

WWT Activities for May 2017

This spring, visitors can experience the very best of the season, as WWT Wetland Centres across the country host unique wildlife experiences and exciting new events. Children will also have more opportunities to get close to elusive critters; with pond dipping sessions, bug hunts and walks and talks.

The hugely popular Land Rover, boat or canoe safaris also return to most centres in spring, giving access to parts of the wetland reserves and the wildlife you'd rarely spot on foot. In spring, we'll be switching on the water in our outdoor water play areas too, so the little ones can splash away to their hearts' content!

Whatever your age there's plenty to see and do, as spring at a WWT Wetland Centre is an unforgettable season. You could see chicks, cygnets and goslings take their first steps, dormice emerge from hibernation, swans flying overhead as they begin their migration to the Arctic, and some amazing bird mating rituals including cranes dancing and grebes giving each other presents!

Arundel <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/arundel/>

WWT Arundel, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 9PB

Wed 24 May

Begin Bird-watching: Summer

This session is an introduction to the breeding bird season. Indoor and outdoor segments allow you to observe and listen to birds display breeding behaviours. Bring your binoculars and wear appropriate outdoor clothing.

8.30-10.30

£12 pp

BE

Sat 27 May – Sun 4 June

Downy Duckling Days

Spring is the best time to spot fluffy ducklings – and WWT Arundel Wetland Centre is a great place to find them. Bring your family to meet our new families of ducklings, cygnets and goslings around the reserve! Try some daily ducky activities and pond dipping: Story Time at the Pond Explorer Station: 1:45pm. Pond Dipping at the Pond Explorer Station: 11am-1pm with last admission at 12:45pm. Re-opens at 2pm-4pm with last admission at 3:45pm. Crackin' Crafts in the Outlook In building: 2-4pm Monday through Friday. Wetlands Discovery Boat Safari: first boat at 11am, last boat at 4:30pm.

WA

Caerlaverock <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/caerlaverock/>

WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, DG1 4RS

4 May

Caerlaverock Kids

Join our group for parents and toddlers. Take part in outdoor and nature activities at the Centre.

10am - 11am

BE, WA

Sat 6 May – Sun 30 July

LEGO Brick Animal Trail and Workshops

Explore our reserve to discover eleven, individually-designed, larger than life LEGO® brick animal sculptures (included in admission). Completed the trail? Then come along to the yurt to make your very own mini Fred the Frog souvenir to take home Weekends in May and June, daily in July, 11am - 12noon. Drop-in session, £5pp (plus admission charge).

UAA

Sat 6 and Sun 7 May

LAUNCH WEEKEND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Take part in an awesome, hour-long LEGO® brick workshop! There are two exciting LEGO challenges and a LEGO brick frog to make and take home. 11am and 2pm £8.50pp (plus admission charge).

BE

Sun 14 May

Natterjack Talk & Walk

Learn about Natterjack toads and why they are the rarest amphibian in Britain. There may be a possibility at dusk, of taking a walk out onto the reserve to try and hear the toad chorus as the male toads come down to the shallow pools to sing to the females to encourage them to spawn. Bring warm clothing and a torch.

8.30pm till late.

UAA BE

Sat 6 May

Bird ringing demonstration

Join the North Solway Ringing Group as they demonstrate how to ring a range of birds. 11.00am-4.00pm

WA

Castle Espie <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/castle-espie/>

WWT Castle Espie, 78 Ballydrain Road, Co Down, N Ireland, BT23 6EA

Thurs 25 May

Birdwatch Morning

Join birdwatching expert Dot Blakely to find out about the latest happenings on the reserve.

10:30am – 12:30pm

WA

Wed 3 May

Little Ducklings Day

Join us for a special morning for Mums (and Dads!) and Tots at Castle Espie. Enjoy a one hour structured session in our soft play area with our education specialist, Molly. There will be juice and biscuits for the kids and Mums can relax with a hot drink and tray bake from The Kingfisher Kitchen. Session 1: 10am - 11am, Session 2: 1130am - 1230pm. Adults £5.00, Children Free.

BE

BE - Booking Essential

RI Refreshments Included

M/F Member/Friend

IA price Includes Admission cost

WA included With Admission cost

UAA Usual Admission rates Apply

WP Weather Permitting

OAA Overnight Accommodation Available

PC/PP Per Child/Person

Sun 21 May

Biodiversity Day at Castle Espie

As we prepare to celebrate Biodiversity Day on Monday 22nd May, join us for a special afternoon dedicated to the biodiversity of Castle Espie. We'll be giving visitors a chance to explore Spring wildlife, learn more about birds nesting, what is happening with spring wildlife around the reserve and check out new spring wildflowers which will be in full bloom. Join us from 1-3pm for this special day dedicated to the wonders of Biodiversity.
WA

Llanelli <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/llanelli/>

WWT Llanelli, Llwynhendy, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA14 9SH

May Weekends Activities all day with something for everyone

All day: self-guided den building; 11am-12pm: Minibeast Hunt and Mini Pond Dipping; 1pm: Flamingo Talk; 1-2pm: Flamingo Watch with Telescope; 2:30pm: Pond Dipping; Craft Workshops: times vary (small charge applies to cover cost of materials).

