



In partnership with:  
Marlborough Town Council



# Discover Stonebridge

A review of activities held at Stonebridge Meadow, Marlborough during Summer 2014

We hosted a series of events through the summer months. Our aim was to encourage people to enjoy and understand the River and Meadow environment. There were a host of fun activities on offer ranging from craft workshops to bat evenings. The events attracted people from the age of 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 86 years old. Over 200 people took part.

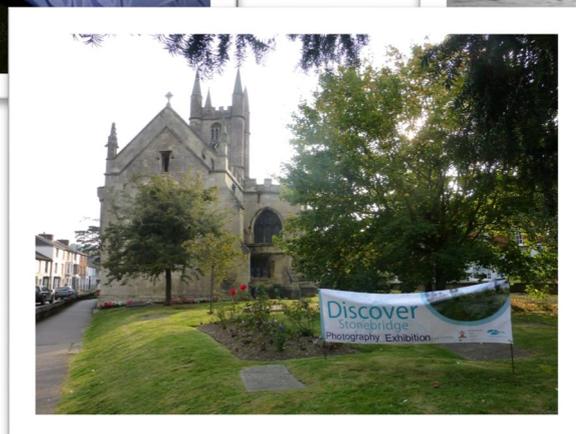
“We had a great time. Great way to spend a few hours, I too was impressed with the water vole making an appearance, not just the boys.”

“Thank you so much, we all had an amazing time discovering Stonebridge and learning about this beautiful place and the nature that lives here. We will be back.”

“When we went to Stoneybridge Anna found a frog but unfortunately before I could film it was too energetic and hopped off! We saw many beautiful and outstanding plants, fungi and flowers and luckily I took some pictures of them. Overall it was an amazing afternoon session.”



| Event                     | Description  | Attendance   |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Make a movie workshop     | A workshop for children and adults to use smart phones to make movies of what they found at Stonebridge. Participants learned a new skill and learned about the wildlife and habitats in the meadow and river. | 10 (8 children and 2 adults)                       |
| Creative ecology workshop | A fun workshop for younger children to encourage them to be creative at the same time as recording what they see.  | 10 children plus parents                           |
| Willow sculpture workshop | A practical workshop using willow materials naturally found on site to create imaginative sculpture.   | 12 children plus parents                           |
| Wildlife Walk 1           | Led by local volunteer Harry Forbes, a guide to what lives in the river and meadow   | 15   |
| Wildlife Walk 2           | Led by professional naturalist and author Peter Marren, a quirky exploration into the hidden world of the meadow   | 22   |
| Photography Exhibition    | The photographic competition had 49 entries which were all displayed in St Peter's Church and attracted a steady stream of visitors all week.  | 49 entries and many visitors to see the exhibition |
| Seven moth nights         | The ever popular moth nights discovered 82 new species over the summer, bringing the total moth species in the meadow to 242.  | Average attendance 20+ per event (7 events).       |
| Bat walk and talk         | Still to come—an evening to observe and enjoy the bats at Stonebridge.   |  |



## Other activities



At the beginning of the summer we launched the **Bag It & Bin It** campaign, supported by local and national organisations (including Riverside Vets and the Dogs Trust), letting dog owners know they were welcome but dog mess is not. The Dogs Trust has provided free poo bags to hand out along with information leaflets.

The ARK volunteers have continued to maintain the boardwalk, hedging and copse of trees. Litter picking is carried out on a regular basis. Several new bird boxes, made by a local resident have been erected within the meadow and additional bat boxes and robin boxes will soon follow.



**Water crowfoot** (an aquatic plant associated with chalk streams) has established, thanks to several volunteer tasks planting crowns.

We have been successful again in our application to **The Woodland Trust** for trees to continue creating a wildlife hedge – in November we will receive another 420 saplings. These will be planted by **Marlborough Cubs and Scouts**, ARK volunteers and there will be a public planting afternoon too, to include the wider community.

The two interpretive panels are complete and are currently in storage. Richard has agreed to install these once permission is granted.

Several local **university students** are joining ARK volunteer tasks at Stonebridge to gain practical experience and more knowledge to enhance their education.

A **St John's A' level student** will also be taking part in tasks at Stonebridge as part of his Community Placement.

A juvenile **cuckoo** was recorded in the Wild Scrub Habitat in August. Great news for the site, as the cuckoo population is in decline and they are RSPB Red Status birds.



An excellent sighting of an otter in May this year by everyone attending our bat walk and talk, and water vole are now a regular fixture for visitors to see.

The camera traps have filmed a stoat using Stonebridge, this is a new mammal record for the site.

Our Facebook page, which features lots of Stonebridge news and images continues to grow in popularity, often being clicked on by over 1000 people.



Marlborough Cubs had a guided tour of Stonebridge to learn about conservation and wildlife in a local space. They thoroughly enjoyed their night and will be returning to take part in some hands on conservation work - planting trees and creating a bug palace (a structure for creatures to live and hibernate in).