

SUMMER

FUN



2022

Teddy bears' picnic by Helen Walsh



Summer fun events and activities to keep children, young people and families happy and active through the summer holidays



West Berkshire
COUNCIL

West Berkshire

SUMMER

FUN 2022

We're happy to be able to safely open up more activities this year to offer a great variety of fun things to do during the summer holidays.

From woodland walks to story times, open air theatre to brushing up on cycling skills, there's something for everyone.



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Get Active

Coming soon - a new Lido

Our £5 million makeover of the much loved Lido at Northcroft Leisure Centre will start over the summer. Sadly, this means we can't open to offer our usual summer fun. **Boooooo!**

The good news is that we'll be making a



**BIG
SPLASH**

when we reopen next summer with a new 50 metre Olympic sized pool, more attractions for children and better access all round. **Woooohooo!**

Englefield Estate

Website

The beautiful gardens at Englefield House are open every Monday throughout summer from 10am to 6pm. Enjoy the children's garden, tranquil woodland with babbling stream, and impressive formal gardens. There are miles of walking routes and bridleways across the Estate to explore too.

Find maps, guides and activity sheets here

www.inglefieldestate.co.uk/community/outreach

Find us on social media:



Blue Lemon Paddleboarding

You don't have to go far to enjoy great water based fun.

[Blue Lemon Paddleboarding](#) offer lessons and tours at four West Berkshire locations. Get in touch to plan your adventure as an individual, group or family.



What's your Leisure?

We all have a favourite thing we like to do.

It's different for everyone, but once you find your 'leisure', you want to do it as much as you can.

It could be something that gives you a little peace and quiet. It could be something that gets you hot and sweaty, outside close to nature, or gives you time with your friends, making you feel part of a team. [Our leisure centres](#) play a big part in providing the sports and leisure activities we all enjoy.

They're all around the district offering everything from swimming and pilates to weight training and indoor cycling, with instructors on hand to advise and motivate you to keep active.

[Find your West Berkshire Leisure Centre](#)

West Berkshire Card

The leisure discount card for West Berkshire residents

The West Berkshire Card is a great, **free** way to get discounts (around 10%) at a range of Council facilities including the council's [sports and leisure centres](#). There's A Young Person Card for young people who are 16 years of age or under (up to and including students in Year 11 at school) and a Concessionary Card for residents over 60 years of age and not in employment; residents with a disability; and those in receipt of specified benefits.

See the [West Berkshire Card Information Leaflet](#) for full details.



Summer HAF is back



Our successful Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme will be running again over the summer holidays this year and will run for 4 of the 6 weeks (weeks vary depending on provider).

The scheme provides free enjoyable activities and nutritious meals for primary and secondary school aged children (4-16) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

The sessions will include a variety of fun and enriching physical activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a free nutritious meal each day. Nutritional resources and learning will also be made available to children attending the sessions.



For more information and a list of available clubs please visit

info.westberks.gov.uk/HAF

Get Active

Park Life



Newbury's Victoria Park is the perfect place to enjoy all types of family fun. There are lots of free activities, such as the children's splash park, play areas for toddlers and older children, outdoor gym equipment and a brilliant skatepark.

There are [tennis courts to hire](#), and a tee-rific time to be had at the [18 hole Adventure Golf Course](#). You can make a splash in the boating pond.

Victoria Park hosts events and Brass & Silver Bands play throughout the summer on the traditional Bandstand. It's also home to [Newbury Bowling Club](#), a community café and is a fabulous place to simply relax and enjoy the sunshine and beautiful floral displays.



See what's on in Victoria Park this summer



Reading Rockets has something for everyone



A community Basketball Club for all sexes aged 4-40+, they have over 680 players playing every week across their programmes, which include basketball hubs for 4–12-year-olds, satellite clubs for 13-19 year olds, and their newly launched community league to provide grass roots competition.

They run Special Educational Needs (SEN) programmes in special needs schools offering 1:1 sports sessions, weekly SEN clubs in Reading and SEN camps during school holidays, when the club partners up with other local sports to provide multi-sport camps for their SEN players. They also mentor their

older SEN players to volunteer with their younger programmes and are supporting young players in their mainstream programmes through the **Me2club**. They run a coach mentoring programme which encourages parents, older players and especially women to get into coaching.