WA

Sat 27 May – Sun 4 Jun

Duckery Tours

Exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of the duckling nursery! Visit our tiny baby ducklings up close in the indoor duckery, see their older brothers and sisters in the outdoor duckery, and in our candling session you can even witness baby ducklings at different stages of development still inside their eggs! Please book at the information desk on arrival at the centre. Sorry, no advance bookings taken. Tours leave at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm.

WA

Sat 27 May – Sun 25 June

Celebrity Dusty Duck Trail

Discover the NEW Celebrity Dusty Ducks arriving at WWT Llanelli Wetland Centre this spring. World famous Aardman studios designed Dusty Duck to celebrate WWT's 70th anniversary and this spring, Dusty, along with his 14 celebrity-designed Dustys will be on show at the centre. The six-foot-tall Celebrity Dusty Ducks include Steve Backshall's Explorer Dusty, Joanna Lumley's Absolutely Fabulous Patsy Dusty and Justin Fletcher's Pirate Justy Dusty. These exciting new sculptures take you around the beautiful grounds at Llanelli Wetland Centre and form part of our spring activity programme which includes our popular Downy Duckling Experience (27 May – 4 June) where you go behind-the-scenes for one week only to meet our little ducklings.

WA

London <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london/>

WWT London, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Barnes, London, SW13 9WT

Sat 6 May – Sat 27 May (Saturdays only)

Early bird openings

If you're up with the lark come and see what wildlife is about on our lakes, meadows and gardens. This is your chance to enjoy some bird watching while most Londoners are still tucked up under their duvets. Or just come and enjoy a peaceful walk among beautiful scenery to start your weekend. The hides will be open from 8.30am, but the buildings will open at 9.30am as usual.

WA

Sat 16 Apr – Sun 22 May (incl. Mon 2 May bank holiday)

Weekend family activities

Enjoy a pond dipping session to see what mini-beasts are about and get creative with our nature crafts.

BE - Booking Essential

RI Refreshments Included

MF Member/Friend

IA price Includes Admission cost

WA included With Admission cost

UAA Usual Admission rates Apply

WP Weather Permitting

OAA Overnight Accommodation Available

PC/PP Per Child/Person

Fri 12 May

Spring Wildlife Photography Course

Photograph the wetland's spring wildlife spectacular with practical guidance and tuition from wildlife photographer and tutor Iain Green. Discover and learn about seasonal specialities of the reserve and how to photograph them. A practical course, the day will begin with an introductory session inside before heading out onto the reserve. 10am - 4pm, £60PP.

BE UAA

Sat 13 May

Members' Walk: Reptiles

WWT London Wetland Centre is home to three of the UK's native reptile species: common lizard, slow worm and grass snake. The common lizards can often be spotted basking on our bridges but thanks to their camouflage they are easily missed by visitors. Slow worms, on the other hand, prefer to warm up underneath metal and felt refugia. Join our lizard expert on this walk to discover more about these fascinating animals. Find out how and where to look for reptiles and hear fascinating facts about these often misunderstood animals. 1pm, £2pp. Starting in the courtyard.

BE

Sun 14 May

Reed Bed Walk

Come on this walk into our reed beds – an area normally out of bounds to visitors – with one of our wardens. Discover how mankind has used the common reed for centuries and gain an appreciation of the biodiversity this habitat supports, both here at the Centre and further afield.

10:30 – 12:30pm & 1:30pm – 3:30pm

£3pp

BE

Sat 27 May - Sun 4 June

Grass Animal Zoo

Come and visit our Grass Animal Zoo this May half term! The display includes a bear and giraffe, a hippo and a camel. Discover which of the eight animals live in wetlands and which of them can go for days without water! Some of the animals are life size – and some of them dwarf their real life cousins! The animals are all located in the grounds of our beautiful nature reserve where you can also see real wetland creatures such as ducks, otters, water voles and dragonflies. There will be plenty of ducklings for you to spot, waddling after their mothers, and the kids will love the adventure play zone.

WA

Martin Mere <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/martin-mere/>

WWT Martin Mere, Fish Lane, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 0TA

Sat 20 May

Wildlife Photography Workshop

A fascinating workshop with Andy Bunting from In Focus introducing you to the finer points of wildlife photography, going beyond automatic settings to create truly spectacular images. £65pp 10am to 4pm

BE PP

Sun 21 May

Drawing and Painting Birds

Join award winning local artist and illustrator Tony Disley to explore the process from drawing through to a finished painting of a bird subject. £50pp, 10am to 4pm.

