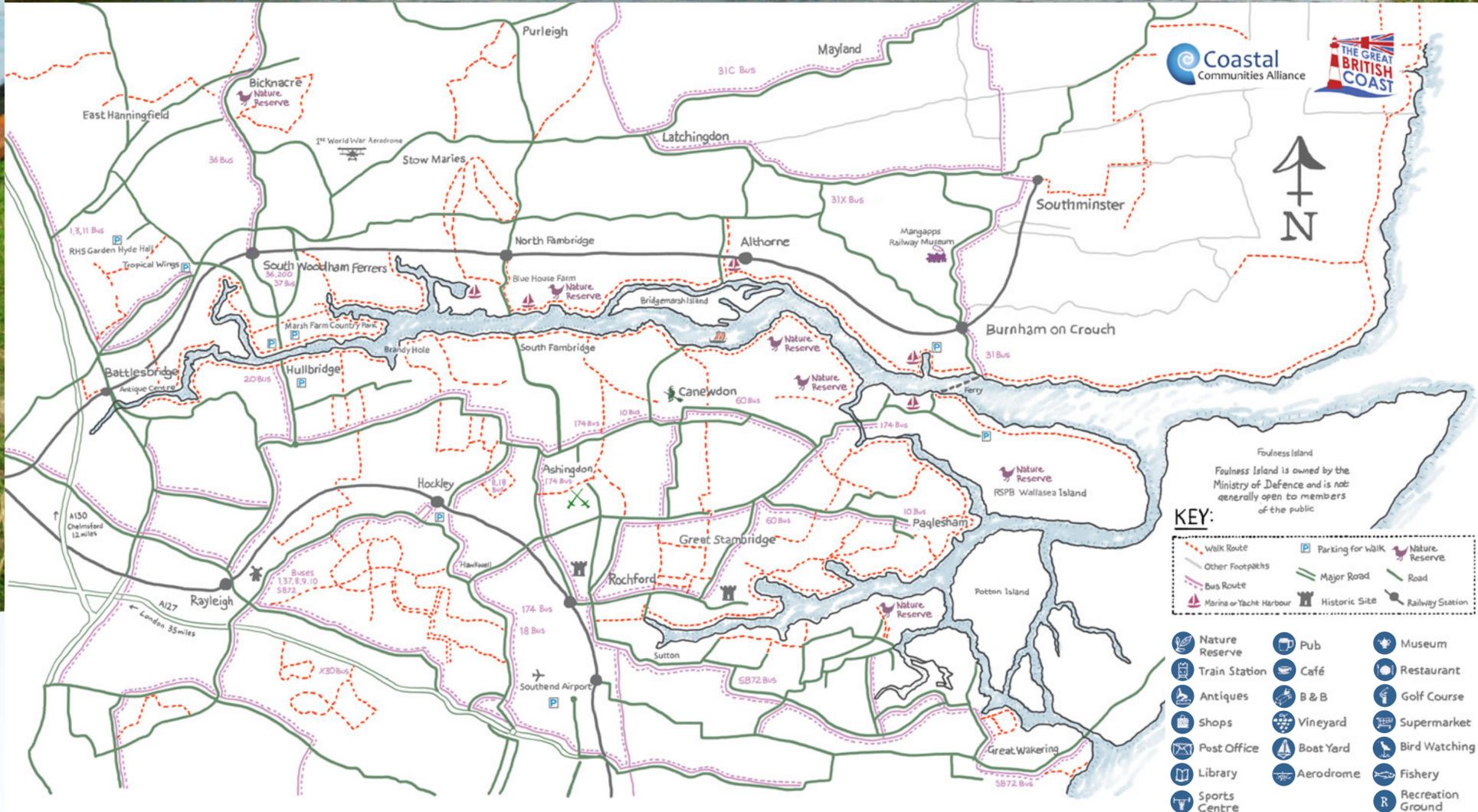


EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF THE CROUCH COAST



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BURNHAM ON CROUCH

Burnham On Crouch lies on the north bank of the River Crouch, extends to the mouth of the river and includes a number of hamlets. It has been a ferry port and later as a fishing port known for its oyster beds. Most recently the town is a renowned centre for east coast yachting. There are many listed buildings in the town, including the Grade II listed Royal Corinthian Yacht Club. It is the principal settlement in the wider Dengie peninsula area meaning it has facilities that are normally uncommon in small towns. These include a wide variety of eating places. Its railway station represents a vital transport link on a single-line branch from Wickford, with direct services to and from London Liverpool Street. It has one of the earliest established cinemas in the county.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

MANGAPPS RAILWAY MUSEUM

www.mangapps.co.uk

The Mangapps Railway Museum is a heritage railway centre located on the outskirts of Burnham-on-Crouch. The .75 miles of standard gauge demonstration train-track and museum are owned and operated by the Jolly family assisted by volunteers. To operate the line the Railway has 18 steam and diesel locomotives and over 80 carriages and wagons, some of considerable historic and technical interest.

