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Proud to be in the heart of Greensand Country
Greensand Country
An area of distinct, beautiful and loved countryside

Following the huge success of the first Greensand Country Festival last year, the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has an even BIGGER and BETTER programme of events for May 2019.

This guide gives you a full list of events and activities taking place across the landscape. For further details and booking information visit www.greensandcountry.com/whats-on

Greensand Country covers 40 miles of scenic landscape, which is defined by the Greensand Ridge and reaches three neighbouring counties, from Cambridgeshire in the East, across Bedfordshire and to Buckinghamshire in the West. The area contains all of Bedfordshire’s remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland and more historic parkland than anywhere else in the country.

The Festival is a celebration of Greensand Country, and we encourage you to get out and explore the distinct and beautiful countryside on your doorstep. There are a variety of events for all ages and interests, including cookery classes, churchyard tours, history talks, nature walks, treasure trails, photo competitions, art workshops, children’s activities and traditional country crafts.

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is led by the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and local environment charity, The Greensand Trust, and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is made possible by National Lottery players; without them we couldn’t fund the project.

Contact Us
Visit the website: www.greensandcountry.com
team@greensandcountry.com
or call us on: 01234 838774

Stay in touch...

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT BY PARTICIPATING IN THE GREENSAND COUNTRY FESTIVAL YOU CONSENT TO YOUR PHOTOGRAPH BEING USED BY THE GREENSAND COUNTRY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP FOR MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES.
PHOTO COMPETITION

Celebrating the Greensand Country Landscape
An island of distinct, beautiful and loved countryside
Open to all amateur photographers
Prizes for best in category photos
Closing date midnight 31st May

To enter
Please view our Ts & Cs online
then simply email your contact
details and your image to
photocomp@greensandcountry.com

www.greensandcountry.com

discover

RSPB The Lodge nature reserve and gardens
Potton Road, Sandy SG19 2DL
Tel: 01767 693333
rspb.org.uk/thelodge
facebook.com/RSPBhertsandbeds

RSPB The Lodge
nature trails
RSPB shop
events & activities

The Lodge

RSPB The Lodge

RSPB The Lodge
Trails in Greensand Country

36 Oak Wood Sculpture Trail, Rushmere Country Park
Pick up a trail leaflet at Herons View Visitor Centre and enjoy a self-led trail with family fun activities. Peep through the ‘viewing frame’ on the 1.5km trail to see the emerging heathland, which continues to evolve at Rushmere Country Park. Once you’ve finished the trail head to the Visitor Centre and claim your ‘Greensand Country’ Treasure. Please note that this trail is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
www.greensandtrust.org

20 Clophill Heritage Trust Trails, St Mary’s Old Church, Clophill
There are a number of self-guided geotrails, and nature trails starting from St Mary’s Old Church, Clophill. Visit Clophill Eco Lodges, pick up one of the many trails booklets and discover the history, heritage and geology of Greensand Country.
www.clophillecolodges.co.uk

25 Greensand Country Treasure Trail, Ampthill Great Park
See pages 30 & 31 within this guide and explore Ampthill Great Park. Find out more about its history and the heritage within the heart of Greensand Country on this 2km trail. Take your completed trail to The Hub Cafe to claim your ‘Greensand Country’ Treasure.
www.greensandcountry.com
Greensand Country Treasure is subject to availability.

4 Heathland Wild Play Trail, RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve, Sandy
Discover heathland wildlife, enjoy den building and climbing, cross obstacle paths and climb up a raised platform to get a birds-eye view of heathland at RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve. The heathland wild play trail is situated close to the shop, toilets and car-park, and there are benches and sitting areas for parents to relax on while the children play. Once you’ve finished the play trail, visit the RSPB shop to claim your ‘Greensand Country’ Treasure.
www.rspb.org.uk/thelodge

*Please note that car parking fees apply at Rushmere Country Park and RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve, Sandy.
History Train
1, 8, 11, 15, and 22, 27 May
Join a guided train journey on the Marston Vale Community Rail Line between Bedford Midland Station and Woburn Sands. The guides will provide an insight into the history of the line and surrounding area with local musician Geraldine Pearson-Green performing her own Bedfordshire Folk Songs at intervals during the journey.

Schedule:
10:30am – Meet at Bedford Midland Mainline Station
10:45am – Introduction
10:55am – Train departs
12pm – Return train departs Woburn Sands
12:45pm – Arrive back in Bedford
Free (Included in cost of Train Fare)
No booking required

Guided Walk
Woburn Sands to Ridgmont
Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users Association members Phil Warner and Richard Butler will lead walks from either Woburn Sands or Lidlington* to The Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre on 1, 8, 11, 15 and 22 May. Meet at Woburn Sands station (platform one) at 1pm. The walks will be over open country and walkers should wear suitable footwear and bring hats and water. Dogs on leads and children who are used to country walking are welcome. Both walks will end at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre, where walkers can visit the shop and museum and enjoy drinks and afternoon tea at the tea rooms.

