



As the nights begin to draw in and the leaves start to darken to golden hues, autumn arrives bringing with it magical opportunities to experience with friends and family.

South Gloucestershire Council has teamed up with local organisations and community groups in the area to bring you a festive programme of events. Experience the wonders of bat detecting, go prowling for owls, make fresh apple juice and forage for fungi.

These events are suitable for people of all ages and are free of charge (unless stated). All under 16's must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring sensible footwear, warm clothing and waterproofs. For evening events please bring a torch. No dogs allowed on the owl prowls. Some events require booking in advance. For further details please call 01454 863592.

### **Wildways Bat Walk**

*Tuesday 8th September 2009 7.30pm to 9.30pm*

*Conham River Park, Avon Valley Woodlands Local Nature Reserve, Hanham BS15 3AU (Ordnance survey grid reference ST628721)*

Join the Wildways project to discover bats alongside the River Avon and the Avon Valley. The walk will be led by Jim Mullholland of the Avon Bat Group. Use bat detectors to track down these fascinating night time creatures. *Meet in car park at Conham River Park, bottom of Conham Hill, Hanham.*

### **Bat Walk at the Barn**

*Tuesday 15th September 7.15pm to 9.15pm*

*Monks Pool Local Nature Reserve, Winterbourne BS36 1SD (ST642809)*

Join Richard Cook of Avon Bat Group on a walk down to Monk's Pool and Bradley Brook in search for bats. See how many you can spot by using our bat detectors. *Park & meet at Winterbourne Medieval Barn by St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Winterbourne.*

### **Bat Walk**

*Friday 18th September 6.45pm to 9.30pm*

*Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve, Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS (ST622820)*

The hunt for bats is on and armed with bat detectors you'll be able to see how many species of bats we can spot. This twilight walk around the nature reserve offers a great way to find out more about these fascinating nocturnal creatures. Ideal for families. *Meet at outside main entrance to Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre. [www.three-brooks.info](http://www.three-brooks.info)*

### **Community Farm Open Day**

*Saturday 19th September 10.30am to 4.30pm*

*Grimsbury Farm, Kingswood. BS15 9SE (ST663733)*

Country craft activities, BBQ and displays for all the family to enjoy, including seeing a cider press in action pressing locally grown apples to make fresh apple juice. Bring your own apples to join in.

### **Bat Walk on the Common**

*Tuesday 22nd September 7pm to 9pm*

*Yate Common, Yate. BS37 8RZ (ST700813)*

Walk around the common and its woodland in search for bats. Let Richard Cook of Avon Bat Group introduce you to the magical mammals that can eat up to 3000 insects a night! [Meet at the site entrance off the Westerleigh roundabout \('Road to Nowhere'\)](#).

### **Wildways Family Fun Day**

*Saturday 26th September 1pm to 4pm*

*Page Park, Staple Hill BS16 5LG (ST655760)*

A family fun day to celebrate the launch of the Wildways project. Activities include a family tree trail, owl encounters, outdoor play activities for children and a chance to press your own apple juice.

### **Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve Woodland Work Morning**

*Sunday 27th September 10am to 12noon*

*Ridge Wood, Chipping Sodbury BS37 7GP (ST724825)*

Help take part in woodland management activities. [Meet at Jubilee Gardens entrance. www.ridge-wood.org.uk](#)

### **Reach for the Stars!**

*Tuesday 29th September (7.00pm for presentation, 8pm for night viewing)*

*Watkins Room, Old Grammar School, High Street, Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AH (ST727822)*

An opportunity to learn more about sky at night. Talk by Callum Potter of the Cotswold Astronomy Society. If the skies are clear we will go to the wildflower meadow on St John's Park estate to view the night sky.

### **Fungi Foray**

*Tuesday 6th October 12.30pm to 1.30pm*

*Splatts Abbey Wood, Filton BS34 8JH (ST613781)*

Learn about the fungi of Splatts Abbey Wood in a convenient lunch time session. [Meet at the woodland opposite the main entrance to the MOD Abbey Wood.](#)

### **Orchard Harvest Day**

*Sunday 11th October 10.30am to 3.30pm*

*Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust, Church Road, Winterbourne BS36 1SD (ST642809)*

Celebrate the richness and variety of English Fruit at this 14th Century historic barn. Taste food created from local produce and press your own fruit. Lots of other events and stalls on the day with activities for children. [www.winterbournebarn.co.uk](#)

### **Fungi Foray**

*Tuesday 13th October 2pm to 4pm*

*Huckford Quarry Local Nature Reserve, Winterbourne BS36 1EJ (ST654799)*

Join Justin Smith for a stroll around the quarry. A fascinating afternoon to learn about, find and identify fungi. [Meet at steps down to Frome Walkway on Hicks Common Road, Winterbourne.](#)

### **Perry Pear Day**

*Saturday 17th October 11am to 4pm*

*NT, Dyrham Park, Dyrham SN14 8ER (ST749758)*

The National Trust is celebrating its Perry Cider from its own Pear Orchard. Come along for tastings and tips on growing your own pears and other soft and top fruit. Guided walks and produce for sale in the restaurant. National Trust charges apply. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](#)

### **Short-eared Owl Evening**

*Sunday 18th October 5pm to 7pm*

*Aust Wharf, Old Passage, Aust BS35 4BG (ST563885)*

See Ian McGuire's illustrated talk on Short eared owls out in the field and then go searching for this magnificent bird on the foreshore of the River Severn. Meet at road overlooking Aust Wharf. This is a road situated off the A403 at Aust. [www.wildowl.co.uk](http://www.wildowl.co.uk)

### **Fungi Foray**

*Tuesday 20th October 2pm to 4pm*

*Filnore Woods, Thornbury BS35 3JB (ST637893)*

Join local Fungi expert Justin Smith on this informative guided walk to look at different fungi species that can be identified. Meet outside the main entrance to Thornbury Leisure Centre.

