

For forward planning and listings

International Day for Biological Diversity in the UK

22 May 2010

Organisations, charities and groups from London to Lewes, and from Cardiff to the Cairngorms, will be offering a host of ways to celebrate the natural world on **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 22 May. This date marks one of the highlights of this year's **United Nations 2010 International Year of Biodiversity**.

More than 340 organisations and groups across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, who make up the UK partnership for International Year of Biodiversity, will be placing special significance on 22 May 2010 as it comes just months before world leaders gather in Nagoya in Japan to set new targets to stem the loss of biological diversity.

The week beginning 17 May through to 25 May includes a huge range of fun activities to help us all appreciate and celebrate biological diversity. Highlights include a chance to go walking with wolves, take part in a BioBlitz to survey local wildlife, go on a Scottish Highland safari, visit woodland, moorland, seashore and grassland, or closer to home learn how to turn your garden into a wildlife paradise.

International Day for Biological Diversity, and the whole of 2010, is dedicated to a global campaign to help people understand how crucial biodiversity is, and to help people discover the connections between themselves and the natural world around them. People can take time throughout the year and beyond to appreciate the natural world around them, and join in the worldwide action on a local level.

Dr Robert Bloomfield, co-ordinator for International Year of Biodiversity in the UK, said, 'Global celebrations and events throughout 2010 will hopefully act to highlight the loss of biodiversity, which, as a result of human activities, is estimated to be as high as 1,000 times the natural rate, and is expected to rise further as a result of the effects of climate change. The impact of biodiversity loss to the essential services that sustain human life is heading to catastrophic levels unless action is taken now.'

For information on how to get involved, or to find out about UK events around 22 May, and throughout the International Year of Biodiversity, log on to the official UK website www.biodiversityislife.net

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For more information, spokespeople or pictures please call Marie Clements on 020 7942 6655, or email m.clements@nhm.ac.uk



What's On: International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May 2010 and IYB-UK events for the week 17-25 May

Monday 17 May

Great Plant Hunt Week (17-22 May)

UK wide

Calling all UK primary schools - please put Great Plant Hunt Week in your diary as we will need your help! To coincide with International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, Great Plant Hunt Week is a mass observation study undertaken by primary school children across the UK. From daisies to dandelions, we're asking children to record data on ten common plants and send in their best photo of the ones they find in flower. The data and pictures collected by schools will contribute to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's phenology research which began back in the 1950s. This is an activity to get children out and about and looking at biodiversity in their own environment. Everything needed to take part will shortly be available from www.greatplanthunt.org

Free event and information sheets

For more information email: greatplanthunt@kew.org or visit: www.greatplanthunt.org.

Tuesday 18 May

Plant Conservation Day

Nationwide

The 18 May is Plant Conservation Day, and Zoos and Botanic Gardens around the world will hold events to celebrate the importance of plants and take action to conserve them. Visit the Plant Conservation Day website for events across the globe.

www.bgci.org/plantconservationday/

Tayside Biodiversity Festival (1 - 31 May)

Locations across Tayside

In Perthshire David Boag, the international wildlife photographer will be at Pitlochry Festival Theatre on 18 May www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

The full programme will be featured on www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk with copies available from Easter - contact tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net or call 01382 433042

Wednesday 19 May

Industrial Uses of Bacteria

Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, London

This one day conference will look at the industrial uses of bacteria in such commercial applications as: energy production, waste processing, bioremediation, corrosion resistance, production of drugs, cancer treatment, manufacture of polymers. Despite the frequently bad press that bacteria receive, they have been shown to have many benefits for high and low volume industrial applications, and can play crucial roles in the processing and improvement of materials. This conference seeks to bring the different industrial biotechnology communities together in order to stimulate discussion, transfer technology, and investigate the wider potential uses of bacteria.

Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5DB

For further information please see the www.iom3.org/events/bacteria

or contact Dawn.Bonfield@iom3.org

Thursday 20 May

Glen Coe Landrover Safari

Lochaber, Highlands

Let the National Trust for Scotland transport you through the Glen, slightly off the beaten track, with this fascinating landrover safari. The Trust will give you three hours of history, geology, wildlife and more! The Trust suggests bringing along a camera, a snack and binoculars. The safari is aimed at adults and older children, and any younger children who do come along must not require a booster seat.

Also on 23 May (and other dates through year)

Glencoe Visitor Centre, Glen Coe, Lochaber, Highlands PH49 4LA

Adult £25, Children £12.50. Pre-booking required

For more information or to book call Rachel McKerral 0844 493 2222

Wild Encounter - Conservation collection at Kew Gardens

Kew, Surrey

A special tour organised by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew is home to an impressive conservation collection of plants. They are maintained to support the work of the UK Overseas Territories and other conservation partners. It is here that propagation protocols are undertaken to provide information on the cultivation of island endemic plants. Staff at Kew also give support to conservationists regarding all aspects of horticulture and cultivation. The tour will be led by one of the Botanic Garden's knowledgeable horticulturists.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB

11.00 – 12.00 for the tour, followed by normal access to explore the rest of the Gardens.

