Exploring Vale Royal's Countryside



After the Festival of Walking there are plenty of walks and activities you can join in to help you explore this lovely part of Cheshire. Many of the organisations involved in the Festival including Cheshire Countryside Management Service have an ongoing programme of walks and activities. The **Cheshire Countryside Events 2003** has a wide variety of guided walks and activities for all the family while the **Cheshire Countryside Explorer** leaflet has details of country parks, picnic areas, walks and rides for cyclists and horse riders throughout Cheshire.

The **Sandstone Trail** is a popular 55km/34mile waymarked route from Frodsham to Whitchurch. Free Walkers' Guides are available from the Countryside Management Service on 01606 301481. The Sandstone Rambler Bus Service runs until 26 October 2003, making it easy to walk a short section of the Trail. For an information pack please phone Cheshire Traveline on 01244 602666.

'Circular Walks along the Sandstone Trail' by Carl Rogers describes 12 linked circular walks along the Trail and is available from bookshops or Mara Books on 01928 723744.

The **Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 267** 'Northwich and Delamere Forest' is ideal if you want to explore on your own. Waymarked routes, other paths, field boundaries and tourist information are all clearly marked. OS maps are widely available in local shops.

Attractive **Parish Paths Maps** showing all the paths in an area and some suggested circular walks are available for Frodsham, Kingsley, Helsby, Alvanley and Manley and Moulton, Davenham and Bostock.These maps are available locally or from the relevant Parish Council.

For details of other walks in Cheshire please contact Cheshire County Council Countryside Management Service or visit our web site at **www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside**

Vale Royal Borough Council produce a number of walking guides and leaflets. Contact Northwich Tourist Information Centre on 01606 353534.

For your free **Explorer Pack** with details of walks, attractions and accommodation please contact Cheshire County Council Tourism Section on 01244 603107 or order on line at **www.visit-cheshire.com/form.htm**

www.cheshireforall.com is a new website which has detailed access information on attractions, country parks, gardens and other places to visit in Cheshire.

Festival of Walking

in Vale Royal

September 2003



The Festival of Walking is organised by Cheshire County Council Countryside Management Service who would like to thank all the individuals, groups and organisations who have given their time and expertise to produce such an exciting programme.



For further details about the Festival or other walking opportunities in Vale Royal please contact:

Jo Danson - Cheshire County Council
Countryside Management Service
Station House, Willaston, Neston
Cheshire CH64 2UQ
Phone: 0151 327 2084
Email: countryside@cheshire.gov.uk
www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside

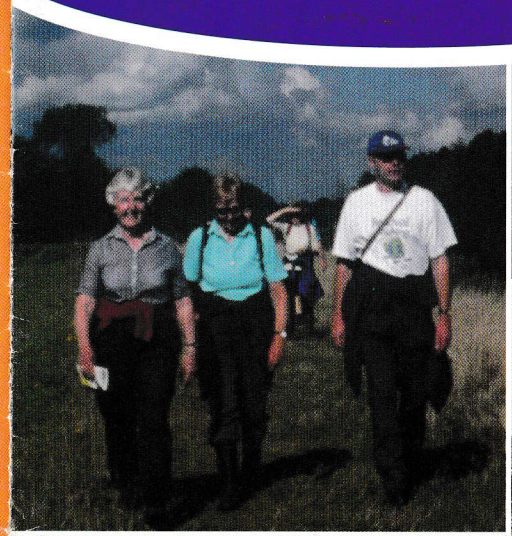
CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

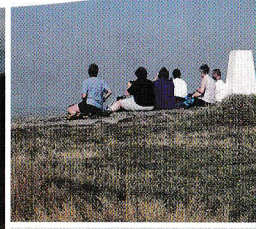
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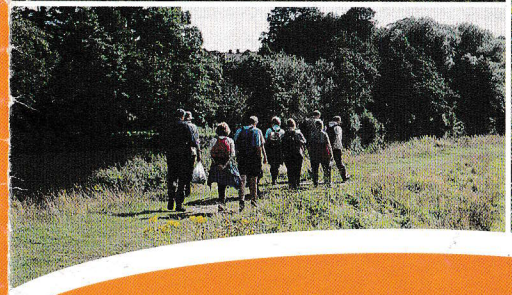
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Festival of Walking

in Vale Royal



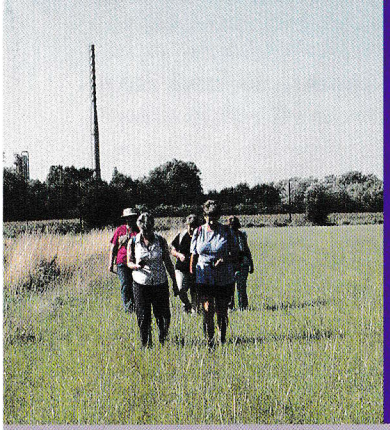






September 2003

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Welcome to the Festival of Walking in Vale Royal 2003

Come and discover the rich landscape of Vale Royal in the heart of Cheshire, from the rugged sandstone ridge and the woodlands of Delamere to the wide valley of the River Weaver.