*Walks from Woburn Sands will begin from there, walks from Lidlington will take the train from Woburn Sands to Lidlington and walk back to Ridgmont.

For more information, contact Phil Warner on 07769973824 (1, 8, 11 May) or Richard Butler on 01525 372487 (15 & 22 May)
Advance booking recommended for the Heritage Centre Tea Room. 01525 287120
10% discount for rail passengers in the Tea Room.

Higgins Exhibition
The Journey from Bunyan to The Brickworks explores the journeys of pride, inspiration and hope made by Bunyan who was imprisoned and persecuted for his beliefs, alongside the difficult journeys made by those who came to Bedford after the Second World War to work at the Bedfordshire brickworks.

The exhibition includes art work created by schools, as well as artefacts, songs and a film collected from the community that celebrate the legacy and contribution made to Bedford by those that have travelled to live and work here.

Free, No booking required
The Higgins, Bedford, MK40 3XD

For further information on all events visit: greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Walk4Health
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) coordinates Walk4Health programmes throughout Greensand Country. Walks are fun and friendly – perfect to help you get active, meet new people and explore our distinct & beautiful landscape. Regrettably, dogs are not permitted on most walks.

To find a walk near you visit greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Free. No booking required
Mike Fayers, Health Walk Manager, 01234 832619
mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk

Ramblers
Bedfordshire Area Ramblers have put together a programme of walks during the Greensand Country Festival. The distance of walks ranges from a short 4 mile walk to a 12 mile all day walk.

You are invited to take part in as many walks as you like, as often as you like.

To find a walk near you visit greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Free.
No booking required
bedswalkfest@gmail.com

Nordic Walking
Walk2Fitness Nordic Walking have put together a programme of walks and taster sessions during the Greensand Country Festival. Walks range from FREE taster sessions to £8 and booking is essential. The distance of walks ranges from short taster walks to 7.5 miles.

Turn your walk into a workout and try Nordic Walking! All ages and abilities welcome.

To find a walk near you visit greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Booking is essential
Text Elaine on 07894791527
elaine@walk2fitness.co.uk
Week 1: Weds 1 – Tues 7 May

Cultivating Mindfulness Practice
2 May, 10am – 1pm
An invitation to learn Mindfulness Practice to cultivate your mind in the beautiful setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth. Suitable for beginners.
£30
Booking is essential
www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org

Bluebell Walk in Maulden Woods
3 May, 10am – 11:30am
Join Ampthill Health Walks for this short 3/3.5 mile walk in lovely Maulden Woods, with hopefully bluebells and wild garlic in flower.
Free
No booking required
Meeting point: Maulden Woods, large car park on A6 north of Clophill, MK45 3UZ

Parent and Toddler Forest School
3 May, 10am – 11:30am
Come and have some fun in the woods at Ampthill Great Park, with your toddlers. Activities include mud kitchen, den building, woodland crafts and more. Suitable from walking.
£6 per child
Booking is essential
www.marstonvaleforestschool.co.uk
info@marstonvaleforestschool.co.uk

Bird Song Walk
4 May, 7am – 9am
Join Central Bedfordshire Council’s Countryside Team for a walk at Campton Plantation to find out more about Greensand Country’s singing birds and why they sing.
Free
Booking is essential
0300 300 6135
steve.halton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Herbs – Cultivation & Use through the Ages
3 May, 10:30am – 12:30pm
A presentation on the use and history of herbs, with samples, recipes and a quiz with a herby prize, taking place in the beautiful setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth.
£10
Booking is essential
www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org

Introduction to Bushcraft
4 May, 9am – 1pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, learn the basics and background of Bushcraft. Build tarp shelters, learn knots and receive an introduction to fire.
Adults from £25,
Under 18 from £20
Booking is essential
bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

For further information on all events visit:
greensandcountry.com/whats-on
**Animal Orienteering**
4 May, 9:30am – 10:30am
Join Central Bedfordshire Council’s Countryside Team for an animal orienteering event at Campton Plantation.
Free
Booking is essential
0300 300 6135
steve.halton@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

**Bedfordshire Brickworks Exhibition**
4 May, 10am – 4pm
Take a step back into Bedfordshire’s past at a special one-day Brickworks Exhibition at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre.
Free
No booking required

**Geology Wall Unveiling**
4 May, 11am – 3pm
Bedfordshire Geology Group will unveil its new feature at St Mary’s Old Church, Clophill Eco Lodges, which celebrates the Earth Heritage of Greensand Country.
Free
No booking required

**Sustrans Guided Bike Ride**
4 May, 10am – 2pm
Join Sustrans for a leisurely ride in Greensand Country, taking in the sights and sounds and enjoying the natural and local history.
Free
Booking is essential
01733 319981
Volunteers-MidsEast@sustrans.org.uk

**Bedfordshire Folk Singer**
4 May, 11am – 3pm
Local musician Geraldine Pearson-Green will perform her own Bedfordshire Folk Songs at intervals throughout the day at the Bedfordshire Brickworks Exhibition at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre.
Free
No booking required

