

Wildlife Charity Fun!



Check out what these lucky Girlguides got up to in Wales...



Brownies **Guides**

Meeting the Springwatch crew!

Girlguiding Cymru teamed up with RSPB Cymru this year in celebration of the wildlife charity's 100th birthday. The partnership offered Girlguiding Cymru members of all ages the chance to have exclusive visits to nature reserve sites all around Wales, such as Lake Vyrnwy Reserve in North East Wales, and the Newport Wetlands and Ynys Hir Reserve — the 2011 home of the BBC's Springwatch TV show!

It was really good going to Ynys Hir, we got to do lots of fun stuff like making bee homes, collecting bugs and pond dipping. The Guides were allowed to camp over and we went on a walk at night, listening out for birds, and got up to watch the sun rise in the morning.

Sophie, 11, from 1st Penparcau Guides



A mini-beast hunt!



Getting up close to a swan!

I really enjoyed the pond dipping and netted a leech — it scared me because I was bitten by one before, but the RSPB man told me how useful they can be to help people in hospitals with healing their wounds.

Niahm, 11, from 1st Shirenewton Guides



Operation Tawny Owl

Rainbows and Brownies, plus Guides and Leaders, enjoyed special days out at RSPB nature reserves, field centres or 'date with nature' sites. They took part in a lots of fab activities including:

- **Pond Dipping** — the girls loved sifting through muddy water to find the small creatures lurking in the depths!
- **Mini-beast Hunting** — This wasn't for the squeamish! Girls hunted out all sorts of creepy crawlies, including grasshoppers, snails, centipedes and even dragonflies!
- **Bird Spotting**



I liked the pond dipping best — we used a really cool chart to find out what we caught. Jessica and Zoe caught a water scorpion which was really big, but then Shelda and I caught a newt tadpole which was even better!

Soffia, 8, from 2nd Aberystwyth Brownies

Operation Barn Owl

To help save these beautiful birds, and work on other conservation projects, the girls have been fundraising. One way of doing this was to buy the special RSPB Cymru challenge badges. More than 1,200 badges have been earned so far, and sales from these have raised more than £1,000 for conservation projects! Girlguiding Cymru hope to sell a whopping 10,000 and the money raised will be spent supporting conservation for farmland birds in Wales.



The fun will continue throughout 2012, with visits and conservation projects already planned! For more information, check out www.girlguiding.org.uk.