

Friends of Ogdén Water Newsletter

www.ogdenwater.org.uk

Welcome from the chair

Dear All
The committee is currently busy trying to get a few projects off the ground. Our priorities for the coming year include:

- producing a walk leaflet later in the year for the site
- supporting Anthony with a 2007 calendar making progress with a painting exhibition to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Ogdén Water.

We should soon be in a position to start sowing the woodland seedlings and have a number of talks arranged. On the 20th March it's the Air Ambulance and we would welcome your support in attending this worthy cause. Hopefully we have a talk on Bournehay Park - Past and Present on the 26th April and then species and habitat days in the summer with Hugh from the Calderdale Countryside Unit. Chris is doing a follow up to his tree identification day on the 13th May. This is a wildflower course at Cunney Wood. Sheldenead will be taking bookings for that one from April onwards so don't miss out.
Chris

Ogdén on e-bay!

Eagle-eyed Dave Wilson spotted this card on e-bay in January. We're always looking to expand the Ogdén historical picture album, so Dave got busy after a frenetic few days of hard bidding on the on-line auction site, he was finally successful in winning the auction for the postcard below:



Editorial
Welcome to the April edition of the Friends of Ogdén Water Newsletter. Spring is well on the way, green is spreading across the land changing the scene from dull browns and greys to a vibrant and colourful vista.

In this issue there will be the chance find out why there are large diggers in the woodlands, how many trees have been planted, what the WATCH group has been doing and how you can get involved with training courses and future practical events.

Keep an eye out this month for the return of the swallow passing over the river, catching insects and look out for a variety of wildflowers pushing up from the ground and the new Wildlife bookie with all the walks, talks and activities for the coming year.

Chris and Robin.

Please send any future newsletter articles to: The News Desk, c/o Ogdén Water, Ogdén Lane, Shilken Park, 1542, BVA, ogdenwater@calderdale.gov.uk

If you go down to the woods today...

The sun shone down on February 18th, giving the practical team just the right weather conditions in which to plant trees.

The area in question was the recently felled area on the woodland trail between the two cloughs. Here there is the chance to recreate a wet woodland habitat. Over the past few weeks the Countryside Works Team have been busy felling the beech and mature alder and filling up the two streams with logs to allow the water to flood out and create a wet habitat. From this area to make it ready for planting.

Armed with planters, stakes and trees which were courtesy of the Environment Agency, the

group followed the planting scheme set up by Robin. The result is spectacular rows and groups of green shelters containing trees.

These shelters not only protect the tree against bad weather and nibbling by animals, but act as a self contained greenhouse to help the trees grow.

In future years we will be able to look out onto an area covered with swathes of Alder and willow with patches of birch and hawthorn. These trees all thrive by water and can be managed to benefit a number of different species including butterflies, insect and birds.

By the end of the day over 200 trees had been planted and the area transformed into a further vital wildlife and educational resource.



Ogdénko
Like Sudoku, but Ogdénko! Fill in the gaps with the following leaves. Remember, each row, row and column must only have one type of leaf!



Ogdén Wildlife WATCH group

The WATCH group have been busy helping the local environment here at Ogdén Water. During the January meeting the group learnt about the importance of providing nest boxes for birds. This was followed up by a session of bird box building. 4 brand new boxes were built and put up in the Roggar Wood. The group will be monitoring these in the coming months to find out if they are being used.

The February meeting was a further practical session with the group learning why trees are important. During the session the children went out into the Roggar Wood to plant trees. Here they planted birch, oak, hazel & hawthorn to provide a vital woodland edge to dissipate the wind and provide wildlife habitat. All the children put names onto the shelters of the trees that they planted so they could monitor their growth over the next few years. Over 70 trees were planted during the 1.5 hr session.

If you know of children aged 8 - 14 who have a passion for nature, why not tell them about the Ogdén WATCH group for more info contact Chris on 01422 393208

New Wildlife events book

The Countryside Service have produced their 2006/7 Wildlife booklet. This features a number of events held at Ogdén Water. It also includes all the walks, talks, events and training days held by the Countryside Service throughout Calderdale.

