



Media Release – Immediate

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Halloween 'spooktacular' at Northants forests

Dare you venture into the Forestry Commission's Fineshade or Salcey Forest this Halloween?

Share creepy tales of ghouls and ghosts round a campfire deep in the forest or become a monster yourself and join in apple-bobbing and face-painting at a host of Halloween themed activities on October 31.

Forestry Commission rangers will lead night-time walks through the woods, exploring the forest in the dark and listening out for owls and bumps in the night.

For those too scared to venture out after the sun goes down, there are a range of Halloween fun and games. Children and families can make spooky decorations and creepy bat or frog finger puppets to take home. There will also be lots of horror-themed games and the opportunity to create your own spells.

People are encouraged to wear their most terrifying outfit for the fancy dress competition or enter the pumpkin competition – both cost 50p.

Forestry Commission community ranger Cheryl Joyce said:

“There are many spooky goings on here in the woods this Halloween. The dark nights and rustling leaves really give a spooky atmosphere, perfect for Halloween story telling.”

As well as the events on October 31, free Halloween trails are available throughout half-term by collecting instructions from the visitors' centre at Fineshade and the café at Salcey.

There is also a Halloween workshop at Fineshade on Monday, October 26 where youngsters can make decorations, conjure up potions and enjoy arts and craft-based fun. There is a charge for this activity, which runs from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and booking is essential.

Visitor and communities services manager Sarah Walker added:

“The Halloween activities provide something which all of the family can enjoy together. From apple bobbing to face painting and spooky walks to puppet making. There really is something for everyone.”

Oct 31 events at Top Lodge, Fineshade (noon-7pm, free entry):

Spooky walks at 2pm for little monsters, and 5pm and 6pm for a spookier night-time walk with storytelling (£4 adults, £2 child). Booking is essential by calling 01780 444920.

Activities include a fancy dress competition, pumpkin competition, creating spells, making finger puppets, apple bobbing, face painting, games and much more. There is a small charge for some activities.

Oct 31 events at Salcey Forest (ticket only):

Spooky walks at 5.30pm for little monsters and at 7.30pm for adults only

Party games, barbecue, disco, fancy dress competition, storytelling, pumpkin competition.

Tickets costing £15 for adults and £8 for children (food and drink included) are available from the café at Salcey. Book by calling 07834 765590.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. For more information contact Sarah Walker on 01780 444920 or email sarah.walker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
2. Picture caption: (L-R) Anthony Seamer, visitor services assistant; Sarah Walker, visitor and communities services manager; Cheryl Joyce, community ranger.

About the Forestry Commission

3. The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible in England for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woods and forests, and increasing their value to society and the environment. Forestry makes a real contribution to sustainable development, providing social and environmental benefits arising from planting and managing attractive, as well as productive woodlands. Further information about the Commission can be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/>
4. Northants Forest District runs from Grantham in Lincolnshire right down to Ampthill in Bedfordshire, taking in many beautiful and varied woodlands.

Salcey Forest, south Northamptonshire

5. Salcey Forest is between Milton Keynes and Northampton, and located immediately to the east of the small village of Hartwell. From Hartwell village cross over the M1 motorway, and turn left towards Northampton at the crossroads. The car park is in

1/4 mile on the right. www.forestry.gov.uk/salceyforest

Fineshade Wood, north Northamptonshire

Fineshade Wood is part of Rockingham Forest. Corby or Stamford is the nearest town or village. Fineshade is signposted from the A43, 9 miles northeast of Corby, and 6 miles southwest of Stamford. www.forestry.gov.uk/toplodge