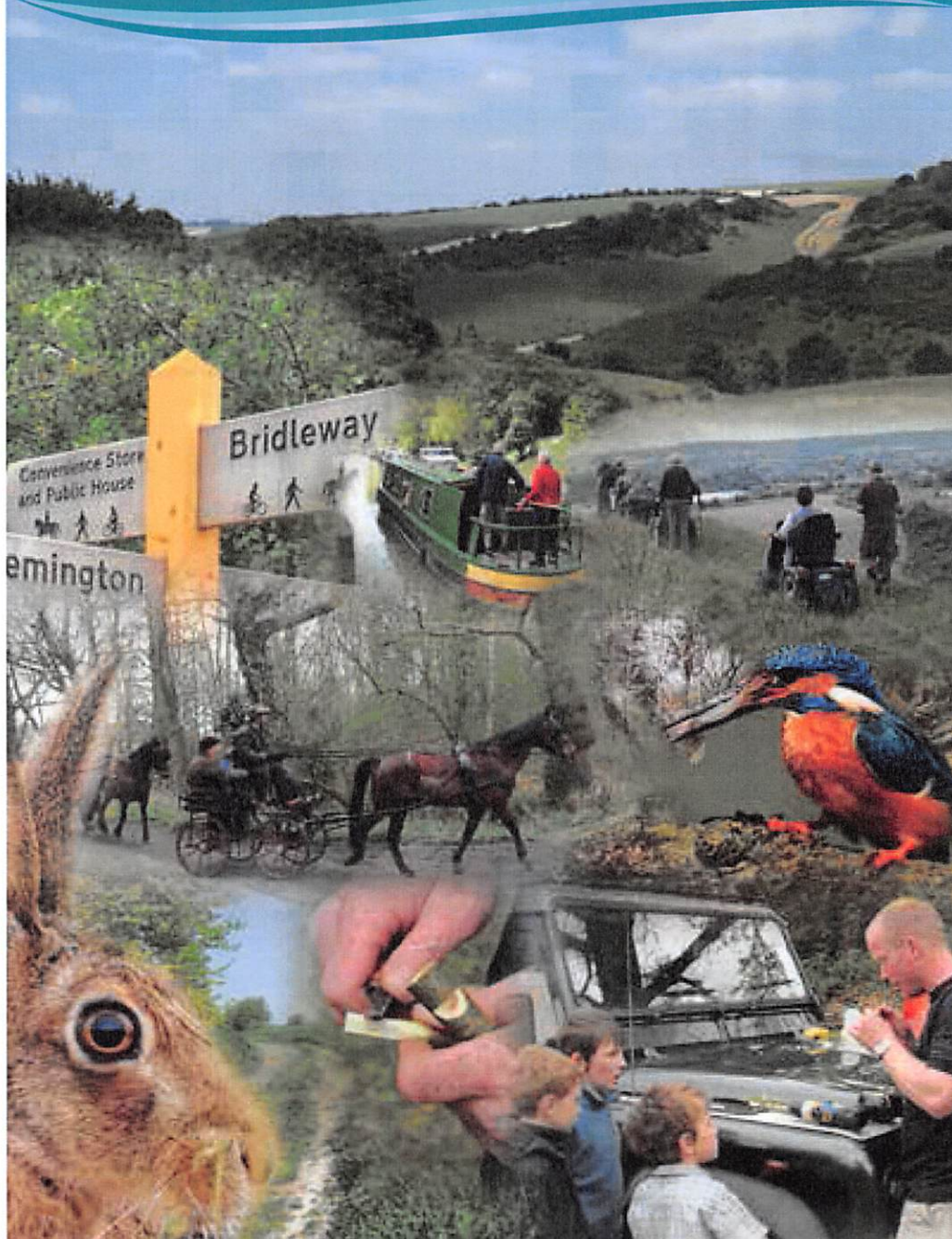


Countryside events in Wiltshire 2017



March

Biss Meadows Country Park, Trowbridge

[Dawn chorus walk](#)

Saturday 11 March, 6am

Join Wiltshire Ornithological Society and The Friends of Biss Meadows for a morning walk around Biss Meadows Country Park. Learn how to identify different birds from their song.