They're running camps over the summer for ages 4+ including a girls only camp and will also be working around the district running sessions on outdoor courts to help young people get active outside and enjoy the summer sun!

See information on their summer programmes and weekly community timetable at www.readingrockets.co.uk



You'll be spoilt for Summer Fun choice at the [Waterside Centre in Newbury](#). Choose from climbing, paddling, sports and games, singing and music and much more.

Follow them on their social channels to keep up to speed with their exciting summer programme.

 @WatersideNewbury  @waterside_centre_newbury  @Waterside_BY

T: 01635 018500 E: waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk



Sport in Mind



[Sport in Mind](#) are running FREE social sports and games at the Waterside Centre, Newbury for young people aged 13 – 16 who are experiencing difficulties with their mental health. These **term time** sessions are fun, interactive and a great way to help build confidence, support self-esteem and meet new people. Book places by emailing youth@sportinmind.org

Climbing and Paddling Clubs

Waterside Centre run brilliant climbing and paddling activities every Friday after school during term time, for secondary school aged young people. See [Youth Club - Climbing](#) and [Youth Club - Paddling](#) for further details. Book places by emailing waterside@berkshireyouth.co.uk



West Berkshire Run Together

Want to get active, but need help to get started?

If you're new to running, or just out of practice, [RunTogether](#) offer free running groups especially for beginners to help you get off on the right foot.

The weekly sessions are fun, friendly, and free of charge at parklands and open spaces around the district. They're suitable for complete beginners or those who've been inactive for a while - you just need some comfortable clothing and trainers to join in.

Our runners are all shapes, sizes and ages and it's a great way to meet people and make new friends. Qualified run leaders lead a short run and are on hand in each session to offer advice, support and feedback to help you progress and meet your goals.

See the [Run Together timetable](#) for details of where the groups meet or sign up online at [Run Together West Berkshire](#).

Run Together is an official [#RunAndTalk](#) partner for Mental Health and is committed to encouraging and promoting conversations about mental health.



Pedal Power

The family that cycles together...

Nothing beats the feeling of exploring as a family and our family cycle training can help everyone to build confidence and enjoy adventures together. **Bikeability Family** is a tailored training package for families of 2 adults and up to 4 children (min 3 riders / max 6 riders).

The courses are run at venues across West Berkshire by DBS-checked, Bikeability qualified cycling instructors and cost £20 per session. They run Monday to Friday (excluding Bank holidays) for around 3 hours, depending on rider's ability.

• **AM session: 9am - 12noon** • **PM session: 1pm - 4pm**

All cycles must be in working order and safe to ride. They may need to go to the local bike shop for a service prior to training or you can pop to the Newbury community resource centre (NCFP) for a bike service - ask for Joe. Don't have a bike? NCFP have bikes available for a small donation.

Families must complete a **self-assessment** prior to training. This will be shared with instructors to help plan the session.

Complete the family cycle assessment [here](#) and we'll contact you to book your course. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For more information please email activetravel@westberks.gov.uk



Cycle training for children aged 10-17

The following courses are run by DBS-checked, Bikeability qualified cycling instructors and cost £20 per course.

25 & 26 July (12 places available)
Kennet Leisure Centre, Thatcham RG19 4LJ



To book

27 & 28 July (12 places available)
Shaw House, Church Rd, Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DR



To book

29 July (6 places AM / 6 places PM)
Kennet Leisure Centre, Thatcham RG19 4LJ



To book AM

To book PM

1 & 2 August (12 places available)
Linear Park, Calcot, Reading RG31 7AW



To book

30 & 31 August (12 places available)
Shaw House, Church Rd, Shaw, Newbury RG14 2DR



To book

Bikeability Level 2 should be completed and practised before attempting Level 3.

[See more information](#) or email activetravel@westberks.gov.uk for details.