**Linslade Wood Guided Walk**
4 May, 11:30am
Join this guided history and bluebells walk around the beautiful ancient Linslade woodland, by local volunteer Dave Booth.
£4
Booking is essential
www.greensandtrust.org/whats-on
Animal Edge Open Day
4 and 5 May, 10am – 2pm
Visit Animal Edge’s open day at its small animal farm in Millbrook, with access to feed and pet farm animals, enjoy pony rides and take part in outdoor craft activities.
£5 per child (adults free)
Booking is advised
www.animaledge.co.uk
Info@animaledge.co.uk

Spring Flowers in Maulden Wood
5 May, 10:30am – 12:30pm
A guided walk with the Greensand Trust Ecologist to explore the woodland when it is looking its best with spring flowers and to learn more about its wildlife, history and woodland management.
Adults £4, Children £2
Booking is essential
www.greensandtrust.org/whats-on

Introduction to Bushcraft
6 May, 9am – 4:30pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, enjoy a full day of Bushcraft. Learn the basics, build tarp shelters, learn knots and receive an introduction to fire and sharp tools.
Adults from £45, Under 18 from £30
Booking is essential
bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

Make a Willow Ball
5 May, 10am – 4:30pm
Enjoy a day in the woods, between Campton and Upper Gravenhurst, making a willow ball. Learn how to make a beautiful willow sphere to decorate your home or garden.
£70
Booking is essential
www.wassledine.co.uk
info@wassledine.co.uk

BHS Lidlington Ride
5 May, 10am – 12pm
Bring your horse to enjoy the British Horse Society’s guided ride around Lidlington. The route from Marston Forest Centre to Lidlington is approximately 7 miles.
Free (£15 refundable deposit required upon booking)
Booking is essential
robina@chatham.uk.com

Ickwell May Day
6 May, 10am - 4pm
A traditional annual festival with the crowning of the May Queen and dancing around the maypole. A selection of stalls, refreshments and entertainment are available at Ickwell Green.
Free. No booking required
www.ickwellmayday.co.uk
coordinator@ickwellmayday.co.uk

For further information on all events visit:
greensandcountry.com/whats-on
**Fliton Family Fun Run**

6 May, 10:15am – 2pm
- A 5K cross country run around Flitton & Flitwick Moors for over 13 yrs
- A Junior 1 mile run around Flitton Moor for 8 to 12 yr olds
- A kids 200 meter run for under 8 yr olds

Time: 10:30am for races (Prize-giving at The White Hart, Flitton from 12:30pm)

Cost:
- 5K: £8 for pre entry (£10 on the day)
- Junior 1 mile: £3
- Kids: Free

Booking is advised
Registration on the day at Flitton Church Hall, 9am - 10:15am
flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk
flittonflit@gmail.com
Meeting point: Flitton Moor, Brook Lane, Flitton, Beds, MK45 5EJ

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**Humphry Repton Talk**

6 May, 7pm – 9pm

Join Beds Gardens Trust in Ampthill to find out details of Humphry Repton's gardens at Woburn Abbey, Moggerhanger Park, Hazells and Battlesden.

£5 Beds Garden Trust members, £6 non-members

Booking is advised
www.bedsgardenstrust.org.uk
secretary@bedsgardenstrust.org.uk

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**Geo Rocks Walk**

8 May, 10am – 12pm

Join Bedfordshire Geology Group for this Geo Walk to discover the geology and ancient environments at RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve.

Adults £2, Children £1
Booking is essential
07919158622
bev.fowlston@gmail.com
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wassledine.co.uk
info@wassledine.co.uk
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07794 013876

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Visit us or contact us at:
www.kelchnerbrewery.co.uk
kelchnerbrewery@gmail.com
07508 305754
Unit D The Sidings, Station Road, Ampthill, MK45 2QY

‘We are proud to be in the heart of Greensand Country’
The Therapeutic Garden

9 May, 10am – 12pm
A presentation and ‘Make & Take’ session on the benefits and use of essential oils to improve wellbeing, taking place in the beautiful setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth.

£20
Booking is essential
www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org

Basket Making for Beginners

11 May, 9:30am – 5pm
Enjoy a day in the woods, between Campton and Upper Gravenhurst, making a willow basket. Learn how to make a small round basket in a day.

£70
Booking is essential
www.wassledine.co.uk
info@wassledine.co.uk

Stories of the Landscape

11 May
Join Full House Theatre as they discover the stories of Ampthill Great Park and its exciting history.

Free
Booking is essential
www.fullhouse.org.uk
info@fullhouse.org.uk

Tai Chi in the Swiss Garden

10 May, 10am – 11:30am
A wonderful soft exercise and calming meditative movement in the delightful outdoor setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth. Suitable for beginners.

£10
Booking is essential
www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org

Apps, Maps & Compasses Course

11 May, 10am – 4pm
Are you baffled by maps, confused by compasses and daunted by digital devices? This one day course, in Ampthill, will help you get the most out of planning and navigating your next walk.

