



Warwickshire

Education Newsletter

January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This is our second year of publishing our monthly newsletter and may it continue throughout 2012 too!

Our What's On Guide from January to May is now published, so take a peek on our website or pick up a guide at your local reserve. There are a variety of activities and courses to suit all ages, from toddlers to adults.

Event: Family Wassailing

Why not join us in a Wassail! Awaken the fruit trees and scare away evil spirits.

Saturday 14th January 3.30pm - 5.00pm

To book telephone: 024 7630 2912

Why not wrap up warm and take your children out for a walk...

There are many sights and sounds during January to look out for:

- You may notice more birds in your school field or in your garden searching for food;
- Squirrels using their acrobatic skills: balancing on wires, hanging off branches and climbing trees;
- The bare trees allow you to view birds nests and dreys (Squirrel nests) more easily;
- A variety of birds singing;
- A drumming sound - a woodpecker is pecking on dead wood, searching for beetle larvae in the bark

Did you know:



A woodpecker's tongue is incredibly long, it is two-thirds the length of its body, wrapping its muscles around the skull.

www.wkwt.org.uk

Activity: Fat Balls

Food is scarce with fewer berries (e.g. holly and hawthorn) left on the trees and hedges, and snow can make it more difficult for birds to find food to survive. The days are short and the nights are long, so it is even more important that birds get enough food.

Birds often visit your gardens because there are bird feeders or fat balls present, hanging on the branches.

Why not make a fat ball? Soon you'll have plenty of birds, all shapes and sizes visiting your garden.

There are clear instructions on this website and also a video:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/natureuk/2011/05/wildlife-gardening-ideas-food.shtml>