SHAW HOUSE

Shaw House & West Berkshire Museum

Family Activity and Messy Museum Mornings

will take place on Wednesday's at Shaw House and Friday's at the Museum throughout the school holidays. £2 per child | 10am, 11am & 12pm.

Tickets must be pre-booked online:

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on



Festival of Archaeology

Saturday 16 – Sunday 31 July
| Various locations

Join us as we celebrate the Festival of Archaeology with a range of family-friendly walks and activities. This year the theme is all about Journeys.

The Council for British Archaeology's annual festival is the UK's biggest celebration of archaeology. For more information, please visit

www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html



Shaw House Summer Fair

Sunday 17 July | 11am – 4pm |
Adults £2, Children £1 (Under 3's free)

Share all the fun of the Summer Fair, with over 45 craft stalls of local makers and caterers offering a variety of hot food and drinks. Plus live music, craft activities from Ugly Duckling Pottery and Creation Station, performances from Mr Muddle the Magician and children's rides. In addition, there will be a dog show hosted by the National Animal Welfare Trust so remember to bring along your four legged friend! The House, including the Exhibition Rooms, will be open. Dogs on leads are welcome outside.



Open Air Sculpture Exhibition

Saturday 30 July – Sunday 25 September | 11am – 4pm | Shaw House | Free

The Orangery Lawn at Shaw House will be transformed into an open air sculpture exhibition where you can discover artworks by acclaimed sculptors in the grounds of this lovely historic setting. All works on display will be available for purchase.

Monday to Friday: Visitors will have access to the grounds only.

Weekends: The House, grounds, shop and café will be open.

Please note: the exhibition will be closed on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st August due to a private event.

For more information about the exhibiting artists please visit www.alterdstatessculptures.co.uk

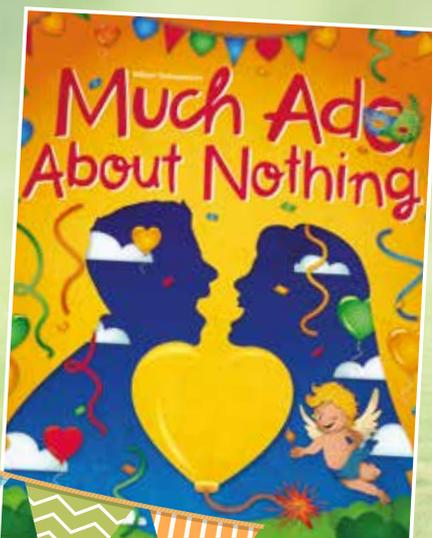
Much Ado About Nothing

Saturday 23 July | Gates 6pm, Performance 7pm | Shaw House (outdoor) | Adults £13, Child £9

Multi-award nominated Immersion Theatre presents one of Shakespeare's funniest comedies in their larger-than-life, wildly inventive, and laugh-out-loud adaptation of "Much Ado About Nothing".

Having developed a reputation for producing first class, highly original adaptations of Shakespeare's plays, the world's best-known battle of the sexes is brought vividly to life as the riotous struggle for love and power explodes onto the stage with audience interaction, heaps of comedy, and an electric soundtrack! This is Shakespeare for everyone and as it's meant to be: interactive, fun, and highly accessible!

For more information and to book visit www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on





Rapunzel

Wednesday 17 August | Gates 5pm,
Performance 6pm | Shaw House
(outdoor) | Adults £13, Child £9

Let your hair down and get tangled in a brand-new musical adaptation of the classic fairy tale, RAPUNZEL!

Immersion Theatre proudly presents a witty, pantomimic, tongue-in-cheek retelling of the family favourite complete with a laugh out loud script, a host of catchy songs, heaps of audience interaction, and an exciting array of larger-than-life characters.

With magic and mayhem throughout and a chance to meet the characters after the show, this is one hair-raising adventure your family won't want to miss!