£10
Booking is essential
www.bedswalkfest.co.uk
Bedswalkfest@gmail.com

Kelchner Brewery Tour

11 May, 11am – 1pm
Tour of the Kelchner Brewery, including explanation and tasters. Kelchner Brewery is based at Unit D, Station Road Industrial Estate, Ampthill, MK45 2QY.

Free
Booking is essential
www.kelchnerbrewery.co.uk
kelchnerbrewery@gmail.com
BHS Aspley Woods Ride

11 May, 2pm – 4pm

Bring your horse to enjoy the British Horse Society’s Aspley Woods Ride. Guided horse ride (6 miles), a gentle walk/trot ride in a small group.

Free (£15 refundable deposit required upon booking)
Booking is essential
lizannhopkins@aol.com

Made in Maulden Festival

12 May, 12pm – 5pm

Visit St Mary the Virgin Church and Church Hall, Maulden for the Made in Maulden Festival, showcasing local crafts, a plant sale, cakes, produce and refreshments. There will also be a dedication of the rebuilt sandstone wall by Bishop Richard.

Free
No booking required
www.stmarysmaulden.org
rev.l.klimas@btinternet.com

Greensand Festival 2019 at The Swiss Garden

This May, the Swiss Garden will be hosting six wonderful activities as part of the Greensand Festival:

- Cultivating Mindfulness Workshop on Thursday 2 and Friday 31 May
- Herbs Presentation – Cultivation & Use through the Ages on Friday 3 May
- The Therapeutic Garden: Essential Oils & Wellbeing on Thursday 9 May
- Tai Chi on Friday 10 May
- Yoga and Meditation Practice on Monday 13 and Monday 20 May
- Foot Reflexology Sessions on Friday 24 May

The Swiss Garden, Old Warden, Beds, SG18 9EP | 01767 627933 | www.shuttleworth.org/events

For further information on all events visit:
greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Introduction to Bushcraft
12 May, 9am – 1pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, enjoy a morning of Bushcraft. Receive an introduction to cutting tools, a whittling challenge and fire.
Adults from £25, Under 18 from £20
Booking is essential bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

Nature Detectives at Flitwick Moor
12 May, 10am – 2pm
Borrow an explorer backpack and turn into a nature detective. Discover the nature that lives on Flitwick Moor & make your own mini-beast.
£3
Booking is advised
www.wildlifetrustbcn.org
Toddington@wildlifebcn.org

BHS Bluebell Ride
12 May, Start times between 9:30am and 11:30am
Bring your horse to enjoy the British Horse Society’s popular Bluebell Ride, starting from Eversholt. Routes of approximately 7.5 and 12 miles.
£15 in advance (by 3 May) or £20 on the day
Booking is advised tinyurl.com/bhsbluebell19

Children’s Cooking Workshop
12 May, 10:30am – 12:30pm
In this fabulously fun cooking workshop at Steppingly Village Hall, the children will get to make 2 delicious savoury loaves from scratch, each one presented and baked in a terracotta Flowerpot.
£15 per child (under 5s must be accompanied by an adult)
Booking is essential
cook-stars-bedford.class4kids.co.uk

Humphry Repton in Waresley
12 May, 11am for 11:30am in Waresley Village Hall, 2pm Tour
Morning lecture on Repton’s Red Book with afternoon guided tour.
£10 for lecture; £10 for tour - £15 for both
Booking essential for tour
Call 01767 650432 and 07747072340
jack.eleanor@gmail.com

Yoga and Meditation Practice
13 May, 10am – 11:15am
A slow, flowing yoga practice suitable for all ages and abilities, and taking place in the lovely outdoor setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth.
£10
Booking is essential
www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org
BHS Willington to Old Warden Ride
15 May, 10am – 12pm
Bring your horse to enjoy the British Horse Society’s Willington to Old Warden guided Ride. Most of the 7.5 miles ride will be in walk and trot, however some canter opportunities may be taken.
Free (£15 refundable deposit required upon booking)
Booking is essential lindsaymeasures@gmail.com

Parent and Toddler Forest School
17 May, 10am – 11:30am
Come and have some fun in the woods at Ampthill Great Park, with your toddlers. Activities include mud kitchen, den building, woodland crafts and more. Suitable from walking.
£6 per child
Booking is essential www.marstonvaleforestschool.co.uk
info@marstonvaleforestschool.co.uk

Sustrans Guided Bike Ride
16 May, 10am – 2pm
Join Sustrans for a leisurely ride in Greensand Country, taking in the sights and sounds and enjoying the natural and local history.
Free
Booking is essential 01733 319981
Volunteers-MidsEast@sustrans.org.uk

Introduction to Bushcraft
18 May, 9am – 1pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, enjoy a Bushcraft session dedicated to fire. Learn what it is, how to create and control it.
Adults from £25, Under 18 from £20
Booking is essential bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

Ampthill Photo Walk
18 May, 9:30am – 12:30pm
For anyone looking to get better photographs whilst out and about on countryside walks, get tips on composition, framing and creative ways to use your camera or phone to get standout shots.
£3.50
Booking is essential Nickhallphotographic.co.uk
nickhallphotographic@gmail.com

Shefford History Day
18 May, 10am – 4pm
Based at Shefford House, this local and family history day will include a short walking tour, a family history Q&A session and a display of historical pictures and maps of Shefford.
Free
No booking required towncouncil@sheffordtown.co.uk
www.sheffordtown.co.uk

For further information on all events visit:
greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Dachshund Group Walk

19 May, 11am – 2pm
Join Bedfordshire Dachshunds for a lovely walk in the Greensand Country. This is a gentle countryside walk on public footpaths taking you up to the Jolly Coopers for refreshments.

