

THE 2011

DARWIN

12-26

FEBRUARY

SPECIAL EVENTS

FOR ALL AGES

EXHIBITIONS

LECTURES

ART

FESTIVAL



SHROPSHIRE



Shropshire Wildlife Trust protects Wildlife where you live

# THE DARWIN FESTIVAL CONTINUES TO EVOLVE...

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is proud to be hosting the eighth year of this popular celebration of Charles Darwin.

This year, the theme is 'Young Darwin'. To that end, we've created 14 messy, creative and sometimes explosive workshops for families, to encourage your own young explorers and nature fans.

We aren't forgetting the older Darwin enthusiasts, as this year, there are 12 different talks, walks, art workshops and presentations to choose from.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is committed to protecting the wild places of Shropshire and inspiring people of all ages to do their bit for nature.

So go on, get engaged by Darwin.

Wherever you see me next to an entry, please note that these events are specifically geared towards children.



Events shown in lighter panels with Darwin's portrait are for older audiences.

All activity is at Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Abbey Foregate Visitor Centre unless stated otherwise. To book your place contact; Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 193 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6AH Tel: 01743 284280

## SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

### DARWIN BIRTHDAY TOAST AND WALK



After drinking your annual toast to Darwin in the Morris Hall Courtyard, join Jon King (founder of the Darwin Festival) on a guided walk around the town centre sites that the young naturalist knew well.

12<sup>NOON</sup>

## SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

### THE DARWIN MEMORIAL LECTURE



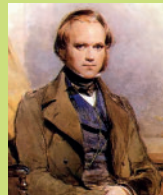
AT THE WALKER THEATRE

Friends of Shrewsbury's Museums present

#### Charles Darwin – A life in Letters

During his lifetime Darwin wrote around 15,000 letters which have survived – they are a fascinating insight not only into the mind of one of the world's foremost thinkers, but into the lives of so many others who contributed to his work.

Dr Alison Pearn is Assistant Director of the Darwin Correspondence Project at Cambridge University which is cataloguing Darwin's letters, publishing them and making them available on the web.



Tickets £10 each through the theatre box office on 01743 281281

2.30<sup>PM</sup>

## SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

### YOUNG DARWIN THE GEOLOGIST

#### LLANYMYNECH ROCKS NATURE RESERVE

Hunt for fossils and explore the places Darwin visited as a young man.

Become a geologist for the day and join experts from Shropshire Wildlife Trust on a walk for rocks and wildlife.



£3 per child. Booking essential.

10.30<sup>AM</sup> - 2.00<sup>PM</sup>

2011  
21ST-26TH FEBRUARY

### ART EXHIBITION



#### THE ART OF IRIDESCENCE

With iridescence as the theme, and butterfly eyespots as exemplar, the artist Franziska Schenk explores novel bio-inspired effects of colour change and associated artistic methods. The series of paintings on show mimics nature's evolutionary processes.



21ST-25TH FEBRUARY

### DARWIN'S SHREWSBURY TOUR



Take a guided tour of Darwin's Shrewsbury. Tours start at Rowley's House every day at 2pm.

Tours cost £4.50 for adults and £2.50 for children. Numbers are limited so book your tickets by ringing 01743 281200.

MONDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

### DARWIN'S SCRAPBOOK

Darwin was a watcher of wildlife. Follow in his footsteps and make a sketchbook of what you find in our wildlife garden. We'll be catching bugs, looking at wildlife under the microscope and making big art celebrating very small things, such as worms, beetles and woodlice.



Please bring any art materials, binoculars and wildlife watching equipment you may have, and come prepared to get a little muddy!

Signed copies of "The Curious Mind of Young Darwin" will be on sale during the workshops and throughout the festival.

Workshops £1 per person; Booking essential.  
10.00AM-12.30PM AND 2.00-4.00PM

# THE 2011 DARWIN FESTIVAL

### BIODIVERSITY: OUR LIFE SUPPORT



WITH DR SUE JOHNSON  
OF THE CHARLES  
DARWIN TRUST

See life cycles in action at a time of year when they are least expected. Workshop out-of-doors for 8-12 year-olds (and their parents/carers) looking for evidence of wildlife.

Workshops £1 per person. Booking essential.

11.00AM-12.00PM, 1.30-2.30PM AND  
3.00-4.00PM

Sponsored by The Charles Darwin Trust

### BC-AD



#### BEFORE CHARLES AND AFTER DARWIN

Bob Bloomfield explores Darwin's work and how it relates to today's disappearing biodiversity and international efforts to protect it. How much does our understanding rely on Darwin's insights – more than you might think, and in some very surprising ways!

