

Living the Levels

Welcome to our special edition of our newsletter, giving you a flavour of the events we will be bringing you over the seasons in association with our many friends and partners. We hope these will encourage you to get out and about and perhaps discover some new parts of this glorious landscape.



Long walks, tall tales and big skies!

With 2018 being the 'Year of the Sea', look out for themed events celebrating our unique coastline from fun family activity days to days discovering our history, from illuminating talks to theatrical events – we hope there is something here for everyone to enjoy.

June

2-3, 9-10, 16-17 'Levels through a Lens' Photography exhibition

9am – 5pm Sat – Sun Meeting point: Newport Wetlands, West Nash Road, Nash Newport NP18 2BZ Cost: FREE but please note there is a car parking charge at this venue.

Students from Coleg Gwent's Foundation Degree Creative Industries Photography course have been capturing the Levels' landscape, people, wildlife and views both good and bad, in a series of beautiful and sometimes abstract photographic and video images from all angles. Come and see for yourself in the beautiful setting of Newport Wetlands.

7 Buzzing Bumblebee I.D. Training Day for Beginners

10am – 3pm Meeting point: Magor Marsh, Whitewall, Magor, NP26 3DD Cost: Free but BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Want to learn how to identify different species of bumblebee, and get involved in helping to monitor these vital pollinators? Come along to our Beginners Bumblebee Identification Training day.

In the morning we will deliver a talk on bumblebee ecology, conservation and identification, and in the afternoon we will walk through the flowery meadows, identifying bumblebees throughout the Magor Marsh reserve. In particular, we will be looking for rare species such as the shrill carder bee.

Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and Buglife Cymru will be our guides.

8 Buzzing Bumblebee I.D. Training Day for Intermediates

10am – 3pm Meeting point: Magor Marsh, Whitewall, Magor, NP26 3DD Cost: Free but BOOKING ESSENTIAL

For those with more than a basic knowledge of our pollinating pals – here's a chance to come along and learn a bit more detail about identifying our many pollinating bumblebees.

Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and Buglife Cymru will be again our guides on what promises to 'bee' a fascinating day amongst the beautiful meadows of Magor Marsh.

16 30 Days Wild Bioblitz!

10am – 4pm Meeting point: Magor Marsh, Whitewall, Magor, NP26 3DD Cost: Children £2 Adults Free

Learn all about the plants and animals that can be found at fantastic Magor Marsh and with the help of experts, join us in recording the wide diversity of plants and animals who call this incredible reserve home.

The afternoon fun will include bird watching, pond dipping and bug hunting and much, much more.



21 'The Year of the Sea: From Coalmine to Coastline'

1pm – 2.30pm Meeting point: Gwent Archives, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN Cost: £2

The Levels coastline is intrinsically linked with the industrious heartland of South Wales particularly with the rise and development of Newport Docks. Discover these links with this fascinating talk at the brilliant Gwent Archives, briefly covering the background and records relating to the development of heavy industries in the Valleys, the important transport links (canals, trams and trains) and the development of the docks and coastline. There will be an opportunity to view some of the records after the talk and you can also see the original 1830 Commissioned maps of the Gwent Levels.

July

10, 17, 24, Secret Newport: The Levels and beyond

**July 10 Bishton Village Hall 7pm – 9pm,
July 17 Peterstone Village Hall,
7pm – 9pm,
July 24: Goldcliff Community
Room 7pm – 9pm Cost: FREE**

Join historian Andrew Hemmings at a selection of venues across the Levels. He delves into Newport's past, going beneath the surface of the city to reveal hidden facts that even local people don't know and recounting stories of landed gentry and war heroes from Newport's Levels and beyond. His illustrated talks will focus on the chapters in his book 'Secret Newport' dealing with Newport Levels and Newport Heroes, promising an informative and entertaining evening!

14 Celebrating our Living Levels' Natural Heritage

Saturday 14 July 2pm – 5pm Meeting point: Magor Marsh, Whitewall, Magor, NP26 3DD Cost: £2 for adults, £1 for children families £5.

The Gwent Levels were created by people and managed for thousands of years and as a result, we have a unique natural heritage. So come and celebrate our amazing Gwent Levels at this Grand Summer Fun Day at Magor Marsh. Explore our 'Levels Zones' where you can learn about Lave Net fishing, enjoy pond dipping, bug hunting, face painting, guided tours, free crafts, wildlife and heritage stalls and lots lots more. A fantastic family day out!

21 Bioblitz the Wetlands!

10am – 5pm Meeting point: Newport Wetlands, West Nash Road, Nash Newport NP18 2BZ Cost: FREE Please note there are parking charges at this venue.

We really hope to 'Packham-in' as TV presenter and naturalist Chris Packham comes to Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve, as part of his UK Bio-blitz – 'Nature reserves are not enough!' campaign to help discover what amazing plants and animals live in this special place on the Gwent Levels. During the day, there will be lots of activities to help find and record what species are here in our ponds, meadows, woodlands and hedgerows. You can also learn how to spot any invasive 'Alien Species' which might prove a problem on the Levels in the future. There will also be a prize for the most unusual or unexpected find of the day, so bring along your binoculars and magnifying glasses for a fun day out.