Free
No booking required
Meeting point: Waterslade (Garden Club and Allotments) Silsoe, MK45 4ES

Yoga and Meditation Practice

20 May, 10am – 11:15am
A slow, flowing yoga practice suitable for all ages and abilities, and taking place in the lovely outdoor setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth.

£10
Booking is essential
Visit: www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org

Eastern Ridge and Parkland Walk

21 May, 6pm – 9pm
A circular 6.75miles evening walk between Everton & Gamlingay; including the Greensand Ridge Walk & historic parklands, hosted by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

Free
Booking is essential
mikef@bedsrcc.org.uk
Meeting point: Meet at St Mary’s Church, Church End, Everton, SG19 2JZ

Gertrude Jekyll Talk

21 May, 7pm – 9pm
Join Beds Gardens Trust in Ampthill to find out details of Gertrude Jekyll’s only commission for a garden in Beds at Ickwellbury.

£5 Beds Garden Trust members,
£6 non-members
Booking is advised
www.bedsgardenstrust.org.uk
secretary@bedsgardenstrust.org.uk
Map of Greensand Country

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20 years caring for the Greensand Ridge

The Greensand Trust thanks everyone who has helped us raise and invest over £17 million in the local environment since 1999. We receive no core funding, so everything we achieve is thanks to your support!

For more information and ways you can support us visit www.greensandtrust.org

Welcome to Rushmere Country Park

Proud to be a gateway to Greensand Country

View herons nesting in Spring from our outdoor café terrace, discover fairy doors and the Giant’s Chair along our Sculpture Trail, walk the dog, bring your bike – we’ve something for everyone with over 400 acres of woodland, heathland and meadows to enjoy.

Linslade Road, Heath and Reach, Beds LU7 0EB

www.greensandtrust.org/rushmere-country-park
Introduction to Bushcraft
22 May, 9am – 1pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, enjoy a morning of Bushcraft. Receive an introduction to tarps and tents.
Adults from £25, Under 18 from £20
Booking is essential
bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

Warden Abbey Vineyard Tour and Tasting
25 May, 10:30am and 2pm
The vineyard is bursting into life at this time of year, and you can discover the secrets of its medieval history as well as hear about English Wine and how volunteers look after the vineyard at this exciting community project. Tour finishes with a tasting of two of our wines.
£10, Booking is essential
www.wardenvineyard.org.uk

Clophill to Westoning Walk
25 May, 9:30am – 1pm
Enjoy a 7.5 miles' linear walk through the beautiful Greensand Country. Led by local volunteer David Sedgley, the Flit Valley Walk will include details of the natural habitat and history along the route.
Free
Booking is essential
dsedgley@talktalk.net
Meet near Westoning Village Hall to take transport to start of the walk

Reflexology Taster Session
24 May, 10:30am – 3pm
A 20-minute reflexology session based in the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth’s lovely Garden Room. Individual sessions booked directly with the therapist.
£15
Booking is essential
www.shuttleworth.org/events
ann.abrams@btinternet.com

Bedfordshire Brickworks Day
25 May, 11am – 4pm
Come and enjoy a fun day of music, talks, activities and sharing your memories of all things brickworks related at The Higgins, Bedford.
Free
No booking required
www.thehigginsbedford.gov.uk
thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk

Woollen Woods at Rushmere
25 May – 3 June
Following the success of last year’s event, Woollen Woods – a trail featuring knitted woodland creatures native to Greensand Country – will return to Rushmere Country Park.
(£3 car park fee)
Free, No booking required
www.greensandtrust.org/rushmere-country-park
**Spring Foraging Course**

26 May, 12pm – 3:30pm
Join The Foraging Course Company at Ampthill Great Park to discover the wild edibles growing in Greensand Country and learn how to identify them.

£35
Booking is essential
www.foragingcoursecompany.co.uk
info@foragingcoursecompany.co.uk

**Brian Kerr Talk**

26 May, 2:30pm/3:30pm
A 1 hour talk by Brian Kerr forms part of the of the Higgins exhibition, *From Bunyan to Brickworks* at The Higgins Museum in Bedford

Free
No booking required

**Guided Trail Run**

26 May, 9:45am – 1pm
Join Runaway Adventures for a run that will explore some of Greensand Country’s best features, including Biggleswade Common, River Ivel, The Lodge, parts of the Greenwheel.

