

WEC & ASPIRE2

Family Day Trips

June 2013

- Odds Farm—Meet & Greet Peppa Pig
- London Museums and Southbank
- Weymouth Seafront
- Marwell Zoo

More information inside

Wildlife Corridor Dates

8 August

15 August

22 August

29 August

Ufton Court residential trips

Weds 14—Fri 16 August

Mon 19—Weds 21 August

Weds 21— Fri 23 August



WEC Newsletter

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Families with children of all ages are welcome on trips



School holiday's activity information for South Reading Families inside ...

Geoffrey Field Junior School - Family Fun Night

Over 60 people joined in the fun at the first Geoffrey Field Junior School



Family Fun Night, held on Friday 25th January in partnership with Aspire2. There was plenty going on, with a family quiz and bingo games. Feedback from the families was excellent and more events will be planned for 2013.

Half the £101.50 raised will go to Aspire2 and the other half to the Geoffrey Field parents garden project. If you would like to find out more about holding events to raise money for your school and ASPIRE2 (more information on back page) please contact **Chris Bloomfield, Vice Chair, Aspire2 by email** chris.bloomfield@reading.gov.uk.

Ufton Court updates

Recently we had the opportunity to interview some of the children who stayed at Ufton Court in 2012. It was both enjoyable and very interesting. Their enthusiasm was encouraging and they appeared to be very frank and open. In a nutshell: 99% enjoyed it and want to go again.

They all could talk about being challenged, not thinking they could do something and their feelings when they succeeded. With comments such as Adem, 'I felt as if I had won an Olympic gold' or Kaylern 'proud of myself'.

When asked if they had learnt things that helped them in school the majority answered with comments such as Jahvarney 'Yes, I never give up' or Shakira 'I still try things if I think I can't do it.'

About 80% really liked the countryside, some were not so keen on bugs and mud but hopefully moving out of tents will improve this. The new log cabins are underway and will be ready for use in the August camps—see inside for details.

The builders have arrived and we are fundraising for a volleyball court/sandpit, a



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WEC/ASPIRE2 Family day trips

Where: Odds Farm Park, High Wycombe www.oddsfarm.co.uk

Information: **Pepper Pig meet & greet day.**

A kid's farm for all ages!

For a cool mixture of fun, play & education, Odds Farm is the ideal outing for families, schools, groups and birthday parties – essential adventure for kids of all ages – all in a safe environment!

When: Wednesday 31st July 2013

Time: Coach Collects at 9.30am from Academy Sport, Northumberland Avenue.
The journey will take about 45 minutes . We will leave at 4pm.

Cost: £9 (Under 2's £3) Coach and entrance to the farm included
Trip Subsidised by Aspire2



Where: London Natural History Museum www.nhm.ac.uk

Information: Café and restaurants on site but families are welcome to bring their own food and drink

Special activities, visit Investigate, the science lab for 7 to 14 year olds. handle geological specimens in Earth Lab, inspire children of all ages with our Explorer and Discover guides, enjoy awesome activities for kids **under 7** with our Explorer backpacks.

When: Wednesday 7th August 2013

Time: Coach Collects at 9am from Academy Sport, Northumberland Avenue.
The journey will take about 1hour. We will leave at 4pm

Cost: £6 each



Where: London South Bank www.southbanklondon.com

Information: South Bank is an eclectic area that is the cultural heart of the city and home to London's most iconic attractions, theatres, arts and design-led venues. The area is buzzing with things to see and do all year round; free events, music, film, exhibitions, dance, theatre, debates, festivals and all sorts of family fun.

When: Wednesday 7th August 2013

Time: Coach Collects at 9am from Academy Sport, Northumberland Avenue.
The journey will take about 1hour. We will leave at 4pm.

Cost: £6 each



Where: Weymouth Seafront, Dorset www.visitweymouth.co.uk

Information: Home of team GBR sailing, Weymouth's 3 mile beach with level promenade is just minutes from the town centre and historic harbour . There's plenty of entertainment for everyone to enjoy from donkey rides to Punch & Judy to lively events and sporting championships.

When: Monday 12th August 2013

Time: Coach Collects at 8.30am from Academy Sport, Northumberland Avenue.
The journey will take about 2 hours. We will leave Weymouth at 4pm.

