

## Events at Mote park

### Maidstone Mela

**Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 September**

**Time:** 12pm - 6pm

Multicultural festival celebrating the best of music, dance and food from around the world. Visit [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) for more details.

### Bat Evening Walk

**Wednesday 14 September**

**Time:** From 7pm

**Price:** Free

Join us on an after-dark guided walk and take a stroll in search of the bats that live and feed in Mote Park. As bats hibernate for winter, this month may be your last chance to find them. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Event Organiser:** Friends of Mote Park

For more information and to book a place, please contact Simon on 01622 730453.

### Wild Food Foraging

**Wednesday 21 September**

**Time:** 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Price:** Free

Come along and join our foraging expert. Carol will show you what is safe and good to eat on a morning stroll through the park.

**Event Organiser:** Maidstone Borough Council

Places are limited so booking is essential. For more information, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email [alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk), or [vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk)

### Tree Dressing

**Saturday 26 November**

**Time:** 10.30pm - 12.30pm

**Price:** Free

At this time of year, our deciduous trees are losing their leaves, so why not come along and add a little colour to a rainbow tree, leave a message on the remembrance tree or leave a Christmas wish on the wishing tree.

**Event Organiser:** Maidstone Borough Council

This is an open event, no need to book. For more information, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email [alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk) or [vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk)

Mote House, set prominently in Mote Park, dates back to the reign of King George III and was built between 1793 and 1801 for the first Earl of Romney. After it was sold by the second Viscount Bearsted to Maidstone Corporation, the grounds were opened up as a public park but Mote House itself was never in public use.

In 1995, after Cheshire Homes moved into purpose built accommodation in Staplehurst, the house was left empty and in 2006 Maidstone Borough Council granted permission for Audley to start the painstaking task of renovating Grade II listed Mote House, together with the surrounding buildings, into an 11 acre retirement village for the over 55s.

The Village will eventually have 100 properties including a limited number of apartments in Mote House together with a bar/bistro, library, restaurant and a Health & Wellbeing Centre which will include a swimming pool and exercise room.

You may not be aware, but a number of two and three bedroom cottages, lodge houses and apartments, have already been carefully integrated into the grounds and are now occupied.

If you want to enjoy a safe, secure and fulfilling lifestyle with like-minded people, please contact our Marketing Suite on 01622 737279 for further information or to arrange a private tour without obligation.

Further information can also be found on our website [www.audleyretirement.co.uk](http://www.audleyretirement.co.uk)



We would like to thank Audley Homes for the time they have contributed to this project, equating to over £4,000 in time and resources.

Maidstone Borough Council

# Mote Park News



Issue 2

June 2011



## Public Meeting

After careful deliberation, Maidstone Borough Council are within days of appointing a contractor to carry out the capital improvements in Mote Park. These improvements include the restoration of historic features such as the waterfall and pavilion, as well as the introduction of the lake side promenade and additional access hubs.

After the successful contractor is appointed, a public meeting will be held at Maidstone Leisure Centre. This will not only give park users the chance to meet the people that will be working to improve the park but there will also be an opportunity to get an update of what is happening with the rest of the project, including events and the work that volunteers have completed.

As soon as a date has been arranged for this meeting, all the details will be available at <http://motepark.maidstone.gov.uk>

We hope to see you there.

## Volunteers needed

In addition to conservation volunteers, we are looking for volunteers to help with a range of events including a kite day, a junior play day, a teens' activity day, a teddy bears' picnic, and a tree dressing day. In particular, we need help with running the arts and crafts stall, stewarding, and generally assisting with planned activities.

If you can help, please contact Alan or Vanessa. Further details of these and other volunteering opportunities can be found on the Mote Park Improvement Project website <http://motepark.maidstone.gov.uk>

## Volunteers

We have been joined by an admin volunteer, Vanessa, who is helping out two days a week in the office and we are continuing to recruit volunteers to help with all aspects of the Improvement Project. There is a wide range of opportunities available for volunteers, including assisting with community events, acting as park wardens and undertaking habitat surveys.

Five habitat survey training events have been organised during the spring and summer months, focusing on amphibians, flowers, ponds, butterflies and reptiles. Places on these courses are limited and anyone interested in these courses or joining the volunteering team should contact Alan Frith at [alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk) or call 01622 602119, or contact Vanessa Stevens at [vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk)



## Volunteer meeting room

Following the success of the tree planting days earlier in the year, the team has created a dedicated office space for volunteers. Volunteers helped to transform a small grubby room in the old changing room block near the café into a clean, tidy and decorated office that is now awaiting chairs. This room will now provide a base and meeting point for volunteers working in the park.

If you would like to promote your Mote Park event or club in this newsletter, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119.

01622 602747

<http://motepark.maidstone.gov.uk>



01622 602747

<http://motepark.maidstone.gov.uk>



## Events at Mote park

### Maidstone Mencap Summer Fayre

**Saturday 11 June** Time: 1pm - 5pm Price: Free

In support of the Cinderella charity, come along and enjoy this annual event, held at Cobtree Hall. Visit the stalls or try your luck at games, tombola or the grand prize draw. Children's entertainment, BBQ, CAMRA, ice cream stalls and more.