LET'S GO BONKERS

www.lets gobonkers.com

Lets Go Bonkers is East Essex's brand new, exciting and professionally designed premier indoor children's soft play studio, featuring two uniquely designed multilevel play frames, which have something for everyone!

The professional design team have come up with a range of equipment and designs that are both innovative and ground breaking. There is an exciting, fun and educational play environment for all children from birth to 10-years old.

BURNHAM MUSEUM

www.burnhammuseum.co.uk

Located in a former boat-builders premises built around 1910 at the end of Coronation Road with the main entrance on the Quay. There is an interesting collection of exhibits over two floors, displays and archive material relating to Fishing, the Oyster Fishery, Farming and Agriculture, Boat Building and the local Iron Foundry as well as more homely items.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

- Rochford - 10k run - Sunday beginning of May
- Cold Norton - Beer Festival in May
- Burnham - Art Trail - the last week in June
- Cold Norton - village sports day in June.
- Hockley - Art Trail - 1st week in July
- Wild Woods, Hockley - first Saturday in June
- The Fambridge River Festival Mon 6th June
- Rayleigh - Art Trail - 2nd week in June
- Brownstock Festival, Stow Maries - 8/9/10th July
- North Fambridge - Iron Man - Middle distance Triathlon - 3rd week in July
- Southminster - Flower Show - 3rd Saturday in July
- Burnham Week - yacht races - gig races - week containing August bank holiday Monday
- Paglesham Village show - Last weekend in August
- Battlesbridge - Boat Jumble - 1st week in September
- Burnham - Carnival - held at the end of September
- Rochford - Art Trail - 3rd week in September
- Essex Wine Festival at New Hall vineyard - 1st weekend in September
- Rochford - Beer Festival - November
- Saltmarsh 75 - Run the first weekend in October, a 75 mile ultramarathon and distance walk starting near South Woodham Ferrers and running along the northern bank of the Crouch. Then it continues along round the Dengie coast ending at Salcott cum Virley. www.saltmarsh75.co.uk

For more information www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk www.rochford.gov.uk/leisure

With miles of coastal and countryside footpaths, there is plenty to explore on the Crouch Coast. However, it is vital that we respect the fragility of our natural environment, the rights of private land owners and businesses and the vital role of sea walls in our coastal defence. **Please keep to the footpaths, keep dogs under effective control and do not litter.** Footpaths are for illustrative purposes only, please refer to ordnance survey maps for exact detail of routes.

ALTHORNE

Althorne village can trace its origins back to the medieval era, with its 14-century church, St. Andrew.

The Burnham/Fambridge Road reveals stunning vistas over the Crouch, Roach and Thames estuaries.

There is a railway station with through and connecting services to London Liverpool Street Station. Its public facilities include a well equipped recreation ground. The village has an extensive network of footpaths including scenic walks along the Crouch riverbank, and from, Burnham, Creeksea and North Fambridge.

ASHINGDON

Ashingdon is a pretty, quiet rural parish that includes the villages of Ashingdon and South Fambridge. Ashingdon was the site of the Battle of Ashingdon which took place at Ashingdon in 1016 AD. Ashingdon was the base camp of King Edmund, the Saxon King of Wessex and King of one third of England.

BARLING MAGNA

Made up of the hamlets of Barling, Little Wakering, Potton Island and Stonebridge. The name "Barling" is said to derive from two Saxon words "bar", a boar, and "ing", a meadow. The village duck pond is known as Weir Pond.

LOCAL ATTRACTION: BARLING MAGNA WILDLIFE RESERVE

The reserve was created by local volunteers. Dedication and hard work, plus the planting of some 650 hedgerow and specimen trees have succeeded in making it a favourite place for all to enjoy. There is a beautiful path with specimen trees which leads to two meadows looking across the Borro dyke to the River Roach & Potton Creek. The Reserve has won the Rochford DC Heritage and Conservation award, and no less than four Green Pennant and Green Flag Community Awards. There is a free car park.

