

Countryside Greeters Initiative led by Visit Kent

Visit Kent is currently launching a new team of Countryside Greeters to join the current team of Kent Greeters around the county. The Kent Countryside Greeters will be volunteers happy to meet up with visitors to the county who share similar interests. The Countryside Greeters will talk to visitors about the many different walks and cycle routes available to suit different levels of ability and interests, and then join them for a local walk or ride.

Kent has so many different landscapes that it is now a very popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. No-one knows the best walks and cycle routes better than local people so meeting a Countryside Greeter will give visitors a chance to find out about all the opportunities and enjoy a walk or a cycle ride with them.

Visit Kent, who run the scheme, always aim to match the interests of the visitor with the interests of the Greeter so that they will have plenty to talk about. The more volunteers who sign up to the scheme, the easier it will be to make the right matches between visitors and local residents, covering a wide range of ages and interests, and different areas of the county.

Kent is expecting lots of new visitors in the run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games and beyond. The Greeters scheme will ensure that our guests enjoy a great welcome which will encourage them to return to the county and recommend Kent to all their friends and family as a superb destination.

Kent Greeters are active members of the Global Greeter Network, a voluntary association of independent welcoming programmes around the world. They have helped set up Greeter projects in London and Brighton as well as in France and Belgium.

The Countryside Greeters is a project which the Rural Forum may wish to get involved in, to encourage local communities in rural Swale to advocate their area and promote the hidden gems which at the moment only the locals know about.

The launch of the Countryside Greeters is on Tuesday 7th June and Frances Wallis will be attending, and will provide an update of the launch with the minutes.