

# Mucklestone Spring Walk

## Sunday 18 April 2010



William Friend is hosting a 'Mucklestone Spring Walk' at Church Farm Mucklestone (TF9 4DN), on Sunday 18th April from 2.00 p.m.

Walkers are asked to park at the school, or nursery car park (off Rock Lane). The route leaves from and returns to Mucklestone Church (please collect route plan here), and follows Cemetery Lane through the

farm, past ponds and fields for about half a mile into the Cowleasow Wood.



This 20 acre wood is home to a colony of rare wild daffodils as well as many other species of woodland spring flowers and wildlife, including a colony of the endangered and secretive dormouse, and many rare ferns and mosses. The whole farm is managed under a Countryside Stewardship Scheme, to enhance and develop the range of diverse wildlife habitats on the farmland and woodlands, and a complementary range of traditional rural enterprises.

Those with four-wheel drive vehicles may wish to offer rides to disabled visitors, and can get to within 30 yards of the daffodils with a turning circle at the end. Walkers can do a circuit of the wood and either return by the same route, or the more intrepid can visit the Winnington Waterfall, the route to which will be marked (access by kind permission of Mrs Flavia Friend.)

Children are encouraged to pick flowers, leaves and twigs etc. for drawing and study purposes, provided no more than one of each species is collected and no root or bulb is removed from the ground. William will be on hand in the church at tea to identify any specimens brought in.

For reasons of safety, and the number of ponds etc., all children must be under close supervision of an adult at all times.

Mucklestone W.I. will be offering teas and refreshments in St. Mary's Church from 3.00 p.m. and the nurseries and gardens will be open to visitors, from which logs from the woods can now be purchased.

For many years Church Farm played host to the North Staffs Hunt's Mucklestone Point to Point on Easter Saturday and it is now hoped that this Spring Walk can become an annual community event for the Sunday after Easter and that other walks and tours can be arranged in due course to look at Rhododendrons, Camellias, Bamboos, Christmas trees, herbaceous borders, pond plants, nature conservation and so forth.

Visits by schools/ local interests groups are always welcome, if sufficient warning is given (as William lives 250 miles away in Margate, Kent!)

### Contacts:-

**Ian Phillips** (07903 10145); for grass fed beef and lamb, and traditional breeds of pork and poultry.

**Brian Watkins** of Mucklestone Nurseries (07985 425829); for plant sales.

**Eric Watkins** (07780 970344); for log sales, landscaping

**William Friend** (07714241668); for general enquiries and gardening/natural history advise/lectures. Williams email is [friend.northdown@btinternet.com](mailto:friend.northdown@btinternet.com)

*Mucklestone nursery is now open every Saturday in winter and Thursday – Sunday from Easter to the end of September. For further details see the website [www.botanyplants.co.uk](http://www.botanyplants.co.uk)*