

Countryside Activities programme



Welcome to our activities programme for January to March 2025. Open Country is a Yorkshire based charity that helps people with disabilities access and enjoy the countryside.

We run 4 groups a week aimed at adults with learning disabilities or autism. These groups run between 10am-4pm and are chargeable day services:

NATURE FORCE GROUP

Every Tuesday we carry out important nature tasks around the district like tree and wildflower planting.

TRAILBLAZER GROUP

Join in with helping make our district more accessible with path improvement, cutting back vegetation and conservation projects, every Wednesday.

WILD WALKERS

Every Thursday we walk between 3-6 miles with lots of stops for nature study and to admire the views!

WILD THINGS

Every Friday we spend time down at our polytunnel growing wildflowers and wood working, or visiting open gardens and nature reserves.

ADAPTED CYCLING

Our Tandem Club runs between early April to mid October on Wednesday evenings. Please see Adventure Club on Saturday 29 March for our first Tandem activity of 2025.

WEEKEND OUTINGS, ADVENTURE CLUB, SCOOTER SOCIAL & WILD ABOUT WATER

Open first to anyone with a physical disability or sensory impairment, the outings visit a wide variety of wheelchair accessible locations.

There's a £10 booking fee for the trips and we have a wheelchair accessible minibus to get you there. We pick up from local homes, Wakefield bus station, Wakefield Westgate train station or Thornes Park.

We've chosen destinations with accessible toilets and a café, but please bring a packed lunch and a flask just in case the café's closed.



WEEKEND OUTINGS

BOLTON ABBEY

Sunday 12th January

Admission: FREE Trip: £10

A gentle walk alongside the River Wharfe, passed ancient oak trees and the priory ruins at Bolton Abbey.

STARLINGS AND SOUP

Sunday 19th January

Admission: FREE Trip: £10

Get wrapped up for a spectacular murmuration of up to fifty thousand starlings at a local nature reserve. Followed by a nice cup of hot soup.

LOTHERTON HALL

Saturday 25th January

Admission £10.50 Trip: £10

Lotherton is a beautiful Edwardian country estate, historic hall & museum. The hall holds an amazing collection of objects which tell the story of its former residents

FIVE TOWNS OUTING - CUSWORTH HALL MUSEUM

Sunday 26th January

Admission: FREE Trip: £10

Explore the architecture, heritage, and landscape history of Cusworth Hall and Park. The beautiful Grade I Listed building is set in acres of historic parkland offers spectacular views. For members of the Five Towns only.

NIDDERDALE LLAMAS

Sunday 2nd February

Admission: FREE Trip: £10

No need to be Allama'd! Alpacas and Llamas are gentle, friendly creatures and great fun to be with. There'll also be time for a wander round Pateley Bridge.



NOSTELL PRIORY

Saturday 8th February

Admission: £8.00 Trip: £10

A Georgian mansion set in stunning gardens and parkland include wildflower meadows, lakes, woodland and a working kitchen garden filled with heritage fruit trees.

THORNTON HALL FARM

Saturday 15th February

Admission £9.95 Trip £10

Come and experience life on a traditional working farm in the Yorkshire Dales and meet the farm animals and deer. There should be chance to bottle feed the lambs and calves too!

ROYAL ARMORIES

Sunday 16th February

Admission: FREE Trip: £10

Explore thousands of incredible objects, from Japanese samurai swords to an Indian war elephant, with live shows and combat demonstrations.

THE JORVIK VIKING FESTIVAL

Saturday 22nd February

Admission: £6 Trip: £10

This Viking festival features living history encampments, workshops, tours, traditional crafts, feasts, and dramatic combat performances.

ARCHERY

Saturday 8th March

Admission: £10 Trip: £10

Join us for a day of archery under the expert guidance of Selby Archers. And gentlemen in England now-a-bed shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here.

BURNBY HALL GARDENS & MUSEUM

Sunday 9th March

Admission: £4 Trip: £10

The Stewart Museum houses artefacts collected by adventurer Major Percy Stewart on his travels around the world, and the Gardens have been called 'a jewel in Yorkshire's crown'.

CANAL BOAT TRIP

Saturday 15th March

Admission: £6 Trip: £10

Cruise on one of the country's most picturesque and interesting waterways from Shepley Bridge Marina along the River Calder. A great way to spot kingfishers and heron.



NORTH YORK MOORS RAILWAY

Sunday 30th March

Tickets: £25 Trip: £10

Steam along the 180 year old Esk Valley Line through the stunning North York Moors National Park.

ADVENTURE CLUB

AXE THROWING

Saturday 18th January

Admission: £25.00 Trip: £10

Unleash your inner lumberjack at an exciting axe throwing session. Location TBC.

INDOOR CLIMBING

Sunday 9th February

Admission: £14.00 Trip: £10

An ideal activity for social climbers aiming to be a bit boulder in 2025. Climbing with cake and a coffee close at hand at The Depot, Leeds

DERWENT EDGE

Sunday 2nd March

Trip: £10

Try not to Peak District too early on this spectacular 8 mile circular walk along Derwent Edge, taking in wonderful views and rock formations.

TANDEM TRACK SESSION

Saturday 29th March

Admission: £6

Get into gear for the start of our evening tandem sessions at the BKCAT track. You'll soon be up to speed on the 1.1kms of traffic free tarmac.



SCOOTER SOCIAL GROUP

Open to anyone who uses a mobility scooter or electric wheelchair, we meet up at Thornes Park Nursery for a catch up with like-minded friends.

The next Scooter Social dates are:



WILLOW WEAVING

Saturday 11th January

Join us at Thornes Park Nursery to weave something wonderful from Willow.

WINTER WILDLIFE WATCHING

Saturday 1st February

Come and experience the sights and sounds of winter wildlife in the heart of Wakefield.

SNOWDROP SAUNTER

Saturday 1st March

Snowdrops are one of the first signs of Spring. Come and shake off the Winter with a bloomin' marvellous scoot around Thornes Park.

WILD ABOUT WATER GROUP

Connecting people to blue spaces with creative activities.

RIVERSIDE POTTERY

Tuesday 7th January

A trip to Riverside Paint a Pot, for some pottery painting alongside the River Aire.

YOGA AND MINDFULNESS

Tuesday 21st January

A fun seated yoga session in Thornes Park, with a walk around the park afterwards.

THE HEPWORTH

Tuesday 28th January

A trip inside the riverside Hepworth Art Gallery to sample the local art work, followed by some nature spotting along the river.

ARTISTIC NATURE

Tuesday 4th February

A walk at Anglers Country Park followed by an art workshop by Helen Thomas inside the visitor centre.

WETLAND BIRD TRAIL

Tuesday 11th February

A stroll at Fairburn Ings with an expert ecologist to learn all about the local birdlife.



DANCING IN THE PARK

Tuesday 18th February

An exciting seated dance session in Thornes Park with Dazl Inclusive Dance Experts.

POETIC STROLL

Tuesday 25th February

A walk to take in the lovely views at Newmillerdam, with a Poetry workshop by Helen Wilby at a local café.



A big thank you to all the National Lottery players for supporting our Wild about Wakefield project.