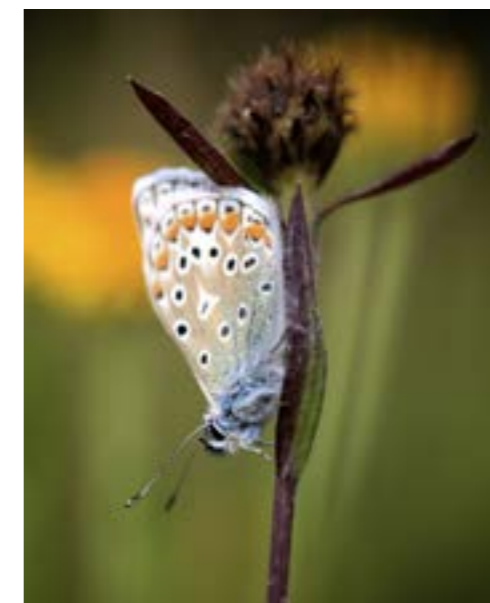
So, if you're a beginner or an expert, join us on our quest, with led sessions throughout the day for you to join in and go Wild! **Chris will be popping in to see how we're getting on.**

August

7 Get Messy with the Mesolithic: Prehistoric Stone Age fun activities

Newport Wetlands 10.30am – 12pm / 2pm – 3.30pm Meeting point: Newport Wetlands visitor centre Cost: RSPB members £4.40 per child/£5.50 per non member.

The Gwent Levels are home to some famous prehistoric footprints and artefacts on its coastline, so come on down and make like our Mesolithic Stone Age ancestors in the summer holidays! You can paint, cast current and extinct animal tracks and even make your own muddy footprints! We will be using paints, clay etc. so please wear your old clothes.



21 Get Messy with the Mesolithic: Prehistoric Stone Age fun activities

Glamorgan Archives 10am – 2pm Meeting point: Glamorgan Archives, Clos Parc Morgannwg Leckwith, Cardiff CF11 8AW: FREE www.glamarchives.gov.uk

The Gwent Levels are home to some famous prehistoric footprints and artefacts on its coastline, so come on down to Glamorgan Archives and make like our Mesolithic Stone Age ancestors in the summer holidays! **There is also the chance to discover 'Behind the Scenes' at this important records institution.**

September

29 Unlocking the History and Archaeology of the Gwent Levels

Saturday 29 September 10am – 4.00pm Meeting point: Newport Wetlands, West Nash Road, Nash Newport NP18 2BZ Cost: FREE – Please note there are parking charges at this venue

Stone Age Stags, Rowdy Romans and Moody Monks... Discover how the Gwent Levels were created, meet the people who helped shape this unique landscape, learn some 'Levels Lingo' and get to grips with some of the artefacts pulled from the Severn mud. You can meet many of the different history and heritage groups from across the Gwent Levels and discover the valuable work and research they do, which continues to keep local history alive.

There will be activities for all the family plus demonstrations, displays, guided walks, talks and you can find out how to get involved with many of the projects being delivered by the Living Levels programme. This is also part of the CADW Open Doors month.

To be decided...

'Big Skies' celebration

After months of working with communities and schools, creating fabulous artwork and sharing stories, a cast of hundreds bring you the Big Skies celebration of the stories, history, landscape and people of the Gwent Levels at the Newport Wetlands Environmental Education and Visitor Centre.

Moby Dick

Well we promised you a Big White Whale so join Tin Shed Theatre Co. as they bring this nautical classic to vivid life using the iconic Newport Transporter Bridge as a dramatic backdrop for this ocean-going tale of revenge and redemption above the river Usk and amidst the historic community of Pillgwenlly.

Help spread the word!

If you think of someone, or a group of people, who might be interested in finding out more about Living Levels and getting involved, please do pass this newsletter on.

If you do not wish to receive further updates about Living Levels, then please let us know to unsubscribe you from this list

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have any questions about the programme or getting involved, drop us a line on:

info@livinglevels.org.uk

or call us on: 01633 292982

Orchard celebration

The Gwent Levels has been managed for thousands of years and as a result, we have a unique natural heritage including a history of rich orchards of apples, pears and other fruiting trees. So come and celebrate our amazing Gwent Levels at this Apple-themed Fun Day at Magor Marsh. You can enjoy pond dipping, bug hunting, face painting, guided tours, free crafts, wildlife, cider demonstrations and heritage stalls and lots lots more. A fantastic family day out!

Due to changeable Levels weather, please ensure that you bring appropriate footwear and waterproof clothing for all walks. Don't forget to bring drink, suitable clothing, sun cream, insect repellent for all outdoor activities.

Please note that other events may be organised after this newsletter is distributed, so keep checking our events calendar at www.livinglevels.co.uk . We will also be popping up at other events in and around the Levels - so look out for us!

Check out our website for updates about the projects www.livinglevels.org.uk

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Our Living Levels