Supporter: £18 Non-supporter: £22

To book please call Zoe on 020 7498 4533 or email zoe@ptes.org

Climate Change and the Developing World

St Clements, Oxford

The impacts of climate change will be felt across the whole world, but it is the poorest countries who will find it hardest to respond. Carlton Wood from the Open University will explain why the things that we are doing in industrialised countries could have a very profound effect on the developing world.

Science Oxford Live, St Clements, Oxford

19.30

£3 / Science Oxford Friends Free

To book visit www.scienceoxfordlive.com or call 01865 810000

Friday 21 May

Walking with Wolves

Near Reading, Berkshire

The People's Trust for Endangered Species and the UK Wolf Conservation Trust are providing a unique experience of walking with the Trust's socialised wolves through beautiful woodland. The wolves are handled by an experienced team and will interact with you as you walk, often walking in amongst you. Once back at the centre you will be given a chance to browse the shop, have refreshments and view the other wolves in their large enclosures. Booking is essential

Nr Reading, Berkshire

13.00 – 17.00

£25/£30 supporter/non-supporter

For more information and to book call Zoe Roden 020 7498 4533

BioBlitz at Ashington Community Woodland

Ashington, Northumberland

A BioBlitz is a race against time to count as much wildlife as possible in a particular area over a period of 24 hours. Join the Northumberland Biodiversity Partnership at this Community Woodland to record and identify anything that flowers, flies, flaps, slithers or swims. The Partnership will offer a 24 hour programme of activities that members of the public can get involved in with – at any time of the day.

From 13.00 for 24 hours

The event is free – although some pre-booking of activities is required

For more information visit www.northumberlandbiodiversity.org.uk/bioblitz10.asp

or call Elaine Jaggs on 01912846884 or mail@northumberlandbiodiversity.org.uk

Biodiversity Day for Secondary Science Teachers

Botanic Garden, Oxford

A day of talks and workshops led by university scientists and education specialists at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. Find out how botanic gardens can bring biodiversity to life, both in and out of the classroom. Places are free and booking is essential.

For more information and booking contact the secondary science education officer at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. postmaster@obg.ox.ac.uk 01865 282451 / 01865 286690

Bristol BioBlitz**Blaise Castle Estate, Henbury, Bristol**

Bristol is holding its second Annual BioBlitz. The free event is a 30-hour race against the clock to find as many species of wildlife as possible. The Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC) will be running the survey that is open to the general public. The dedicated media team will keep the blog updated with photos, film clips and the latest species count. Come out and do a bat walk or some moth trapping, just a few of the many activities to be enjoyed, and help BNHC beat last year's tally of 637 unique species found on the Ashton Court Estate.

Free event, open to adults and children of all ages.

09.00 – 21.00 on Friday 21 May

09.00 – 15.00 on Saturday 22 May

For more information please visit: <http://www.bristolbioblitz.org/>

Or contact Lauren Moore at 01173700971 or at lauren@bhnc.org.uk

Butterfly Surveying Workshop**Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry**

Join Butterfly Conservation for this interesting workshop focusing the ecology and identification of butterflies. This fascinating workshop will involve both a classroom and practical (outdoor) session to Ryton Meadows Nature Reserves. This workshop is aimed at beginners so no previous experience is necessary. Once trained the volunteers can then help us survey butterflies on our nature reserves.

Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Coventry. Entrance SP386761 – Meet in the barn

1030

£10 per person with some money going to Butterfly Conservation. Price also includes refreshments and FSC identification chart. Places are confirmed upon receipt of payment in advance.

Bioblitz in New Forest National Park**New Forest National Park, Hampshire**

A 24 hour wildlife bonanza! Help us record as much wildlife as we can in the New Forest and join us for the big finale at Lepe Country Park. The bioblitz is suitable for all ages.

From 1500 on Friday 21 May until 1600 on Saturday 22 May

Free event, but car parking charges apply. Booking is required for some events.

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/visiting/what_s_on/bioblitz.htm

For details and booking contact 01590 646681

Wildlife Walk along the Port Glasgow Cycle route**Kilmacolm, Glasgow**

Join the BTCV on a free wildlife walk looking at the flora and fauna alongside the Port Glasgow cycle route. We will be trying to identify as many different things as we can using our eyes, ears and nose. Learn how to record the wildlife that we find and how to take a grid reference too!

From Beetles to Bumblebees, we'll record it all.

Booking is essential for this event

departing from the Pullman Tavern, Kilmacolm, PA13 4LG

From 1000 – 1500

Free. Booking is essential for this event.