£8 Early Bird, £10 two weeks before the event
Booking is essential
www.runawayuk.com

**Clophill Sunday Teas**

26 May, 2pm – 4pm
Join Clophill Heritage Trust at Clophill Eco Lodges at St Mary’s Old Church, Clophill for hot or cold drinks, lunches and delicious homemade cakes.

Free
No booking required
clophillecolodges.co.uk/events

**Introduction to Bushcraft**

26 May, 9am – 1pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, learn the basics and background of Bushcraft. Build tarp shelters, learn knots and receive an introduction to fire.

Adults from £25, Under 18 from £20
Booking is essential
bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

**Summerfields’ Miniature Railway**

26 and 27 May, 10:30am – 4pm
The railways in Haynes are a popular visitor destination for children and parents alike. Fares taken on 27 May will be donated to Keech Hospice Care.

From £2
No booking required
www.bedfordmes.co.uk

For further information on all events visit:
greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Animal Edge Open Day
27 May, 10am – 2pm
Visit Animal Edge’s open day at its small animal farm in Millbrook, with access to feed and pet farm animals, enjoy pony rides and take part in outdoor craft activities.
£5 per child (adults free)
Booking is advised
www.animaledge.co.uk
Info@animaledge.co.uk

Teddy Bear Hunt
27 May, 11am – 1pm
Join us in Bluebell Wood Clophill for a children’s teddy bear hunt – bring a packed lunch and after you’ve hunted for bears enjoy a story while you eat.
£5 per child (adults free)
Booking is essential
clophillecolodges.co.uk/events

11-16 Years Activity Day.
28 May, 9am - 4:30pm
A day recreating arrival at a new camp. We’ll be shelter building, fire lighting, campfire cooking and lots more including challenges and games.
11-16 years only
£30
Booking is essential
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk
ntcbushcraft.co.uk/11-16
07855 805756
Great Days Out by Train this Spring!

History Through Word & Song Trains
1, 8, 11, 15, 22 and 27 May
Meet at 10:30, event starts at 10:45

Plus free guided walk from Woburn Sands Station to Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre on 1, 8, 11, 15 and 22 May
Approx. 5m suitable for all abilities
For further info go to www.greensandcountry.com/whats-on/

New Bank Holiday Service Starts 27th May!
Bank Holiday services return after 50 years!
Join us to celebrate at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre - visit the British Transport Police vehicle & find all about their work! Heritage Centre & Tea Room open as usual. Family & Quiz Booklet available.
10% discount for rail passengers in the Tea Room! Free entry to Heritage Centre. Open 10:00 - 4:00. Or why not take the opportunity to visit one of the many other attractions along the Line or a walk between stations? Heritage Centre also open daily 10:00 - 4:00 Tuesday - Saturday

GroupSave & Senior Saver Rail Tickets:
Great rail fares for families! Third off for adults in groups of 3 – 9, children half price, under 5s free!
Granny and Grandad travel for half-price with a Bedfordshire bus pass!

marstonvalecrp @marstonvalecrp
stephens@bedsrcc.org.uk 01234 832645
www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk
Introduction to Bushcraft
29 May, 9am – 1pm
From our woodland camp at Ampthill Great Park, learn the basics and background of Bushcraft. Learn about friction fire and build your own bow drill set.
Adults from £25, Under 18 from £20
Booking is essential
bookings.ntcbushcraft.co.uk
info@ntcbushcraft.co.uk

Walk the new Central Geotrail
29 May, 11am and 2pm
Join Bedfordshire Geology Group for a guided walk in the heart of Greensand Country. Discover the geology and earth heritage around the village of Maulden.
Free
Booking is advised
bev.fowlston@gmail.com
Meeting point: The George Inn, Maulden, MK45 2DF

Nature Detectives at Coopers Hill
30 May, 10.30am – 12.30pm
Family Event. Discover the nature that lives on Coopers Hill. £3
1pm - 3:30pm, 13-18 year olds. Join South Beds Youth Rangers for an afternoon of wildlife surveying and practical conservation.
Free
Booking is advised
www.wildlifetrustbcn.org
Toddington@wildlifetrustbcn.org

Summerfields’ Miniature Railway
29 May, 10:30am – 4pm
The railways (there are three separate rides at the Summerfields’ site) are a popular visitor destination for children and parents alike.
From £2
No booking required
www.bedfordmes.co.uk

Stories of the Landscape
29 and 30 May
Join Motus Dance Company in the picturesque Swiss Garden, for exciting stories of Shuttleworth and its history.
Free (included in Swiss Garden entry fee)
No booking required
www.shuttleworth.org/events
enquiries@shuttleworth.org

Clophill Plant Identification Walk
30 May, 10am – 12pm
Join this two-hour stroll through the beautiful Greensand Country led by Clophill Heritage Trust’s local horticultural expert.
£3
Booking is essential
clophillecolodges.co.uk/events
info@clophillecolodges.co.uk
Week 5: Weds 29 – Tues 4 June

