

## GET OUT AND ABOUT!

October 2012 to March 2013



**Hampshire & Isle of Wight**

# 100

## YEARS

working for our wildlife

Come and join the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust as it celebrates the Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with walks and events throughout the year.

Details for all walks and events can be found in this leaflet.

Check out the latest countryside walks and events at [www.hwt.org.uk](http://www.hwt.org.uk) or to find out more about countryside sites and your Local Nature Reserves visit [www.iwight.com/countryside](http://www.iwight.com/countryside).

This edition of Wight Walks has been produced with kind support from:

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- West Wight Landscape Partnership
- Isle of Wight AONB Partnership
- Isle of Wight Health Promotion
- National Trust
- Adrian Searle

# Wight Winter Walks



**Disclaimer:** Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this information, no responsibility can be accepted for any change that may subsequently occur. Those attending any of the events in this programme do so at their own risk. If you have any queries regarding this leaflet please phone (01983) 760016.

**Cover picture** Newchurch snowdrops © pinkeyegraphics.co.uk  
Snowdrops in Newchurch churchyard are some of the first flowers of the year. Often flowering before the last frost is over from which habit they get their name.

### Explore the Island's countryside and coast with local experts as your guides

## WELCOME TO WIGHT WINTER WALKS

In this programme of outdoor events and guided activities for all ages, local experts share their knowledge and special understanding of Island wildlife, conservation, landscape, history and rural economy.

It's a chance to explore the Island's unique countryside and coast during friendly outings in the company of fellow walkers. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has brought this programme together and is grateful to all this season's contributors.

### Before setting off

For many activities, there's no need to book - just turn up on the day at the stated time. Activities which require a reservation or confirmation beforehand are indicated. Please note that if an event end time is given it is only approximate. Where there is a charge for an event, this is stated; otherwise the event is free.

Footpaths and bridleways may be muddy in places, so always be prepared. Good strong shoes or boots, and possibly wellies and a waterproof would be sensible. Organisers have indicated, as far as possible, those events that are strenuous or may pose difficulties.

No walk or activity in the programme will be cancelled before it's due to start. Whatever the weather, the leader will be at the start of the walk, but may decide to vary the route or, in extreme weather, may cancel there and then.

Please take your litter home with you. Dogs, where permitted, must be on a lead. Please avoid causing obstructions or damage to verges if you travel by car to the starting point and park considerately.

## Thank you and enjoy your walk

### Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Walking on the Island's varied Footpaths and Bridleways is a great way to explore and enjoy the stunning landscapes within the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Isle of Wight AONB Partnership is working to ensure the conservation and enhancement of these treasured places, for people to enjoy today and in the future.



[www.wightaonb.org.uk](http://www.wightaonb.org.uk)

### There are many other ways for you to explore the Island and discover its wealth of wildlife.

\* **Wildlife Warriors:** Help manage and improve the Isle of Wight Council's local nature reserves. Usually the first Tuesday of every month, at various sites. All tools and training are provided; wear stout footwear and suitable clothing for working outdoors. Phone 823893 or email [countryside@iow.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@iow.gov.uk)

\* **Green Gym:** Become healthier by taking part in conservation activities. Every Wednesday. Phone 866459 or 822282 or visit [www.footprint-trust.co.uk/greengym.htm](http://www.footprint-trust.co.uk/greengym.htm)

\* **IW Ramblers:** Find out more at [www.iowramblers.com/walks](http://www.iowramblers.com/walks)

\* **Dinosaur Isle:** Look at the Island's geology and fossils. Visit [www.dinosaurisle.com/events.aspx](http://www.dinosaurisle.com/events.aspx)

\* **Histree Trails:** Explore the Island's historic and magnificent trees with self-guided Histree Trails from [www.histreetrail.com/trails](http://www.histreetrail.com/trails)

\* **Estuaries Trails:** Discover the wealth of wildlife, habitats and maritime heritage on both the Western Yar and Medina Estuary. [www.iwight.com/estuaries](http://www.iwight.com/estuaries)

\* **Geocaching:** Find hidden caches in Island beauty spots. Visit [www.iwgeocaching.org](http://www.iwgeocaching.org) and if you want to know more about the geocaching game, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)



Part of a series of booklets produced by the West Wight Landscape Partnership with funding support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

£2 from shops throughout the West Wight.

