

Silwood Climbing Club – Spring Bouldering Tour to Fontainebleau, France

Organiser: Sam Cruickshank: sam.cruickshank12@imperial.ac.uk

Dates: Sat April 6th-Sat April 13th

Location: Fontainebleau, France

Number of students attending: 9

Number of non-students: 0

Tour Description:

The week-long tour will involve travelling to the area around Fontainebleau, France (40 miles south of Paris), for a week of bouldering in the Forest of Fontainebleau. The aims of the trip are to introduce students to the sport of outdoors bouldering, and to allow participants to increase their technical climbing abilities.

Bouldering involves undertaking short rock-climbing problems on boulders, without ropes and harnesses. The short nature of the problems allows participants to enhance their technical skills, as problems often revolve around only one or two moves which can be attempted repeatedly. The technical advances that can result from bouldering are also beneficial when rock-climbing, and so a secondary benefit of the trip is that participants will improve their ability and confidence when rock climbing.

The venue of Fontainebleau is particularly well suited to a university tour for a number of reasons. Firstly, the area is renowned as one of the best bouldering areas in world, and has a very high concentration of bouldering problems in a relatively compact area. It is therefore perfect for groups of mixed-experience, as there is plenty to do for people of all abilities. Unlike many other bouldering areas, problems of different grades are all mixed up in the same area, and so experienced boulders can climb alongside novices, teaching new skills, while allowing everyone to advance. Outdoors bouldering in the UK is often technically very hard, and the problems are widely dispersed, and so running such a long trip in the UK would not be feasible, and also would not be able to cater for novices to the degree to which Fontainebleau can. Finally, a trip to France has a much better chance of having good weather than bouldering trips away in the UK at the time when the trip will be running.

Transport Mode: Union Minibus and cross-channel ferry

Silwood Escape Club

Organiser: Isabel Fenton isabel.fenton10@imperial.ac.uk

Dates: 17-19th May (or other May weekend)

Location: Snowdonia, Mountain Hut

Number of students attending: 15

Number of non-students: 0

Description of tour:

Silwood Escape club is meant to provide opportunities for students to 'escape Silwood' through doing a mix of outdoor activities, normally walking. This year we've done a couple of guided day walks around Windsor great park for new masters students. To give more opportunities for students to have a break, particularly mid masters project we plan to go to the Imperial Snowdonia Mountain hut for a weekend for a mix of walking and a chance to socialise away from Silwood.

Transport mode: Minibus

Silwood Photography Club

Organiser – Jun Lim - jun.lim08@imperial.ac.uk

Dates: 26th – 28th April

Location: South coast- Lyme Regis, Lulworth Cove

Number of students attending: 10 – 15

Number of non-students attending: 0

Description of tour: Walking on established coastal trails to picturesque landmarks along the coast. Experienced club members will teach landscape photography compositional and camera handling techniques to newer/more inexperienced members. Everyone will have lots of opportunities to practice taking photos throughout both days. These will be reviewed on laptops during the trip facilitating productive discussions introducing many members to new techniques. The trip will leave Silwood on Friday evening and return on the Sunday late afternoon. Accommodation will be in a bunk house in the Portland or Lyme Regis area for the Friday and Saturday night.

Transport mode: Minibus

Silwood Dive Club

Organiser: Dom Andradi-Brown (da708@ic.ac.uk)

Dates: 3-7th May

Location: Porthoustock, Cornwall

Number of students attending: 8

Number of non-students: 3

Description of tour:

The Silwood Dive Club was newly formed this year. While we are supported by RCC Underwater in terms of equipment and instructor support, in practice it is impossible for students learning to dive at Silwood to participate fully in the South Ken training programme. With most of the members at Silwood doing masters which have early exams in the Summer Term (prior to the start of the UG term), it is impractical for them to attend the normal RCC Underwater Easter Training. I am therefore planning a long weekend away for them to complete much of the training. As a postgrad campus it is relatively easy for students to make the above suggested dates. We'll either camp or stay in a caravan for the time we're away.

Transport mode: Minibus

Silwood Natural History Society – Spring Trip

Organiser: Helen Phillips: helen.phillips11@imperial.ac.uk

Dates: 10-12th May

Location: Gloucestershire

Number of students attending: 9

Number of non-students: 0

Description of tour:

We leave Silwood on the 10th, late afternoon and return on the 12th afternoon. Saturday 11th will be spent at the WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre, one of the most well known bird reserves in the UK. This wetland environment will give students a chance to see many different UK species that cannot be seen in the oak woodland environment at Silwood, where more of our regular bird watching takes place. There is also an excellent visitor centre with information on species at the reserve. Several Silwood students are extremely experienced bird watchers/surveyors and have agreed to act as guides on the Sunday morning when we will visit another local nature reserve. To keep the trip as cheap as possible we will camp for Friday and Saturday nights.

Transport mode: Minibus