£2.50 per person. Booking essential.  
7.00PM



## TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

### ANIMAL PRESENTATION

#### FROM CORNER EXOTICS

Get up close and personal with some amazing animals. Learn about adaptation to climate, evolutionary niches, survival strategies and of course, evolution itself!



Presentations £1 per person. Booking essential.

9.30-10.30 AM AND 11.00 AM-12.00 PM

### PLANTS BITE BACK



#### WITH DR DAWN SANDERS OF THE CHARLES DARWIN TRUST

This hands-on workshop for 6-10 year-olds (and their parents/carers) will explore the plants that aroused Darwin's curiosity, and consider why a plant might need to lure and trap flies.

Workshops £1 per person. Booking essential.

10.30-11.30 AM, 1.00-2.00 PM AND 3.00-4.00 PM

Sponsored by The Charles Darwin Trust

### WORM POWER

#### WITH EMMA NEWALL OF THE CHARLES DARWIN TRUST

Darwin's last and less well-known book was all about the humble earthworm, but worms are actually wonderfully powerful. Come along to this family workshop for 8-12 year-olds (and their parents/carers) to find out more about how earthworms shape our world and learn how to make your own worm lab.



Workshops £1 per person.

Booking essential.

11.00 AM-12.00 PM, 1.30-2.30 PM AND 3.30-4.30 PM

Sponsored by The Charles Darwin Trust



## WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

### JUST SO



Join an interactive 'Just So' story session to discover how natural selection works and the science behind the stories. Create your own story to describe how some of the strangest creatures got their features.

Workshops £1 per person; All welcome.

Booking essential.

10.00 AM-12.00 PM AND 2.00-4.00 PM

### GIANT BUG VIEWERS

Create your own gigantic colourful minibeast from recycled materials then turn it into a bug magnifier to see, explore and identify wildlife in your garden.



Workshops £1 per person; Age 4-10 years. Booking essential.

10.30 AM-12.30 PM AND 1.30-4.00 PM

### EVOLVING WITH TECHNOLOGY-OUR FUTURE?



#### THE CYBORG EXPERIMENTS

Kevin Warwick, University of Reading, takes a look at how the use of implant and electrode technology can be employed to create biological brains for robots, to enable human enhancement and to diminish the effects of certain neural illnesses.

£2.50 per person. Booking essential.

7.00 PM

THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

### DARWIN'S LAB



Recreate the experiments Charles Darwin and his brother, Erasmus, carried out in their back garden laboratory. Be prepared for loud bangs, sticky gloop and lots of mess in this very lively workshop. Please wear old clothes. Signed copies of "The

Curious Mind of Young Darwin" will be on sale during the workshops and throughout the festival.

Workshops £1 per person; suitable for 5 years and above. Booking essential.

10.00 AM - 12.00 PM AND 2.00 - 4.00 PM

### BUSHCRAFT BONANZA

Would you survive in the woods? Learn how to make a shelter. Watch how to make a fire by rubbing two sticks together and use the fire to make a yummy jam twist.



Workshop £1 per person; suitable for 5 years and above. Booking essential.

10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

### MAKE A BIRD BOX FOR YOUR GARDEN



Give the birds at home a helping hand this year by making them a brand new home to raise a family in.

£3 per box.  
2.30 - 3.30 PM

### CONSERVING DARWIN'S ORCHIDS



Charles Darwin was smitten by orchids and spent many hours studying their pollination, eventually writing a wonderful book devoted to the subject. Dr Phil Seaton (Project Manager for Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use) is equally fascinated by orchids and passionate about their conservation for future generations. Phil will talk about both the preservation of orchids in their natural habitats and role of orchid seed banking and cultivation of plants as an insurance policy against future losses.

£2.50 per person.

7.00 PM

Sponsored by the Society of Biology

# THE 2011 DARWIN FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

### MAKE A GALAPAGOS TORTOISE

Help to bring Darwin's theory to life by making your very own tortoise out of recycled materials.



Workshops £1 per person; Age 4-10 years. Booking essential.

10.00 AM - 12.30 PM AND 1.30 - 4.00 PM

### DARWIN'S SHED

**AN EXCITING EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP** with The Field Studies Council for age 8 and above with mums and dads welcome.



A chance to think and feel how Darwin felt with a look back at all his smelly, wacky, fun times and find out why Darwin's nick-name was 'GAS'! Make science fun and think how important it is to ask questions and find out the answers.

