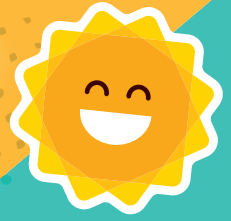


Summer

FUN



2021



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 2021



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.



CONTENTS

Get Active	4
Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)	6
Culture (West Berkshire Libraries, West Berkshire Museum and Shaw House)	7
Cycling Safely	11
Family Hubs	12
Mental Health and Wellbeing	13
Countryside	15
Water Safety	16



Get Active

Splash into summer at Northcroft Lido

Berkshire's largest open air pool, the Lido at Northcroft Leisure Centre in Newbury, is open for summer.




Pre booking of all sessions has been introduced for 2021 to make sure that shared areas such as changing rooms don't become too crowded and people can enjoy their swim safely.


[Book here](#)



West Berkshire Leisure Centres

There's a wide range of activities for all ages at our Leisure Centres. Find your nearest Centre [Here](#)

 ENJOY OUR OPEN SPACES
 RESPECT OTHER USERS
 TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME

Thank you 



Get Active

Splash Pad at Victoria Park

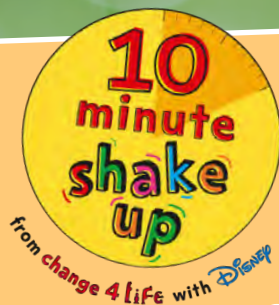


Photo courtesy of Newbury Weekly News

Families can enjoy hours of fun at this free aquatic play area in Victoria Park, Newbury. The Splash Pad is engaging and accessible, encouraging social development in children of all ages. It is Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. **Open May-September.**

Shake it up!

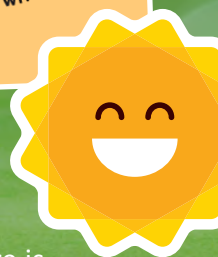
Change4Life and Disney have teamed up to bring you play-along games inspired by your favourite Disney and Pixar characters. These 10-minute bursts of fun will really get your kids moving and count towards the 60 active minutes they need every day!



[Find out more here](#)

Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre

Discover nature on your doorstep. The Nature Discovery Centre is packed full of interactive wildlife and natural history displays and hosts a great programme of educational and inspiring events. Follow the network of footpaths which range from small family-friendly walks to longer paths for the more adventurous. Surrounded by a mosaic of different habitats, you can see fantastic wildlife all year around.



[Find out more here](#)

Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)



We're pleased to be expanding the free Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme funded by the Department for Education.

Launched earlier this year in West Berkshire, HAF is for children aged 4 to 16 who are in a full-time school place and receive Free School Meals.

Pupils go into their usual schools over the holidays and enjoy a range of fun activities while learning about nutrition.

As well as enjoying lots of enriching activities, they have a free, nutritious meal as part of the programme.



The HAF programme is for children who receive free school meals. Contact your child's school to find out more about the programme and how to participate.



SHAW HOUSE

Shaw House & West Berkshire Museum

Family Activity Days and Messy Museum Days

will take place online every Wednesday and Friday throughout the school holidays, with free downloadable instructions to a simple craft that you can create from the comfort of your home!

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on



Exhibition: Dressed for Shaw

Open weekends and school holidays until Sunday 26 Sept | Shaw House | Free | No need to book

A historical costume exhibition showcasing a timeline of fashion at Shaw House.

Dressed For Shaw will explore moments in Shaw House's history, as well as more personal stories of those who energised the House over the last 400 years. Entrance to the House and to the Exhibition is free but donations are most welcomed. Check website for public open days www.westberkshireheritage.org/shaw-house/plan-your-visit

Festival of Archaeology

Saturday 17 July – Sunday 1 August | Various locations

Join us as we celebrate this year's Festival of Archaeology with a range of family-friendly walks and activities on the theme of Exploring Local Places.