For more information or to book call John Mc Farlane on 01786 479697 or e-mail

j.mcfarlane@btcv.org.uk

Saturday 22 May**Biodiversity Festival at the Natural History Museum****South Kensington, London**

Join the Museum on May 22 for a special festival celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity. Join us for the launch of an exciting UK-wide competition to find a new young natural history reporter. Meet the Museum's world-renowned scientists and ask them about their favourite specimens and why protecting biodiversity is important to us all. Explore the Museum's Wildlife Garden and enjoy theatre and musical performances that celebrate biodiversity. Link up with International Day for Biological Diversity events taking place across the United Kingdom in the Darwin Centre's interactive Attenborough Studio. Join in the fun and take time to reflect on why biological diversity is so crucial.

Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD

10.00 – 16.00

Free event

For more information call 020 7942 5000 or visit www.nhm.ac.uk

Shrinking the Footprint with the Church of England Lambeth Palace Gardens, London

Celebrate biodiversity in the historic grounds of Lambeth Palace with the Church of England's national environmental campaign www.shrinkingthefootprint.org. The event is part of the National Gardens Scheme which raises money every year for a range of charities by opening thousands of mainly private gardens to the public. Lambeth Palace has one of the oldest and largest private gardens in London -the site has been occupied by Archbishops of Canterbury since the end of the 12th Century. Take the biodiversity trail and enter a competition, with biodiversity experts on hand to answer questions. Enjoy the formal courtyards with historic white fig (originally planted 1555) and stroll around the garden with its mature trees, woodland and native planting, pond, hornbeam allée along with a formal terrace, summer gravel border, chapel garden and beehives. The beekeepers will be in attendance

Lambeth Palace Garden, London SE1

14.00 – 17.30 pm

Contact Rachel.harden@c-of-e.org.uk

Butterfly Explorers

South Kensington, London

Pick up your passport and come aboard for a butterfly expedition. Sail the world to explore diverse habitats and see the spectacular butterflies that live in them. Observe their behaviour and spot the different stages of their life cycles. Then find out why some species are under threat and discover what you might find fluttering about in your own back garden.

Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD

1000 – 1750

Admission: adult £5.40, children and concessions £3.50, family £15 (up to two adults and three children). Free for Members, Patrons and children aged three and under.

For more information call 020 7942 5000 or visit www.nhm.ac.uk

The Wonderful Wildlife Festival

Lewes, Sussex

This festival on Lewes Railway Land Nature Reserve opens with a children's Wildlife Fancy Dress Parade. There will be tree, dragonfly and birdwatching trails, and a display of moths caught the night before on the reserve. Pond dipping and bug hunts will be followed by the chance to see the minibeasts enlarged by video in the new Linklater Pavilion. Willow sculpture workshops, paper butterflies, fossils, basket making, information stalls from the RSPB, Woodland Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust and many other conservation organisations all add up to a wonderful celebration of local wildlife. The event is organised by the Railway Land Wildlife Trust and Lewes District Council.

Lewes Railway Land Nature Reserve, Cliffe High Street, Lewes, East Sussex

11.00 – 16.00

Free event

For more information email liz@williamslewes.info, or visit www.railwaylandproject.org

Prickly tales and foxy fables

Avon Downs

Join storyteller Martin Maudsley on an animated family walk around the Avon Downs. He will bring to life tales of plants and animals for International Day for Biological Diversity. A chance to stretch your legs and enjoy a flock of furry, feathered and floral stories.

1400 – 1530 £4.00. Suitable for families with children aged 6+.

Call the Avon Gorge & Downs Wildlife Project on 0117 9030609 to book.

Village Green

Sherston, Wiltshire

Co-ordinated by the local tree warden, this event will showcase the village's many environmental and eco-friendly interests from its woodland restoration project, the primary school tree and plant nursery, the Living Churchyard as well as their public footpaths and walks booklet. Traditional rural skills experts will demonstrate their work, country dancing, live music and choral singing will provide entertainment, and organic and locally produced food and drink will be available. Lots of activities for children will also mean the whole family will find plenty to enjoy. 12.00-18.00

For more information call Irene Johnston on 01666 841273 or email ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

Wildest Hide and Seek**Slimbridge, Gloucestershire**

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust are running a public survey, commencing on International Day for Biological Diversity Day, which looks at the effects of wetlands on biodiversity. Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT

BioBlitz at Ashington Community Woodland**Ashington, Northumberland**

Join the Northumberland Biodiversity Partnership at this Community Woodland to record and identify anything that flowers, flies, flaps, slithers or swims. The Partnership are offering a 24 hour programme of activities starting on 21 May and ending on Biodiversity Day that members of the public can get involved in; there is no need to be involved for the entire 24 hours, take part in one of the scheduled activities or just pop in to the BioBlitz hub to find out what wildlife has been found.