Cost: £6 each



(This trip is being run in partnership with the Thriving Neighbourhood Team)

Where: Marwell Zoo

Information: A visit to Marwell Wildlife is a chance to get up close to the wonders of the natural world.

When: Sunday 1st September 2013

Time: Coach Collects at 9am from Academy Sport, Northumberland Avenue.

The journey will take about 1 Hour. We will leave at 4pm.

Cost: £12 (under 3 's £3) Coach and entrance to the farm included

Trip subsidised by Aspire2



Ufton Court Adventure Residential Trips

Ufton Court residential trips are open to pupils in Year 3 and above.

Natasha Kirby will be the trip leader supported by staff from our local schools, who will be onsite at all times. All are CRB checked.

The camps are run by the Outdoor Academy. All staff are highly qualified in the Various National Governing Body qualifications, police checked and are First Aid Qualified.

Facilities:

4 log cabins** sleeping up to 8 in each (separate boys/girls)

1 leaders cabin sleeping 6

Communal cabin

Drying room

1 cabin fully adapted to sleep 4 disabled young people

Activities will include:

Canoeing Raftbuilding Downhill mountain bike trails High and Low ropes course Woodland archery Wilderness and Bushcraft skills Farm animal care, Outdoor climbing wall, Artificial caving system, Beach volleyball

Equipment

Outdoor Academy will supply everything apart from personal clothing.

Further information will be given once places are allocated.

Food arrangements

All meals will be provided with consideration to dietary and medical requirements.

The camps being held are:

Weds 14—Fri 16 August 2013 (Years 6 & 7 transition camp)

Mon 19—Weds 21 August 2013 (Year 3 and above)

Weds 21— Fri 23 August 2013 (Year 3 and above)

To register for a place please complete a trip form and return to your school office.

Price per child £25.

Funding towards these trips may be available from ASPIRE2 in exceptional circumstances. Please contact Natasha Kirby for an application form or download from the ASPIRE2 website.



**TRIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM YOUR SCHOOL OFFICE or
The ASPIRE2 website
<http://whitleyaspire2.btck.co.uk/>**

Community Information

WhitFest

WhitFest is a new Whitley-centred event taking place in 2013/14, aiming to use the arts to make a positive difference to people's lives. It will be launched in September 2013 with the start of projects and workshops, and will culminate in a festival week taking place in the summer of 2014.

WhitFest will host an ambitious community-led programme of arts projects and activities which celebrate this distinctive part of Reading. The theme for WhitFest is 'The World in Whitley', a festival which explores the past, present and future of Whitley's communities. Encouraging a wide interpretation of the theme, the festival will include creative activities inspired by older peoples' experiences of living in Whitley as well as the stories of younger residents.

It will celebrate Whitley's local identity as well as its place in the wider world. Aspire2 has established a WhitFest steering group to encourage input and involvement from a wide section of the community.

For further information or to volunteer your services please contact:

Jenny Sumner, Community Development Officer on 0780 958 4285 or email jenny.sumner@reading.gov.uk

School holiday activities

Whitley Wood Community Centre is hoping to secure funding to run school holiday activities.

To find out more contact Jenny Sumner, Community Development Officer on 0780 958 4285 or email jenny.sumner@reading.gov.uk

Whitley Wood Fun Day

Saturday, 25 May 2013, 12noon to 4pm

Whitley Wood Community Centre, Swallowfield Drive, Reading
RG2 8UH

FREE Bouncy Castle, Climbing Wall and Junk Art
Face Painting £1.50
Book Sale £1
Caribbean Food (as priced)



Search and 'like' Whitley Wood Community Centre on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news.

Are you aware that there is £1 million pounds to spend in Whitley?

How would you spend it?



The flooding season has passed – we hope – but ideas keep pouring in for the £1m Whitley fund. And some of the best and most practical ideas come from our children

Cleaner and busier parks, lots more colour in our roads and open spaces, better lighting for improved safety, a climbing wall, a cafeteria with good burgers on sale, a bowling alley and, please – a skate park. and please do something about the potholes in our roads, give better help to the homeless and why not a theatre too or a place we can see exciting plays. Don't forget the swimming pool they say – there ought to be more things to enjoy such as water slides and a wave machine.

