

# **KIRLINGTON WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

## **OTTER DAY – SUNDAY JULY 17TH**

**KWACS and the Oxfordshire Mammal Group (OMG) will be jointly hosting an otter day in Kirtlington on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.** This follows Stephen Powles' very well attended lecture on otters in December. Everyone is welcome to join us for a repeat of Stephen's lecture and / or a workshop he will then be giving on otter field signs, camera traps and other technology that can be used to learn about these lovely creatures (and other animals). For those who book in advance, there will also be a walk along the Cherwell or the canal to spot otter signs.

The format of the day will be:

- 11.30 – 12.30: Repeat of Stephen's talk and now to include a screening of his subsequent appearance on BBC1's "The One Show".
- 12.30 – 1.00: Eat lunch (please bring your own) / general informal chat.
- 1.00 – 2.00: Field signs, camera traps, other technology and what they can tell us.
- 2.00 – 2.15: Car share down to Pigeon Lock (for those who have pre-booked the walk).
- 2.15 – 4.15: Walk up and down the river / canal to spot signs of otters (wellies needed).
- 4.15 onwards: Picnic tea on the river bank if weather allows (again please bring your own).

Other information you need to know is:

**Booking for walk:** Everyone is welcome for all or any of the above but for those who wish to come on the walk numbers have to be limited to 10 adults (plus their children) from each of KWACS and OMG – on a first come, first served basis (plus the land owners and organisers).

**Venue:** Please come to the main room in the village hall for the sessions up to 2pm and for those just doing the walk, meet at Pigeon Lock.

**Donation:** We will be asking for voluntary donations to cover the costs of the day. As a guide we suggest a minimum of £3 for those who attend just the talk, £5 for those who also do the 1pm workshop, £7.50 for those who attend the whole day and a family whole day rate of £15.

**Further walks:** If the walk is oversubscribed or by special request, KWACS committee members will be delighted to host further otter walks.

**Children:** Children (accompanied by an adult if under 16) are encouraged to come (they generally love learning about and hunting for otter poo!).

**Contact:** To book a place on the walk or for any other questions, please email Chris Powles on [cjp@easynet.co.uk](mailto:cjp@easynet.co.uk), call him on 01869 350 995 or put a note through his door (West House on South Green).



For those who were introduced to Steve's semi-tame otter in Devon, Hammer Scar (as left), at his December talk and then again on BBC1's The One Show, we can report that Steve has started to see her again after she had her cubs and we await the day when she will show them to him, as she did with her cubs last year.

Our thanks go to Steve for agreeing to come all the way from Devon and to the owners of both Flights Mill and one of the adjacent fields for their agreement to visit their land.

Please do join us for what should be a really interesting and enjoyable day.