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

<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org>

CBA
FESTIVAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY
2021





Outdoor Theatre: The Jungle Book

Monday 9 August | Shaw House |
Gates 5pm, Performance 6pm
| Adults £12, Child £8

Immersion Theatre is thrilled to bring their trademark energy to their wildest show yet, a brand-new musical adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling family favourite, The Jungle Book!

Funny, exciting and wildly entertaining, this larger-than-life musical will have you howling with laughter; the perfect treat for the whole family!

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

Opera Unlocked

Kennet Opera | Outdoor performance
| Shaw House | Sunday 11 July |
Gates 4pm Performance 5pm | Adult
£12.50 Child £5

Kennet Opera celebrates the opportunity to sing again in an outdoor concert performance of their favourite arias and choruses, in the beautiful grounds of Shaw House.

Bring your own picnic, warm clothes, seating/rug. The café will be open selling snacks, drinks and ice cream to take outside. For more information and to book visit

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on





WEST BERKSHIRE
MUSEUM

Outdoor Theatre: Romeo and Juliet

Sunday 25 July | Shaw House |
Gates 6pm, Performance 7pm
| Adults £12, Under 16s £8

Multi-award nominated Immersion Theatre proudly presents an unforgettable adaptation of William Shakespeare's iconic, Romeo & Juliet. This powerful story of forbidden love and bitter rivalry is brought to life in a visual spectacle infused with comedy, heart-break, and danger.

Moving, funny, and tragic in equal measure, this beautiful production will see Immersion continue to build on their reputation for producing Shakespeare for all, be it the seasoned theatre-goer or budding literary enthusiast. This is Shakespeare as it's meant to be: interactive, fun, and highly accessible!

Suitable for ages 10+. Bring your own picnic, warm clothes, seating/rug. For more information and to book visit www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on



Arts Award Explore

West Berkshire Museum | £25 per child
| Workshop dates: 4, 5 and 6 August

Your child will take part in arts and crafts and find out more about West Berkshire Museum and the Romans. This programme is aimed at 7-12 year olds, and is a combination of led workshops and a self-led project. Places are limited. Please sign up at the Museum. For more information visit

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!

Antiques and Brocante Market

Sunday 29 August | 10am – 4pm |
Shaw House | Free | No need to book

A unique French style Brocante market offering antiques, vintage, retro, decorative arts and bric-a-brac plus vinyl records on the Great Lawn at Shaw House. A great day out for all the family with free entry to Shaw House. Light refreshments and picnic facilities will be available outside, the café will be open offering a take-out service. For more information visit

www.westberkshireheritage.org/whats-on

WILD WORLD HEROES

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



Become a Wild World Hero 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 can visit a library to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. The theme of this year's challenge is Wild World Heroes – a celebration of books, nature and action for the environment, which has been developed in partnership with WWF, the world's leading independent conservation organisation.

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



Follow [WBerksLibraries](#) on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for more news about free activities in libraries and visit our YouTube channel for stories, rhymetimes and more.

Pedal Power



Join a fun bike group

West Berkshire is a super place to explore by bike. Avanti Freewheelers Community Club West Berkshire is for juniors (aged 10-14) who want to learn to ride, improve their cycling skills or just to join a fun group and get out on their bike.

Under the guidance of qualified coaches, instructors and guides, they can meet new friends, explore new areas and have fantastic cycling adventures.

There's also great bike events for 7-11 year olds and for families too.

Happy pedalling!

[Book here](#)



avanti **freewheelers**
community cycling clubs

Family Hub Fun



There are three Family Hubs within West Berkshire

They offer support and information to families with children aged 0-19 years, primarily working with those with children aged under 5 years.

The Hubs host a wide range of events and activities including Antenatal & Postnatal support, Breastfeeding support, Baby groups, Stay, Play & Learns sessions (0-4 years) and Family Learning courses.

There are lots of fun family events for children aged 0-5.