### Also available

**Walk the Forts**  
A fascinating walking guide to the fortifications of the Freshwater peninsula.

**Robert Hooke Trail**  
A scenic circular walk around locations in the West Wight associated with the life of the great 17<sup>th</sup> century scientist Robert Hooke.

**Taste the View**  
Three beautiful walks through the West Wight exploring the relationship between food and the landscape.



## OCTOBER

### RED SQUIRREL SAFARI

A walk through Bouldnor Forest to look at the ecology and conservation of the Island's most iconic species - the red squirrel. Wear wellies, waterproofs and old clothes. No dogs please. Booking essential.

**Day Thursday Date** 11 October **Time** 10am to 1pm **Meet** Follow track from main road to forest parking site (off Yarmouth Road, Newport) **SZ 378 896 Cost** Donation to Wildlife Trust welcome **Leader** Gareth Shelley. Phone 01983 760018 to book.

### AN AUTUMN WALK

Join the IW Ramblers and enjoy a countryside walk to see the autumn colours of hips, haws and berries and lovely downland views. Includes an apple stop.

**Day Sunday Date** 14 October **Time** 10.30am **Distance** 4 miles **Meet** Brighstone village car park **SZ 427 827 Leader** Audrey New 01983 740238

### WALKS FROM RAILS: CLIP-CLOP & CLATTER

Follow the route of the Victorian horse tramway through the streets of Ryde on an undemanding circular walk packed with historical interest and fascination.

**Day Friday Date** 19 October **Time** 2.30pm **Distance** 3 miles **Meet** Ryde Pier Head railway station **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

### DORMOUSE EXPLORERS

Explore Briddlesford Woods in search of the secretive dormouse and other woodland creatures. Learn how to look for signs of wildlife and make or decorate a dormouse house. Suitable for over fives. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking essential.

**Day Saturday Date** 20 October **Time** 2pm to 4pm **Meet** Briddlesford Woods, Wootton Bridge **Cost** £8 PTES supporter, £12 non-supporter **Leader** People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). Phone 0207 498 4533 to book.

### WALKS FROM RAILS: A QUEEN ON THE LINE

Retracing the old rail route from Wootton to Newport (and back) via the royal station of Whippingham. With 'off the track' stretches along riverbank and through countryside.

**Day Sunday Date** 21 October **Time** 10am **Distance** 9.5 miles **Meet** Wootton railway station **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

### WALKS FROM RAILS: BEYOND THE BUFFERS

A walk down the old railway track to Wroxall, then cross-country via Appuldurcombe, Sandford, Newchurch and Alverstone to Sandown station. Train back to Shanklin.

**Day Monday Date** 22 October **Time** 9.45am **Distance** 9 miles **Meet** Shanklin railway station **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

### THE WOOTTON OBLONG

Join the IW Ramblers on a walk through woods and fields crossing the tracks of the steam railway. Coffee stop at an inn, then to Woodside Bay and return along the banks of Wootton Creek. Part of the IW Walking Festival Autumn Walking Weekend.

**Day Friday Date** 26 October **Time** 10am **Distance** 6 miles **Meet** Brannon Way car park, Wootton **SZ 544 919 Leader** Carol Hamilton 01983 566463 carol.iwrambler@btinternet.com

### ESTUARY BIRDS

A walk to look at the winter residents of the mud and saltmarshes along the western Yar estuary, including wading birds and wildfowl. Wellies recommended. No dogs please.

**Day Friday Date** 26 October **Time** 2pm to 4pm **Meet** IW Council car park adjacent to Yarmouth school - car park charges apply **SZ 355 895 Cost** Donation to the Wildlife Trust welcome **Leader** Richard Grogan 01983 760016

### AUTUMN BIRD WALK

A stroll around Bembridge and Culver downs to admire the views and look and listen for migrant birds both on the ground and up above. Moderate with some stiles and steps. Sturdy boots recommended. Family-friendly. Dogs on leads welcome.