The event is free – although some pre-booking of activities is required

For more information visit <http://www.northumberlandbiodiversity.org.uk/bioblitz10.asp>

or call Elaine Jaggs on 01912846884 or mail@northumberlandbiodiversity.org.uk

Cairngorms BigBioBuzz Day**Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie, Ballater**

Three simultaneous 24-hour events are being run by the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The events aim to get as many people as possible involved in biodiversity related activities in a 24-hour period. The goal is to collect as much information on the biodiversity in the different localities as possible. Each location will have a designated headquarters that will include other attractions such as story telling, a puppet show, green wood working, nature games and craft workshops. This is likely to be the largest wildlife recording event ever to take place in Scotland and will highlight the fantastic diversity of wildlife on people's doorsteps in the Cairngorms National Park.

From before dawn on the 22 May right through until late that evening.

All the events are free, although some pre-booking of activities is required.

For more information visit <http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/learning/LBAP/bigbiobuzz/> or call Stephen Corcoran on 01479 870 528 or email stephencorcoran@cairngorms.co.uk

Conservation Counts: Grains of Truth**Norwich, Norfolk**

Join the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership for a thought-provoking display to illustrate biodiversity facts and statistics. Come and find out what is happening to biodiversity at both a global and local level, and discover what efforts are being made in Norfolk to conserve and enhance it. The Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service will join the event to explain their work recording and monitoring wildlife in the county.

The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich

10.00 – 16.00. Free, and suitable for all ages.

For more information, call Scott Perkin on 01603 222112 or email scott.perkin@norfolk.gov.uk

24 hour BioBlitz at Caswell Bay & Bishop's Wood, Gower**Gower, Swansea**

Join the City and County of Swansea Nature Conservation Team and Swansea Biodiversity Partnership at this 24-hour BioBlitz to help record and identify grasses, mammals, insects, trees, seashore life, birds and lots more at Bishop's Wood Local Nature Reserve. The partnership will offer a 24-hour programme of fun activities that members of the public can get involved in. Take part in one of the scheduled activities or just pop in to the Nature Centre to find out what wildlife has been found.

Meet at: Bishop's Wood Nature Centre, Caswell Bay, Gower, Wales

From 05.00 on Sat 22 May to 06.00 on Sun 23 May

The event is free – although some pre-booking of activities is required.

For more information visit www.swansea.gov.uk

Or contact Judith Oakley or Jo Mullett on 01792 635784 or email:

judith.oakley@swansea.gov.uk

Climbing Buachaille Etive Beag**Glencoe, Highlands**

A walk along the Buachaille Etive Beag ridge taking in both its munros. There will be fantastic views from both summits and opportunities to hear all about this stunning area. If you're lucky you may even catch a view of some of Glencoe's fantastic wildlife including Red Deer and

Golden Eagles. As this is a full day hill walk, coming with a good level of fitness and appropriate equipment is essential. Prospective walkers should make the property aware of any fitness or medical issues that may impact on their walking ability at the time of booking. Adults only.

Meet at Glencoe Visitor Centre, Glen Coe, Lochaber, Highlands PH49 4HX

0900hrs – 1800hrs

Adult £25 Pre-booking required

For more information or to book call the Glencoe Visitor Centre on 0844 493 2222

Be nice to nettles

Dams to Darnley Country Park, Darnley, Glasgow

Join the countryside rangers on this guided walk and learn about the importance of nettles and their place in our ecosystem.

Meet at the Ashoka restaurant car park, Corselet Road, off Nitshill Road, Darnley, Glasgow

1000hrs – 1200hrs

This event is free. Pre-booking is required

For more information or to book call 0141 577 4053/4054 or email

d2d@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Weird and Wonderful Wildlife

Grant Museum of Zoology, London

Explore some of the world's weirdest and most wonderful wildlife, and get hands on with the Museum's real animal specimens in this free family fun day. Travel to the far reaches of the globe without leaving London, and see some truly bizarre beasts housed in a little corner of Camden. Flying lizards, giant starfish, duck-billed platypuses and spiny anteaters – discover alien animals from your own planet and celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity.

Grant Museum of Zoology, Darwin Building, University College London, Malet Place, WC1E 6BT

Nearest tube: Euston Sq, Euston, Goodge St, Warren St

Drop-in 10.00 – 16.00

Free. There is no need to book. These are family activities, but the Museum is suitable for all ages

For more information call: 020 7679 2647

Big Nature's Bee Aware Campaign

Brighton and Hove / Le Havre, France

The Bee Aware Campaign is co-ordinating the identification of common bees by the public and school children in Brighton and Hove and the city of Le Havre, France. The bilingual Big Nature website will enable participants from both countries to input records at the same place.

Launching on 22 May 2010, the campaign runs until 30 September 2010.

For more information visit www.bigbiodiversitycount.org.uk or email

dan@bigbiodiversitycount.org.uk

Make a Bee a Home

Brighton and Hove

Come along to St Ann's Well Gardens and find out how you can make a special bee home for your garden, school or workplace. Bugs need you and you need bugs! St Ann's Well Gardens Somerhill Road, Hove BN3 1RP

1000 – 1800

For more information visit www.bigbiodiversitycount.org.uk or email

Frances.Chambers@brighton-hove.gov.uk

The Wonderful World of Small Mammals

Whitby, North Yorkshire

Join Bernie McLinden, Head of Park Management for the North York Moors National Park, to look for some of the most secretive of our native wildlife - small mammals. Moors National Park Centre, Lodge Lane, Danby, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 2NB

1100 – 1230

Adults £4, children £4 (minimum age five, all children to be accompanied by an adult).