We now have a team of volunteers prepared to help realise some of these exciting ideas and to make a start with a fund of £20, 000.

Expect to see a new community newspaper for Whitley in the summer months and in time, a local radio station. If you have any ideas for a name for the community newspaper why not let us know . Also look out for your School Pupil Council ideas for a future Whitley to be advertised on the Number 5 bus after July.

To all parents, all staff and pupils - get involved.

The £1m will only be spent as the residents decide and that means YOU!

**John Ord
Big Local rep**

John_ord1@hotmail.co.uk



Wildlife Corridor

Where: New Directions building

(opposite the Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue)

Organiser: Rachel Grant 07900861478 (after 4pm)

Email: rachel.grant1@yahoo.com

**All activities
are free!**

Thursday 8th August

1. Bug hunt
2. Pond dipping
3. Learn to draw insects and flowers
4. Paint slabs to make path through meadow.

“Have you ever wondered what lurks in a pond? Can you identify insects?”

Would you like to learn to draw insects?
Can you help us paint? If you can, then come along!

Meet at New Directions.

Thursday 15th August

Wildlife Walk through the Cowsey

“Photography Competition”

Budding photographers come and photograph summer wildlife in the local woodlands and enter a competition.

Photographs will be shown on the Wildlife Corridor Facebook page.

Meet outside the Leisure Centre, Northumberland Avenue at 10am.



Thursday 22 August

1. Bug hunt
2. Make and take mini gardens
3. Plant shrubs
4. Find out about bees

“Bee” amazed by what you can find under a log!

Make and take mini gardens. Help plant shrubs and find out about bees!

Meet at new directions.

Thursday 29th August

Walk through the Cowsey for first hour collecting twigs, leaves, etc
Take back to the garden and create collages to take (photograph all for the Facebook page)

“Wildlife walk through the Cowsey woodlands. Be inspired and collect leaves and twigs to create collages to make and take – we will photograph them and put them on the Wildlife Corridor Facebook page. **Meet at the Leisure Centre**, then back to the garden to get creating!”

Workshops run from 10-12 noon.

A look back at WEC trips this year.

In the Easter holiday's Dr Who fans filled a coach and travelled to Cardiff to the Dr Who Experience. A great time was had by all once the coach driver managed to find it!! We also had a beautiful sunny day at Amners Farm in Burghfield, Lambing was well underway and everyone had a free train ride!

Dr Who Weds 10th April – evaluation summary

Have you been on any WEC trips before?	YES 56%	NO 44%		
Was the trip value for money	YES 100%	NO Nil		
Did you enjoy the trip today?	YES 22%	It was ok 17%	NO Nil	It was amazing! 61%
Will you book onto further WEC trips?	YES 100%	NO Nil		



Amners Farm Sunday 5th May – evaluation summary

Have you been on any WEC trips before?	YES 56%	NO 44%		
Was the trip value for money	YES 100%	NO Nil		
Did you enjoy the trip today?	YES 67%	It was ok 11%	NO Nil	It was amazing! 33%
Will you book onto further WEC trips?	YES 100%	NO Nil		





Future trip ideas



Finkley Down Farm Pumpkin Festival

Wembley Stadium Tour

The Hawk Conservancy, Andover

Coral Reef, Bracknell

Pantomime at The Hexagon

Harry Potter Studios

**Please contact us if you have any ideas for trips.
And don't forget to follow us on twitter!!**

WEC RDG



ASPIRE2



The charity which has been established to support activities in and around the community of Whitley, South Reading. The charity is managed by a board of Trustees who are appointed from the local community, schools and services, we also have Partners working with us, who bring additional expertise and help.

Funds raised by the charity support 3 key areas: development of a residential site at Ufton Court, WhitFest, holiday and after school activities for our community.

Over the past 5 years Aspire2 has raised over £240,000 which has supported a wide range of local projects and programmes.

Chair: Martin Salter

Vice Chair: Chris Bloomfield

Whitley Excellence Cluster

Project Manager-Pauline Hill 07703-186257 phill@geoffreyfield-jun.reading.sch.uk

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