BATTLESBRIDGE

This small hamlet is at the head of navigation on the River Crouch and is well worth a visit by boat. Historically there has been significant commercial activity around Battlesbridge with the River Crouch barge trade, cereal milling, grain storage and road stone haulage. There is a small public jetty to gain access ashore and it is close to the road bridge port side. The upper reaches are teeming with wildlife. There are a few seals and, on the next stretch, you may be able to see our resident otter, if you are very lucky. There are two 16th century inns that also serve food.



The village has one of the largest antique centres in the UK based in an old granary. There are tidal gates connected to the small tide mill. The development and enlargement of Hyde Hall gardens under the management of the Royal Horticultural Society has considerably increased the number of visitors.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS: RHS HYDE HALL

One of the five main RHS gardens it was started in the 1950s from an old pig farm. It has grown to one of the RHS's major gardens with a wide range of visitor attractions including children's playground, cafe and restaurant, ponds, sunken gardens and rose walk.

BATTLESBRIDGE ANTIQUES CENTRE

Over 80 dealers housed in a variety of old buildings and courtyards. Just off the A130 on the banks of the River Crouch, midway between Chelmsford and Southend. Open 7 days a week. Free admission, on site refreshments, large free car parks. The Motorcycle Museum is open on Sundays and there is a showground hosting various events throughout the year.

CANEWDON



It was here that King Canute landed in his longships to conquer England in 1016 and change our history forever. The parish of Canewdon includes Wallasea Island which is home to the RSPB Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project. A ferry crossing operates between Wallasea Island and Burnham. In the second world war, Canewdon had one of the very earliest radar stations.

Legend has it that as long as Canewdon Church Tower stands there will be six witches in Canewdon.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

LION CREEK AND LOWER RAYPITS NATURE RESERVE

This 161 acre nature reserve was purchased by Essex Wildlife Trust in 1986. At one time it was a creek on the southern shore of the Crouch estuary. It was cut off from the estuary by a new seawall, and is bounded on three sides by the old one. The creek contains brackish water and in late summer has an attractive border of salt marsh plants such as Sea Lavender, Golden Samphire and Sea Spurrey. The seawall was damaged in 2007 and a section has been rebuilt at the same time a scrape, featuring special water vole islands, and a small saline lagoon were created.

THE WALLASEA ISLAND WILD COAST PROJECT



The Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project is a landmark conservation and engineering project, the largest of its type in Europe. Four hundred years ago there were 30,000 hectares of wildlife-rich saltmarsh around the Essex coast. Now, saltmarsh is rare, with just 2,500 hectares left. The Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project aims to re-create some of this lost landscape and protect its future, both for the incredible wildlife that relies on it and for future generations to enjoy.

- The seawall footpath is open at all times
- There is a car park on the nature reserve - for opening times please refer to our website: rspb.org.uk/Wallasea
- It is free to enter the site, but donations via our website help us to continue the work here.

STAMBRIDGE



The name "Stambridge" means "Stone bridge". The only bridge in the parish now is brick-built over the small stream that rises in Canewdon, flows under the road just south of the Royal Oak, and into the Roach near "Waldens". The original stone church of St.Mary's and All Saints, in Great Stambridge, was built about 1020-40.

Both Great and Little Stambridge are mentioned in the Domesday Book. Each consisted of two inhabited areas or "manors" in the surrounding forest.

The Floods of 1953 affected much of Stambridge including Mill Lane and parts of the main village.

COLD NORTON



To the south of the village lies Beacon Hill from where the land slopes down to lovely views of the Crouch estuary, north-eastwards from the village the land falls to a low lying plain and the Blackwater Estuary.

The disused railway is now a bridleway and footpath.

A network of footpaths criss-cross the parish. Local attractions include Three Rivers Golf and Country Club and The Norton public house, run on a voluntary basis by local residents.

FOULNESS



Foulness is an island on the east coast of Essex separated from the mainland by narrow creeks. The island is an internationally important site for migrating and breeding birds, including avocets. Although public rights of way exist, the island is owned by the MOD and access to the island is only permitted with a pass, obtainable from Shoeburyness. Visit here for details: <https://shoeburyness.qinetiq.com/Pages/default.aspx>



The island's visitor centre is opened to the public on the first Sunday in summer months, but permission must be sought to visit. The island's name is derived from the Old English fulga-naess, with fulga (modern "fowl") meaning wild birds and "naess" being the Germanic word for promontory.

