



# Rufford Country Park Events Oct-Dec 2012

## **Halloween Trail**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November. 10.30am – 4pm. £1.50 per trail leaflet** including a small reward per trail completed. Follow the clues around the park and prepare to spot some spooky creatures! Then hot foot it back to Visitor Information to claim your reward

## **Children's Play Afternoon**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1pm – 3pm  
In the Abbey Marquee**

FREE fun for children. Come and join in craft activities, games, quizzes and all kinds of fun play activities for tots upwards. Ideal for grans and grandchildren or anyone with "little uns" to keep busy in the school half term holiday. Never mind the weather – we'll stay dry in the marquee. N.B. Normal holiday car park charges apply through the half term holiday - £3 per car all day. (Psssst! Money saving tip for thrifty families: spend £15 in our catering / shops in a single transaction and present your car park ticket to get your fee refunded.)

## **The Monk's Tour**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
1pm & 3pm Meet in Coach House  
Courtyard. FREE event**

Join a costumed guide for a very special tour of Rufford Abbey's historic ruins. Follow Brother Ezekiel back from the modern country park into the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and hear what life was like for a monk in Rufford's medieval monastery. Suitable for anyone, young or old, who is interested in the history of the park. Free event (max 30 people, first come first served.) Approx 35 minutes. Includes some gentle walking and steps.

We regret that some parts of the Abbey ruins are inaccessible for wheelchairs but will adapt tour on request for visitors with mobility restrictions.

## **Christmas Market**

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
10.00 am – 5 pm**

Come and browse the stalls at our Christmas gift market. Lots of great and original ideas to help you with those Christmas shopping dilemmas. All in the attractive setting of the Craft Centre courtyard - once the stables of historic Rufford Abbey. Free admission (normal weekend car parking charge applies) Want to book a stall? Call Peter Fox on 07976 964226.

## **Santa's Grotto at Rufford Abbey Courtyard**

**Weekends (only) from 10<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup>  
December. £5 per child including gift. £2  
per accompanying adult. 11am – 4pm, last  
admission 3.40pm**

A charmingly 'low tech' ride takes little ones on a magic journey to Santa's Grotto. At the end of the visit, children are given a small gift. Please bear in mind that Santa is very popular and each child needs individual time with Mr Claus, so queues are likely. Come early if you can.

## **Upstairs Downstairs with Lord Savile's Housekeeper**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sat 15<sup>th</sup> December, 3.00pm  
Meet in the front of Abbey (Abbey Steps).  
FREE event.**

Meet Mary Guscott, Lord Savile's friendly and chatty Housekeeper, who'll take you on a special tour of the historic house, in the year 1906, ending at the Coach House Café. If you love Downton Abbey this is the tour for you! Bring your imagination and a warm coat - we will be outdoors. Approximately 35 minutes long. N.B. Due to the nature of the Abbey ruins, some parts of this tour are unsuitable for wheelchair users. Suitable for all ages from seven upwards.

## Aurora Winter Illuminations

Sat 1 & Sun 2 Dec. Fri 7, Sat 8 & Sun 9 Dec.  
Fri 14 Dec, Sat 15 & Sun 16 Dec.  
5pm to 7pm.

£3 adult, £2 children  
£8 family ticket (2 adults, 2 children)  
Pay at the gate

Weekend parking charge is waived after 4.30pm.

Experience the gentle magic of Aurora, as layers of coloured light transform the gardens to a winter wonderland, enhanced by a haunting soundtrack. This is no Blackpool Illuminations – more a celebration of the park's natural features at a special time of year.

Wander the trails through the winter garden and experience surprises and colours at every turn. Photographers – don't forget your cameras for a night-time photography challenge!

On the final evening (**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**) Christmas characters – snowmen, elves and Mother Christmas – will be there to greet you as you arrive at the enchanted garden. So bring the little ones, join in with some Christmas songs if you feel like it, and really get in the mood for the Festive Season.