BHS Willington to Old Warden Ride

30 May, 6pm – 8pm
Bring your horse to enjoy the British Horse Society’s Willington to Old Warden Ride. Most of the ride will be in walk and trot, however if all riders are happy, some canter opportunities may be taken.
Free (£15 refundable deposit required upon booking)
Booking is essential lindsaymeasures@gmail.com

All about Owls

31 May, 10:30am – 12:30pm
Join Teaching Talons in Ampthill for this indoor workshop. Meet two owls and examine and dissect a wild, Bedfordshire owl pellet! What will you find?
£4 per child (accompanying adult free)
Booking is essential council@amphilltown council.org.uk
01525 404355

Family Forest School Taster

31 May, 10am – 12pm and 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Come and have some fun in the woods at Ampthill Great Park, building dens and shelters, fire lighting, trying some woodland arts and crafts and more. Suitable for all ages.
£6 per child
Booking is essential marstonvaleforestschool.co.uk info@marstonvaleforest school.co.uk

Ampthill Bat Walk

30 May, 9pm – 10pm
Enjoy an evening guided walk through Ampthill Great Park using bat detectors. Wear suitable clothing and bring a torch.
£4
Booking is essential council@amphilltown council.org.uk

Storytelling in the Woods

31 May, 2pm – 4:30pm
Enjoy a walk through the woods, between Campton and Upper Gravenhurst, full of stories, which will take us to a secret glade, where you will join our woodland tea party.
£7.50
Booking is essential www.wassledine.co.uk info@wassledine.co.uk

Cultivating Mindfulness Practice

31 May, 10am – 1pm
An invitation to learn Mindfulness Practice to cultivate your mind in the beautiful setting of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth. Suitable for beginners.
£30
Booking is essential www.shuttleworth.org/events enquiries@shuttleworth.org

For further information on all events visit: greensandcountry.com/whats-on
Earth Day
31 May, 12:30pm – 3:30pm
Come and try a variety of countryside crafts such as willow hurdles, fire lighting, shelter building and more at Clophill Eco Lodges, plus the café will be open serving hot & cold drinks.
Free
Booking is essential
clophillecolodges.co.uk/events
info@ClophillEcoLodges.co.uk

Moggerhanger Park Plant Fair
2 June, 10am - 4pm
Moggerhanger Park will hold its plant fair in the Walled Garden. Visit the Garden Rooms Café where you will find lots of fun and family friendly activities. Enjoy tours of the grounds and Ice House by Beds Gardens Trust, additional cost.
£3 (Under 16’s Free)
No booking required
www.moggerhangerpark.com

Bioblitz and Mini-environmental fair at Rushmere
2 June, 11am – 3pm
Visit Rushmere Country Park for a family-fun day of nature activities and guided walks, exploring rare heathland habitats, including a tour of the new Heathland Sculpture Trail.
Free
(£3 car park fee)
No booking required
www.greensandtrust.org/rushmere-country-park

Old Warden’s Lost Abbey Exhibition
1 June, 10am – 4pm
Based on ‘Time Team’ style geophysics, find out how Warden Abbey may have looked c.1370 at St Andrew’s Church, Rectory Lane, Ampthill, MK45 2EL.
Free
No booking required

Westoning to Clophill Walk
2 June, 2pm – 5pm
Enjoy a 7.5 miles’ linear walk through the beautiful Greensand Country. Led by local volunteer David Sedgley, the Flit Valley Walk will include details of the natural habitat and history along the route.
Free
Booking is essential (to secure your place on return transport)
dsedgley@talktalk.net
The Barn at Cardington is delighted to be supporting the Greensand Country Festival. We are a social venture supported by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC), which also manages the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, and run on a non-profit basis. The aim of the venture is to help encourage local food producers by providing a retail outlet and to support the work of BRCC.

Our lamb, beef, pork and game are all sourced from local farms in Bedfordshire and our chicken comes from a high welfare producer in Suffolk. We also have an in-house bakery which produces home-made scones and rolls and we have our deli which provides a wide range of artisan cheeses and other delicacies.

For those who enjoy exploring hand crafted drinks, we have a great range of locally produced wine, beer, cider and gin. We are the main retail outlet for Warden Abbey wines, which is a community-run vineyard also supported by BRCC.

Our café serves a wide range of breakfast and lunch options and there is always a great selection of locally made cakes. The café makes a great place to meet friends young and old.

Check out our website for all the fantastic products we sell that can’t be purchased at a supermarket and help support our work in Bedfordshire – thebarncardington.com

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) is the leading community development agency working across Bedfordshire. As well as The Barn and Old Warden vineyard, we help support local communities through initiatives such as Good Neighbour Schemes, helping to protect the green environment through the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership and managing Community Rail Partnerships. If you would like to know more see our website - bedsrrc.org.uk
Delving into Heritage Day
The Origins and Development of Monastic Heritage in Greensand Country

Date: Tuesday 16 July 2019

Description: Day-long conference with a range of speakers and optional guided walk

Venue: The Sculpture Gallery, Woburn Abbey

Charge: £15 per person (Student Concessions: £5 per person)

Greensand Country has a rich medieval monastic heritage with several sites clustered together in the area surrounding the Greensand Ridge. Why are there so many monastic sites and what impact do they have on the landscape today?

