



Kingfisher

The newsletter of the
SALISBURY WILDLIFE PROJECT



Photo: Nicky Warden WWT



Children having fun in Bemerton Folly during February half-term

Fun in the folly

For two days this February half-term, children from Bemerton Heath enjoyed fun and games, learning bush craft skills, building shelters and cooking on a campfire in the woods at Bemerton Folly. The event was run in partnership by Bemerton Heath Neighbourhood Centre, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and SPLASH (School, Police, Liaison for School Holidays), and involved around 15 young people from the local area. Superintendent James Vaughan of Wiltshire Police attended on the Friday to see how the children were getting along, and the event was covered by Spire FM, BBC Radio Wiltshire, the Salisbury Journal and Vision TV (a local internet news station, see www.vision-news.tv). The half-term events were followed

by a Big Tidy up at the Folly. Members of the local community turned out to clear up the litter around the entrance to the woodland and collected an array of unusual objects in addition to the usual crisp packets and plastic drinks bottles. Salisbury District Council provided the skips and the Bemerton Heath Neighbourhood Centre laid on hot soup for everybody who helped.

The Trust is hoping to set up an ongoing 'Friends of the Folly' group to help look after the woodland. Activities could involve making bird boxes, repairing benches and practical woodland management. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Nicky Warden at the Trust on (01722) 792015 or email nicolaw@wiltshirewildlife.org.

****Special Events****

New Life for Chalk Grasslands

Summer ragwort pulling programme

From 10.30am to 2pm on Thursday 25th June, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th July, and 6th August

A series of special events are being laid on in the summer to pull up ragwort on Trust nature reserves that are grazed. Ragwort is toxic to livestock and each plant produces thousands of seeds.

Locations will be decided close to the date of each event depending on the conditions on each reserve.

For more information, contact Sarah Marshall at the Trust on (01380) 725670 ext 278 or email SarahM2@wiltshirewildlife.org.

Please note: There will be no minibus pickup for these events but car sharing is encouraged. If you need a lift or can offer a lift to another volunteer please contact Sarah.

About the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust



Our vision is of a sustainable future for wildlife and people. We have over 20,000 members, look after 38 nature reserves and have over 1,000 volunteers. We work with local communities, schools, businesses and public bodies to achieve our aims. Please join us.

Please enrol me/us as member/s of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

I/we would like to join as:

Single..... (£24)

Joint..... (£30)

Family..... (£36)

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

I/we enclose a cheque for £ payable to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

Please return to:

**Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Elm Tree Court, Long Street
Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NJ**

Tel: (01380) 725670

Fax: (01380) 729017

email: info@wiltshirewildlife.org

www.wiltshirewildlife.org

Registered Charity 266202

Spring/Summer 2009 Conservation Tasks

The events listed below take place on the second Sunday of every month, from 10am – 4pm (except Easter Sunday).

****+May 10th: Path clearance at Little Durnford**

Come and help us keep the paths and rides open at this beautiful nature reserve.

Minibus pickup or meet in the car park at the entrance to the reserve. Grid ref: SU 128 349.

June 14th: River restoration at the Maltings, Salisbury

Come and help us to improve and restore the banks of the river Avon in the heart of the city.

Meet at the footbridge at the back of Salisbury Library. Grid ref: SU 143 301.

+July 12th: Invasive plant control, River Nadder, Salisbury

Come and help us to eradicate Himalayan balsam from the banks of the river Nadder by Nadder Island.

Meet at the river end of Brunel Road, Churchfields Industrial Estate, Salisbury. Grid ref: SU 129 298.

****+August 9th: Summer picnic and ragwort pull, Little Langford Down**

Come and celebrate the end of the ragwort pulling season with a picnic at this beautiful, hidden downland nature reserve. Oh! and we'll need to pull the last of the ragwort too!

Meet at the reserve at grid ref SU 046 348.

***September 13th: Lakeside shore management, Langford Lakes**

Come and help us coppice willow

and create some bare ground for the migrating waders at this important wetland nature reserve.

Meet in the car park at Langford Lakes nature reserve. Grid ref: SU 037 370.

****+October 11th: Ash bash at the Devenish Reserve, Little Durnford**

Come and help us clear the regenerating ash on the newly restored downland slope at this beautiful nature reserve.

Meet in the car park at the entrance to the reserve. Grid ref: SU 128 349.

First Thursday morning of every month at Avon Valley Nature Reserve, 10am–1pm. May 7, June 4, Sept 3, Oct 1.

We undertake various tasks from boardwalk repairs to river restoration projects on Salisbury's very own Avon Valley Local Nature Reserve.

Meet at the footbridge over the River Avon by Salisbury Leisure Centre, grid ref SU 140 310.

For more information, contact Nicky Warden.

***+Please see below for notes on transport and clothing.*

Important information for volunteers...

BOOKING A PLACE: It is helpful if you book in advance by calling Nicky Warden on (01722) 792015.

TRANSPORT: Transport by minibus IS available for tasks marked '*'. Pick-up is from outside the store next to the footbridge over the River Avon by Salisbury Leisure Centre, at grid ref SU 140 310, at 9.45am, or from outside Debenhams, Salisbury Market Square, at 10am. For other tasks, lifts and car sharing can be arranged. Please call Nicky Warden on (01722) 792015 for information or to book a place.

HEALTH: We recommend that you have an up-to-date tetanus vaccination.

WHAT TO BRING: All tools and training provided. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. For events marked '+' please wear long sleeved tops and long trousers with sturdy footwear. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch for all-day tasks.

The Salisbury Wildlife Project

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter on a regular basis, get involved with the Salisbury Wildlife Project or just find out more, please contact Nicky Warden.

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