

# Stroud Valleys Project EVENTS CALENDAR Spring - Summer 2017



Along with the one-off events listed in this programme, we run on-going conservation work on various sites around Stroud district.

If you would like to get involved on a regular basis, you can either visit our eco shop at 8 Threadneedle Street in Stroud, ring 01453 753358, or see [www.stroudvalleysproject.org](http://www.stroudvalleysproject.org)



## Spring Bird Walk, Chalford

Wednesday 26 April

10am – 12.30pm

Cost : £5/adult & £2/child

SVP Friends : £4/adult & £2/child

**Booking essential**

Spring is here and the Golden Valley is alive with birdsong! Why not come and join us on a gentle 2-mile stroll starting at Chalford. We will be looking for signs of Spring with particular emphasis on birds and their songs/calls. Our walk will take us through ancient woodland, alongside stream and canal.

There will be the opportunity to end with refreshments at the Lavender Café.



## Annual Great Crested Newt Survey - Stonehouse

Friday evening 28 April  
7.30pm to 10pm

Saturday morning 29 April  
7.30am to 11am

Cost £5/adult & £2/child

SVP Friends : £4/adult & £2/child  
(includes both sessions)

Networking breakfast :  
Adults £15 Children £5

Newt traps will be placed in the evening. We will then wait until sunset (8.30pm) to conduct a torch survey.

Very early the next morning we will see what we have caught in the newt traps. By tipping the contents into a white tray we can safely see what we have caught without handling them.

People who have booked can join the networking breakfast at Stonehouse Court Hotel.

You will need warm and waterproof clothing as well as wellington or good sturdy walking boots.

**Booking essential**



## National Garden Scheme

Sunday 30 April and  
Bank Holiday Monday 1 May

2pm - 6pm daily

Improve your health and well-being by walking around some 14 small and medium sized gardens in these 3 Cotswold villages. Admire the structures, water features and the planting which provides colour at this time of year.

Afternoon teas and stalls are available at Eastcombe Village hall. This includes an excellent range of plants to purchase. We are delighted to say that we are a charity beneficiary of this event.

If you would like to volunteer at this event, please get in touch.



## Bat Walk

Friday 12 May

8.30pm - 10pm

Cost : £5/adult & £2/child

SVP Friends : £4/adult & £2/child

**Booking essential**

Encounter Stroud's many incredible types of bats with a local expert. We will listen for bats using bat detectors, and will hope to spot some flying.

Bring warm clothes and a torch.

The Museum will be open until 11pm, where you can explore using torch :

[museuminthepark.org.uk](http://museuminthepark.org.uk)  
[www.museumsatnight.org.uk](http://www.museumsatnight.org.uk)



To book or for further information : 01453 753358

[www.stroudvalleysproject.org](http://www.stroudvalleysproject.org)

Registered Charity No. 900107

## Marking Day Celebration on Minchinhampton Common

Saturday 13 May

**FREE event**

Drop in from 11am to 3pm

The event is jointly organised with Stroud Valleys Project and National Trust.

Marking Day is the traditional day for the cows to be let out onto Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons for a summer of grazing.

There will be something for the whole family to enjoy, including children's activities and a talk by Matthew Oates who is a National Specialist for the National Trust speaking on the importance of this traditional grazing to the land and its link with butterflies and nature.



Photo : Deb Roberts

## Kingswood Newt Survey

Fri eve 19 May :

**7.30pm 9.30pm**

Sat 20 May :

**7.30am - 9am**

**FREE event** - booking essential

On Friday evening a number of bottle traps will be set in the two ponds on-site; old dew and the main breeding pond. If the weather is favourable a torch lamp survey will also be carried out for both ponds.

On Saturday morning bottle traps will be emptied and a survey count will be taken before releasing any newts or pond life found.



## Seedling Swap and Plant Sale

**SVP Eco Shop**

8 Threadneedle Street, Stroud

Saturday 3 June

10.30am - 1pm

**FREE event**

Donations welcomed

Do you have any spare or unwanted seedlings? Give them a good home through our seedling swap/sale.

Bring along any seedlings that you have spare and exchange them for others. Both vegetable and flower varieties welcome.

Even if you don't have any seedlings to swap, you can still take some for a donation. It's a great way to meet other gardeners and to share advice and knowledge.



## Annual Orchid Walk

Edge / Rudge Hill Common

Saturday 10 June

**6pm - 8pm**

Cost : £5/adult & £2/child

SVP Friends : £4/adult & £2/child

The walk will start with a short introduction from Paul Griffiths about the history of the common, what wildflowers and orchids may be seen and a brief intro into the grazing and management of the common for the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

**Booking and paying in advance is essential**



## Hidden Gardens and Sculptures of Rodborough

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 June

11am - 5pm

£5 for adult

Children free

Rodborough's third Hidden Gardens and Sculpture trail promises to be a visual extravaganza, and is an exciting addition to Stroud's calendar of key cultural events.

Gardeners will be throwing open their garden gates to welcome hordes of garden enthusiasts and art lovers.

We will have an eco shop stall on the Sunday for all your gardening needs so come along and find us. We are delighted to say that we are a charity beneficiary of this event.

If you would like to volunteer at this event, please get in touch.



## Rodborough Common Wildlife Walk and Talk

Saturday 17 June  
2pm - 3.30pm

**FREE event** - booking essential

A walk with Stroud Valleys Project and the National Trust Ranger for Rodborough Common.

Learn about the wildflowers and butterflies that can be found here and the work being done to conserve this special limestone grassland.

Phone Deb Roberts at SVP for more info 753358.



Photo : Deb Roberts

## Children's Day at Stroud Farmers' Market

Saturday 17 June  
9am – 2pm  
**FREE event**

Come along and try our **FREE** family activities including our Taster's Passport where you can have a go at tasting lots of delicious food.



