

Norfolk Coast AONB Dark Skies Festival

6-22nd September 2019

Events listing



Friday 6th September: Dark Skies Festival launch

A friendly gathering to officially launch the first Dark Skies Festival on the Norfolk Coast. Cllr Brian Long, Chair of the Norfolk Coast Partnership will offer the official launch, followed by an interesting astronomy talk from John Craythorne of King's Lynn Astronomy Society, and a spot of stargazing on the terrace (if weather permits!). We may have a couple of other surprises too....

Venue: Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Cley Visitor Centre, NR25 7SA **Time: 6.00-8.00pm.** Free entry.

Booking essential: Contact the Norfolk Coast Partnership on aonb@norfolk.gov.uk or 01328 850530.

Saturday 7th September: Celestial wonders under dark skies in Norfolk

A short illustrated guide followed by the chance to see some of these for yourselves through several telescopes at Saturn, Jupiter and a 9 day old moon plus several deep sky objects. A free event sponsored by Deepdale Backpackers and King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society. **Venue:** Deepdale Backpackers, Burnham Deepdale. **Time: 7.00-10.00pm.** **Booking essential:** To book a place contact John Craythorne on 01945 701038 or Alan Gosling on 01553 774394. This event is weather dependent, dress appropriately for the conditions

Saturday 7th September: Stargazing at Kelling Heath Dark Sky Discovery Site

Introduction to basic astronomy, followed by a walk to the Dark Sky Discovery Site, laser constellation tour and telescope viewing. A free event sponsored by Kelling Heath Holiday Park and North Norfolk Astronomy Society. **Venue:** Kelling Heath Holiday Park. **Time: From 8.00pm.** **Booking essential:** Call Kelling Heath Reception on 01263 588181. This event is weather dependent, dress appropriately for the conditions.

Tuesday 10th September: Creatures of the Night

Come and see what we have found in our moth and mammal traps which we set each night as part of our ongoing survey work at Natural Surroundings. Kate Dougan from the AONB will be here to talk about the importance of Dark Skies. **Venue:** Natural Surroundings, Bayfield Estate, Glandford, Nr Holt. NR25 7JN **Time: From 10.00am.** **Cost:** Free entry. Please dress appropriately for outdoor conditions.

For more information: <http://www.naturalsurroundings.info/> Email: wildlife@naturalsurroundings.info

Tuesday 10th September: RSPB Wild at Night

Walk through the reserve with bat boxes, looking for moths and other wildlife that comes out in the dusk/evening. **Venue:** RSPB Titchwell Marsh. **Time: 7.00-9.00pm**

Cost: Adults £10, Child £5 with discounts for RSPB members. **Booking essential:** Contact the RSPB Titchwell Reserve titchwell@rspb.org.uk or 01485 210779. Please dress appropriately for the conditions.

Wednesday 11th September: Norfolk Wildlife Trust Cley Visitor Centre evening stroll and BBQ

A glorious way to end your day. Enjoy an evening exploring the reserve followed by a barbecue on the terrace, which offers fantastic views across the marsh. **Venue:** Cley Visitor Centre. **Time: 6:30-9.00pm**

Cost: £10 NWT members, £12 non-members. **Booking essential:** 01263 740008

Please dress appropriately for the conditions

Wednesday 11th September: Walk Cromer Twilight walk & star-gazing

A 3.5 mile walk with Mike Bassingham to Abb's Common, Runton and back. **Venue:** Meet at Runton Road car park. **Time: 7.00-9.00pm** **Cost:** £2 per person. Please wear suitable clothing and bring a torch. For more information please contact Walk Cromer <https://walkcromer.co.uk/contact/>

For more information about the festival, contact the Norfolk Coast Partnership by email aonb@norfolk.gov.uk or phone 01328 850530. Join in on Twitter @Norfolkaonb, Instagram @norfolkcoastaonb #norfolkcoastdarkskies #darkcoastnorfolk #norfolkaonbdsf or Facebook Norfolk Coast AONB dark skies festival page.

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Events continued...

