

# Mid Kent Downs e-Bulletin

March 2010

Issue 3

The Mid  
Kent Downs  
Countryside Partnership

A quarterly information service published by the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership, specifically aimed at those working within the project area to enhance the landscape and carry out countryside conservation work.

If you no longer wish to receive this publication or you received this bulletin in paper form and would like to subscribe please e-mail [midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk) and let us know.

## Latest News

### Wandering & Wondering

The Heaths Countryside Corridor launched a new three year project on a wet and windy day at the end of February. The Heritage Lottery Funded "Wandering and Wondering" project aims to encourage more people from the local community to enjoy, appreciate and to get involved with the wildlife and heritage on their doorstep. The launch event featured displays and activities from Lenham Archaeology Society, Kent Mammal Group, Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and Butterfly Conservation. For more information about the project and details of events please contact us here at [MKDCP](#).



### Landowner Partnership Projects

We are pleased to announce that our Landowner Partnership Projects have been extended for another year. Do you have an idea that will help improve an area for wildlife? If so, we may be able to help as we can provide 50% of the money for the right projects. The kind of things that can be funded include planting hedgerows, digging ponds or planting trees. If you would like to chat through your idea do give us a ring on 01303 815170.

### Boxley Warren Reptile Ramble

Following winter tasks clearing some of the scrub at Boxley Warren it is time to see what the effects of the work are. Pieces of tin and roofing felt (known as refugia) have been placed at strategic points on the site to help us monitor reptile populations. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April we will visit the site and look under the refugia and in the surrounding area. If we are lucky we may even see male adders in combat as they compete for females. For more information and to book a place please contact us at [MKDCP](#).



## Discover Perry Wood

Work continues to improve understanding of this important piece of the Mid Kent Downs landscape. An upcoming event will see interested parties venturing to the neighbouring Blean project, to investigate similarities and links in areas of wildlife, landscape and history; including visits to the Earthworks at Bigbury and Hunstead and Joan Beech Woods. This 'exchange' event will take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April between 9 and 4. For more information contact [Sally Evans](#).

## Download the Dawn Chorus

Ever wanted to know more about the dawn chorus and exactly which birds are singing? If so, BBC Breathing Places have created a downloadable guide to birdsong narrated by Chris Packham. To download it just click on the picture of the CD.



# Grants Update

The latest news concerning grants which local groups can apply for to fund their projects. If you would like to discuss funding for a project please contact the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership team on 01303 815170 or [midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk](mailto:midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk)

## Improved Kent4Community Database

Kent County Council's free to use grant finding database has now been enhanced to make it even easier for you to find money for your projects. The database has been improved so that it:

- can save your searches and you can return to them at a later date.
- provides more information about trust funding.
- can send you e-mail alerts when new funding becomes available.

To visit the website and sign up [click here](#).

## Kent & Medway Funding Fair

There will be two funding fairs in Kent this year. The first is in Sevenoaks on March 31<sup>st</sup> and the second is in Ramsgate on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will be your chance to meet the funders and talk to them about projects you want money for. Places are limited so to find out more and book your place [click here](#).

This month's featured grants are:

## Will Charitable Trust

This Trust provides financial assistance to registered or exempt charities whose activities fall within four categories, one of which is "Conservation of the countryside in Britain, including its flora and fauna."

Grants are normally one-off payments and generally fall within the range of £5,000 to £20,000. Capital and running costs are eligible. The conservation programme opens in June with a 31<sup>st</sup> August deadline and decisions made in November. Further information can be found by [clicking here](#).

## Tree Council Funding for Tree Planting

The Tree Council has two funding schemes.

- Trees for Communities (for community groups but must involve children)
- Trees for Schools (for schools with pupils 16 years old or younger)

The Tree Council grants up to £700 towards planting projects and will fund up to 75% of the cost of the project. Applications need to be in by the end of March and more details can be found [here](#).

## Reaching Communities

This is the main source of funding for community projects over £10,000. Big Lottery have announced that they will continue to fund this programme to the tune of £100million per year.

The key themes that will be funded are transitions and isolation but it is unclear if these will be the sole focus of the grant. All projects should improve environments and involve people who will have opportunities to improve their skills. Small grants will be given of up to £40,000 and applications will be in a 2-stage process. For more information go to the [Big Lottery website](#).

## Young Roots

Are you involving young people between the age of 13 and 25 in projects that help them find out about their heritage, develop skills, build confidence and promote community involvement. If so, the Heritage Lottery Funded scheme could be for you and should help develop a partnership between a youth organisation and a heritage organisation.

There are no deadlines for applications and you can find out more information [here](#).

## Events

### Bredhurst Woodland Action Group.

Volunteer Task Days every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Family Wildlife Walk

Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> April

Bluebell Walk & Cream Tea

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April

For more information go to their [website](#).

### Heaths Countryside Corridor (Charing Heath and Lenham Heath)

Frogs, Newts & Toads (night time survey)

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> April

Discover the Woodlands of the Corridor

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April

Discover the Flora of the Corridor

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> June

The Ragwort Rampage (practical work with KSCP)

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June

For more information contact [MKDCP](#).

### Boxley Warren

Reptile Ramble

Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

Kent Field Club site visit

Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

For more information contact [MKDCP](#).

### Park Farm Community Orchard, Lynsted

Blossom Day

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April

For more information visit their [website](#).

## Additional Sources of Help

For more information about external funding and to use Kent County Council's online grant finding software visit [open4community.info/kent](http://open4community.info/kent)

Kent County Council also produces the excellent 'Inside Track' which is a fortnightly funding update newsletter. To download the latest copy go to the [External Funding webpages](#)

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