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The Brecks

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



June 2026

Welcome to the June newsletter

June is here, and summer has truly arrived in the Brecks. The landscape is bursting into life, with wildflowers colouring the heaths and parklands, while the cool shade of Thetford Forest offers a welcome retreat on warmer days. It's the perfect time to get outdoors and experience everything this unique landscape has to offer.

There's plenty to get involved with this month, from pond dipping and wildflower meadow walks to archaeology tours and moments of calm through mindfulness. Festival season is also upon us, with the much-loved Dragon Fest returning to West Stow Country Park, and we're excited to share that our Brecks Outdoor Festival events programme goes live on 19th June, opening the door to a summer full of discovery.

Dive into this month's newsletter to explore what's coming up, and to catch up on highlights from the Brecks Landscape Partnership Delivery Team.

Nicole Wade

Brecks LP Project Manager

Events



Monday 8th June Homeshcool Games Club

10.30am-12pm

Brandon Library

Free, donations welcome

Suitable for ages 5-10

Did you know Brandon Library held a monthly games club for home-schooled children every second Monday of each month? Drop in from 10:30 to 12:00 and enjoy a variety of board games, educational games and other fun activities such as Jenga and Quoits.

[Find out More](#)



Thursday 11th June Wildflower Meadow Walk

10.30am-1pm

London Road Cemetery, Thetford

Free, contact David to join

Believe it or not, the 6th - 14th June is Love Your Burial Ground Week! Join Thetford Conservation Group to walk the cemetery's wildflower meadow and record its flowers, birds, butterflies, insects, and mammals. There'll be a chance to enjoy a hot drink, a biscuit and a chat too.

[Contact David](#)



Saturday 13th June Turning Back the Clock Archaeology Tour

10.30am-12pm

Oxburgh Estate

Included in admission fee

Discover evidence of Roman and Medieval settlements within what is now Oxburgh Estate on this guided walk with archaeology volunteers and even handle some historic finds!

[Find out More](#)



Saturday 13th June Pond-Dipping

11am-1pm
Lakenheath Fen
Adult £6-7, Child £3.50-4

Discover a hidden world of bugs and beasties, from snails to dragonfly nymphs, diving beetles to phantom midge larvae, with a guided pond-dipping session at Lakenheath Fen. Families and adults of any age welcome!

[Book Now](#)



Wednesday 17th June Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation Talk

1-2pm
Bury St Edmunds Library
Free, booking required

Discover how just 5 minutes of stillness, presence and focused awareness can set you up for the day (week!), help manage your mood and assist a restful night's sleep. Learn practical techniques that you will feel confident to try at home.

[Book Now](#)



Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st June Dragon Fest

Time slots available from 11am-4pm

West Stow Country Park

Advance Ticket Prices:

Adult £13, 7-15 years £11, 3-6 years £8, Under 3s go free

Step into a world of adventure at West Stow's annual Dragon Fest and enjoy live theatre and comedy performances, watch bubble shows as well as take part in circus or wellbeing workshops. Make sure you take time to meet friendly dragons Brym and Snarl Junior too!

[Book Now](#)



Sunday 21st June Seasonal Guided Woodland Walk

11am-12.30pm

Wayland Wood, Watton

Free-£4.61 (sliding scale), booking required

Discover the wildlife, seasonal highlights and what makes this ancient place special on this guided walk of Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Wayland Wood with the warden.

[Book Now](#)



Sunday 21st June
Thetford Midsummer 10K Social Run

7pm

Tanner Street (South) Car Park, Thetford

Free, booking required

Join Run Breckland, for this free 10K social group run following the River Little Ouse through Thetford and out into the surrounding area. This is an out and back route, a lot of which is trail, following the path of the river.

[Book Now](#)



Monday 22nd June
Sustainability in Education Conference

9am-4pm
The Food Museum, Stowmarket
£40 before 22nd May

For Primary, Secondary & Further Education Leads, Teachers, School Improvement Directors, Operations/Facilities Directors & Governors from across the East of England. This is a dynamic day of inspiration, collaboration, and practical action from national and regional experts in sustainability in education to help schools deliver on their climate action plans.

[Book Now](#)



[Tuesday 23rd June](#)
[English Channel Swimmer Talk](#)

12.30pm
Thetford Library
Free, booking required

Hear from local resident, John Bauer, about the journey that led him to swim the English Channel in this fascinating talk and presentation.

