

ST MARGARET'S ALLOTMENTS  
AND ST MARGARET'S  
CHURCHYARD

present their first ever

NATURE DAY

SATURDAY 23 MAY

11.00 am to 3.00 pm

With early morning bird-ringing and late evening bat presentation and bat walk

Pay as you feel admission

Accompanied children  
welcome

<https://stmargaretsallotments.org.uk/event/st-margarets-nature-day/>

# HOW TO FIND US

Follow signs to the Common Plot from the main entrance to the allotments on Margery Lane (DH1 4QJ). The churchyard can be accessed on foot, through a gap in the hedge bordering Grape Lane.



St Margaret's Centre will be open from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm offering:

- presentations (see below)
- nature-related craft items from the Old School Crafts for sale
- serve-yourself tea and coffee with a donation box
- toilet facilities

# PROGRAMME

7.00 am - 9.00 am

## BIRD RINGING DEMONSTRATION

Begin the day in the magic of early morning in St Margaret's Churchyard with a demonstration of bird-ringing (an important method for studying the movements and behaviour of birds). Come to the Welcome Table, Common Plot, to be directed to the demonstration.

11.00 am - 3.00 pm:

## WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES (Common Plot)

Make your own **BUG HOTEL**

Take apart **OWL PELLETS** to see what the birds have eaten

Meet the allotment **MINIBEASTS**

See how a **WORMERY** works

Cheer on the **SNAIL RACING**

Learn about the work of the **DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST**

Get bargains from the **PLANT STALL**

Meet local **POND LIFE**

Visit the **DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST INFORMATION TABLE**, learn about their work to restore wildlife and nature from the Tees to the Tyne. Join the Trust and help to save the North East's most special places from destruction.

# PRESENTATIONS

St Margaret's Centre, first floor.  
Adults and accompanied children welcome.

11.15: David Rollason and Holly Groke, **MICROSCOPIC POND LIFE** (hunters and prey of the microcosmos), illustrated with photographs taken through the microscope. Nature really close up!

12.00: Pam Jose, **COMPOSTING**

Come and hear about how to get the best out of composting, and how important it is for ecology and biodiversity.

12.45: Jodie Morgan, **GARDENING WITH BATS** - expert guidance on how to enhance the attractiveness of gardens and allotments to bats, and the fascination of living alongside them.

13.30: Val Standen, **BUTTERFLY FOOD PLANTS** - what we need to grow and encourage so that we can have and enjoy the magic of butterfly life.

14.15: Rakesh Gaddaparthi, **THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLOTMENTS FOR BIODIVERSITY.**

# EXPLORING AND RESEARCHING

Meet at the Welcome Table, Common Plot. Adults and accompanied children welcome. **SPACES LIMITED PLEASE SIGN FOR A PLACE AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVE**

11.20 am: Take part in a **BIOBLITZ** to capture, identify and record the insects in St Margaret's Churchyard. Real citizen science. Led by Ruth Chambers, Val Standen, and Jonathan Wallace.

12.30: **MONITORING NEST BOXES** with Tony Gibson; a tour of the nestboxes on the allotments and in the churchyard, with the chance to see baby birds close up.

2.00 pm: **ALLOTMENT PONDS – MAKING THEM, MAINTAINING THEM, THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS WHICH LIVE IN THEM.** A fascinating tour of the ponds on the allotments led by Alan Rose.

9.00 pm: **BATS ON THE ALLOTMENTS AND IN THE CHURCHYARD.**

Meet at the Welcome Table, Common Plot.

Finish the day with a talk by Clare Rawcliffe (Durham Bat Group), followed by a tour of the allotments and the churchyard to see and identify bats as night falls. Have a go with a high frequency bat detector to 'hear' their calls.