The 2003 Festival of Walking gives you the opportunity to join a variety of walks led by enthusiastic local people. Most of the walks are taken at a leisurely pace with plenty of time to stop and admire the scenery and learn about the wildlife, industrial heritage or other features along the way. There are also some longer rambles to give you the chance to really stride out and stretch your legs. Whether you are a seasoned walker or putting your new boots on for the first time, we hope there is something for you in the programme.

Who can come?

Everyone is welcome and all the walks are free unless stated otherwise, just turn up at the meeting point on the day. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult and remain their responsibility at all times. Dogs may be brought on a lead on some walks, but it is generally better to leave your dog at home. Please check with the walk leader before you go.

What to wear

Walking boots or stout shoes are recommended as some paths may be rough, muddy or steep. You should also bring waterproofs and warm clothing as the weather can change quickly.

What to bring

Drinks and snacks are essential as walking can be hard, thirsty work. Don't forget a packed lunch on the all-day walks. Also pack your sunscreen - just in case!

How to get there

Parking may be limited at the start of some walks. For details of public transport please contact Cheshire Traveline on 01606 815050.

Access & Safety

There are stiles on most footpaths in Cheshire although where possible these are gradually being replaced with kissing gates. If you have any queries about your ability or fitness for a particular walk or need any further information please contact the leader in advance. Your safety on the walks is very important. The walk leaders may refuse to accept anyone who, for example, is inadequately clothed for the conditions. While care will be taken to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable walk, Cheshire County Council cannot accept responsibility for personal injury or loss of property when attending any of the walks in this programme.

Enjoy your walking!





Some useful contacts

The following organisations are all active in promoting walking in Vale Royal.

Vale Royal and Knutsford Group of the Ramblers Association provide a full and varied programme of walks in Cheshire and the surrounding area. Contact Eric Povall, Programme Coordinator, on 01606 882371.

Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society works to keep footpaths open and well marked. There is a regular programme of walks where the main purpose is to inspect paths and clear minor obstructions. You are welcome to join these walks which are between 3 and 6 miles long. Contact John White on 01928 788549.

Northwich U3A runs two walking groups for people over 50. The Striders meet on a Tuesday for walks up to 5miles/8km while the Strollers meet on a Thursday for shorter, flatter walks. Contact 01606 883358 for details.



Walking for Health is a wonderful way of getting fitter and can be sociable too. Vale Royal Borough Council organise a Walking for Health scheme to encourage people to get out walking, with leaders and routes which have been specially chosen to introduce you gently to this activity. Contact: Elly McFahn on 01606 867548 or Sara Lewis on 01606 867772.

Delamere Forest Park offers a range of facilities to walkers including two self-guided walks and an all-ability trail. Educational and fun family events are run all year round. Contact Linmere Visitor Centre on 01606 889792.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Cheshire County Council are preparing a rights of way improvement plan. Whether you currently use or intend to use the rights of way network we would like to hear your comments and suggestions on how the public rights of way network in Cheshire can be improved to meet your needs. For further information please contact Sally Bielby or Alan Bowring on 01244 603010 or visit www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside/prow/ROWIP



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September 2003

Saturday 6 September
Sandstone Trail 9.00am, 7 hours, 17 miles / 27km

A rigorous walk along the Trail from Beeston Castle over the Shropshire Union Canal, through Delamere Forest and along the ridge of the Frodsham Hills. Stout footwear, lunch and plenty to drink essential. Dogs must be on leads.

Meet: Sandstone Rambler bus stop opposite the Bear's Paw, Frodsham.

Booking essential: please contact Nigel Griffiths, Frodsham Town Council, on **01928 732030**

Saturday 6 September
Abbots Moss 11.00am, 2 hours

A walk around a series of internationally important basin mires. The mossland carpets support several species of sphagnum moss as well as the insectivorous sundew and many other special species. Stout footwear required.

Meet: Layby by Nunsmere on A49. **GR: 587 688**

Booking essential: please contact Jacki Hulse, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, on **01270 610180**

Saturday 6 September
Bat Evening 7.00pm, 2 hours

Join the Rangers at Marbury Country Park for an evening looking for nocturnal creatures including bats, owls, badgers and many more.

Meet: Rangers' Office, Marbury Country Park. **GR: 649 765**

Contact: Chris Moseley, Cheshire Countryside Management Service, **01606 77741**

Sunday 7 September
Watery Graveyard Walk 10.30am, 2 miles / 3km

Experience the Weaver Navigation, where you will find rural tranquility and the remnants of many old working wrecks sleeping in the river.