## Midsummer Walk to Stroud Brewery

Friday 23 June  
6pm - 8.30pm

Cost : £10/adult & £5/child  
Friends : £8/adult & £4/child)

Join us for a walk taking in some of the work we have been doing in and around Stroud.

Then walk with us along the canal tow path to Stroud Brewery and enjoy a drink when you get there. Price includes a pint or a soft drink.

**Booking and paying in advance is essential**



## Scything Course Kingswood

Saturday 24 June  
10am - 2pm

**FREE event**  
Donations welcomed

Come along, enjoy and learn the art of scything, the traditional way of making hay, with Fred Miller, Stroud Valleys Project Officer.

The course designed for the beginner will give people an introduction to the use of the Austrian style scythe, its use, sharpening and maintenance.

**Booking and paying in advance is essential**

Photo : Deb Roberts



## Stroud Festival of Nature Stratford Park

Sunday 9 July  
11am - 4pm

A family day out celebrating all that is great about nature, with lots of things to see and activities to take part in.

**FREE event**



## Glow-worm Walk and Talk

Friday 14 July  
7.30pm - 11pm

Cost : £5/adult & £2/child  
SVP Friends : £4/adult & £2/child

Denise Gibbons will be giving an illustrated talk about Glow-worms and Fireflies, followed by a walk at nightfall to see our glowing female insects in their local natural habitat.

Refreshments will be served after the talk.

The walk is in the dark on paths so please bring a torch and wear warm clothing.

This event is unfortunately not suitable for children under five.

**Booking and paying in advance is essential**



## **Pond dipping / Bioblitz survey**

### **Kingswood**

Saturday 22 July

10am - 2pm

**FREE event** - booking in advance  
is **ESSENTIAL**

Donations welcomed

Come along, enjoy and learn about what pond life and mini-beasts live in the main breeding pond at Kingswood's own wildlife oasis.

As last year this third pond survey will be led by Denise Gibbons and Barbara Wood, both experts in pond wildlife.

Throughout the session people will be able to have a look at what pond life is living in the pond through netting into wet survey trays.



## **Scything for Beginners**

Saturday 29 July

10.30am - 3.30pm

£25 per person Friends and  
Concessions, £30 for non-friends

An introduction to scything, its history and its background, management of grasslands and meadows, how to set up your scythe, sharpening scythes, peening (beating the blade to thin it and make it sharper), correct scything technique. We will focus on lightweight Austrian scythes.



Photo : Deb Roberts

## **Wild Wednesday Minibeasting Session**

Wednesday 2 August

Three sessions per morning  
10am, 11am, 2pm

Cost: £2/child per session  
(Adults free)

Families will have a hands-on opportunity to get a closer look at the minibeasts living in meadows and woodlands.

**Booking is essential**



## **Wild Wednesday Pond Dipping Session**

Wednesday 9 August

Three sessions per morning  
10am, 10.45am, 11.30am

Cost: £2/child per session  
(Adults free)

Families will have a hands-on opportunity to get a closer look at the exciting variety of animals that live in our ponds.

**Booking is essential**



## **Wild Wednesday Pond Dipping Session**

Wednesday 16 August

Three sessions per morning  
10am, 10.45am & 11.30am

Cost: £2/child per session  
(Adults free)

Families will have a hands-on opportunity to get a closer look at the exciting variety of animals that live in our ponds.

**Booking is essential**



## Wild Wednesday Family Walk

Wednesday 23 August

10am - 12.30pm

Cost: £2/child (Adults free)

Spend the morning walking from playground to playground with fun activities along the way.

Unfortunately, not suitable for pushchairs.

**Booking essential**



© Deb Roberts

## Bat Walk

Thursday 24 August

8pm - 9.30pm

**FREE event**

Donations welcomed

Come along and enjoy an early evening stroll around Wild About Kingswood's own Open Green Spaces with our bat expert, Nadine Symkatz-Kloss, a locally based ecologist and former colleague of Stroud Valleys Project.

**Booking essential as numbers are limited.**



© Paul Green  
thresholdphotography.com

## Fossil Walk

Saturday 2 September

1pm - 3pm

Cost: £5/adult & £2/child

SVP Friends: £4/adult & £2/child

The Gloucestershire Geology Trust will be taking us on a guided walk along the shore of the Severn at Hock Cliff to find fossils embedded in the mud shale. This can be a muddy and slippery walk so good shoes or boots are essential.

A family event suitable for children.

**Booking essential**



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Reflex Designs

## Bio-Blitz / Insect Survey Cam

Saturday 9 September

10am – 1pm

**FREE event**

Donations welcomed

Come along, enjoy, learn about what insects and mini-beasts live in and around the Rackleaze Wetland site with our wildlife experts Denise Gibbons and Barbara Wood.

The aim of survey will be to continue collecting records of insects and wildlife found on the wetland site on that day. Barbara and Denise have been collecting data at the site for a number of years, building up a picture of the insect and wildlife species found.

**Booking and paying in advance is essential**



## Bird Walk Frampton

Saturday 23 September

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cost: £5/adult & £2/child

SVP Friends: £4/adult & £2/child

Discover the richly varied birdlife of the area around Frampton on Severn. Join us on this gentle but varied walk – taking in the parkland at Frampton with its lakes and woodland, including a stroll along the canal. Look across to the River Severn for passage and incoming autumn migrants.

**Booking and paying in advance is essential**



**THIS Events Programme** is a team effort by Daryl Carpenter, John Ockham, Clare Mahdiyone, Tamsin Bent, Richard Lewis, Carolyn Buckley, Julie Wickham, and lots of volunteers who proof-read, prepare, and stuff envelopes - thanks to you all!

*Produced using renewable energy and recycled paper*