LOCAL ATTRACTION:

THE FOULNESS HERITAGE CENTRE

In 2002 the Foulness Conservation & Archaeological Society (FCAS) converted the former Foulness Primary School into the Foulness Heritage Centre. It opened in February 2003 and has received a constant stream of visitors from both the UK and abroad ever since. The Heritage Centre is only open to members of the public from 12pm-4pm on the first Sunday of the month from April to October. Those wishing to visit the centre will be permitted access to Foulness from 11:45am. For further information about visiting the Heritage Centre, telephone 01702 219465.



PAGLESHAM



Paglesham's picturesque red-brick and white weather-boarded houses and inns, together with the bleak surrounding marshes which stretch to Wallasea Island and the sea, still suggest the romantic atmosphere of smuggling and contraband. This village was indeed noted for this in days gone-by. Paglesham was long known for its fine oysters, which were reared in its favourably situated creeks. Charles Darwin's ship the HMS Beagle ended her days as a Revenue vessel in Paglesham.

GT WAKERING



The village church of St Nicholas dates back to Norman times. Much of the land area around Great Wakering is closed off to the public as it forms part of the MOD.

The MOD beach is a great spot for watching Brent geese and other waders. You will find much military debris around the area such as old firing targets, train tracks, graffiti trains, a lookout tower and several ruined batteries. There is also access here to the tidal path 'The Broomway' but this is again subject to MOD restrictions.

HULLBRIDGE



The village of Hullbridge is tucked away in the north west corner of the District and is surrounded by green belt on three sides and the River Crouch on the northern boundary. This area was closely linked to smuggling with smugglers trying to evade the watchful eyes of revenue men by dumping bottles of brandy weighed down with salt into the river until it dissolved and the bottles could then be collected later. This area is still known as Brandy Hole today (see map).

Along the river bank there are remains of evaporation pans where salt was made in medieval times.

LOCAL ATTRACTION:

MB FALCONRY

www.mbfalconry.co.uk

MB falconry offer full and half day experiences and short sessions where you get to know our birds of prey and have them fly to your glove. This family run business offers One to One experiences and makes an unusual and memorable day.



LATCHINGDON



Latchingdon is a rural village that is the "Gateway to the Dengie Peninsula" in Mid-Essex – everyone has to drive through the Parish of Latchingdon to get onto the Peninsula. There are many public rights of way ideal for walkers. Some lead to the River Blackwater and join with paths in the Parish of Althorne which lead you to the River Crouch.

LOCAL ATTRACTION:

CLAY HILL VINEYARD

Clay Hill Vineyard was the first vineyard in the River Crouch Valley, established in 2006. Located on the B1010 (main road to Burnham on Crouch), near Althorne (Parish of Latchingdon), views overlooking the River Crouch.

Visitors & Tours are currently available by appointment. The vineyard is currently in the process of converting the Barn into a Tea Rooms, Shop and Wine Tasting venue and will have the tea rooms open in July 2016 followed by the shop by Christmas 2016. Once the Tea Rooms are completed they will be open Weekends and during the tourist season for visitors.

NORTH FAMBRIDGE



North Fambridge has a railway station on the Crouch Valley Line and its name appears in the Domesday Book as "Fanburge".

Adjoining the village is Blue House Farm, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and nature reserve owned by the Essex Wildlife Trust.



LOCAL ATTRACTION:

BLUE HOUSE FARM

This 605 acre farm is situated on the north bank of the River Crouch. It has been managed by Essex Wildlife Trust since 1998. Around 2,000 Brent geese come to the area during the winter. The farm has been improved substantially to allow our fastest declining mammal, the Water Vole, to thrive as the creeks and ditches offer an ideal habitat.

This area is surface-flooded during the winter months bringing in huge numbers of wildfowl and wading birds. It is also an important area for birds in the spring with Lapwing, Redshank and Avocet all breeding here.

PURLEIGH



Purleigh is first mentioned in a Saxon will of AD 998 and 1086 when it appears in Domesday Book. The landscape of Purleigh today is one of dispersed farmsteads, small hamlets and roadside cottages. A redundant cottage was used as the poor-house from the late 1660s but a purpose built workhouse was provided in 1784. Valley Stores on the opposite side of the hill has been in use as a shop since at least the 18th century, being at various times either a grocers, bakers, butchers or a public house called The White Hart.

LOCAL ATTRACTION:

NEW HALL VINEYARD

New Hall Vineyard is a family run English Wine Producer with over 100 acres of vines, It was first established by the Greenwood family, in the small Essex village of Purleigh in 1969 and is one of the oldest and largest English Vineyards in the Country. New Hall Vineyards is open Mon - Friday 9am to 4pm and Sat 9am to 1.30pm, free of charge, where visitors are welcome to taste some of wines in the cellar shop under the house and walk along the Vineyard Trail.