Meet: car park near Sutton Swing Bridge, Frodsham.

Contact: Fiona MacDonald, British Waterways, **01244 390 372**

Monday 8 September
River Weaver Ramble 10.30am, 4 miles / 6km

A circular walk to the south of Northwich, along the canal and through valley woods close to town. Good walking shoes required.

Meet: Northwich Memorial Hall. **GR: 661739**

Tuesday 9 September
Around Whitegate Way & Village

10.00am, 2 - 3 hours, 5 miles / 8km

A pleasant walk along the Whitegate Way to Newchurch Common, through Sherratts Rough, to New Pool and Whitegate Village. Boots required, no dogs please.

Meet: Whitegate Station car park, Clay Lane. **GR: 615 680**

Contact: Jean Birch, Northwich U3A Striders, **01606 74734**

Tuesday 9 September
Rushton Ramble 2.30pm, 4 miles / 6km

A walk around some of the pretty villages close to Oulton Park. No dogs please.

Meet: Oulton Mill car park. **GR: 578 650**

Contact: Tony Harbottle, Mid Cheshire Footpath Society, **01829 733465**

Tuesday 9 September
Walking in Owley Wood 6.30pm, 1 mile / 1.5km

A short walk through some wonderful old woodland. Good footwear essential as the paths may be rough in places.

Meet: Owleywood Scout Hall, Owleywood Road, Weaverham.

Contact: Bryan Whitney, Friends of Owley Wood, **01606 852327**



Wednesday 10 September
River Weaver History Walk 10.00am, 5 miles / 8km

Thursday 11 September
Blakemere Circular Walk 10.30am, 3 miles / 5km

A pleasant walk through Blakemere Woods to Kennel Lane, then over the fields and stiles to Dalefords Lane, looking for wildfowl on the water along the way. Boots or sturdy shoes required.

Meet: Falconry Centre car park, Blakemere Craft Centre.

Contact: Jean Birch, Northwich U3A Strollers, **01606 74734**

Thursday 11 September
A Country Parish 2.00pm, 3 hours, 6 miles / 9km

A rural walk across the moss known as Whitley Reed then via fields and lanes taking in some of the older houses in the parish of Antrobus and the Methodist Chapel. A look at a recently restored ancient highway and Parkmoss Wood (Woodland Trust) before some more old farmhouses and tracks.
If time allows there will be a quick look at the former naval air-station on the Antrobus/Appleton boundary.

Meet: Birchmoss, New Road, Antrobus **GR: 649 822**

Booking essential: please contact Derek or Sue Enfield on **01565 777248**

Friday 12th September
The Bounds of Sandiway & Cuddington

10.00am, 5 miles / 8km

A walk along the paths within Cuddington Parish Boundary. Boots or strong shoes required, rather than trainers. Please bring a drink.

Meet: Playing Fields car park, Norley Road, Cuddington. **GR: 602 715**

Contact: Eric Povall, The Rambler's Association, Vale Royal & Knutsford Group, **01606 882371**

Friday 12th September
Winsford Industrial Estate 12.30pm, 2 miles / 3km

A lunchtime walk along a little used footpath which links the Estate to Bostock. Stout shoes and leg cover required.

Meet: Meridian House, Road One, Winsford Industrial Estate.

Booking essential: please contact Mike Kelly, Groundwork, on **0870 241 5886**

Friday 12th September

Contact: Irene Roberts, Mid Cheshire Footpath Society, **01928 788549**

Monday 8 September
Prams in the Park
10.30am, 2 hours, 2 miles / 3km

A leisurely stroll, ideal for prams and pushchairs, through the woods at Marbury Country Park with good paths and plenty of time to chat. BYO baby and enjoy some fresh air, birdsong and blackberries. Any dogs must be on a short lead.

Meet: Rangers' Office, Marbury Country Park. **GR: 649 765**

Contact: Morag Sinton and Alasdair on **01606 834093**

Monday 8 September
A Steep Climb to Pale Heights
1.00pm, 2 hours, 4miles / 6km

A walk up one of the high points in Cheshire to admire the view of seven counties and listen to the long term plans for Delamere Forest, the trees, meres and mosses. Followed by a hot drink in the Visitor Centre.

Meet: Linmere Lodge Visitor Centre. **GR: 548 705**

Contact: Anita Baines, Forest Enterprise, **01606 884933**

Monday 8 September
Paths on Frodsham Hill
2.00pm, 5 miles / 8km

A walk around Frodsham Hill. Boots or strong shoes required, rather than trainers. Please bring a drink.