For more information and to book visit www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on

Antiques and Brocante Market

Sunday 14 August | 10am – 4pm | Shaw House | Free

A welcome return for the unique French style Brocante market, offering antiques, vintage, retro, bric-a-brac and decorative arts items plus vinyl records on the Great Lawn at Shaw House. A great day out for all the family with free entry to explore the House. Street food will be available outside plus light refreshments from the café and pre-prepared picnics are available to order from

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on

Opera on the Lawn

Sunday 4 September | Gate 4pm,
Performance 5pm | Shaw House
(outdoor) | Adults £13, Child £9

Join us for an evening of beautiful music in the

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this event is now cancelled

From choruses to solo arias, comedy to tragedy and everything in between, we'll present favourites from our 25 years of grand opera in Newbury.

For more information and to book visit www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on





WEST BERKSHIRE
MUSEUM

SUMMER



Image courtesy of Roger Wyatt

Swifts in Newbury

**Friday 1 July | 6.30pm - 7.30pm |
West Berkshire Museum | £5**

A walk and a talk by local bird expert, Ailsa Claybourn, about these amazing birds who are disappearing from our skies, and how we can help them.

Did you know they live almost entirely aerial lives, fly up to 2 million km/1.24 million miles in a lifetime, sleep with only half their brain at a time and bathe by flying through rain? After a short talk, Ailsa will take us to see swifts and their nest sites in a walk from West Berkshire Museum, along the canal and back through Westfields.

For more information and to book visit
[www.westberkshireheritage.org/
whats-on](http://www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on)

Arts Award Explore

**West Berkshire Museum | £25 per
child | Runs throughout the school
holidays**

As an explorer, your child will take part in arts and crafts and find out more about West Berkshire Museum and history. This programme is aimed at 7-12 year olds, and is a combination of workshops and a self-led project.

Places are limited. Please sign up at the Museum. For more information visit

[www.westberkshireheritage.org/
whats-on](http://www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on)

**West Berkshire Museum
and cafe is open every
Wednesday to Sunday,
10am - 4pm.**

**Entry is free but
donations are most
welcomed!**



Summer Reading Challenge 2022

GADGETEERS

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

Join the Gadgeteers at your local library this summer!

West Berkshire Libraries will be challenging primary age children to read up to six library books between **1 July and 15 September** and to collect free incentives from their local library for their achievements as they read – with medals and certificates for everyone who completes the challenge!

From 1 July, children aged 4-11 years can visit a library to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. The theme of this year's challenge is 'Gadgeteers', a celebration of creative thinking and teamwork, which has been developed in partnership with the Science Museum Group. Our young innovators will be introduced to many aspects of science engagement, including food, fashion, music, and sport – something for everyone to enjoy!

There will also be a mini-challenge for pre-school children and one for the grown-ups too!

For additional activities, games, competitions and suggestions for further reading visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



There are lots of events for families and children of all ages at your local library throughout the summer. Check [here](#) to see what's on near you.

West Berkshire
LIBRARIES

SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP

IGNITING
IMAGINATION
INSPIRING
INNOVATORS

20
YEARS
THE
READING
AGENCY

Family Hub Fun



Head to our Hubs for family fun

Our [three Family Hubs](#) offer a range of services to support families, parents and carers of children aged 0-19 years old, primarily working with those with children aged under 5 years. There's always fun to have at the Hubs, with lots of fun family events running all through the summer, including Antenatal & Postnatal support, Breastfeeding support, Baby groups, Stay, Play & Learns sessions (0-4 years) and Family Learning courses.

From Messy Play to Cruisers and Crawlers, they have summer fun all wrapped up and ready to go.

Book activities and events [here](#)

For more information email familyhubs@westberks.gov.uk or call

Calcot and East **01189456157**

Central (Thatcham and Chieveley) **01635865318**

West (Newbury) **01635 31143**

Hungerford Family Centre **01488682628**

Or contact us via Facebook:

@familyhubeast

@familyhubwest

@familyhubcentral

@hungerfordandareafamilycentre



Mental Health and Wellbeing

The West Berkshire Directory

Your one-stop shop for help and support in West Berkshire for adults, families and the SEND Local Offer.

Find out more on the link below.

[West Berkshire Directory](#)



kooth

Online mental health support network for children and young people.



Kooth, offers free, safe, anonymous support and complements a range of other mental health support packages provided for youngsters across Berkshire.