Saturday 14th September: Norfolk Wildlife Trust Bats at Cley-next-the-Sea

James Goldsmith leads this evening to look at our fascinating bat species found in the UK. A background talk will be followed by a visit to the resident bat population at Cley's St Margaret's Church. **Venue:** Meet at Cley Marshes Visitor Centre (short drive to church after theory session-own transport required). **Time: 5.30-9.00pm**
Cost: £16 NWT members, £19 non-members. **Booking essential:** 01263 740008

Saturday 14th September: An Introduction to the art of night walking with Dixe Wills

Spend the evening discovering the AONB at night on a fascinating night walk with author and travel writer Dixe Wills. Starting at Blakeney, this 7 mile night walk will take you on a round trip to Wiveton Downs Dark Sky Discovery Site then back to Blakeney and across the Blakeney Freshes embankment. Along the way you will discover night walking, the joys of being outside in moonlight and starlight (and occasionally Venuslight and Marslight), the sights, sounds and smells of the dark. You will also receive handy tips on basic navigation at night using the stars as well as dos/don'ts for staying safe while walking at night.

Time: 7.30-11.30pm. Cost: £10 per person, participants must be at least 16yrs old and capable of easily walking 7 miles, in the dark over uneven terrain. **Booking essential:** Contact the Norfolk Coast Partnership on 01328 850530 or aonb@norfolk.gov.uk Wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Bring refreshments.

Sunday 15th September 2019: Nocturnal bird migration

Simon Gillings from the British Trust of Ornithology will be giving a talk and demonstration of the work they do to monitor the nocturnal migration of birds by recording their flight calls.

Venue: Thornham Village Hall. **Time: 7.00-9.00pm. Cost:** Free

Booking essential: Contact the Norfolk Coast Partnership aonb@norfolk.gov.uk or on 01328 850530

Tuesday 17th September: Creatures of the Night

Come and see what we have found in our moth and mammal traps which we set each night as part of our ongoing survey work at Natural Surroundings. Kate Dougan from the AONB will be here to talk about the importance of Dark Skies. **Venue:** Natural Surroundings, Bayfield Estate, Glandford, Nr Holt. NR25 7JN.

Time: From 10.00am **Cost:** Free entry. Please dress appropriately for outdoor conditions.

For more information: <http://www.naturalsurroundings.info/> **Email:** wildlife@naturalsurroundings.info.

Wednesday 18th September: Splendours of the dark skies of the Norfolk Coast

An opportunity to discover the celestial wonders of our night skies - a free event organised by King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society. **Venue:** Barrow Common, Common Lane, Brancaster. Meet at Brancaster Staithe car park at 7.30pm. **Time: 7.30-10.00pm. Cost:** Free. **Booking essential:** Contact John Craythorne on 01945 701038/Alan Gosling on 01553 77439. This event is weather dependent, dress appropriately for the conditions.

Friday 20th September: Snapshot of the skies

Mini walk through the reserve looking for moths and other wildlife that comes out in the dusk/evening followed by introduction to astro-photography with the King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society.

Venue: RSPB Titchwell Marsh. **Time: 7.00-9.00pm. Cost:** Adults £10, Child £5 with discounts for RSPB members. **Booking essential:** Contact the RSPB Titchwell Reserve titchwell@rspb.org.uk or 01485 210779 Please dress appropriately for the conditions.

Sunday 22nd September: Norfolk Coast AONB Dark Skies Festival Celebration

Join us to celebrate our fabulous dark skies, how they feature in folklore and are essential for our own health and well-being. We are especially lucky to be joined by Mike Toms from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) who will give us a fascinating insight into how wildlife uses darkness to their benefit. We will look at ways in which we can all contribute to keeping our landscapes dark AND if weather permits we will be able to stay on for a bit and get outside for a spot of stargazing. **Venue:** Binham Village Memorial Hall, Warham Road, Binham, NR21 0DR. **Time: 6.00-8.00pm. Cost:** Free. **Booking is essential:** Contact the Norfolk Coast Partnership on aonb@norfolk.gov.uk or 01328 850530.

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