

Countryside Activities programme



Open Country, a Yorkshire-based charity, helps people with disabilities access and enjoy the countryside. Welcome to our activities programme for January to March.

We run four weekly groups for adults with learning disabilities or autism. Groups run from 10:00am - 4:00pm Tuesday to Friday from Thornes Park Nursery, WF2 8QE. These are chargeable day services.

NATURE FORCE

Tuesdays 10:00am - 4:00pm

The Nature Force group carries out conservation work to improve green-spaces for people & wildlife in Wakefield and beyond.



TRAILBLAZERS

Wednesdays 10:00am - 4:00pm

Our Trailblazer group carry out a range of habitat management and path improvement work to help local people access and enjoy the countryside.

WILD WALKERS

Thursdays 10:00am - 4:00pm

A gentle walk between 4 - 7 miles around Wakefield and the surrounding countryside with plenty of pauses to watch wildlife and admire the views. Each new season brings something magical!

WILDTINGS

Fridays 10:00am - 4:00pm

This group grow wildflowers, build nest boxes, explore nature reserves and get crafty with nature based activities.

WEEKEND OUTINGS & ADVENTURE CLUB

Open first to anyone with a physical disability or sensory impairment, the outings visit a wide variety of wheelchair accessible locations.

There's a £10 booking fee for the trips and we have a wheelchair accessible minibus to get you there.

Join the minibus from Thornes Park, Wakefield bus station or Wakefield Westgate train station. We can arrange to pick people up from home - but it may depend on where you live and where we're going.

We've tried to choose destinations with accessible toilets and a café, but please bring a packed lunch and a flask just in case the café is closed.

Cancellations make it difficult for us to fill the bus & cover our transport costs. Any cancellation within 72 hours of the event will be charged. Please save the date once you've booked on to a trip.

SWINTON LOCK CANAL BOAT TRIP

Saturday 17th January

Admission £15 Trip £10

A relaxing 2-hour cruise on a fully accessible wide-beam boat along the South Yorkshire Navigation from Swinton. A great way to watch wildlife, or just let the scenery go by.



STARLING MURMURATION, POTTERIC CARR NATURE RESERVE

Sunday 18th January

Admission: Free Trip: £10

A trip to Potteric Carr as winter dusk sets where with a bit of luck the calm skies will suddenly be filled with a whirling, liquid-like mass of birds. This is a starling murmuration, one of nature's awe-inspiring spectacles and still shrouded in a little mystery. Please wrap up warm!

SELBY ARCHERY CLUB

Saturday 31st January

Admission £10 Trip £10

“Once more to Selby Archery Club dear friends, once more, and any Englishman now a-bed shall think themselves accursed that they were not on the minibus.” Back to Selby for another enjoyable day of adaptive archery - suitable for visually impaired people.

PEAK RAIL JOURNEY

Saturday 07 February

Fare £24 Trip £10

Experience the sights, sounds (and smell of diesel) on a heritage locomotive journey through the heart of the beautiful Derwent Valley. Closed in 1968, this historic route now operates a 4-mile stretch between Rowsley South Station and Matlock Platform 2.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Friday 20th February

Suggested donation: £3 Trip: £10

A trip to Weston Park Museum, Sheffield, to celebrate the Lunar New Year with craft activities and a Lion Dance demonstration. We can also have a gentle stroll around the park if the weather's fine.



WAKEFIELD RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Saturday 21st February

Admission: Free Trip: £10

A day to explore the famous festival which features a food & drink market where you can enjoy everything and anything from cheese, jams and gins to brownies, beer and chocolate - and of course Rhubarb! There will also be chef demos and street entertainers.

SNOWDROP FESTIVAL, WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE

Saturday 28th February

Admission: £10 Trip: £10

Celebrate the first signs of spring at the breathtaking Wentworth Woodhouse Snowdrop Festival!

Wander through carpets of delicate white blooms on our Snowdrop Walk and explore the accessible Gardens as they awaken for a new season.



CHATSWORTH HOUSE PARKLAND

Saturday 14th March

Admission: (various prices on-line) Trip: £10

Chatsworth House parkland offers over 1800 acres of stunning landscape, including woodlands, hills, and open spaces with free walking paths, perfect for exploring the grounds, spotting deer, and enjoying views of the famous house.

TOPHILL LOW NATURE RESERVE

Sunday 15th March

Admission £2.50 Trip £10

Spend the day wandering through the woods, wetlands and grasslands marvelling at all kinds of wildlife, from otters to dragonflies.

BRODSWORTH HALL & GARDENS

Saturday 21st March

Admission: £16 Trip: £10

Brodsword Hall was built between 1861 and 1863. It survives as a mid-Victorian vision of a comfortable country house, with many of its original furnishings and the formal gardens laid out around it.



BEYOND THE VISUAL, HENRY MOORE INSTITUTE

Friday 27th March

Entry: Free Trip: £10

An exhibition which demonstrates that blindness is no barrier to creating ambitious, provocative and internationally significant sculpture. Incorporating touch, sound, smell and movement, the works are playful, poetic and often deeply thought-provoking, inviting visitors to encounter sculpture in ways that reach far beyond the visual.

MAM TOR

Saturday 28th March

Entry: Free Trip £10

A 5-mile circular walk around Mam Tor, the "Shivering Mountain" an iconic 517m hill in the Peak District near Castleton, Derbyshire, famous for its stunning views. Some steps and steep sections, so sturdy walking boots and warm, waterproof kit required.