[Book Now](#)



[Sunday 5th July](#)
[Mildenhall 2K/5K River Run](#)

Registration from 10am: 2K start - 11am, 5K at 11.30am

Jubilee Fields, Mildenhall

Adults: £5-£8

Under 18s: £3-£5

Join Run Breckland for a family-friendly day by the river, with two running route options.

Meeting on Jubilee Fields where both runs will start, there'll be fun and games, gazebos, and space for a picnic if you fancy bringing an apres-run lunch (free cold drinks provided).

[Book Now](#)



[Saturday 18th July](#) [Summer Trail Launch](#)

Available from 10am - 4:30pm

Brandon Country Park

£1.50

Explore Brandon Country Park this summer with their Summer Trail! Pick up your trail sheet from the café, then follow the route, solving the clues along the way to help find the special word. You can even collect a small prize once completed!

[Plan Your Visit](#)



Sunday 26th July
Clay Workshop: Tree-Stump Planter

10am-1pm
Lackford Lakes
£55 (plus admin fee)

Join local artist Phil Stearn to create a woodland-inspired plant pot. Aimed at beginners to ceramics craft, this workshop will introduce the best techniques needed to work with this art medium, enabling you to construct a plant pot in the shape of a tree stump with additional woodland-inspired embellishments.

[Book Now](#)



Date for your Diaries:
Friday 19th June

The Brecks Outdoor Festival is nearly here again!

We will be launching the programme online and opening bookings, on Friday the 19th of June, ready for the Festival itself from Saturday the 8th to Sunday the 23rd of August.

As a subscriber to our monthly newsletters, you will receive a reminder email on the day, with a few highlights to look out for. We will also have printed programmes in libraries, venues, pubs and cafés all around the Brecks. The programme is even

bigger and more varied than last year, with some brand new events and activities - we can't wait for you to join us in celebrating the gorgeous outdoors in the Brecks this August.



For a taster of what to expect, take a look at the video made from last year's festival using footage mainly taken by participants taking part in the events and activities.

May Round-Up

Brecks Landscape Partnership News



We are excited to announce that we have moved into a new office!

After a year or so of working remotely and hot-desking at Brandon Town Council, we finally have our own space. We're writing this email to you today from one of our two new upstairs rooms in Riversdale House, Thetford. We tried to take a very serious and professional photograph of the team outside our new building and you can see how well that went from the images at the bottom of the email.

Thank you to Brandon Town Council for hosting us so generously over the last year or so and thank you to our new landlord: Keystone Trust!



Our team is always trying to improve our knowledge of species in the Brecks and we were lucky enough to have a day of plant ID training in May, with teaching from Suffolk County Council's ecology team. The Brecks is a really special place for plants in the UK, with some rare and specialist species you won't find in many other places, so it was wonderful to spend a day learning more about them. You can see our highlight of the day below, as it's in the spotlight for June.

Become a Brecks Ambassador



We're setting up the first events for our volunteer network - an opportunity to learn about the landscape, learn from each other, and meet other volunteers. If you volunteer in the Brecks, or are part of a community group, you're welcome to join. Just let us know via the email below.

[Join the Network](#)

Wider Brecks News

**Join the
Plug in Suffolk
Car Club!**

Plug in Suffolk Car Clubs are currently trialling all-electric community vehicles in Bury St Edmunds so you can simply book a car when you need it without the expense of car ownership. There is even a promo code for Suffolk residents so you can get free membership and £15 off your first EV car hire!

As this is an 18 month trial, make the most of it if it's a service you'd like to stick around.

[Find out More](#)



The Branching Out fund is now open for applications!
Designed for community groups, schools and not-for-profits, this fund offers between £250-£2,500 for tree-planting projects.

[Find out More](#)

Brecks Spotlight

Our Brecks Highlight for June

Cynoglossum officinale



In flower now, this is a Brecks specialist, called "Hound's Tongue" because of its broad, downy, tongue-like leaves. Only found in very dry, sandy areas, this flower is particularly well suited to the Brecks and, unlike many other places in the UK, will be commonly found here. If you want to get close enough to give it a sniff too, it reportedly smells like mice!

Thanks for reading!



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brecks.org

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