

21 July 2017

Exciting New Walks Launched On The Deepdene Trail!

Five new walks are now available on The Trail. All walks are bookable via Dorking Halls either through the Box Office or online www.dorkinghalls.co.uk. Prices starting at just £3 per person.

On 3rd August we begin with our **Family Nature Trail**, a 1.5 mile circular walk of the Gardens and Terrace of Deepdene led by Jim Storrar an independent field ecologist. Jim is an experienced group guide, with a personal passion for the countryside. He spent many years as a National Trust Ranger on Leith Hill and he currently utilises his wealth of ecological knowledge to inform and inspire others.

The **Nature Trail** will give a fascinating insight to the varied plants and wildlife that make the Deepdene's landscape unique. On Saturday 12th August (and Wednesday 23rd) it's **Deepdene's History Detectives Walk**, perfect for those fascinated by mysterious maps, ancient remains and a cursed gem. This walk is ideal for families, lasting around 1.5 hours within the Gardens and Terrace of Deepdene and led by Gail Mackintosh, our Activities Co-ordinator. Gail will provide a fun, mini-adventure for all ages and light refreshments will be provided.

Jim Storrar takes the lead again on 19th August with a new **Natural History Walk** in the afternoon, followed by a **Deepdene Bat Walk** in the evening.

Join Jim for the informative **Natural History Walk** of around 4.5 miles of the Deepdene's varied landscapes starting at the Royal Oak Pub in Brockham (www.royaloakbrockham.timewellspent.co.uk) at 3.30pm. Come and deepen your connection with the countryside on a beautiful summer afternoon.

Deepdene's Bat Walk explores the nocturnal world of the Deepdene's landscape using professional bat detecting equipment to track down these fascinating creatures as they emerge at night. This walk includes an atmospheric visit to Betchworth Castle, a perfect backdrop for spotting bats. Jim will lead you on this 1.5 hour exploration to track these often-misunderstood mammals. Walk begins from outside the Royal Oak Pub in Brockham (www.royaloakbrockham.timewellspent.co.uk) at 7.30pm.

The nature and family walks are priced at £3 per person with children under 5 going free. The bat walk is £5 per person but with children aged 8-14 only £3 each.

Councillor Vivienne Michael, Leader of Mole Valley District Council, said: "The Deepdene Trail is almost a year old now and we continue to tempt new visitors through a wide range of activities and events.

"Our recent Shakespeare event in June brought live actors on to The Trail; these new informative and fun wildlife walks are another reason to visit. Our Heritage Lottery Funding required us to reach a wide range of people in what we do on The Trail and we are confident these varied activities are doing just that.

“In September this year we are supporting Heritage Open Days across Mole Valley with a range of walks. On 10th September, the Mausoleum will be open from 10 - 4pm, with a knowledgeable guide on hand all day and teas and coffees available outside.

“None of this would be possible without the tireless work of our Friends of Deepdene Volunteers, who go out in all weathers twice a week to work on the landscape. Thank you to them and everyone involved with The Trail, it truly is an asset to Mole Valley and we will continue to champion it at every opportunity.”

For more information see www.deepdenetrail.co.uk.

-ENDS-

Notes

Summary of Events

Event	Date	Time	Cost
Family Nature Trail	Thursday 3 rd August	10.30am – 12.30	£3 per person, under 5's free
Deepdene History Detectives	Saturday 12 th August	10.30am – 12	£3 per person, under 5's free
Natural History Walk	Saturday 19 th August	3.30pm – 5.30/6pm	£3 per person, under 5's free
Deepdene Bat Walk	Saturday 19 th August	7.30pm – 9pm	£5 per person, £3 under 14's. Not suitable for children under 8 years old.
Deepdene History Detectives	Wednesday 23 rd August	10.30am - 12	£3 per person, under 5's free

All walks must be pre-booked via Dorking Halls Box Office on 01306 881717 or via the website www.dorkinghalls.co.uk.

The bat walk is not recommended for children under 8 year's old.

The Family Nature Trail and Deepdene Detectives walks meet at Trail Entrance on the A24.

The Natural History Walk and Deepdene Bat Walk meet on Brockham Green outside The Royal Oak Pub.

The nearest car park to the Trail Entrance is a 10/15 minute walk from the Dorking Halls car park, use RH4 1SD for your sat nav.

Parking for the Natural History Walk and Bat Walk is recommended around Brockham Green.

Please note all these walks contain slopes and uneven ground. Sturdy footwear and a reasonable level of fitness is required to take part.

Media contact for further information and images:

Liz Rice

Senior Communications and Marketing Officer

01306 879113

Twitter - @molevalleydc

Instagram – Follow us @Molevalleydc

Facebook – Follow us at: www.facebook.com/moretomolevalley