**Event Oraniser:** Maidstone Mencap Summer Fayre

### Mote Park Beginners' Insect Identification Workshop

**Sunday 12 June** Time: 10am - 12pm Price: Free

A morning for adults who want to learn a bit more about invertebrates in Mote Park. Using simple Keys to Identify insects in different habitats. Suitable for beginners.

**Event Oraniser:** Medway Valley Countryside Partnership  
Places are limited so booking is essential. To book, call Medway Valley Countryside Partnership on 01622 683695.

### Habitat survey training Ponds

**Saturday 18 June** Time: 10am - 1pm Price: Free

An opportunity for Mote Park conservation volunteers to learn and develop habitat surveying skills.

**Event Oraniser:** Maidstone Borough Council  
Places are limited so booking is essential. For more information, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk, or vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk

### Teens' Activities Day

**Saturday 2 July** Time: 12pm - 4pm Price: Free

Teenagers are welcome to come along and try their hand at some challenging sports and events including BMX, climbing wall, bungee trampolines, archery and more.

**Event Oraniser:** Maidstone Borough Council  
This is an open event, no need to book. For more information, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk

### Habitat survey training: Butterflies

**Wednesday 6 July** Time: 10am - 1pm Price: Free

An opportunity for Mote Park conservation volunteers to learn and develop habitat surveying skills.

**Event Oraniser:** Medway Valley Countryside Partnership  
Places are limited so booking is essential. For more information, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk or vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk

### Race for Life

**Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 July** Time: 10.30am

Join the girls in Maidstone and walk, jog or run to help beat cancer. A great day out, packed with inspiring memories and amazing moments to share with friends and family. Sign up and raise money for groundbreaking work that has saved millions of lives.

**Event Oraniser:** Cancer Research UK  
There is a choice of races: 5k and 10k, both starting at 10.30am. On Sunday, there is a 5k race. To register online, visit [www.raceforlife.org](http://www.raceforlife.org)

### Mote Park Bat Evening Walk

**Monday 25 July** Time: From 8.45pm Price: Free

Join us on an after-dark guided walk in search of the bats that live and feed in Mote Park. All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Event Oraniser:** Friends of Mote Park  
For more information and to book a place, please contact Simon on 01622 730453.

## Events at Mote park

### Walking with Giants - Mote Park Tree Walk

**Wednesday 27 July** Time: 10am - 1pm Price: Free

Trees are some of the oldest and largest living things on our planet. Join us on a leisurely stroll looking at some of the veteran, specimen, and special trees within the park. Hear stories about their history, everyday uses and fascinating ecology.

**Event Oraniser:** Friends of Mote Park  
For more information and to book a place, please contact Simon on 01622 730453.

### Mote Park Dog Walk

**Saturday 30 July** Time: 10am - 1pm Price: Free

Why not spend your dog walk with others and enjoy the park's nature and history along the way.

**Event Oraniser:** Friends of Mote Park  
For more information and to book a place, please contact Simon on 01622 730453

### Mote Park Beginners' Reptile Identification

**Sunday 7 August** Time: 10am - 12pm Price: Free

An opportunity for Mote Park conservation volunteers to learn and develop habitat surveying skills.

**Event Oraniser:** Medway Valley Countryside Partnership  
Booking essential for all walks. Call Medway Valley Countryside Partnership on 01622 683695.

### Mote Park Bat Walk

**Tuesday 16 August** Time: 8.30pm - 10.30pm Price: Free

A walk to discover the bats in Mote Park. Please bring a torch.

**Event Oraniser:** Medway Valley Countryside Partnership  
Booking essential for all walks. Call Medway Valley Countryside Partnership on 01622 683695.

### Habitat survey training: Reptiles

**Wednesday 17 August** Time: 10am - 1pm Price: Free

An opportunity for Mote Park conservation volunteers to learn and develop habitat surveying skills.

**Event Oraniser:** Maidstone Borough Council  
Places are limited so booking is essential. For more information, please contact Alan Frith on 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk, or vanessastevens@maidstone.gov.uk

### Teddy Bears Picnic

**Wednesday 24 August** Time: 12pm - 4pm Price: Free

Fun for the little ones, aged 6 or under, to bring their teddy bear for a picnic. For all the family to join in an afternoon of fun and games. Children must be accompanied at all times.

**Event Oraniser:** Maidstone Borough Council  
This is an open event, no need to book. For more information, please contact Alan Frith 01622 602119 or email alanfrith@maidstone.gov.uk

### Mote Park Bat Walk

**Tuesday 30 August** Time: 8.30pm - 10.30pm Price: Free

A bat walk around the park for all the family on European Bat Night.

**Event Oraniser:** Medway Valley Countryside Partnership  
Booking essential for all walks. Call Medway Valley Countryside partnership on 01622 683695.

### Wildlife Study Day

**Wednesday 7 September** Time: Contact for details Price: £25

Explore the fascinating world of bats. Come and find out about the way these unique mammals live, followed by an evening in Mote Park looking and listening to the real thing. Shirley Thompson, Kent Bat Group Tyland Barn and Mote Park.

**Event Oraniser:** Kent Wildlife Trust  
Normal fee £25 per person. For more information about wildlife Study Days, or to make a booking, please call us on 01622 662012.