Together, with a range of experts including Historians; Archaeologists; Geologists and Historic Designed Landscape Specialists, we will explore the unique heritage of monastic sites in Greensand Country. This will be an informal conference with the opportunity to take part in a guided walk around the gardens at Woburn Abbey.

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is proud to be working with The Sculpture Gallery at Woburn Abbey to deliver the second of three annual ‘Delving into Heritage Days.’ Each year, we explore a different landscape theme that makes up the distinctive ‘landscape character’ of the Greensand Country area.

Booking is essential. Last year’s conference was very popular so we advise booking tickets early to avoid disappointment. Tickets available from Monday 10th June but you can request to be emailed further information and a booking reminder at the beginning of June by contacting team@greensandcountry.com NOW.

The conference is also an opportunity to find out more about our Community Heritage Grant Schemes and how you can apply to the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership for funding to investigate and promote local heritage. Have a look at our website – greensandcountry.com – to discover more about events, activities, training courses and projects being delivered by the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership.
Ampthill Great Park - Treasure Trail

This is a magical place; rich in history with tales of kings, queens, a castle, war heroes, buried treasure, a golden hare, the famous landscape architect Lancelot “Capability” Brown...and it is even home to a sleeping dragon.

Take a tour through the trail and let the treasures of this park reveal themselves!

Start from Central Car Park (where the Hub Café is). Take the ‘ride’ (path) which threads its way through Russett’s Plantation.

RIDES were designed by Capability Brown for summer and winter carriage outings as the wooded area gave both shade and shelter for the more ‘delicate’ residents.

When you reach the crossroads, take the path on your left into the play area. (If you have a dog, follow the fence to your right until you reach another gate into the park).

Q1. What lies asleep beneath the storyteller’s chair?

Q2. In the playground, you can see the remains of the base of a building from World War II. What year did this war finish? (Clue: Look on the wooden archway).

After World War II Ampthill Great Park accommodated a prisoner of war camp.

Exit the playground via the North East gate (there is a compass on the map of Ampthill Park) and continue east towards Russett’s Lodge.

Russett’s Lodge was originally a pair of cottages and then used as a hunting lodge in the Royal Deer Park. The stone façade on North side is an addition by either Capability Brown or Sir William Chambers.

Q3. What birds have set up home in the garden?

Continue Northwards towards Laurel Wood (also known as the Darkenings)

As you walk towards Laurel Wood you will see a tall tower known as the Standing. This was a hunting tower in the Royal Deer Park.

Q4. There is no trace of the Standing today. What would this hunting tower have been made of?

Follow the path round to the left onto the ridge past Breakheart Hill.

Q5. What magnificent house are Len and Betty facing?

As you walk along the ridge the view of the Bedford Vale unfolds.

Q6. With only 4 of 135 chimneys remaining as evidence of its past, what was made here?

As you walk further along the ridge you will see more work by Capability Brown.

There are several knolls known as “dumps on lumps”. These were designed to give the impression of height, having a flat top on which a tent could be erected to admire the spectacular views created by Brown. He also group-planted individual tree species for further effect. Along the ridge you will see Pine and Beech trees.

Q7. Water was a great feature of Capability Browns Landscape. What is the name of the lake you can see halfway up the hill?

Turn left towards the war memorial cross.

Ampthill Park was a military training camp established by the 11th Duke of Bedford.

Q8. 2,235 men joined of their own free will under voluntary enlistment. When did compulsory service become law?

Head to Katherine’s Cross near the ridge.

The area between the two crosses is the site of Ampthill Castle. It was more of a fortified stately home built in the 1420s but there is no trace of it above ground level today.

Q9. What was the highest position Katherine of Aragon held whilst married to Henry VIII?

Walking past Katherine’s Cross you will come to the Carriage Drive. Turn right and follow the path down and around to the left admiring the beautiful views until you reach a kissing gate into Westminster Field. (For a short-cut, walk down the hill to the kissing gate).

Q10. Here you will find a poem, which is one of seven erected on the Greensand Ridge to commemorate what Royal occasion?

It is so quiet here that you would never know that Westminster Field lies on the edge of a major railway tunnel where the mainline trains speed through just a few metres away.

Walk along Westminster field towards the road. Turn left over the bridge by the 5-bar gate into the main park heading uphill towards three mature beech trees. Go through the West car park to pick up the other end of the shelter belt to where you started this journey.

Fill in your answers in the grid then re-arrange the letters in the red squares to make a word or two. Then go to the Hub Café to claim your treasure. Good luck!

Answer Grid: Re-arrange the letters in the grey squares to find the treasure

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GARSIDE SANDS ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR THE GREENSAND COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Aggregate Industries is a leading supplier of specialist silica sand. With a long established quarry in Leighton Buzzard, our Garside Sands range is renowned for its high silica content grain shape and naturally occurring colour range.

To find out more contact us on
Tel: 01525 237911
Email: garside.sands@aggregate.com