

PRESS-RELEASE - IMMEDIATE USE

Wildlife Explorer weekend in Wales

Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers

The junior section of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in East Cheshire

A 54-strong party of Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers, RSPB Phoenix and their families spent the Bank Holiday weekend based at Borth in Cardigan Bay. Most of the group stayed at Northfield Holiday Park, taking full advantage of the incredible wildlife in the area and visiting the best local locations for coastal wildlife and birds of prey.

At The RSPB reserve Ynys Hir, the location for the BBC's Springwatch series, the group investigated the woodland, bog and pond habitats discovering a whole host of minibeasts and getting great views of woodland birds like Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts. Explorers then visited the 'Tractor Shed' that will be transformed into a TV studio at the end of the month.

Explorers also visited the sand dunes at Ynyslas where they learned about the incredible ecosystem there as well as taking part in a 'wildlife friendly' sandcastle competition and attempting a beach assault course.

The Group also took advantage of the excellent facilities at Borth Community Centre to run an indoor meeting packed with fun, environmental games and craft activities.

The rockpools at Borth provided a wonderful glimpse into the diversity of life in our inshore waters. Children discovered all kinds of marine creatures from sea anemones to prawns and jellyfish. The pools were teeming with life.

The highlight of the visit had to be witnessing the feeding of wild Red Kites at Bwlch Nant yr Arian. Over the last 15 years the Red Kite has been successfully re-introduced after near extinction in the UK. These amazing birds of prey have a wingspan of over 5 feet and feed largely on carrion. The families watched as over 100 birds swooped down to feed in a breathtaking display.

Wildlife Explorer Leader Tina Hanak said, "We have had a wonderful time - the welcome in Borth has been incredible. The children have had hands-on encounters with nature, they have learned so much about the wildlife and habitats we visited and they have had lots of fun playing outdoors. It's what childhood should be all about."

For more information about inspiring RSPB nature activities for young people in this area please contact Tina Hanak on 07870 804413 or check out the website at www.macclesfieldrspb.org.uk

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PICTURE CREDITS: *Photography by Tina Hanak, Darren Mayer, Susan Wilson*

EDITOR'S NOTES:

1. For electronic media please include this link to our website:
<http://www.macclesfieldrspb.org.uk/wldexp/index.htm>