Booking required, please contact Ashley Wicks on **07563 797290** or email events@bissmeadows.org.uk

Free, donations welcome for The Friends of Biss Meadows

April

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge

[Into the wild at Easter!](#)

Wednesday 19 April, 10am–12.30pm and 1.30–4pm
An adventurous, fun filled bushcraft experience for children! Learn new skills and the art of den building, fire making and simple campfire cooking.

Booking essential*

Children £4.50, adults go free

The Atrium, County Hall, Trowbridge

[Willow workshop](#)

Friday 21 April, 10am – 2pm
Children's workshop to make simple things from willow. Learn about where our willow stems come from and how it is grown. Make a willow crown, or maybe a fish or magic wand to take home.

No need to book, drop-in session

Children £2, adults go free

May

Berwick Bassett

[Dawn chorus walk](#)

Saturday 6 May, 5am – 7am, with longer option depending on the weather.

Join Marlborough Downs farmer David White and other bird experts for an early morning walk at Berwick Bassett, accompanied by nature's amazing symphony! Learn how to tell the robin's song from the wren's song!

Booking required, please call **01380 871012** or email mdnep@btinternet.com

Free, donations welcome for the Marlborough Downs NEP

Biss Meadows Country Park, Trowbridge

[What tree is that?](#)

Tuesday 23 May, 6pm – 8pm

Do you know your oak from your ash? Join the Rights of Way and Countryside Team's Tree and Woodland Officers and learn to identify trees native to the British Isles.

Booking required, please contact Ashley Wicks on **07563 797290** or email events@bissmeadows.org.uk

Free, donations welcome for The Friends of Biss Meadows

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge

[Lazy lie-in and the dawn chorus?](#)

Wednesday 31 May, 8.30am – 10.30am

Have the best of both worlds – your lie-in and the wonderful spring birdsong at Southwick. Join Wiltshire

Ornithological Society and the Friends of Southwick Country Park for a morning walk around the Country Park. Learn how to identify your robin from your wren's song. Head to Squirrels' Tea Room afterwards for a late breakfast!

Booking essential*

Free, donations welcome for The Friends of Southwick Country Park/WOS. Breakfast charged at the normal rate.

June

Avebury, near the Stone Circle

[Open Farm Sunday](#)

Sunday 11 June, 11am–4pm

Join the Marlborough Downs farmers for the ever popular Open Farm Sunday. Masses to see and do for all the family!

For more information please call **01380 871012** or email mdnep@btinternet.com

Free, donations welcome for the Marlborough Downs NEP

July

Barbury Castle Country Park, near Wroughton

[Butterfly walk](#)

Sunday 23 July, 11am – 1pm

Join the Marlborough Downs farmers and Butterfly Conservation on an easy ramble around the ramparts of Barbury Castle to learn about butterflies and how to identify them.

Booking required, please call **01380 871012** or email mdnep@btinternet.com

Free, donations welcome for the Marlborough Downs NEP

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge

[Help your garden wildlife!](#)

Wednesday 26 July, 10am – 3pm

Join The Friends of Southwick Country Park and the Countryside Team to make a bug hotel or bird feeder for your garden.

No need to book, drop-in session

Children £2, adults go free

Smallgrain Picnic Site, near Devizes

[Map reading made easy](#)

Friday 28 July, 10am – 1pm

Want to get off the beaten track without getting lost? Why not join the Rights of Way and Countryside Team to learn the basic skills required to read a map and use a compass.

Booking essential*

Children £1.50, adults £5 with discount for family booking

Biss Meadows Country Park, Trowbridge

[Big butterfly count](#)

Saturday 29 July, 1.45pm

Audrey Brown will lead the butterfly walk which is free of charge. We will meet at the notice board opposite the pond.

Booking required, please contact Ashley Wicks on **07563 797290** or email events@bissmeadows.org.uk

Free, donations welcome for The Friends of Biss Meadows

August

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge Nature trail/treasure hunt

Wednesday 23 August,
10.30am – 3pm

Come on a nature trail treasure hunt. With clues and a map, follow the trail to find your answers. Summer holiday fun for all the family. 'Treasure' will be received in return for the answers.

