

## STROUD VALLEYS PROJECT WILDLIFE WATCH!

Events Programme Dec 2011 - Feb 2012

### ONGOING



Our project officers Nadine, Mark, Richard and Ivi lead days of outdoor work every week, helping to improve various sites for wildlife and people. If you'd like some fresh air and exercise, the opportunity to meet like-minded people, and do something worthwhile at the same time, why not don your wellies, grab a packed lunch and head into the great outdoors with us. Please call the office to say you want to take part as places are limited. **Cost: Free. For further details and to book a place contact SVP on 01453 753358.**

### DECEMBER



#### **Goodwill Evening - Friday 2nd December**

Come along to our eco-shop in Threadneedle Street to see all the goodies we have for sale, and also join our drop in family workshop making Christmas beeswax decorations

#### **Starlings at Sunset**

**Saturday 10th December : 3pm**

#### **Sharpness Canal**

Come along on our walk and experience the spectacle of huge flocks of starlings wheeling through the air at their winter roosting sites. **Booking essential.**



**Cost:** £3/adult, £2/child,  
or £2/adult, £1/child for SVP Friends

**For more information or to book your place please contact Barbara Wood on 01453 887805**

#### **Solstice Walk**

**Sunday 18th December : 10am - 1pm**

Back by popular demand: step out with us to celebrate Solstice and de-stress before Xmas. We will walk 8km/5miles to the



picturesque Heavens, one of Stroud's best kept secret valleys. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome. Suitable for families with older children. A few stiles and no toilets.

**Cost:** £3/adult, £2/child, or £2/adult, £1/child for SVP Friends

**Meet:** Trinity Pocket Park, opposite the Maternity Hospital on Trinity Road, Stroud

**For further details and to book a place contact Ivi Szaboova on 01453 753358.** In case of bad weather contact Ivi on 07876 050878.

# JANUARY

## Free Event at the Museum in the Park

### **Sunday 8th January Winter Bird Walk**

Another gentle walk around the park, this time to look at the birds which are overwintering in our area. Come and learn more about the lives of winter visitors such as fieldfares and redwings.

**All events are free although donations are always welcome.**

**For more details or to book a place please call :  
Abigail Large on 01453 763394, [www.museuminthepark.org.uk](http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk)**



### **Habitat Workshop at Rackleaze Wetland Saturday 28th January : 10am – 2pm**

Come along to help out at the Rackleaze Wetland site in Cam. We will be continuing general habitat management work on site. We also hope to continue specific habitat work aimed at helping both the grass snake population on-site and enhancing the wetland in the hope of encouraging Ratty back home!

Bring along the appropriate clothing i.e. raincoat, wellington boots, and a packed lunch.

**Free event, donations appreciated.**

**Meet:** At the top of the public footpath next to Cam Memorial Hall that leads down to the wetland site behind Tesco's supermarket in Cam.

**To book a place and for further details contact Richard Lewis on 01453 753358**



### **Winter Wildlife Walk led by Fred Miller**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 11am-12.30pm**

**For children aged 7-11**



Use all your senses to explore the beauty of nature in winter with this woodland walk. Use "sky eyes" to explore the treetops. Meet a tree with your fingers and use your ears to discover the music of the winter. Use your experiences and natural materials to create a piece of art. Take home your memories in a twig window!

This event involves an outdoor walk and an indoor art session. Please dress warmly and wear boots or strong shoes.

Cost : £3 per child /£2 for SVP members

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

**Places Limited - Booking essential**  
through SVP : 01453 753358

Organised in conjunction with the Museum in the Park: [www.museuminthepark.org.uk](http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk)

# FEBRUARY

## **The Mighty Severn Bore**

**Wednesday 8th February : 7.30 - 9pm**

The River Severn has the largest bore in Europe. In his illustrated talk Chris Witts, author of several books about the river, describes how nature creates this tidal bore. He will also talk about elver, eel and salmon fishing in the estuary, and what it's like to steer a large cargo barge loaded with 250 tonnes of grain around the tight bends of the river whilst riding the bore!



An event suitable for all with tea and coffee available.

**Cost:** £6/adult, £4/child, or £5/adult, £3/child for SVP friends

### **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

**For more information or to book please call Jenny Slater on 01453 750251**

## **Birds of Prey Flying Experience**

**Saturday 11th February : 10am - 12pm**



A hands-on experiences for all ages who would like to enjoy flying Owls & Birds of Prey. Join us for a morning talk to learn about these amazing birds, followed by the opportunity to fly one yourself. Dress for outdoor weather. Toilets and refreshments on site.

