



Proposal for Melton Parish Council's family wildlife activities, 2022, with Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT). By Charlie Zakss 3.12.21

Venues

Hall Farm Road recreation ground, Melton Playing fields, or other Melton park.

Covid-19 & Capacity

All activities would comply with SWT's continually evolving, Covid-19 Learning Policy and WTC Policy and guidelines at that time. Capacity will depend on government restrictions at that time. We will always err on the side of caution as these are public spaces.

Activities are designed to suit families and children of all ages and abilities, to learn more about the wildlife and to discover how we can help them by allowing our parks and gardens to become a little more WILD. All events would predominantly be advertised and booked by Melton Parish Council, but would also be promoted, for free, on our Suffolk Wildlife Trust website and social media.

It is also important to note that some ideas consist of semi-permanent structures. Suffolk Wildlife Trust will not be responsible for maintaining these, it would be Melton Parish Council's responsibility, however, of course, we could discuss future family sessions to attend to them.

Below are a range of ideas, you may not be interested in all of them, but I wanted to give you options.

SWT Pricing below based on our pricing structure for all events:

£60 / hour session

£60 / hour admin time - including risk assessments, preparing sessions, clearing up after sessions, as required etc. This can also be done in conjunction with Melton Parish Council's team, as discussed, to save time and money.

Dates discussed

Easter & Summer holidays 2022

Activity theme: Bird box construction

A 2 hour session would work well for this. Families would have 1 kit each and would be provided with a safety talk and demonstration, instructions, hammer and nails. They then need to work out how this goes together and construct their very own box. These would be for blue tits, great tits or robin's, and eventually house sparrows may choose to nest in them as well.

Kits would be pre-sawn with untreated wood, a rubber strip tacked as a lid hinge and tied shut with a short length of garden wire to enable cleaning. All holes will be pre-drilled. They would be Melton Parish Council's responsibility to put up, clean and monitor as required.

As part of this session, we would also provide fun family trails, activities and some simple bird ID, to help the families learn about their potential residents, why they are so special and need our help.



Cost

Kits £7.50 each

Session time £60 / hour (I recommend a 2 hour session depending on numbers, this could be extended if you wanted more people to attend)

Prep time 1 -2 hours depending on other activities chosen @ £60

Tools: Hammers, gloves - provided by SWT

Activity theme: Bat box building

A 2 hour session would also work well for this. Families would have 1 kit each and would be provided with a safety talk and demonstration, instructions, hammer and nails. They then need to work out how this goes together and construct their very own box.

Kits provided would be pre made and drilled and would cost between £7.50 and £9.50 (price and design still tbc).

They would be Melton Parish Council's responsibility to put up, clean and monitor as required.

Please be aware that bat's need 3 roost boxes per tree facing, north, south-east and south-west are ideal. They must be at least 5m from the ground and have space for bats to fly into. They can take up to 5 years for bats to inhabit them.



As part of this session, we would also provide fun family trails, activities and some simple bat ID, to help the families learn about their potential residents, why they are so special and need our help.

Cost

Kits £7.50 - £9.50 each tbc

Session time £60 / hour (I recommend a 2 hour session depending on numbers, this could be extended if you wanted more people to attend)

Tools: Hammers, gloves - provided by SWT

Prep time 1 -2 hours depending on activities chosen @ £60 / hour

Activity theme: Bring back our beetles

Discover why beetles are amazing and need our help. Trails, identification and building stag-beetle homes.

Stag beetle homes, include digging 50cm into the ground and burying upright logs, of any size, partly under the ground to ensure they rot nicely and provide shelter for stag beetle larvae. Digging needs to be in places without roots and needs strong muscles - ideal for scouts, guides or children 9+.



These shouldn't need any after care, but can always be extended if they are popular.

Cost

I would recommend a 2 hour session @ £60 / hour

Prep time 1 - 2 hours depending on activities chosen @ £60 / hour

Materials: Logs (no material cost if you can provide the logs)

Tools: spades for digging, gloves etc provided by SWT

Activity theme: Minibeast Mansion Creation

Activities around building minibeast mansions include - minibeast hunts, identification & trails to help discover the importance of minibeasts to all our lives (link to birds and our bird box building etc).

We would build this with pallets, pots, bricks, tiles, straw, pinecones, and bamboo or whatever families could collect together along these lines.

Upon building this structure it would be the responsibility of Melton Parish Council to monitor for potential damage and keep it looking tidy. It will wear in time, which is when the insects will find it more beneficial, but there is a danger of them becoming 'scruffy' and it will need minor maintenance.



These take quite a long time with younger children, and numbers are limited as there are only so many people that can stand around it at once, without getting in each other's way. But this could be a lovely activity to keep rolling, e.g. if we built it over 3 hours and families booked for half an hour / an hour each, or just turned up on the day?

Cost

Materials : provided by yourselves

Time @ £60 / hour for 2-3 hours

Prep 1-2 hours depending on activities chosen @ £60 / hour

Tools: gloves, possibly loppers, bow saws, hacks saws (if required) provided by SWT

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any of these ideas further, please do not hesitate to contact me on either 07766245548 or 07834589543.

Kind regards,

Charlie

With compliments, Charlie Zakss – Wild Learning Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust – 07766245548