Pre-booking required

For more information or to book call 01439 772738 or

email info@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk

Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership at Delamere Forest

Northwich, Cheshire

The day will include a variety of activities, led by organisations within the partnership, allowing visitors to get involved in the International Year of Biodiversity. Activities range from how to

record wildlife to learning more about Cheshire's important habitats and declining species. Activities will be taking place within the Old Pale area of the forest.

Old Pale, Delamere Forest, Northwich, Cheshire

10.00 – 15.00

This event is free.

For more information visit www.cheshire-biodiversity.org.uk

Big Bat Map

UK wide and online

As the sun goes down on the International Day of Biological Diversity, the public can turn their eyes to the skies and become a bat detective. A web-based map of bat activity from The Bat Conservation Trust, the Big Bat Map allows users to record sightings of bats flying in their area and view where they have been seen all over the UK and near where they live. The International Night of Biological Diversity is at the height of the bat season and just after sunset the skies over Britain will start filling up with bats, female bats are beginning to form maternity colonies and are looking for suitable places to rear their young, such as buildings, trees or bat boxes while male bats of most species will roost on their own or in smaller groups. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), City of London's City Bridge Trust and Natural England.

For more information visit www.bats.org.uk/bigbatmap

Small Mediterranean Mammal Biodiversity Workshop

Clifton Dykes, Penrith

Small mammal species conservation has traditionally been overlooked in favour of larger mammals whilst rodents, bats, shrews, moles and hedgehogs constitute the majority of Mediterranean small mammal species. One in six (16.5%) mammal species assessed were threatened with extinction, of which 3% were Critically Endangered, 5.1% were Endangered and 8.4% were Vulnerable. This workshop, consisting of a talk, audio-visual presentation and animal handling/ observation, is a case study in the Turkish Spiny Mouse which is endemic to the mountainous areas of Turkey and whose very existence is threatened, along with numerous other species, by various factors including human-made ones.

Wetheriggs Animal Rescue & Conservation Centre, Clifton Dykes, Penrith CA10 2DH.

14.00

For more information call 01768 866657 or visit www.wetheriggsanimalrescue.co.uk

Coventry Water Vole Project:

Balsam Bashing and Plug Planting

Lake View Road, Coventry

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust needs help improving the habitat along the river for the UK's native and severely threatened water voles. This will involve removing the non-native invasive plant Himalayan balsam, and replanting the area with native wetland species. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, but bring along a packed lunch if you wish to stay all day. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear (ie wellies). Led by Coventry City Council's Park.

Lake View Park, off Lake View Road, Coventry (SP 3179 NW).

10.30 – 15.30

Free event

For more information contact Tim Haselden on 024 7630 8995 or email

tim.haselden@wkw.org.uk

Bristol BioBlitz

Blaise Castle Estate, Henbury, Bristol

The second day for this free event - a 30-hour race against the clock to find as many species of wildlife as possible. The Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC) will be running the survey for 30 hours, but the event will be open to the general public from 0900hrs – 2100hrs on the Friday and 0900hrs – 1500hrs on the Saturday. Come out and do a bat walk or some moth trapping, just a few of the many activities to be enjoyed, and help BNHC beat last year's tally of 637 unique species found on the Ashton Court Estate!

Free event, open to adults and children of all ages.

0900 – 1500 on Saturday 22 May

For more information please visit: <http://www.bristolbioblitz.org/>

Or contact Lauren Moore at 01173700971 or at lauren@bhnc.org.uk

Biodiversity Day at Westport Lake

Westport Lake, Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is hosting an International Day for Biological Diversity event at its new eco-friendly Westport Lake Visitor Centre. There will be a range of environmental activities on offer for children.

Westport Lake Visitor Centre, Westport Lake Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4RZ
10.00 - 16.00

Free event, so no booking is required, just turn up.

Bioblitz finale!

Lepe Country Park, Hampshire

A full BioBlitz of Lepe to round off the New Forest National Park's 24-hour bonanza, starting with the opening of the evening moth trap, and continuing with activities and events such as sweeping the grassland, looking at ponds and streams with the grand total of species being announced later in the day. Includes walks onto the Cadland Estate to search for dragonflies and other insects in the North Solent National Nature Reserve.

10.30-16.00 with the grand total of species announced live at 15.30pm.

