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SEARCH FOR COUNTRYSIDE GREETERS TO WELCOME VISITORS

Walking and cycling enthusiasts prepared to share their passion for the Kent countryside and coast with like-minded people visiting the county are invited to join a new team of Countryside Greeters.

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.

The Countryside Greeters project for coastal Kent is being launched at The Pines Calyx, St Margaret's Bay, on Tuesday, June 7. Everyone interested in becoming a Countryside Greeter will be given a short introduction to the Greeter programme and a walking tour of the area followed by discussions and a sandwich lunch.

The project is being organised by Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, to complement its expanding network of Greeters.

Kerstin Andrews, of Visit Kent, said: “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. 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.

“Our aim is always 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 we have covering a wide range of ages and interests and different areas of the county, the easier it will be to make the right matches.

“Kent is expecting lots of new visitors in the run-up to the 2012 Games and beyond. We want to 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 and have helped set up Greeter projects in London and Brighton as well as in France and Belgium.

The Countryside Greeter event at The Pines Calyx, on Tuesday, June 7, will start at 10.45 am. To book a place, call Visit Kent on 01622 696935 or email: georgia.mannering@kent.gov.uk. To find out more about volunteering as a Kent Greeter visit www.kentgreeters.co.uk.