### **Apple Day at Willsbridge Mill, Willsbridge Hill**

*Sunday 25th October 12noon to 5pm*

*Avon Wildlife Trust, Willsbridge Valley Local Nature Reserve, Willsbridge BS30 6EX (ST664707)*

A crop of fruity activities to celebrate Apple Day. Orchard games, display of traditional varieties, apple pressing, apple tasting, longest peel competition.

[www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### **Owl Prowl**

*Monday 26th October 7pm to 9pm*

*Conham River Park, Avon Valley Woodlands Local Nature Reserve, Hanham BS15 3AW (ST628721)*

Take a twilight walk with Ian McGuire and hear him call for owls. You won't go home disappointed. Meet at Conham River Park Car Park, bottom of Conham Hill.

### **Owl Prowl**

*Tuesday 27th October 7pm to 9pm*

*Warmley Forest Park (scout hut), Warmley BS30 5JL (ST671735)*

Enjoy a magical evening with Ian McGuire as he talks about British Owls whilst on a walk around the Forest Park. Try calling for Tawny Owls and see what happens. Meet outside the scout hut on A420 in Warmley. 1 minute cycle from the Bristol and Bath Railway Path.

### **Autumnal Antics**

*Wednesday 28th October 10.30 - 12.30pm or 1.30-3.30pm*

*Avon Wildlife Trust, Willsbridge Mill, Willsbridge Hill BS30 6EX (ST664707)*

Tree trekking and wild food walks to explore nature's harvest. Using amazing colours and textures of Willsbridge Valley create your own natural sculpture. Half term holiday family drop in event. Booking not necessary. £6/child (4yrs plus) Adults FREE [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### **Woodland Owl Prowl**

*Wednesday 28th October 7pm to 9pm*

*Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve, Chipping Sodbury BS37 7GP (ST724825)*

Walk led by Ian McGuire. The paths are mostly suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Meet at the Quarry Road site entrance.

### **Prowling Owls on the Common!**

*Thursday 29th October 7pm to 9pm*

*Yate Common BS37 8RZ (ST700813)*

Walk to be led by Ian McGuire. The terrain is unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Meet at the site entrance off the Westerleigh roundabout ('Road to Nowhere').

### **A Savage Owl Prowl**

*Friday 30th October 7pm to 9pm*

*Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve, Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS (ST622820)*

Join Ian McGuire on a twilight walk through Savages Wood. Learn about all the British Owls along the way. [Meet outside Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre.](#)

### **Heavy Horse in the Woodland**

*Saturday 31st October 12noon to 4pm*

*Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve, Chipping Sodbury BS37 7GP (ST724825)*

Traditional woodland management demonstration using a heavy horse to move logs and opportunities to take part in woodland management activities.

[www.ridge-wood.org.uk](http://www.ridge-wood.org.uk)

### **Owl Prowl**

*Saturday 31st October 7pm to 9pm*

*Avon Wildlife Trust, Willsbridge Mill, Willsbridge Hill  
BS30 6EX (ST664707)*

Celebrate Halloween and join Ian McGuire, of the Hawk and Owl Trust on a magical exploration of Willsbridge Valley to listen and look out for these wonderful birds of the night. Parking at Mill only - access off Willsbridge Hill following disabled access signs. [Please ring to book - 0117 9177 270](#)  
£10/Adult, £6/Child (8yrs and over)

### **Fungi Foray**

*Tuesday 3rd November 2pm to 4pm*

*Wapley Bushes Local Nature Reserve, Dodington BS37 8US (ST711807)*

Join local mycologist, Justin Smith, and explore the nature reserve in search for King Alfred's buns and other wonderful fungi. [Meet at the Shire Way entrance by the Zebra Crossing.](#)

### **Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve Woodland Work Morning**

*Sunday 22nd November 10am to 12noon*

*Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve, Chipping Sodbury BS37 7GP (ST724825)*

Help take part in woodland management activities. [Meet at Jubilee Gardens entrance. \[www.ridge-wood.org.uk\]\(http://www.ridge-wood.org.uk\)](#)

### **Natural Woodland Christmas Decorations**

*Sunday 29th November 10am to 1pm*

*Ridge Wood Local Nature Reserve, Chipping Sodbury BS37 7GP (ST724825)*

Learn how to make your own natural Christmas decorations. [Meet at Jubilee Gardens entrance. \[www.ridge-wood.org.uk\]\(http://www.ridge-wood.org.uk\)](#)



Sustainability, Heritage and Environmental Projects team, PTSE, South Gloucestershire Council.