Free event, but car parking charges apply. Booking is required for some events
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/visiting/what_s_on/bioblitz.htm

For details and booking contact 01590 646681

Biodiversity Day at Bristol Zoo

Clifton, Bristol

Each family visiting the zoo on Saturday 22 May will receive a free packet of seeds upon entry to support the International Year of Biodiversity. Have fun with the kids by planting these seeds in your garden and watch them bloom into colourful flowers. Vibrant plants attract lots of different species of insects and birds who in turn play a vital role in protecting your garden. A diverse garden is less likely to encounter problems such as pests and disease. Five different types of seeds will be available; field corn flowers, cowslips, field scabious, field poppy and wild pansy.

Bristol Zoo Gardens, Clifton Bristol, BS8 3HA

09.00 – 18.30

The seeds are free with normal Zoo admission

For more information call 0117 974 7300 or visit www.bristolzoo.org.uk

Concrete Jungle

Southwark, London and UK wide

One of the UK's most exciting wildlife conservation and gardening projects for young people, launches at The Charter School, London on Biodiversity Day. To Join Concrete Jungle go to www.coolitschools.com. Concrete Jungle offers the chance to: create a flourishing eco-system in your school yard; protect Britain's wildlife, learn about gardening with experts from the environmental charity Groundwork; help you gain an Eco-Schools award; enter Natural England's Big Wildlife Garden of the Year competition; participate in Cool it Schools fabulous art activities. Becoming part of Concrete Jungle allows schools to display their films, pictures and writing in their own Cool it Schools showcase.

www.coolitschools.com

For more information contact Jane Langley on 020 7738 7267

Sarayu Shah 020 7922 1230 or email Sarayu.shah@groundwork.org.uk

www.groundwork.org.uk/london

Natural Sciences Open Day & Adult Learners Day at National Museum

Cardiff

Ever wanted to see what goes on behind the scenes of the Museum? Well now you can! Explore the natural sciences collections, meet the curators and conservation team and book a special behind the scenes tour at 12pm & 2pm.

11.00 – 16.00

Places limited on tours. Book on arrival at the Information desk.

National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff

www.museumwales.ac.uk

University of Glasgow Marine Biodiversity Conference

Glasgow

To celebrate International Year of Biodiversity, the University of Glasgow will be hosting a series of lectures featuring speakers discussing current research and conservation practice, aimed at a general audience. All-day event

St Andrew's Building, University of Glasgow

Information and booking: e-mail info@glasgowsciencefestival.org.uk

The Haytime Project in the Dales**Hawes, Yorkshire**

Illustrated talk by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Hay Time Project Officer Christa Perry and Hay Time Project Manager YDMT, Don Gamble. Learn about the amazing flowers and grasses that inhabit Dales hay meadows and discover how the project works with farmers to restore and enhance this habitat.

14.15 – 15.15

The Methodist Church, Hawes

Free event

Further details Anne Webster, Yorkshire Dales Society, 01729 825600

www.yds.org.uk**Boozy Flower Walk –Appletreewick****Appletreewick, Yorkshire**

As part of the Yorkshire Dales Road Verge Project, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust guide James Ferguson will show what flowers are to be found from spring to summer. There will also be the opportunity to learn some of the local folklore associated with many of the plants. The walk will conclude with a visit to a local pub. Dogs on short leads only please (note there may be some stiles). For age 16+

10.30 – c.14.00

Meet at the New Inn, Appletreewick

Free but donations to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust welcome

No need to book but for further details about the event or the project phone James Ferguson on 01756 751603 or james.ferguson@ywt.org.uk

www.ywt.org.uk**Hedgerow Surveying around Bentham****High Bentham, Yorkshire**

Join Terry Whitaker of the Craven Conservation Group in this new project based on field surveying local hedges. The day will aim to train a small team of people in the basic techniques of surveying who would then like to spend a further day or two assessing local hedges during June and July. Bring walking boots, waterproofs and a packed lunch.

10.00 – 16.00

Meet Greystone Gill Lane, High Bentham

£1 donation to group costs

Booking essential, contact Terry Whitaker 015242 62269

Walk on the Wild Side in Woking! Woodham and Horsell Common Common, Surrey

The Surrey Greenspace Project and Horsell Common Preservation Society will be leading a guided walk on Woodham and Horsell Common to highlight the importance of these rare and diverse habitats for both people and wildlife.

1100– 1330

Meet at: The new car park at Woodham Common on Monument Road (just down from the six crossroads roundabout), Woking, GU21 5LW. Grid ref: TQ 146 603.

Donations welcomed.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL to book, please call Tasha Feddery on 07891 514575 or email tasha.feddery@surreywt.org.uk. Under 16s very welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

Laleham Pond Open Day**Laleham, Surrey**

On International Day for Biological Diversity why not come along to Laleham Pond Open Day with Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers, SWT and the Surrey Greenspace Project. Family event with free pond dipping and children's wildlife quiz. Come along and see this lovely nature reserve that was featured on Springwatch three years ago.

11.00 – 16.00

Meet at: Laleham Pond, entrance Ashford Road, Laleham. Opposite the Bella Vista Restaurant.

Donations welcomed.