**Day Saturday Date** 27 October **Time** 9am to 11am **Distance** 2 to 3 miles **Meet** Bembridge Fort **SZ 625 860 Cost** Donation to National Trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

### THE HIDDEN DELIGHTS OF WYDCOMBE

Discover the landscape history and wildlife of the secluded Wydcombe Valley, recently acquired by the National Trust. Gentle rolling landscape, walking on paths with good to average surfaces. Some steps and stiles.

**Day Monday Date** 29 October **Time** 9.30am to 12.30pm **Distance** Up to 5 miles **Meet** Niton Church lych gate - park in Niton village **Cost** Donation to National Trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

## AUTUMN EARTH WALK

A family walk across farmland to the heathland reserve at Cranmore, with opportunities for children to find out about autumn wildlife through sensory games along the way. Wellies advisable. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum three children per adult. Stiles, uneven ground and muddy paths. No dogs please. Booking essential.

**Day Monday Date** 29 October **Time** 10.30am to 1pm **Meet** Details on booking **Cost** Donation to Wildlife Trust welcome **Leader** Ric Temple. Phone 01983 760018 to book.

## NOVEMBER

### BORTHWOOD FUNGUS FORAY

Join a local expert and learn more about the fascinating variety of fungi that burst from these woodland soils and decaying wood every autumn.

**Day Thursday Date** 1 November **Time** 10am to 12noon **Meet** Borthwood Parish Council car park **SZ 565 843 Cost** Donation to National Trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

### DISCOVER CULVER DOWN

An interesting circular walk exploring some of the local history and Island heritage, with stunning views along the way. A moderate walk, with some stiles and steps. Sturdy boots recommended. Dogs on leads welcome.

**Day Friday Date** 2 November **Time** 10.30am to 1pm **Distance** 3.25 miles **Meet** Bembridge Windmill **SZ 639 874 Cost** Donation to National Trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

### BIRDS OF ST HELENS

A walk to look at the wintering birds of the eastern Yar estuary at St Helens. Wellies advisable. No dogs please.

**Day Thursday Date** 8 November **Time** 10.30am to 1pm **Meet** National Trust car Park, St Helens Duver (charges may apply) **SZ 635 892 Cost** Donation to Wildlife Trust welcome **Leader** Richard Grogan 01983 760016

### NEWTOWN WINTER BIRD WALKS

Join a National Trust volunteer for a guided walk around this National Nature Reserve looking at over-wintering birds, both resident and migrant. It may well be wet underfoot so wellies are recommended. Bring binoculars if you have them. Assistance dogs only.

**Day Saturday Date** 10 November **Time** 10am to 12.30pm **Meet** National Trust car park opposite Newtown Old Town Hall **SZ 423 906 Cost** Donation to National Trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

### WILDZONE: MOTTISTONE DOWN STARGAZING

Learn more about the night sky with a local expert who will help you to get a closer look through telescopes. Please dress warmly, bring your own telescope or binoculars if you have them and a torch with a red filter. Booking essential.

**Day Saturday Date** 10 November **Time** 5pm to 7pm **Meet** Jubilee car park **SZ 420 846 Cost** £3 per person (both adults and children) **Leader** National Trust. Phone 01983 741020 to book.

### WIGHT LORE: THE ST HELENS WALK

Discover the origins of St Helens and its dramatic religious past. Hear of the legends, ghostly tales and superstitions linked with the old Duver church and the incredible story of the notorious Sophie Dawes. A five-hour coastal and country ramble with a pub lunch.

**Day Saturday Date** 17 November **Time** 10am **Distance** 6.5 miles **Meet** Vine Inn, St Helens **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

### "THE ONLY PATH IS ESSEX"

Join the IW Ramblers on a walk to Bagwich, Bleak Down and Bridgecourt. Drink and lunch after in The Essex.

**Day Friday Date** 30 November **Time** 10.45am **Meet** Godshill car park **SZ 530 817 Leader** Howard Duffus 01983 755469 vrbtutors@yahoo.co.uk

## DECEMBER

### NEWTOWN WINTER BIRD WALKS

Join a National Trust volunteer for a guided walk around this National Nature Reserve looking at over-wintering birds, both resident and migrant. It may well be wet underfoot so wellies are recommended. Bring binoculars if you have them. Assistance dogs only.