No need to book, drop-in session

Children £2, adults go free

Biss Meadows Country Park, Trowbridge Evening bat walk

Tuesday 29 August,
7.45pm – 9.30pm

Join Friends of Biss Meadows and the Countryside Team for an evening walk looking and listening for bats. Bat detectors will be available to share.

Booking required, please contact Ashley Wicks on **07563 797290** or email events@bissmeadows.org.uk

Free, donations welcome for The Friends of Biss Meadows

Drews Pond Wood, Devizes Evening bat walk

Wednesday 30 August,
7.45pm – 9.30pm

Join Drews Pond Wood Project and the Countryside Team for an evening walk looking and listening for bats. Bat detectors will be available to share.

Booking essential*

Children £2, adults £3.50 with discount for family booking

September

Bradford-on-Avon Evening bat walk by Bradford-on-Avon Walking Festival

Friday 1 September,
7.30pm – 9.30pm

Led by the Countryside Team, on this walk we will be looking and listening for bats alongside the Canal and River Avon. Bat detectors will be available to share.

Booking required, please contact Holidays and Cruises on **01225 865725** from 4 July onwards

Children £3, adults £6

Avebury village Evening bat walk

Saturday 2 September,
7.45pm – 9.30pm

Join the Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership and the National Trust for an evening walk, taking in the mystical Stone Circle whilst looking and listening for bats. Bat detectors will be available to share.

Booking required, please call **01380 871012** or email mdnep@btinternet.com

Free, donations welcome for the Marlborough Downs NEP and National Trust

Rockley, near Marlborough Evening bat walk

Date and time TBC

Join the Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership and local bat groups for an evening walk

looking and listening for bats. Bat detectors will be available to share.

Booking required, please call **01380 871012** or email mdnep@btinternet.com

Free, donations welcome for the Marlborough Downs NEP

October

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge Woodland Management and Coppicing morning

Saturday 21 October,
10am – 1pm

Join the Rights of Way and Countryside Team for a hands-on introduction to coppicing, pollarding, thinning and pruning.

Booking essential*

Adults £5

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge Into the Wild for Half Term!

Wednesday 25 October,
10am – 12.30pm and
1.30pm – 4pm

An adventurous fun filled bushcraft experience for children! Learn new skills and the art of den building, fire making and simple campfire cooking.

Booking essential*

Children £4.50, adults go free

Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge Pumpkin trail

Friday 27 October,
10am – 2pm

Why not bring your little monsters along, with the

chance to dress up in their scariest outfit and hunt for pumpkins hiding in the shadowy corners of Southwick Country Park. With clues and a map follow the trail to find your answers. Prizes for everyone who comes dressed up.

Booking essential*

Children £2.50, adults go free

December

Sutton Veny Village Hall Christmas Willow Wreath Workshop

Thursday 5 December,
7pm – 9.30pm

Get into the festive spirit and get creative with willow. Make and decorate a Christmas willow wreath for your front door. Light refreshments included. The workshop is intended for adults.

Booking essential*

£17

Avebury village Christmas Willow Wreath Workshop

Thursday 7 December,
10am – 12.30pm

Get into the festive spirit and get creative with willow. Make and decorate a Christmas willow wreath for your front door. Light refreshments included. This workshop is being run on behalf of the Marlborough Downs NEP.

Booking essential*

£17

Please ensure that you are dressed appropriately for outdoor weather and terrain. All children under 16 and vulnerable adults attending events must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Some of the venues are suitable for wheelchair access, please phone or email for more information.

Some events are run in partnership with Friends of Biss Meadows, Friends of Southwick Country Park, Drews Pond Wood Project, the Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership, and charities.

Booking onto a countryside event

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

*Unless otherwise stated, contact the Countryside Team for further information and booking:

Tel: **01225 718647**

Monday to Friday,

8am – 4pm

or email: countryside@wiltshire.gov.uk

Events may be postponed or venues changed. Please contact the team a couple of days before the event for confirmation.

Cancellations

Please let us know by telephone or email at least 48 hours before the event if you need to cancel your booking.

Information

Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available in other languages and formats such as large print and audio on request.

Please contact the council by telephone on **0300 456 0100** or email: customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk