

# Wildlife Watch

After the fun of the snow this winter, what better way of enjoying the outdoors than paddling about in water?



If you don't have a pond in your garden, here are a few places you can go to look for watery wildlife...

## Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

Whelford Pools near Fairford, and Edward Richardson and Phyllis Amey near Lechlade.

Both of these have a dipping platform, which makes it easier and safer for families to get nearer to the water.

Old London Road near Wotton under Edge, has a small new pond which had tadpoles last year.

Coombe Hill ditches have lots of water creatures but are a little deep and steep at the edge so be careful.

Lower Woods near Wickwar, has some small ponds along side the track leading down to the river. Newts have even been found in the tractor ruts, which shows how wet the reserve usually is – so wear wellies!



# FAMILY

# FUN



Your family challenge this spring is to find some tadpoles!



## TOP TIP

You can make an underwater viewer with a large plastic or glass jar and clear plastic fastened tightly over one end with an elastic band!

## Other good sites

Laymore Ponds in Cinderford linear park have recently been created and are full of newts as well as frogs, so if you've never seen one this is the place.

Mitcheldean Ponds near the Wilderness Centre entrance, Fairplay Iron Mine Ponds, and Westbury Brook Mine Reservoir (sometime known as Edgehill) are on both sides of the road and there is plenty of parking.

Woodchester Park near Stroud has a large lake at the bottom.

Frampton upon Severn Village Ponds on the green, although you may feel awkward with dipping nets as fishing is banned.

Please take care around water and make sure children are supervised at all times

## FROGGY FACTS

- Frogs can jump 20 times their own body length in one single leap!
- Frogs are attracted to water by the smell of algae that provides food for their tadpoles.
- Frogs lay up to 2000 eggs but not many survive. Less than 5 tadpoles grow into frogs and live long enough to come back to the pond to spawn.
- Frog bones form a new ring every year like trees. Scientists can count the rings to discover the age of the frog.
- A quarter of a frog's diet is made up of snails and slugs.
- Frog's tongues have sticky ends for catching things. They shut their eyes as they stick out their tongues.

