

Exhibitors

Birding Languedoc

BWWC

David Finney: Artist

Experience Nature Ltd

Garrick Books

Hawke Optics

In focus binocular and telescope specialists

Kowa

Lancashire Badger Group

Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Society

Northwest Ecological Trust

Ribble Bird Tours

RSPB

Second Nature

Speyside Wildlife

Susan Lambourne: Artist

Swift Conservation Trust

Wader Quest

Wildlife Tours and Education

Wild sounds & Books

Winnick Books

Wolfshead Photographic



Martin Mere shop

In our shop you'll not only find souvenirs of your day out at Martin Mere, but also a great collection of books for those of you feeling inspired to learn more about wetland animals and their habitats. Or perhaps you're keen to bring more wildlife into your garden? It's easy to get started with one of our feeders, or bird and insect homes. If your day out has sparked an interest in getting to know the wildlife around us, our range of introductory binoculars could be just what you need to get going. Ask one of our friendly members of staff for advice.



Mere Side Café

The Mere Side Café will be open from 9am on both days offering mouth-watering breakfasts. Choose from a full English, bacon or sausage sandwiches, toast and pastries. The café will be open until 4.30pm serving delicious meals, wholesome soup, home-made sandwiches and cakes and a full range of drinks. Enjoy your meal on our patio overlooking Swan Lake.

North West Bird Watching Festival at WWT Martin Mere

Sat 18 – Sun 19 November 2017



Find out more at
wwt.org.uk/NWBF

Activities

Mornings on our beautiful wetland reserve are magical, so why not come along and view the wildlife as the day begins? The reserve will be open from 8am. When you've worked up an appetite come and get your full English breakfast from the café, open at 9am.



Bird ringing

9am – 12.30pm (Free)

Brian Hopkins, an expert ringer both here and internationally, will demonstrate how the ringing is done and explain why it is such important work. Get your cameras ready for some great close ups.

How many birds can you spot?

Saturday 18 November 9.30am – 3pm (Free)

Team up for some fun with like-minded pals or challenge your own birdwatching skills in our competition. It's free to enter and you just need to pick up a recording sheet on arrival. Join us individually or as a team of up to four. Make sure we have your spotter sheet by 3pm. Then come and find out who our prize birders are at 3.45pm in the foyer.

Floodlit swan spectacle

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 November 5–6pm.

£2 per person (Booking essential)

Come and see one of the world's true nature spectacles in the cosy comfort of our Raines Observatory. Our reserve team will tell you all about the thousands of wild whooper swans that gather to roost on the mere every night.



Tours and talks

A walk on the wild side

9am. 90 mins (Booking essential)

Take a walk with Tom Clare our reserve manager. Tom will show you all the best spots on the reserve and explain how we manage the wetland habitat.

Swan feeds

Discovery Hide 3pm

Raines Observatory 3.30pm (Free)

Every winter around 2,000 whooper swans arrive on the wetlands at Martin Mere. Our rangers will tell you all about the swans' migration from Iceland and why Martin Mere is the perfect wintering spot.

Walk with Nick Baker

Saturday 18 November 11am. 90 mins

£5 per person (Booking essential)

Take a walk with TV wildlife presenter Nick Baker. Nick's passion for wildlife has taken him to some of the wildest parts of the planet in search of weird, bizarre and incredible creatures. Join him today and who knows what you might spot on your walk?

Meet and greet Doug Allan

Sunday 19 November

Discovery Hide 12noon – 1pm (Free)

Sir David Attenborough commented "Wildlife cameramen don't come much more special than Doug". In his 30 year filming career, he was principal cameraman on many prestigious award-winning series including Frozen Planet and Life in the Freezer. Ask Doug questions and get advice on videoing wildlife in this drop in session.

Digi-scoping & the 4K future seminar

12 noon & 3pm. 45 mins (Booking essential)

Join award winning photographer, Pro Lumix Ambassador and one of the best known digi-scopers in the birding world Paul Hackett, for a seminar packed with top tips and practical advice on how to get the most out of your photography.

Guest speakers

Saturday 18 November

A Talk on the Wildside

Tony & Carol Dilger @ 11am (Free)

Two small cameras versus Africa's 'Big Five'. Wildlife photographers Tony & Carol Dilger take on the challenge of photographing some of the most iconic species on the planet. Intriguing stories and breath-taking images from the heart of the African bush reveal why the Dark Continent is "no place for sissies".

The Phantom of the Forest

Conor Jameson, RSPB @ 12.30pm (Free)

Conor is the author of Silent Spring Revisited, Shrewdunnit and Looking for the Goshawk. He discusses the sequence of events that led to him writing his acclaimed book Looking for the Goshawk, some of the people he met and the places he visited as he seeks to understand 'the phantom of the forest'. He describes how the lost raptor went missing from our landscape, and our imaginations, and the work that's being done to help it come back.

The Life of a wildlife presenter

TV presenter Nick Baker @ 2pm.

£3 per seat (Booking essential)

When it comes to presenting wildlife Nick Baker is the total package – an edgy, exciting TV presenter with a passion for his subject. Come and hear Nick talk about his work hosting BBC's *Autumnwatch Unsprung* and *Springwatch Unsprung* and filming his recent 3D special *Nick Baker's Beautiful Freaks*, broadcast recently on Discovery and Sky.

Talks marked "Booking Essential" can be pre-booked by phone. Unsold tickets will be available on the day of the talk. Talks marked "Free" are by ticket only, which can be picked up at the Bird Fair on a first-come first-served basis. All details correct at time of publication.

Sunday 19 November

Flight of the Swans

Sacha Dench, WWT @ 11am (Free)

Many of you will have followed the amazing achievement that was Flight of the Swans last year - seeing Sacha fly 7,000 km through 11 countries by paramotor. WWT's daring bid to fly with one of nature's great migrations on a quest to save Bewick's swans. Hear first hand from Sacha what it was like to undertake this mission and how it has helped the Bewick swan.

Banksy of the Bird World

Matt Sewell @ 12.30pm (Free)

Matt, who has been described as "the Banksy of the bird world," is an avid ornithologist and artist. He is the author of Owls, Our Garden Birds, Our Woodland Birds, Our Songbirds, and Penguins and Other Seabirds and has illustrated for the Guardian and Big Issue. Listen to Matt as he talks about his love of birds, books and illustrations.

Wild Images, Wild Life

Doug Allen @ 2pm.

£3 per seat (Booking essential)

Adventures & encounters from the cameraman whose TV credits include Blue Planet, Planet Earth, Life, Human Planet, Frozen Planet and Ocean Giants. He'll describe his experiences overwintering with Adelie penguins and snow petrels, a life changing chance meeting with David Attenborough, diving guillemots and a scary walrus among the ice floes of the Arctic.

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 November

Burning Bright

Ken Clarke @ 3.30pm (Free)

The trials and tribulations of photographing *Tigers in Rajasthan*, India. Join natural history photographer, Ken Clark, with his 25 years of experience and catch a glimpse of one of the worlds most spectacular creatures.



To book tickets call 01704 895181

visit www.wwt.org.uk/NWBF