Information: Jill Stephens at Spelthorne Civic Pride 01932 564543

Quantock Hills Area of National Beauty**Somerset**

The Quantock Hills provide valuable habitats for some wonderful wildlife and AONB Ranger and local wildlife enthusiasts will endeavour to show you these on this circular walk.

07.30hr

More information call 01823 451884 www.quantockhills.com

Big Saturday: A variety of life**Manchester Museum, Lancashire**

Discover more about the rich variety of plants and animals sharing our planet in this fun day of activities for all ages. The Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50..

For general enquiries call 0161 275 2634 www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

Charles Darwin: evolution of a scientist**Manchester Museum, Lancashire**

This major exhibition combines fantastic objects – many collected and studied by Darwin himself – with spectacular full size graphics illustrated in a graphic novel style by Chrissie Morgan.

Part of The Evolutionist: A Darwin Extravaganza at The Manchester Museum

The Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

For general enquiries call 0161 275 2634 www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

Beating the Boundaries Walk around the Waun Ias**NNR National Botanic Garden Wales**

A day of events including talks during the first Beating the Boundaries walk around the Waun Ias NNR; other talks within the Garden by the resident scientist and others involved with biodiversity conservation. There is also the chance to join a course on Wildlife gardening with the Garden's Education Department studying practical ways to encourage greater biodiversity in your garden.

The National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire SA32 8HG

For more information call 01558 668768 or visit <http://www.gardenofwales.org.uk>

23 May**Walk on the Wildside at Totternhoe Reserve****Dunstable, Bedfordshire**

Come and enjoy a variety of craft activities and minibeast hunts along the reserve's trail. The whole family will enjoy the wildlife rich reserves.

Totternhoe Reserve, two miles west of Dunstable, Bedfordshire

13.30-16.30

This event is free. Pre-booking required. Adults £2.50, family £6.00

For details contact Christina Biggs or Ruth Brockett by emailing

randallsfarm@wildlifebcnp.org or calling 01234 768542

Glencoe Landrover Safari**Glencoe, Highlands, Scotland**

Let the National Trust for Scotland transport you through the glen, slightly off the beaten track, with this fascinating landrover safari. The trust will give you three hours of history, geology, wildlife and more. Bring along a camera, a snack and binoculars. The safari is aimed at adults and older children, and any younger children who do come along must not require a booster seat. This safari is available on other days of the year too.

Meet at Glencoe Visitor Centre, Glen Coe, Lochaber, Highlands PH49 4HX

10.15-13.30

Adults £25, Children £12.50, pre-booking required

For more information or to book call the Glencoe Visitor Centre on 0844 493 2222

Go Wild at Barton**Barton Turf, Norfolk**

Celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity by learning about the special wildlife of the Norfolk Broads. For a great family day out join the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Broads Authority's fun-packed day. Get the low down on Norfolk's wildlife from experts and get close to nature on wildlife trails. Try pond dipping and watch what has been caught on video microscope, or get creative with art and craft activities. There is the chance to make minibeast homes, bird or butterfly feeders or bat boxes. Refreshments will be available. Listen to

storytellers and see a Nutmeg Puppet Show, *Pip's Wildlife Garden*. There will also be opportunities to try out canoeing or take a boat trip on the Broad. Some of the site is suitable for wheelchair users.

Barton Turf Adventure Centre, Staithe Road, Barton Turf, Norfolk NR12 8AZ

Free entry, with a small charge for some activities

For more information call the Broads Authority on 01603 756097 or 01603 782281 or email hovetonTIC@broads-authority

Wonderful Woodland Wildflowers

Near Princethorpe, Coventry

Join Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's Woodland Project Officer, Eddie Asbery, for a gentle stroll around Wappenbury Wood, one of the finest woodlands in Warwickshire, and in the Princethorpe Woodlands Project Area. Hear about the ecology of the woodland, the Wildlife Trust's management and how it fits into the wider large area project.

Wappenbury Wood, near Princethorpe, meet at the layby at bend on Bunthurst Lane, at SP 383 709

10.30

£2 per person

Celebration of Buckinghamshire's Biodiversity

Near Tring, Buckinghamshire

A family event celebrating the fantastic biodiversity of Buckinghamshire, providing an opportunity to get close to the wildlife with guided walks and activities to discover the birds, butterflies, waterlife and plants of this wonderful nature reserve. Discover the biodiversity of the rest of Bucks, with stands from over 20 organisations working with wildlife in the county. Learn how to help biodiversity at home through activities such as bird box and bug box making. The event is being organised by the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership and is hosted by Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

College Lake, Near Tring. HP23 5QG

10.30 – 16.00

For more information please contact Jez Elkin. Biodiversity Project Officer

By emailing jelkin@buckscc.gov.uk or calling 01296 38294

Herb Discovery Walk/ Accessible Walk

Aysgarth Falls, Yorkshire

An easy guided walk with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in Freeholders' Wood. No charge for carers/parents. No dogs allowed.