Meet: Beacon Hill car park, Simons Lane, Frodsham. **GR: 518 765**

Contact: Derek Bourne, The Rambler's Association, Vale Royal & Knutsford Group, **01928 733492**

Tuesday 9 September
Discover Furey Wood
10.00am, 2 hours, 2 miles / 3km

A walk from Northwich across Town Bridge, along the riverbank into Furey Wood on the steeply sloping banks of the River Weaver with excellent views of Northwich and beyond. Long trousers and shoes or trainers recommended.

Meet: Northwich Market Place, by the seating outside the Northwich Guardian Office.

Contact: Alec Johnson & Mac Carding, Friends of Furey Wood, **0151 423 6959** or **07740 899579**



An opportunity to explore the navigational history of the River Weaver on a circular walk from Acton Bridge along the River Weaver to Saltersford Locks, returning along the Trent and Mersey Canal. Walking boots or trainers recommended.

Meet: Leigh Arms pub car park on A49, by Acton Bridge swing bridge. **GR: 601 762**

Contact: Ann Bates, Weaver Valley Initiative, **01606 79576**

Wednesday 10 September
Babes in the Wood
10.30am, 2 hours, 2 miles / 3km

A leisurely walk ideal for prams and pushchairs around Blakemere in Delamere Forest. Bring your baby for some fresh air and a chance to chat. The paths are rough in places, but you shouldn't need an all-terrain pram. Alasdair finds the bumpiness sends him to sleep quite well!

Meet: Delamere Forest Visitor Centre. **GR: 549 704**

Contact: Morag Sinton and Alasdair on **01606 834093**

Wednesday 10th September
The Old and the New
1.30pm, 5 miles / 8km

A walk starting at the old family estate of Marbury exploring the newest areas of the Northwich Community Woodlands, calling in at the Anderton Boat Lift. Bring a drink and snack.

Meet: Rangers' Office, Marbury Country Park. **GR:649 765**

Contact: Pete Schofield, Cheshire Countryside Management Service, **01606 77741**

Wednesday 10th September
The Natural History of Marshall's Arm LNR
2.00pm, 2 miles / 3km

A walk around the diverse habitats of Marshall's Arm Local Nature Reserve, concentrating in particular on the plant life of the Reserve. Stout footwear recommended

Meet: Entrance to Hartford Manor Primary School, end of Stones Manor Lane, Hartford, Northwich.

Contact: Derek Richardson, Marshall's Arm Local Management Group, **01606 867724**

Thursday 11 September
Allostock Circular
10.00am, 8 miles / 13km

A longer walk in the eastern most area of Vale Royal that includes an ancient highway. Good walking shoes required, no dogs please. Please bring a packed lunch.

Meet: Shakerley Mere north car park, **GR: 732 713**

Booking essential: please contact John White, Mid Cheshire Footpath Society, **01928 788549**

Thursday 11 September
Stroll in the Forest
10.00am, 5 miles / 8km

A walk along the paths in and around Delamere Forest. Boots or strong shoes required

Meet: Hatchmere Car Park, Norley. (Pay & Display) **GR: 556 721**

Contact: Bob Lucas, The Rambler's Association, Vale Royal & Knutsford Group, **01565 651765**

Weaver Wonder
1.00pm, 2 hours

A gentle stroll through the countryside on the doorstep of Winsford, looking at local and natural history.

Meet: Weaver Parkway Rangers' Office, Weaver Valley Road, just opposite Morrison's.

Booking essential: please contact Tony Blackledge, Cheshire Countryside Management Service, on **01606 593133**.

Saturday 13 September
Hatchmere
11.00am, 2 hours

A walk around this Site of Special Scientific Interest with a variety of habitats including open water, fen carr and woodland. Stout footwear required.

Meet: Hatchmere car park. **GR: 555 721**

Booking essential: please contact Jacki Hulse, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, on **01270 610180**

Sunday 14 September
Victorian Trail from Marbury
10.00am, 6 miles / 9km

Enjoy the contrasts of the countryside around Marbury and Anderton - fields, woodlands and industrial heritage, taking in the Lion Salt Works and Anderton Boat Lift. Please bring a packed lunch.

Meet: Rangers' Office, Marbury Country Park. **GR: 652 765**

Contact: David James/Richard Oliver, Friends of Anderton & Marbury, **01606 77741**

Sunday 14 September
Two Locks Walk
2.00pm, 2 hours, 4 miles / 6km

A walk with a local history theme along the banks of the Weaver Navigation, close to Northwich. The stretch between Hunts Lock and Vale Royal Lock is a delightful riverside stroll showing some of the best of Vale Royal's industrial and natural history.

Meet: Kingsmead Weir, off Monarch Drive. **GR: 652 723**

Contact: Derek Richardson, Marshall's Arm Local Management Group, **01606 867724**





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