Book activities and events

here

For more information email familyhubs@westberks.gov.uk or call (01635) 865318.



Mental Health and wellbeing

Mental Health Support for Young People



Mental health is a hot topic, and particularly in light of the pandemic, remains high on the list of priorities for many people.

Emotional Health Academy (EHA) was established by West Berkshire Council, in partnership with Berkshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health in response to local young people expressing the need for more services to support their emotional and mental health. Since 2016, EHA has supported over 3000 children and young people within West Berkshire.



[Find out more about EHA](#)

Kooth

Online mental health support network for children and young people.

A new online support network has been launched to help children and young people struggling with mental health difficulties.

The Youth Counselling service, called Kooth, offers free, safe, anonymous support and will complement a range of other mental health support packages provided for youngsters across Berkshire West. It's primarily aimed at dealing with issues around Covid but will play a key role in supporting young people re-adjust to life post-Covid.



[Find out more about Kooth](#)

Mental Health and wellbeing

The Little Blue Book of Sunshine

If school is rubbish, you're trying to figure out who you are and parents are stressing you out... then why wouldn't you feel down on the world? But that's not great if it means you feel bad about yourself, lose confidence or can't bounce back.

The Little Blue Book of Sunshine explains some of the things you can do right now to feel better, or who to turn to if things get too much. You can download the updated 2020 copy [here](#).

It's also available in [Apple Books](#) and [Google Play Books](#).



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: Fostering@westberks.gov.uk

AONB



Woodborough Hill



Poppies, crops and downland



We're very lucky to be part of the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which means that we have amazing landscapes on our doorstep and lots of beautiful places to visit.

If you'd like to get out and about to enjoy our lovely natural environment, check out this brilliant AONB leaflet for ideas.

[Download here](#)

Nature Tots

Summer

Many studies show that a connection with nature is key to our health and happiness. Nature Tots is designed to enable little ones to explore and learn, but the benefits of just being outdoors is huge for everyone involved. From a walk in the woods to simply standing out in the rain, being outside in nature makes you feel emotionally better. As well as benefiting us emotionally it has also been shown to help us physically by contributing to a reduction in stress hormones, blood pressure and heart rate.

Get in touch with your wild side and find out more about **Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust** summer programme of events

[Here](#)



West Berkshire Council's archaeology team has also created a series of heritage-themed walks for several places in the district:

[Here](#)

Water Safety

We're committed to promoting water safety and have recently joined with colleagues from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue, Thames Valley Police and the Canal & Rivers Trust to form the West Berkshire Water Safety Partnership. Through this Partnership we are working with communities to improve the safety of our waterways for everyone using the canals and rivers.

Follow the Water Safety Code

We want people to enjoy the water safely. Please help by following this water safety advice from the Royal Life Saving Society.

The Code is designed to provide simple and easy information to people so they can understand what they should do in an emergency:

- Stop and think: take time to assess your surroundings. Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.
- Stay together: when around water, always go with friends or family. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.
- In an emergency, call 999: if you discover someone in trouble in the water, ask for the Fire and Rescue Service if inland and the Coastguard if at the coast. Do not enter the water to rescue.
- In an emergency, float: if you are in trouble in the water, stay calm and float on your back until you can call for help.



Summer WATER SAFETY

When Summer hits it can be tempting to look for the nearest place to cool off.
Here are our top tips if you plan on going for a paddle:

-  **LOOK OUT FOR LIFEGUARDS**
-  **IT'S COLDER THAN IT LOOKS**
-  **DON'T GO TOO FAR**
-  **IT'S STRONGER THAN IT LOOKS**
-  **BRING A FRIEND**

www.rlss.org.uk





Cycling & Wellbeing Festival

Family Picnic
BMX Display Team
Guided Cycle Rides

SATURDAY
JULY 10
Linear Park
10AM-3PM

Dr Bike

Stalls

& More

Ryan
Limits



West Berkshire
COUNCIL

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.