[Find out more about Kooth](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wellbeing Walks

We offer free, regular, led Wellbeing Walks for people of all abilities. Our walks are friendly, welcoming and empowering, and a great opportunity to explore the outdoors, discover new places and meet new people. Our walk leaders are trained volunteers who are on hand to encourage and support walkers.

The walks are free and easy, ranging from 30 to 90 minutes. Some walks stop for coffee afterwards which is a great way to socialise and relax. See more information at the [Wellbeing Walks website](#) and see [our latest timetable](#) to find a walk near you.



Fostering



#writethenextchapter

West Berkshire Council is currently seeking new foster carers who could provide a loving and secure home for siblings such as Olivia, Freya and Jack who can no longer live at home.

We need families who can offer these children a chance to maintain their relationships. Could you be the family they need thrive together?

If you think you are ready for this challenge, then please contact the Family Placement Team
on T: 01635 503155

E: familyplacement@westberks.gov.uk



BBOWT

Come and grow in our garden

Plant some flowers, pick the strawberries or just relax and enjoy a quiet cup of tea in the new community garden at Thatcham's Nature Discovery Centre.

Every Friday from 1pm to 3pm, centre staff are inviting anyone who fancies doing a spot of gardening - or just spending time in a beautiful green space - to come down.

Throughout this summer there will be activities you can join each week, or you can just come and enjoy some fresh air.

Research shows that spending time in nature can be good for our physical and mental health - so why not come and help grow some flowers while you grow as a person.

The Nature Discovery Centre is managed by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, and the community garden is part of the Trust's Engaging With Nature project. Find out more:

[Here](#)





Take a walk on the wild side

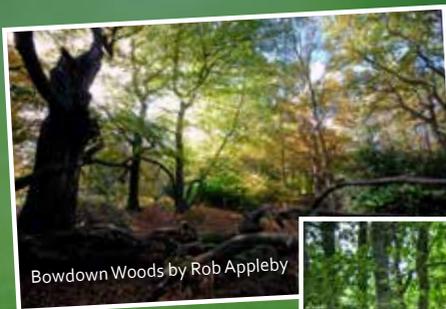
Go wild this summer and explore one of the local nature reserves managed by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT).

Take a long walk through the gorse at glorious **Greenham Common** - each summer the site is home to ground-nesting birds like the magical nightjar. Look out on BBOWT's events page for its annual night-time nightjar walks!

If you're feeling more adventurous, go exploring through the heather at **Snelmore** - in the summer you can see lounging lizards and other reptiles sunbathing on the rocks.

To cool off, delve into beautiful **Bowdown Woods** with its mysterious valley where butterflies bask. Look out for the spectacular silver-washed fritillary and the handsome white admiral.

Find a reserve near you at bbowt.org.uk/nature-reserves



Bowdown Woods by Rob Appleby



Common lizard by Andy Fairbairn



Snelmore Common 10 by Pete Hughes



Greenham Common by Chris Worgan



Nightjar by David Tipling 2020 Vision



BBOWT



Discover your natural centre

Come and spot beautiful birds, explore the woods and even join a teddy bears' picnic this summer at the Nature Discovery Centre in Thatcham. All activities are run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) which manages this brilliant nature reserve and looks after the wildlife. Booking essential for all activities – book online at bbowt.org.uk/events

Family Trail

August 2-4, 10am -2pm

Arrive anytime between 10am and 12.30pm. £5 per child, adults free. Booking essential.

Follow the trail around our beautiful reserve, create your own magic journey stick as you go and don't forget to join us for live storytelling sessions throughout the day.

Awesome August

Tuesdays in August (9, 16, 23 and 30).

Two slots each day, 10am-11.30am or 12.30pm-2pm. £7 per child. Booking essential.

Join our Learning Officer for fun and inspiring wildlife-themed workshops every Tuesday in August. Two workshop dates for families (August 9 and 30), one for adults (August 16) and one for teens (August 23).



Teddy Bears Picnic

Thursday, August 25, 10am-12pm.
£7 per child, adults free.

