to walkers

There is a wide range of walks in the festival, suitable for different interests and abilities. Please use the information provided to judge what suits you best. This includes thinking about the distance that you are comfortable walking. You may also like to decide if you are looking for a walk where you learn lots about the area's history or wildlife, or simply want to enjoy some fresh air and a chance to meet other people.

You are welcome to bring your dog on those walks that display the appropriate symbol. Dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Please ensure that when you book, you indicate that you will be bringing your dog.

Some of the walks have been designed to be suitable for people in wheelchairs, or children in pushchairs. These are noted in the summary information for the walk, but you are advised when booking to look for further information on the route and ground conditions of the walk.

Please make sure that you come dressed with appropriate footwear and clothing for the walk. Waterproofs and walking boots are recommended for all guided walks and rambles. You are advised to bring a bottle of water, and on sunny days, sun cream and a hat.

Some of the walks will have breaks for snacks and drinks that you have brought with you, or a stop where you may buy some food and drink in a local café or pub. Several walks give the chance for you to enjoy a drink or meal at the end of the ramble.

On rare occasions, bad weather may affect an event, but the leader will always be at the starting point to advise of any changes.

### Travel

Parking is available at, or close to, the starting point for the walks. Further details are available on the Walking Festival website at: [www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent](http://www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent)

We have tried to make a number of the walks easy to reach by public transport, but this has not always been possible. You can get more information on how to join the walks using public transport in the following ways:

For bus and coach information use [www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk](http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk), [www.transportdirect.co.uk](http://www.transportdirect.co.uk) or call Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

For travel in Medway, you can find details of all bus timetables on the council website at: [www.medway.gov.uk/buses](http://www.medway.gov.uk/buses)

For travel in Dartford, Gravesham and Swale areas, you can find details of timetables on the Kent County Council website:  
[http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads\\_and\\_transport/getting\\_around/planning\\_your\\_journey.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads_and_transport/getting_around/planning_your_journey.aspx)

For trains use the Southeastern website ([www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk)) or UK Railways on the Net ([www.rail.co.uk](http://www.rail.co.uk)). Both these sites give information about service disruptions. You can also get information from National Rail Enquiries on 0845 748 4950.

