



Why not pop along to Newport Wetlands Reserve next Wednesday, 2nd February and take part in the 10th annual World Wetlands Day walk? The event is free, starts at the reserve car park at 3.30pm and is scheduled to finish at 5pm.

Reserve warden Kevin Dupe will be on hand to guide you through the reedbeds, pointing out wildfowl such as tufted duck, gadwall, and pochard, and down to the foreshore to see waders including curlew, dunlin and grey plover.

Kevin believes this is a great opportunity for Newportonians to get acquainted with the environmental gem on their doorstep – and I agree with him....If you get your skates on you could get there straight after picking the kids up from school, they'll love it!

Don't forget to bring clothing and footwear that will keep you dry and warm, but leave your dog at home. If you would like any further information please call 01633 636363 or 01633 275813.

## **Armchair Birdwatching**

Big Garden Birdwatch takes place this weekend and the RSPB are hoping that record numbers of people throughout the UK are going to take part in this popular survey.

This annual event has been running for over 30 years and is very easy to participate in; In a nutshell, you count the number and species of birds that visit your garden during one hour on either Saturday or Sunday, then log onto [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) and record your sightings – Simple!

The findings are really useful in examining how our feathered friends are faring and you don't need to be an expert to take part; Most of the birds you see will be familiar to you, and there is an identification guide on the website to help you.

## **Birdwatching Events**

GOS's 2011 programme of indoor events continues on Saturday 5th February with a talk by David Broadbent at Goytre Village Hall (just off the A4042 Newport to Abergavenny road). David is an award winning photographer and his talk entitled 'An artistic view of bird pictures' illustrates his appreciation of birds and British landscapes. Make sure you don't miss this event if you have an interest in wildlife, scenery or photography.

The talk starts at 7.30pm and entry, including tea and biscuits is £1.50. No need to book, just turn up.



On Saturday 12th February there is a guided birdwatching trip to Tregaron and Cors Caren, near Aberystwyth. Both these sites are ideal for winter birdwatching, especially for birds of prey and waders. If you would like to come along, meet Steve Butler at Abergavenny Bus Station at 8.30am. Bring suitable clothing, food and drink and binoculars if you have them.

New faces (especially Argus readers) are always welcome at GOS events, for more information visit [www.gwentbirds.org.uk](http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk) or give me a call on the number below. Likewise, if you want me to send you a copy of Gwent Ornithological Society's programme of walks and talks, just let me know.

## **Keep in Touch**

Thank you to all readers that have taken the time to get in touch.

I always enjoy hearing from you and can be contacted at [m.stevens@webster.uk.net](mailto:m.stevens@webster.uk.net) or on 01633 866470.