**Day Sunday Date** 9 December **Time** 10am to 12.30pm **Meet** National Trust car park opposite Newtown Old Town Hall **SZ 423 906 Cost** Donation to National Trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

## RUSTIC CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

An outdoor workshop with opportunities to make some Christmas presents from natural materials, including bird boxes, Christmas wreaths and bird feeders. No dogs please. The session will be held outdoors, so please wrap up with plenty of layers, waterproofs and boots. Limited numbers so booking essential.

**Day Saturday Date** 15 December **Time** 10.30am to 12.30pm **Meet** Follow track from main road to forest parking site (entrance off Yarmouth Road, Newport) **SZ 378 896 Cost** Minimum donation of £3 to Wildlife Trust **Leader** Ric Temple. Phone 01983 760018 to book.

### WIGHT LORE: THE NORMAN FORTRESS WALK

See out the year on this annual walk from the Norman fortress of Carisbrooke. Walk ancient highways and ridge paths and visit the idyllic 13<sup>th</sup> church at Gatcombe. Back in time for a pub lunch.

**Day Monday Date** 31 December **Time** 9.30am **Distance** 6 miles **Meet** Car park, Carisbrooke Castle **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

## JANUARY

### NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Join the IW ramblers for a walk to Black Pan and Borthwood, stopping at Winford for coffee. Back via Branstone and Ninham. This walk is part of the Festival of Winter.

**Day Tuesday Date** 1 January **Time** 10am **Distance** 6 miles **Meet** Morrisons car park, Lake **SZ 579 833**

**Leader** Carol Hamilton 01983 566463 carol.iwramblers@btinternet.com

### NEWTOWN WINTER BIRD WALKS

Join a National Trust volunteer for a guided walk around this National Nature Reserve looking at over-wintering birds, both resident and migrant. It may well be wet underfoot so wellies are recommended. Bring binoculars if you have them. Assistance dogs only.

**Day Saturday Date** 19 January **Time** 10am to 12.30pm **Meet** National Trust car park opposite Newtown Old Town Hall **SZ 423 906 Cost** Donation to National trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

### WIGHT LORE: THE PINE RAFT WALK

Travel back in time to deepest pre-history on this short walk in the Back of the Wight. Combines spectacular cliff-top walking above Brook Bay with a rural inland ramble and features the Island's primeval fossilised forest at Hanover Point.

**Day Sunday Date** 20 January **Time** 10.30am **Distance** 2.5 miles **Meet** Brook Chine car park/bus stop **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

## FEBRUARY

### WIGHT LORE: THE ROMAN WALK

Visit the Island's outstanding reminder of Roman occupation - the villa at Morton - on this ramble. It's very much a 'walk of two halves' - the outward leg climbing to the summit of the local downs; the return leg bringing you back down again!

**Day Sunday Date** 17 February **Time** 10.30am **Distance** 3.5 miles **Meet** Brading railway station **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636

## MARCH

### NEWTOWN WINTER BIRD WALKS

Join a National Trust volunteer for a guided walk around this National Nature Reserve looking at over-wintering birds, both resident and migrant. It may well be wet underfoot so wellies are recommended. Bring binoculars if you have them. Assistance dogs only.

**Day Sunday Date** 3 March **Time** 10am to 12.30pm **Meet** National Trust car park opposite Newtown Old Town Hall **SZ 423 906 Cost** Donation to National trust welcome **Leader** National Trust 01983 741020

### WIGHT LORE: THE BEMBRIDGE WALK

Explore the Island's eastern-most village and its coastline on an historically-rich walk. Includes the windmill, lifeboat station, Whitecliff Bay, Culver Down and some relics of World War 2. Bring a picnic lunch (or call in at Culver's café/pub).

**Day Sunday Date** 17 March **Time** 10.30am **Distance** 5 miles **Meet** Toll Gate, Embankment Road **Cost** Donations to Lucie Blackman Trust welcome **Leader** Adrian Searle 01983 615636