Bring your teddies to our fun family event suitable for toddlers, and meet Teddy Elsa who will show you how some of her wild teddy friends survive in the woods. Take part in fun and crafty activities and afterwards why not spend some time on the reserve having your very own picnic?



Teen Rangers by Charley Miller

Teen Rangers Club

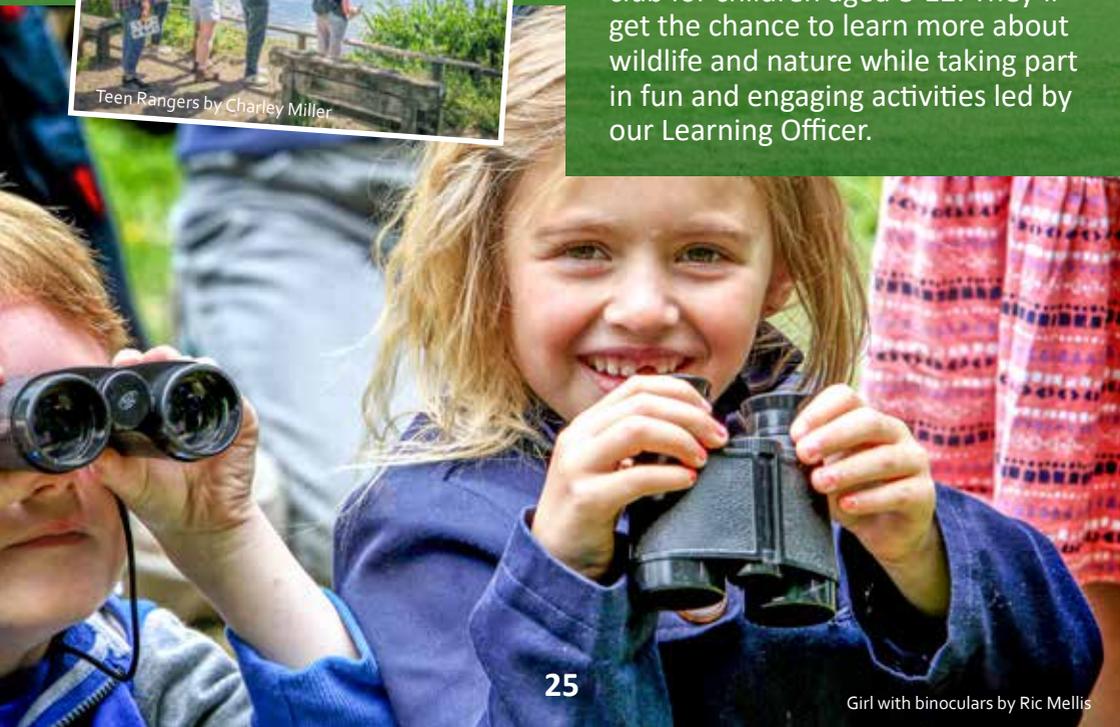
Saturday, August 6, 10.30am-12.30pm. £7 per teen. Suitable for ages 12-17.

Join our Learning Officer for our monthly teens-only wildlife club where you will be able to meet other like-minded young people and take part in wildlife-themed activities on our nature reserve.

Young Rangers Club

Saturday, August 6, 2pm-4pm.
£7 per child.

Send your young wildlife enthusiasts to our monthly wildlife club for children aged 8-12. They'll get the chance to learn more about wildlife and nature while taking part in fun and engaging activities led by our Learning Officer.





This Summer Enjoy Local, Enjoy Green

The Hungerford Hub

Hungerford Hub sells gifts and crafts from local makers to support the library where they hold community events. They encourage sustainability by encouraging investment in local talent to cut the emissions from global supply chains.

They're holding events throughout the Summer including book talks, crafts and wellbeing sessions. [See the full list](#) or follow them on socials



Enjoy Local Green Businesses

Orchard Life is an eco-friendly health centre based in Midgham offering Yoga and Pilates classes. They're running taster sessions throughout August and September and everyone is welcome.

Their therapy room provides osteopathy, podiatry, acupuncture, reflexology and shiatsu massage.

