

The Bignor South Downs Wildlife Day

Walk, talks and total relaxation



Bignor Church
Sat. June 12th
From noon

On a Spring Saturday at Bignor come along and enjoy a few hours in the company of naturalists, ecologists, geologists, herbalists and ordinary country folk just learning about wildlife, the South Downs and much else.

Bug hotel: Compost heap life: How to manage garden wildlife: Lichen identification: Flowers and plant spotting: What to grow to encourage wildlife: Caring for the countryside through rigorous conservation projects: Giving a home for bats, bees, birds and making them feel at home with you.

Conservation churchyards. What it means and how to manage God's acre to the benefit of all creating a restful haven for ourselves and others who follow.

What to see in a country church. The architectural features of Bignor Church will be explained in detail. Do you know why we have a rood screen and why is the font by the entrance? Find out about why churches are like they are and how they have changed over the centuries.

12.00 noon: A Great Walk

From the church, through the woods and up onto the Downs. A guided tour of some quite incredible rural features from wildlife to ancient pre-historic remains. At the top a talk from a knowledgeable geologist on how the Weald and the South Downs were formed. Spectacular views. (About 2.5 hours) Free (links to evening talks).

7.30pm: A Great Evening

Chris Howkins: How did we used to live? The incredible history of plants and their uses in everything from food and medicine and how our Saxon forebears lived in the South. A vibrant talk from a well known ethnobotanist.

David Bone: Exploring West Sussex Geology: Whether you are interested in the landscape, the rocks, fossil collecting or building stones this will be a fascinating talk from a well recognised geologist.

Bruce Middleton: Pre-historic plants that you can see today. Quite an eye-opener to what is in our fields, woods and hedgerows. **£8 (Children £4)**

Throughout the day local ale and other refreshments will be available. Displays featuring South Downs National Park, National Trust etc.

Leaning against an old church wall with a bottle of pop in your hand soaking up the sunshine listening to the Spring birdsong – what a wonderful way to relax.

Free during the day and free parking.



(Bignor is 6 miles from Petworth, Pulborough and Arundel and signposted from the A29/A285).

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South Downs Joint Committee
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**SOUTH
DOWNS**
joint committee