BE PP

Sun 28 May
Meet Reptiles

Come along and meet reptiles from the North West Reptile Society in our lecture theatre.
12pm to 3pm
WA

Mon 1 May
Annual plastic Duck Race

Over Easter you can paint a duck to bring back on 2 May to take part in our annual plastic duck race. Cheer on your duck as we release the water in the ditches to create a fun family race. 3pm
WA

Sat 27 May – Sun 4 Jun
Downy Duckling Week

How does a duckling develop inside an egg? How long does it take to hatch? When can they first go on water? All these questions and more are answered as you take part in candling workshops, see hatching eggs and walk through our duckling nursery. 11am – 4pm.
WA

Slimbridge <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/>
WWT Slimbridge, Bowditch, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT

Sat 6 May
Beginners Photography

Starting with an illustrated introductory session looking at composition, technique and equipment, you will then head outside for practical session of nature photography. Due to small course numbers there will be plenty of time for 1-2-1 tuition. Through the day Iain will guide you through key camera techniques and photographic skills. 7.30am to 1pm. £60 includes tea/coffee & bacon roll.
BE, RI

Sat 13 – Sun 14 May
Really Wild Weekend

Meet lots of young animals and their families and find out more about how new life bursts into spring. The animals will be at WWT Slimbridge for one weekend only courtesy of the Exotic Zoo which is regularly featured on Blue Peter. Sessions last an hour and include a fun interactive talk in our Cinema before getting the chance to see species up close and ask further questions. There are limited places, with 5 sessions per day, so book now to avoid disappointment on the day. Adults £17.76, Children £12.25, Under 4s £5.50, Members £5.50.
BE

Sat 27 May to Sun 4 Jun
Spring to Life

Join us for a whole week celebrating new spring life, fun in our grounds and out on our reserve with Landrover Safaris, VIP Duckery Experiences, a Duckling Creche, plus a new Spring To Life outdoor trail and specialist new animal exhibits within the centre, not forgetting springtime Arts & Crafts activities everyday! VIP Duckery Experiences: Join our expert aviculture team on a guided behind the scenes tour of our working Duckery. See the whole egg-to-duckling process, watch pipping eggs in anticipation and meet newly hatched ducklings and goslings, including some of the rarest breeds on earth. Take part in the fascinating practice of 'candling' (where a light is used to look inside an egg) and learn all about WWT's conservation breeding programmes, which sees us rear hundreds of young birds each year and of course see tiny ducklings and goslings take their first wobbly steps in the outdoor pens. 9.30am – 5.30pm.
WA

Sat 27 May – Sat 3 June

The Bunny Boo Show

The Bunny Boo Show is a brand new live performance by local production company Noodle. The live show taking place in the cinema, with actors tells the story of Bunny Boo's 13th birthday celebrations. As the preparations for his big party are underway, his father takes him for their annual birthday stroll to see the butterfly migration, when suddenly the weather takes a turn for the worst! The torrential rain and wind separate them and Bunny Boo finds himself sad, lonely and nowhere near home. As Boo realises the challenge ahead, he bumps into many different creatures. One of those creatures is a clumsy flamingo who helps lend a hand to reunite Boo with his family! An exciting tale for all ages about spring, family, new friendships as well as the coming of age... 13 that is! A spring adventure for all the family. Adults £17.26, Children £11.75, Under 4s £5.00, Members £5.00.

BE

Washington <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/washington/>

WWT Washington, Pattinson, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 8LE

Sat 27 May - Sun 4 Jun

Downy Duckling Days

Meet fluffy babies at our specialist duckery, learn more about WWT's vital conservation breeding programmes and see tiny ducklings and goslings taking their first wobbly steps in the outdoor pens.

Duckery talks from 1-2pm (WA) and duckling-themed crafts 1-3.30pm (every day, small costs apply)

UAA

Sat 20 & Sun 28 May

Walk with a warden

Take a walk with our wildlife reserve warden as he shows visitors the latest seasonal highlights around site. Meet in the picture window at reception at 2pm. Included in admission.

WA

Welney <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney/>

WWT Welney, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, Nr. Wisbech, PE14 9TN

Sat 27 & Wed 31 May

Bats & Barn Owls

Explore the reserve by night. Join our guide to watch barn owls coming out to hunt, listen to bats with the detectors and see which insects visit the traps. 8.30-11pm. £12PP, £5PC.

BE

Sat 27 May – Sun 5 Jun

Pond Dipping Competition

Description: Explore the reserve this spring and take part in the pond dipping competition, how many underwater creatures can you find during your day?

WA