SOUTHMINSTER



Southminster is in the centre of the Dengie peninsula. A major horse market used to be held annually in the town. Southminster marshes were a favourite centre for hare coursing in Victorian times. Pandole Wood contains ancient earthworks believed to date from the Iron Age.

The medieval St Leonard's Church dates mainly from the 15th century there are also traces of much earlier work.

Southminster railway station is the terminus of a single-line branch that was electrified in the 1980s and provides services to Wickford and Liverpool Street.

LOCAL ATTRACTION:

WIBBLERS BREWERY

www.wibblersbrewery.org.uk/

'Wibblers' became a commercial venture in the Spring of 2007 after nearly 20 years of home craft brewing experience. Initially with a 2.5bbl plant it started in a converted barn Mayland on the Dengie Peninsula in Essex. A year later the addition of a 20bbl plant made it one of the biggest micro-breweries in Essex. Wibblers Brewery moved to Southminster in spring 2016 and opened their tap room in June.

STOW MARIES



Stow Maries has a public house and a number of shops and eating places. There are many footpaths and an old railway line, part of which is used as a cycle route. This includes the former Stow Maries Halt which, along with an adjoining four-acre meadow, is now a nature reserve. The local parish church, the Church of St. Mary and St. Margaret, has a 14th-century chancel and a 15th-century nave that was extended in the 16th century. Between 1916 and 1919 there was a Great War Aerodrome here and this is now being restored.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

STOW MARIES AERODROME

www.stowmaries.org.uk

Europe's most complete surviving Great War Aerodrome, it is being returned to its former operational state with the gradual restoration of the buildings on the site. It is also a haven for a wide variety of wildlife, particularly owls. Regular events held throughout the year, many on an automotive or aviation theme.

STOW MARIES HALT NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/stow-maries-halt

This 5.5 acre reserve consists of the former Stow Maries Halt on the disused Maldon to South Woodham Ferrers railway line. The remains of the platform are still visible by the reserve entrance and five species of fern-Wall-rue, Maidenhair, Spleenwort, Black Spleenwort and Hartstongue - grow in the mortar of the bridge.

In late spring there are many Common Spotted Orchids and a number of Adderstongue Ferns, followed in summer by Common Fleabane, Wild Carrot and St John's Wort. The reserve has a good selection of butterflies, including Purple and White-letter Hairstreaks, and dragonflies

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS



The town's prosperity is attributed to wharves transporting butter, cheese ,salt and fish to London. It was also an important river crossing as there was a ferry until World War 2.

Smuggling was rife here and a bend just down river is still called 'Brandy Hole' today, where the smugglers dropped their contraband overboard (whilst the bend obscured them from Revenue men) weighted down with salt to be recovered days later when the salt dissolved. The seawalls here are reinforced with the foundation stones from the Old London Bridge.

In 1981 the Queen opened the town square, which is named after her. Many street names in the south-western part of the town are taken from the works of J. R. R. Tolkien.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

WOODHAM FEN NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/woodham-fen

This 20 acre reserve lies between and near the tidal limits of two small creeks running south into the River Crouch. The southern part is saltmarsh and the northern rough grassland with a transitional zone between the two - of special interest because this natural transition is now very unusual in Essex.

Accessible at all times via footpaths. Dogs allowed if under effective control.

CROUCH VALE BREWERY

www.crouchvale.co.uk

Founded in 1981, they have survived and even prospered to be today, the longest-established brewery in Essex. They are immensely passionate about what they do and massively proud of their hand-crafted, multiple-award-winning range of beers.

TROPICAL WINGS

www.tropicalwings.co.uk

Tropical Wings Zoo is one of the best interactive zoo attractions in Essex. They have one of the finest tropical houses in the UK, an oasis where you can experience a tropical feel on any day of the year and get up close and personal with our free flying butterflies and birds. With an indoor soft play and outdoor activity play area there is something for everyone.

MARSH FARM

www.marshfarm.co.uk

Marsh Farm Animal Adventure Park provides a magical day at their family visitor attraction. You can meet the animals, feed the birds in the walk through aviary, cuddle the pets and groom a pony. They provide delicious freshly prepared food, have play indoor and outdoor areas. A daily fun and educational 'Pesky Pet Show' runs daily and offers a unique insight into the lives of all small and furry friends for children of all ages.