They're reducing their carbon emissions by moving to an Air Source heat pump and offering a 10% discount on classes to people who get there without a car.



More info here



The Little Zero Waste Home

The Little Zero Waste Home is a refill company based in Cold Ash offering fruit, veg and dried food to people who bring their own containers.

They are plastic free as are their suppliers and sustainable living is at the core of their business. [Find them at various markets and events over the summer.](#)



@thelittlezerowastehome @pantryrefillcompany



Hampstead Norreys Community Shop and Cafe

The Hampstead Norreys Community Shop and Café houses a host of environmentally friendly products. They recently installed a milk machine, serving fresh Cornish milk on tap in reusable glass bottles and a range of refillable cleaning and laundry products called Splosh. Customers bringing their own coffee mugs and food containers get a discount. They also host the brilliant family event Greenfest.

Follow them on Facebook.



FREE FUN DAY – FOR ALL AGES

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER - HAMPSTEAD NORREYS

10AM - 5.30PM **RG18 0TD**

- 40+ LIFESTYLE STALLS
- FREE WORKSHOPS
- EV TRANSPORT ZONE
- ART & SCULPTURE
- ENERGY ZONE
- LIVING RAINFOREST
- INFORMATIVE TALKS
- NATURE & CONSERVATION ZONE
- CHARITIES & LOCAL PROJECT ZONE
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING ZONE
- CHILDREN'S GAMES & CRAFTS
- FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY

COMMUNITY GREENFEST

PLEASE PHOTOGRAPH THIS LEAFLET

COMMUNITY FUND

SUSTAINABLE IDEAS FOR LIFE!

WWW.OURGREENFEST.CO.UK

Facebook icon, Instagram icon, THE LIVING RAINFOREST logo



Teach your children the Water Safety Code

STOP & THINK



Look for the dangers.
Always read the signs and
understand what they
mean.

STAY TOGETHER



Never go near water on
your own. Always have an
adult with you.

FLOAT



If you fall in, float or swim on
your back and stay calm.
Throw something that floats
to someone who has fallen
in.

CALL 999 or 112



In an emergency call
999 or 112 (coastguard).

For more information visit:

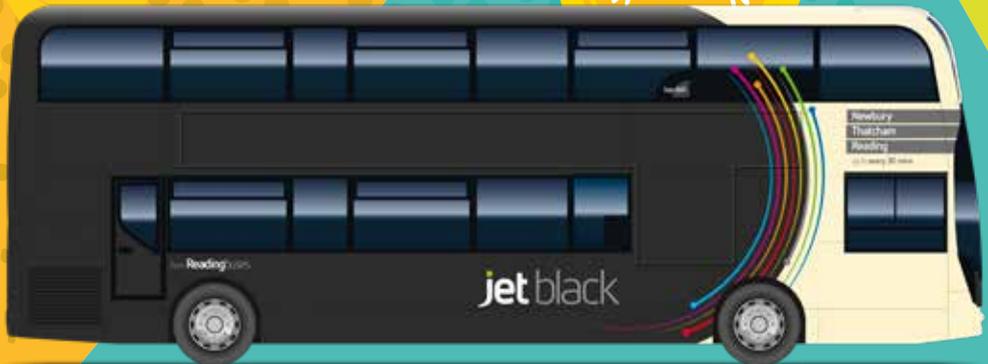
www.publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/about-us/campaigns/water-safety-partnership/

The wheels on the bus go round and round

Why not take the stress out of your day out by letting someone else do the driving? As well as reducing congestion and being good for the environment, taking the bus means you don't have to find a parking space!

Bus timetables and the local travel guide can be found:

[Here](#)



Let's stay connected!



We hope you liked our Summer Fun brochure and would like to keep in touch to keep you in the loop with all the great stuff happening in West Berkshire. There's lots of ways we can do this. Click on the icons to join us on our social media channels or sign up to one of our newsletters. We've got loads of topics to sign up to - all of them are free and you can manage your subscriptions at any time. To get started, just click on the envelope icon and enter your email address to choose your topics or adjust your preferences.