£1 per person. Booking essential.

10.30 AM - 1.00 PM

### THE ART OF IRIDESCENCE



A presentation and hands-on creative workshop delivered by the artist Franziska Schenk. Taking inspiration from the varied textures, patterns and shifting kaleidoscopic colours of butterflies, participants will experiment with latest nature-inspired iridescent paints and associated methods (suitable for teenagers and adults).

£1 per person. Booking essential.

2.00 - 4.30 PM

continued overleaf ▶

## THE EVOLUTION OF EVOLUTION



**THE DEVELOPMENT OF DARWIN'S DANGEROUS IDEA.** Dr Jeremy Pritchard (University of Birmingham)

Darwin's theory is the most important tool used by the modern biologist. This talk aims to present a historical perspective to the development of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection and draw on some of the influences from around the Midlands.

£2.50 per person. Booking essential.  
7.00 PM

## SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

### WILDLIFE WALK IN DARWIN'S FOOTSTEPS



Walk along the River Sever to Doctors Field. The walk will be led by local wildlife experts and enthusiasts who will point out the places where Darwin spent his formative years.

£5 per person. Booking essential.  
10.30 AM - 12.30 PM



### SPOTTERS WORKSHOP

**WITH THE FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL:**  
An identification and recording workshop for all in the spirit of Darwin.

A practical look at specimens from ponds, woods, grasslands and the nature table to help make accurate biological records of the things we can find in the county of Darwin's birth.

£1 per person. Booking essential.  
10.00 AM - 1.00 PM



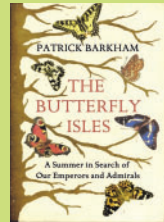
### THE WONDER OF BUTTERFLIES



**PATRICK BARKHAM**

A writer and Guardian journalist with a life-long passion for butterflies, Patrick Barkham set out to see all 59 species of British butterfly in one year. He has written about his unforgettable summer in a new book, *The Butterfly Isles – A Summer in Search of Our Emperors and Admirals*. Here he will show photographs from his quest and talk about the miraculous lifestyles of our butterflies and how many of our increasingly endangered butterflies can provide us all with moments of wonder in beautiful and overlooked corners of our countryside.

2.00 PM



### DARWIN'S BIRTHPLACE



The Darwin Birthplace Society will present ideas for opening up the Darwin family home to the public. These would include an exhibition on Charles Darwin's early life and the ideas that influenced him as well as plans for walks in the meadows and gardens at The Mount where his interest in the natural world first developed.

3.00 - 4.00 PM



## Wildlife Watch

### Wildlife Watch

is the junior branch of The Wildlife Trusts and the UK's leading

environmental action club for kids. If you care about nature and the environment and want to explore your local wildlife – this is the club for YOU!

Shropshire Wildlife Trust has re-vamped the membership package for children and young people aged 0-18. Join Wildlife Watch today from just 5p a day and start collecting stickers, badges and wildlife awards. Take part in local campaigns and special events and help to protect Shropshire's wild places.

Please contact us for more information on 01743 284280 or [Watch@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:Watch@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk).

## ACROSS THE REGION

### Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

23rd February, 2-4pm

### FROM WORMS TO WOMBATS



Discover Darwin and evolution with fun activities.

Booking essential on 01905 754919. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult. Children should wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

### Herefordshire Nature Trust

Darwin Day, 22nd February, 1-4pm

at the Orchard at Lower House Farm.

Join in with;

- a family workshop to plant a living willow tunnel
- a taster workshop for adults with the reserves team, come along and get involved with some habitat management
- an orchard trail
- make a bumble bee nest box
- take a look at Darwin's bug collection!
- a creative crafty workshop for children
- plus some WildPlay free play in the orchard!

Booking essential.

Ring 01432 356872 to book your place.



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**Shropshire Wildlife Trust**  
 193 Abbey Foregate,  
 Shrewsbury,  
 SY2 6AH  
 Tel: 01743 284280

Shropshire Wildlife Trust hosts events throughout the year all over the county. If you are interested in joining or to find out what's on see [www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)



Shropshire Wildlife Trust was founded in 1962 and now has more than 10,000 members that share our vision. The Trust needs your support to continue its work. We manage 35 reserves; we stand up for wildlife; we inspire people about the natural world and we foster sustainable living.

To discover more about Darwin's Shrewsbury see [www.discoverdarwin.co.uk](http://www.discoverdarwin.co.uk)

The Darwin Festival 2011 is sponsored by Shropshire Council.



THE CHARLES DARWIN TRUST

