

Activity Guide

Autumn/Winter 2016-17



OCTOBER

Outdoor Cooking and Bushcraft

Saturday, 8th October
10.00 - 13.00

Have a go at various outdoor activities including willow weaving and making elder jewellery, as well as outdoor cooking (food will be provided).

Castle Vale Allotments
All ages | Free | Booking required

Foraging Walk

Sunday, 9th October
14.00 - 16.00

Find out about the traditional uses of wild plants including food, tools and medicines on a gentle walk through Ladywalk Nature Reserve.

Ladywalk Nature Reserve
14+ | Free | Booking required

Pumpkin Carving Workshop

Saturday, 15th October
14.00 - 16.00

Learn how to carve an amazing Halloween pumpkin. Pumpkin, tools and expert advice provided.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
16+ | Free | Booking required

Intro to Photography Course

Saturday, 22nd October
09.00 - 16.30

Do you like taking photographs? Would you like to be able to capture the images that you really want and gain confidence in your photography? This is your chance to better your skills and improve your technical knowledge!

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

OCTOBER

Small Mammals

Tuesday, 25th October
08:30 - 11:30

Discover which small mammals live locally and learn more about their habitats and how to identify them. Talk followed by checking Longworth traps.

Kingsbury Water Park
14+ | Free | Booking required

Wild Wednesday

Wednesday, 26th October
11.00 - 15.00

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

RSPB Middleton Lakes
Families | Free | Drop in | Car park charges apply

Halloween Cycle Cinema

Saturday, 29th October
17.00 - 19.00 & 20.00 - 22.00

Pedal-powered outdoor cinema. Wrap up warm for an outdoor screening of the original Ghostbusters (12A) followed by Psycho (15), in the spooky setting of Middleton Hall. Jump on one of the 5 bikes powering the projector - Eco-friendly chills guaranteed!

Middleton Hall
Family/Adult | £1.00 per person | Booking required

NOVEMBER

Poetry Workshop

Thursday, 3rd November
14.00 - 16.00

A poetry workshop led by Mal Dewhirst exploring the diverse landscape of the Tame Valley Wetlands. Participants will use all their senses to capture the river and its landscape. Explore the river through its sound, smell, taste, touch as well as describing the views.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

See website for details of other workshops

NOVEMBER

Basketry workshop

Saturday, 5th November
10.00 - 16.30

Have a go at basket-weaving. Learn traditional basketry techniques and make your own shallow basket to take home.

Old Market Hall, Coleshill
16+ | Free | Booking required

Wildlife Photography

Sunday, 13th November
09.30 - 16.30

If you enjoy getting out and about in the countryside and want to learn how to use your camera to capture stunning images of wildlife this is the day for you. The workshop features presentations, demonstrations of equipment and accessories, and a practical session.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

Wood Carving with Lime

Saturday, 19th November
10.00 - 16.00

Have a go at wood carving. Using all locally sourced timber you will learn the basics of carving as well as the use of traditional tools.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
18+ | Free | Booking required

DECEMBER

Feed the Birds

Saturday, 3rd December
13.30 - 15.30

Help the birds this winter by making your own bird food and bird feeder to take home.

Coleshill Community Centre, Temple Way
Families | Free | Drop in

DECEMBER

Introduction to Coppicing

Sunday, 11th December
09.30 - 16.30

Come along and learn the traditional woodland craft of coppicing at Church Pool Covert. We will be coppicing hazel to both promote healthy growth and harvest the material for future projects.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
14+ | Free | Booking required

Christmas Decoration workshop

Thursday, 15th December
16.30 - 18.30

Come along and have a go at Christmas crafts, including; willow wreaths and stars, Santa sticks and 'cookies' and Christmas decorations (Santa, snowman, reindeer, Grinch).

The Sanctuary
All ages | Free | Booking required

JANUARY

Tree Planting

Saturday, 21st January
10.00 - 13.00

Come along and plant a tree to help improve the environment for future generations. Trees donated by Birmingham Trees for Life will be planted after Christmas in the Conservation Area to raise awareness of the value of trees.

Castle Vale Conservation Area
All ages | Free | Booking required

Winter Farmland Bird Walk

Saturday, 28th January
10.00 - 12.30

Farmland can be a haven for wildlife, especially in wintertime when food is sparse! Take a walk on Southfields Farm in Coleshill with experts from Natural England, and discover the wildlife which has made its home there.

Southfields Farm, Coleshill
14+ | Free | Booking required

FEBRUARY

World Wetland Day Bird walk

Thursday, 2nd February
13.30 - 15.00

The West Midland Bird Club's Ladywalk Nature Reserve, is a great place to spend World Wetland Day! The many pools, reedbeds and scrapes are home to many waders and other wetland birds.

Ladywalk Nature Reserve
16+ | Free | Booking required

Bird Ringing Demonstration

Saturday, 4th February
10.00 - 12.00

Get up close and personal with common birds and discover how and why we catch birds to put tiny rings on their legs. Expert ringers will explain what we learn about birds' lifestyles through ringing.

RSPB Middleton Lakes
10+ | Free | Booking required

Live Willow Weaving

Saturday, 11th February
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 and local materials and can provide a quiet shaded space in your garden or be a brilliant play structure for children.

Lea Marston Playground
16+ | Free | Booking required

Build a Nest Box

Thursday, 23rd February
12.00 - 14.00

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

The Hub Activity Centre, Tamworth Castle Grounds
Families | Free | Booking required

FEBRUARY

Rustic Furniture Workshop

Saturday/Sunday, 25th/26th February
10.00 - 16.00

Come and create your own piece of rustic furniture with award winning greenwood artist Spencer Jenkins. Build a chair using a mixture of contemporary and traditional techniques and sustainably sourced willow. Take home your own creation at the end of the weekend.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
18+ | Free | Booking required

APRIL

BTO - Bird Identification

Wednesday, 12th April
10.00 - 16.30

Learn to identify the birds of the wetlands and surrounding habitats with Ed Drewitt, and then push yourself by learning some of their songs and calls as well.

Hams Hall Environmental Centre
18+ | £30 | Booking required

Wild Wednesday

Wednesday, 12th April
11.00 - 15.00

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

RSPB Middleton Lakes
Families | Free | Drop in | Car park charges apply

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