

OPAL Volunteer Programme



OPAL (the Open Air Laboratories) is an exciting initiative aimed at engaging communities with the natural world. By enabling communities to access, enjoy and study the wide range of environments around them we aim to inspire a new generation of conservationists and nature-lovers.

How you can get involved:

OPAL runs a year-round programme of activities to help people learn about the natural world and get out and about in nature. We need volunteers to take part in surveys and to help out with our community events. You will be able to gain essential practical experience carrying out environmental surveys and working with community groups. Time commitment is flexible.

Contact OPAL Community Scientist Alison Smith for more info: alison.smith@plymouth.ac.uk

Upcoming Activities:

NB: Plant ID sessions to be scheduled soon so keep a look out for emails about these!

January

Wed 25th 2-4:30pm Wed afternoon volunteer group – OPAL environmental surveys at Woodland Wood local nature reserve

Fri 26th 1-3:30pm Wildlife & Nature exploration with Brooke Green Centre for Learning pupils (11-14 years old with special educational needs), Woodland Wood

Tues 31st 9-12pm Bug and mini-beast morning with Ford Primary School. Help Year 2 group learn about and identify mini-beasts in Ham Woods.

February

Wed 1st 1-5pm Plant ID workshop (venue TBC – if off campus transport will be provided) Participants will learn to ID common native herbaceous plants and help with OPAL research into botanical teaching methods

Fri 3rd 1-3:30pm Wildlife & Nature exploration with Brooke Green Centre for Learning pupils (aged 11-14 years old with special educational needs), Woodland Woods

Wed 8th 1-4:30pm Wed afternoon volunteer group – OPAL environmental surveys TBC

Fri 10th 1-3:30pm Wildlife & Nature exploration with Brooke Green Centre for Learning pupils (aged 11-14 years old with special educational needs), Woodland Woods

Sat 11th 10-3pm Plant ID workshop with Plymouth Environmental Action, South Brent

Tues 14th 11-4pm Woodland Wood Community Day – assist local families with bug hunts and nature surveys in Woodland Wood Local Nature Reserve, Plymouth

Wed 15th 11-4pm Ham Woods Community Day – assist local families with bug hunts and nature surveys in Ham Woods, Plymouth

Thurs 16th 12-3pm Southway Valley Community Day – assist local families and youth groups with nature surveys and wildlife photography

Fri 17th (all day, travel up Thursday) OPAL survey training day for Exmoor National Park staff and volunteers, Simonsbath, Exmoor

Tues 21st 9am-3pm Air and Soil Quality monitoring in Exeter Valley Parks with Exeter BTCV volunteer group

Wed 22nd 1-4:30pm Wed afternoon volunteer group with Marjons – OPAL environmental surveys TBC

Thurs 23rd 9am-3pm Air and Soil Quality monitoring in Exeter Valley Parks, with Exeter BTCV volunteer group

Fri 24th 1-3:30pm Wildlife & Nature exploration with Brooke Green Centre for Learning pupils (aged 11-14 years old with special educational needs), Woodland Woods

Tues 28th 9am-3pm Wildlife and plant surveys with Rydon Primary School, Kingsteignton. Volunteers needed to help with nature activities for Year 6 (10-11 year olds)

Wed 29th 9am-3pm Wildlife and plant surveys with Rydon Primary School, Kingsteignton. Volunteers needed to help with nature activities for Year 6 (10-11 year olds)

March

Sat 3rd Times TBC Insect Film Festival at Plymouth University

Mon 5th 9am-3:30pm Habitat & wildlife surveys with Shakespeare Primary School Year 4, Honicknowle, Plymouth

Tues 6th 9am-3:30pm Habitat & wildlife surveys with Shakespeare Primary School Year 4, Honicknowle, Plymouth

Thurs 8th 9am-3:30pm Soil, earthworm and bug surveys with Rydon Primary School Year 3, Kingsteignton

Fri 9th 9am-3:30pm Soil, earthworm and bug surveys with Rydon Primary School Year 3, Kingsteignton

Mon 12th 9am-3:30pm Woodland nature surveys in Woodland Woods with Shakespeare Primary School Year 4. Help the school discover wildlife and nature in Woodland Wood Local Nature Reserve to help with environmental monitoring for Plymouth City Council

Wed 14th 9am-3:30pm Woodland nature surveys in Woodland Woods with Shakespeare Primary School Year 4. Help the school discover wildlife and nature in Woodland Wood Local Nature Reserve to help with environmental monitoring for Plymouth City Council

Sat 17th 10am-3pm Environmental Survey techniques – training session on OPAL surveys and ID skills for Plymouth residents and interested groups @ John Kitto Centre and Ham Woods Local Nature Reserve

Wed 21st 1-4:30pm Wed afternoon volunteer group – Bug and Biodiversity surveys with ESOL students at Central Park

Thurs 22nd Times TBC Egguckland Community College Science show – OPAL activities and showcase with students from Egguckland and local community

Fri 23rd 1-3:30pm Wildlife & Nature exploration with Brooke Green Centre for Learning pupils (aged 11-14 years old with special educational needs), Woodland Woods

There will be limited space on all activities so allocation will on a first come first serve basis (when I receive email replies). Transport will be available from the **James Street Vaults pub** (next to Rolle). Please arrive **10 minutes before the pick-up time**. For all outdoor activities please bring warm clothing, waterproofs, sturdy footwear, any medication needed and a smile!

**VOLUNTEER
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**



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