



## Welcome to the Tame Valley Wetlands

- 1 Broad Meadow Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (Wild About Tamworth)
- 2 Egg Meadow (Wild About Tamworth)
- 3 Borrowpit Lake (Wild About Tamworth)
- 4 Tameside Local Nature Reserve (Wild About Tamworth)
- 5 Dosthill Park (Wild About Tamworth)
- 6 RSPB Middleton Lakes (RSPB)
- 7 Middleton Hall (Middleton Hall Trust)
- 8 Birmingham & Fazeley Canal (Canal & River Trust)
- 9 Kingsbury Meadow LNR (North Warks Borough Council)
- 10 Kingsbury Water Park (Warwickshire County Council)
- 11 Lea Marston Lakes (Environment Agency)
- 12 Whitacre Heath Nature Reserve (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)
- 13 Hams Hall Environmental Centre (Tame Valley Wetlands)
- 14 Ladywalk Nature Reserve (West Midland Bird Club)
- 15 Shustoke Reservoir (Severn Trent Water)
- 16 Cole End Park LNR (North Warks Borough Council)
- 17 Castle Vale Conservation Area (Birmingham City Council)

Cover: Bittern © Jamie Hall



Tame Valley  
Wetlands

# Activity Guide

December 2015 to April 2016



Workshops  
Volunteering  
Family Events

[www.tamevalleywetlands.co.uk](http://www.tamevalleywetlands.co.uk)

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**The National Lottery**  
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# Go **WILD** with the Tame Valley Wetlands

From family events to workshops for adults, we are offering a wide range of **FREE** events, to suit everyone!

Please note, all activities are bookable and, although they are all free, some venues charge for car parking.

## ■ Christmas decorations

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 16:30 - 18:30**

There will be three activities: making willow wreaths and stars, Santa sticks and Christmas decorations (Father Christmas, snowman, reindeer or the Grinch!).

**The Sanctuary, Castle Vale**

## ■ Ladywalk nature reserve guided walk

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 - 13:00**

Enjoy a guided walk at the West Midland Bird Club's Ladywalk nature reserve, a quiet woodland and wetland site, usually only accessible to club members. Find out about the wildlife that calls Ladywalk home, and how the club manages this beautiful site.

**Ladywalk nature reserve**

## ■ Applying for grants successfully

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 13:30 - 15:30**

Looking for funding but unsure about applying for grants? This two-hour workshop is aimed at charities and community groups and will help you improve your grant applications. The Heart of England Community Foundation will give you tips on writing outstanding applications and answer any questions you might have.

**Hams Hall Environmental Centre**



**There are also many other events and activities run in the area by our partners – please visit our website for more information.**

## ■ Stone carving workshop

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 09:30 - 16:00**

Carve your own gargoyle! This workshop includes a demonstration of stone carving techniques by Lucy Cortese. Lucy will then take you step by step through the creative process of making your own gargoyle based on the template provided, but with your own personal touch.

**Hams Hall Environmental Centre**

## ■ Planting - A Tree is not just for Christmas

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 - 13:00**

Trees donated by Birmingham Trees for Life will be planted in the Conservation Area to raise awareness of the value of trees. Every family/participant will be given a map of the area to mark where the trees have been planted so they can revisit the site. They will also get waterproof tree tags to dedicate the tree to a special person or to leave a message.

**Castle Vale Conservation Area**

## ■ Hedgelaying taster weekend

**Saturday 23-24<sup>th</sup> January, 09:30 - 16:00**

Over the course of the weekend, learn how to lay a hedge using heritage skills. Layed hedges are more resistant and a better home for wildlife.

**RSPB Middleton Lakes**

## ■ Winter tree ID

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10:00 - 11:30**

Learn how to identify the various different trees that can be found at Whitacre Heath with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

**Whitacre Heath Nature Reserve**



## ■ World Wetlands Day birdwatching walk

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 13:30 - 16:30**

Celebrate World Wetlands Day in the Tame Valley Wetlands. We will take you on a walk at the Environment Agency's Lea Marston Lakes, a haven for wintering waterfowl.

**Lea Marston Lakes**

## ■ Build a nestbox

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 13:30 - 15:30**

Build your own bird (or bat) box! We will provide all the materials, tools and guidance you might need, and you can take your box home!

**The Sanctuary, Castle Vale**

## ■ Drawing workshop

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 10:00 - 16:00**

This workshop will include a short demonstration of sketching techniques (use of sketching pencils, colours, grid method, space). You will then be taken step by step through the creative process of creating your own pencil drawing.

**Hams Hall Environmental Centre**

## ■ Books in the Woods

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00 - 12:00**

You will get chance to make a 'log book' using wooden cookies as covers for the books and natural materials to decorate. A storyteller will then read forest and fairy tales whilst you enjoy a hot drink in the woods.

**Castle Vale Conservation Area**

## Tame Force

Tame Force is a team of enthusiastic volunteers who want to help wildlife and people. We visit different locations in the Tame Valley Wetlands, doing practical conservation and access work.

**Time:** Tuesday, 9:30 to 15:00

**For more information, contact:**  
volunteering@tamevalleywetlands.co.uk

## ■ Family woodland crafts

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30 - 14:30**

Discover wonderful woodland crafts and games for the whole family: from simple willow weaving, to making your own games and art materials!

**Middleton Hall**

## ■ Living willow workshop

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00 - 15:00**

Would you like to learn how to make your own live willow domes or tunnels? These green, living structures use natural materials and can provide a quiet shaded space in your garden or be a brilliant play structure for children.

**RSPB Middleton Lakes**

## ■ Badgers - An introduction

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30 - 12:00**

Discover all about badgers in this session at Whitacre Heath. We will look at tracks and signs, discuss badger conservation and the folklore surrounding this beautiful animal.

**Whitacre Heath Nature Reserve**

## ■ TimeHike in Coleshill

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 11:00 - 16:30**

Learn how to explore your surroundings and local heritage stories in a fun and interactive way. With some guidance, you will research and create a "TimeHike" kit, to enhance local walks and aid your local discoveries. The workshop will finish with a TimeHike walk to try out your kit!

**Coleshill Visitor Centre**

## ■ Wild Wednesday

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 11:00 - 15:00**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 11:00 - 15:00**

Our holiday activities for the whole family, with something different every time: crafts, hands-on activities, scavenger hunts etc.

*Please note that this is a drop-in event and booking is not required.*

**RSPB Middleton Lakes**