14.00 – 16.00

Meet Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre

£3. Under16 and public transport users go free (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult)

Booking advisable through Aysgarth Falls NPC 01969 662910 or

aysgarth@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Swaledale Stroll

Reeth National Park Centre, Yorkshire

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority offer an easy 3.5m guided stroll to Grinton and back via a suspension bridge and through riverside meadows. Plenty of historical and landscape interest to see along the way.

14.00 - 16.30

Meet Reeth National Park Centre

£3, under16 & public transport users go free Booking advisable through Reeth NPC 01748

884059 or reeth@yorkshiredales.org.uk

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Aquatic Invertebrates @Hogganfield Loch LNR

Hogganfield Loch

Join in the Aquatic capers with the BTCV as part of the LNR celebrations at Hogganfield Loch LNR. The charity will be looking for all things Aquatic.

Meet at Hogganfield Loch

1000 - 1500

Tayside Biodiversity Festival (1 - 31 May)

Across Tayside, Scotland

On 23 May the Scottish Crannog Centre will be making Iron Age herby bread

www.crannog.co.uk

Other events during the Tayside Biodiversity Festival will include guided walks on heritage trees, bluebells and swifts. Workshops will include wildlife photography, pollination and bumblebee identification. Kinross' Loch Leven Discovery Day on 23 May will include a showing of the Perth Youth Theatre's outdoor play *The Tree*. In Angus, join in the biggest spring bird survey or find out about bird ringing - contact the Angus Glens Rangers on 01575 550233.

Dundee events will include an After School Workshop and an After Work Wander at the Botanic Gardens contact a.d.hood@dundee.ac.uk. The Balgay Biodiversity Bonanza takes place on 23 May and during the same weekend three biodiversity films will be screened at the DCA (Dundee Contemporary Arts).

The full programme for Tayside Biodiversity Festival will be featured on www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk with copies available from Easter – contact tayside.biodiversity@ukf.net or call 01382 433042.

24 May

RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Chelsea, London

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), organiser of the world's most famous gardening event, is supporting IYB and will demonstrate what can be done at home to help biodiversity. The charity's exhibit in the Continuous Learning zone at Chelsea Flower Show will have a Biodiversity theme which will highlight that gardens are vital for biological diversity, but at the same time under threat from development. One of the world's best designers, Andrew Fisher-Tomlin (Garden Designer of the Year) has been commissioned to make this interactive learning zone engaging and plant focussed. Andrew Fisher-Tomlin has worked with the RHS advisory service to create two completely different garden styles which can contribute to biodiversity in a neighbourhood by becoming part of the green corridors into cities.

The biodiversity theme continues in IYB-UK partner, World Land Trust's exhibit *Saving the Atlantic Rainforest*, which explores this major hotspot and home to 20,000 plants species, 40% of which are endemic. The display will share the rainforest with visitors, whilst highlighting the importance of its preservation.

IYB supporter and award winning garden designer Chris Beardshaw has set a challenge for his 2009 mentoring scholar Paul Hervey-Brookes, to create a small garden at Chelsea which highlights how gardeners can create a desirable and stunning environment which works successfully for both people and wildlife. Paul's stunning design combines a variety of sustainable landscape materials and includes specially designed features such as a portico for birds to nest and log walls for insect habitats. The richly planted borders include a diverse range of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals which the team envisage will be buzzing with insects throughout the show.

The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, SW3

24 May is press day

25 – 29 May (25-26 May, RHS members only 27-29 May, RHS members and non-members)

To book tickets, visit www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea or call 0844 209 1810

RHS show information: 020 7649 1885

Ticket prices range from £14.00 - £49. All tickets must be bought in advance.

For information on all events from 17-25 May, and for the entire events list for the International Year of Biodiversity in the UK, please see <http://www.biodiversityislife.net/?q=media>

Notes for editors

The aims of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity are to:

- stress the importance of biodiversity for our wellbeing
- reflect on our achievements to safeguard biodiversity so far
- encourage a redoubling of our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits from utilisation of genetic resources. With 191 parties, the CBD has near-universal participation among countries committed to preserving life on Earth. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services. In October 2010, world governments will set new targets and steps needed to address biodiversity loss for the decade ahead, and it has been widely acknowledged that the original targets set after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 have not been met.

Heads of State from across the world will meet on 20 September 2010 at the UN General Assembly to prepare for the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in October 2010.

International Year of Biodiversity (IYB2010)

The CBD has created the logo for the IYB and encouraged governments and organisations to celebrate the IYB worldwide. The year will officially end in Kanazawa, Japan in December 2010 with a ceremony marking the beginning of the International Year of Forests 2011.

IYB-UK (www.biodiversityislife.net)

The UK partner resource to the IYB2010 is led by a secretariat hosted by the Natural History Museum and supported by Defra. It includes hundreds of organisations across diverse sectors in all four countries of the UK.

The Natural History Museum Cromwell Road London SW7 5BD United Kingdom +44(0)20 7942 5654

18 March 2010