### **Booking Essential**

Cost: £30 adult/ £20 child

**For more information or to book your place, please contact Jenny Slater on 01453 750251**

## **Seed Swap**

**SVP Eco Shop**

**Saturday 18th February : 2 - 3pm**

Start your gardening year with the Stroud Valleys Project Seed Swap! Bring along any seeds that you have saved from your garden, or any packets of seeds that you have spare, and swap them for some different varieties. A great way to meet other gardeners, share advice and knowledge.

**Free event, donations appreciated**

**For more information please contact Clare Mahdiyone on 01453 753358**



## FEBRUARY

### **Sevenside Bird Walk**

**Tuesday 21st February : 10am—12.30pm**

Beat those winter blues and come along on our walk beside the seaside (well Severn Estuary anyway!) with lovely views across the river, looking out for wildfowl and other birds. Binoculars can be provided. The walk will be about 3 miles long.

**Meet:** Frampton on Severn village green (southern end)

**Cost:** £3/adult, £2/child, or £2/adult, £1/child for SVP Friends

**For more information please contact Barbara Wood on 01453 887805**



## WILDLIFE STROLLS FOR THE UNDER 5S

Discover the wealth of wildlife around the Stroud Valleys with your pre-school age children. These are gentle strolls with a game or two for the children along the way and a snack stop (so bring a drink and some treats). They are usually buggy accessible but without toilets or refreshments. As for clothing - dress in sturdy outdoor gear and pack some waterproofs too.

The cost is £4/family. All walks take place from 10 - 11.30am

**The walks will probably be cancelled if the weather is really bad on the day. Phone Caroline Aistrop on 07894 663436 to check if the walk is going ahead, and to book.**



### **Snowdrops at Kingscote Woods Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February : 10-11.30am**

A gentle stroll through woods near Kingscote to search for the very first signs of spring! Wild snowdrops and yellow aconites grow in profusion here, carpeting the woodland floor as they seek to attract what few insects are around. Nice for little 'uns, flat path, with a kissing gate to get into the wood but we'll be able to lift prams over. No refreshments or toilets on site.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Who can join in?

Anyone who's interested - children are very welcome to join us although an adult must accompany anyone under 16 years old. It's always worth checking a few days before an event that it is still taking place in case of unavoidable problems (e.g. the leader becoming ill) - telephone the contact person named for each event.

## Booking arrangements

For most events it's not necessary to book in advance, you can just turn up on the day. However, it's really helpful for us to have an idea of the number of people expected so if you can book your place ahead of the event, please ring the contact person named. For some events, booking is essential and this will be stated in the event description.

## Reduced charges for SVP Friends

Stroud Valleys Project runs a 'Friends of SVP' scheme whereby people make a financial contribution towards helping Stroud's environment become a better place for both people and wildlife alike to thrive in. One of the perks of being a Friend is the reduced charge for attending our events. Phone the office on 01453 753358 for a joining form.

## Attendance charge

We charge £3/adult and £2/child (or £2/adult and £1/child for Friends of SVP) to join in with each event, unless otherwise shown on this programme. The money raised will cover the costs of venue hire, any speakers' expenses, and the cost of printing and mailing this programme to you. Some places though, such as the Wetlands Centre at Slimbridge, charge an entry fee in which case we waive our own attendance charge. Often in these situations, we can get a group booking discount if enough people take part. So if you book a place on an event like this, please don't back out at the last minute!

## What to wear

For outdoor events wear stout walking shoes, comfortable clothes (and warm if appropriate) and bring some waterproof gear with you.

## Car Sharing

If you can give a lift to someone or if you need a lift, please let the contact person know when you book your place on the event. It makes car parking easier and it's more environmentally friendly.

## And finally...

**We don't want to put you off coming along, but the reputed increase in the number of people prepared to sue means that we have to state that you join in with these events at your own risk. We provide as much information as we can about conditions where appropriate, but at the end of the day your personal safety is up to you.**

**HAPPY WILD-WATCHING!**

*THIS EVENT PROGRAMME is a team effort by volunteers Helen Dallow, Jenny Slater, Denise Gibbons, Barbara Wood and SVP Staff - Clare, Nadine, Mark, Richard and Ivi - and the programme was put together by volunteer Lindsay Gray and others who read, prepared and stuffed envelopes  
- thanks to you all!*