Pick up this free booklet in the visitor centre, if you like the look of some of the events then feel free to join in. Additionally it is the 20th birthday celebrations of the Countryside Service this year so keep an eye out for a number of special events to mark the occasion.

Forthcoming Attractions at Ogdén:
Saturday 8th April
Spring Clean
Meet 10am outside the visitor centre to help clean up Ogdén.

Monday 17th April
Easter Egg Trail
Drop in anytime between 11 and 14.30 to follow our trail around the woods.
£1 per child charge

Sunday 20th April
Walking Stick Making
Learn the history of walking sticks before having a go yourself. Booking essential. £20 charge, adults only.

Saturday 13th May
Friends of Ogdén Water training course
Wildflowers
Contact 01422 393208 for free place

Wednesday 31st May
Mask making

Ogdén Wildlife Watch Group
Wildlife posters.
1st April - Springwatch trail through the woods
Follow our trail & look out for the signs of spring
6th May - Wildflowers, Cunney Wood

Walking to Health

Over the summer there will be regular walks to health held here at Ogdén Water, if you fancy a short walk with the staff please join us on our health walk centre at 10.30am on the following dates:

July 7th, 17th & 21st
August 14th

All walks will be leader paced and over 70 miles.

Put Something Back into Your Local Nature Reserve

We like to take pride in Ogdén Water and Fyng the Green Flag proves it. Winning this prestigious award means that Ogdén makes the grade for what a Country Park is all about. There is a willing band of regular volunteers helping to make this happen. But additional assistance is always welcome. There's something for everyone, whatever their ability. You can help with a range of maintenance tasks such as path works, litterpicking, tree planting, weeding and well repairs, strimming, ditch clearance, pond clearing and more. Besides jobs involving getting your hands dirty, you can help with other duties which could be visitor surveys, leaflets, helping at and preparing for events, or help out in the visitor centre.

Future practical days
April 8th & 9th
The Big Spring Clean
Join us in making Ogdén Water look even better with a huge effort to get the site clean and tidy away all rubbish. Meet 10am both days outside the visitor centre

May 13th
Morning practical at Ogdén followed by training course in afternoon at Shilken Park. See next page for details

June 24th
Practical day followed by BBQ in afternoon with invitation to all Friends and Rangers. More details to follow

Please contact
Jan Buckley, Practical Co-Ordinator on: 01422 24376 (even) or 0791285287 (mob) or e-mail: j.buckley@calderdale.gov.uk

If you go down to the woods today 2...

Over the past few weeks, you may have seen some men playing with rather large buckets and spades in the streams at Ogdén Water.

Actually, they are busy clearing what are called the 'reservoir lodges' on Ogdén Clough and Shilken Clough streams. These 'lodges' act as big old traps, catching all the small stones and pebbles as they get washed down stream, and collecting them before they have a chance of entering and filling up the reservoir.

The works have been commissioned by Yorkshire Water as they became aware that the lodges were actually bursting with silt, and were no longer fulfilling their function. The issue was highlighted after the huge storm in August 2004 as tonnes of material were swept into the lodge at Shilken Clough, choking up the overflow grate, and consequently flooding and washing away sections of footpath around the reservoir.

As going to press, work on Shilken Clough have been delayed to clarify the appropriate work practices. Well, we assume that's what is happening, as all of the contractors have vanished!

Wildlife recording
How would you like to take part in recording the wildlife you see at Ogdén Water, whatever you interest we need records of what species we have and where you see them. Perhaps as you stroll around you can keep an eye out for different wildlife. If you are interested please contact Chris 393208 for a form and more details.

Training courses
For all those budding botanist out there (sorry about the jokes) there will be the opportunity to learn how to identify some of our native wildflowers on a special course run only for Friends members.

Saturday May 13th
9am - 1pm
Meet bottom car park, Shilken Park.
Bring your lunch.
For further details and to book a place please contact: 01422 393208 or email: chris.suffern@calderdale.gov.uk

Ogdén Interactive
Homebased activities for children at
www.ogdenwater.org.uk

Spring has been really busy here at Ogdén Water. We have lots of things to put on for the next few months.

Walking Stick Workshop

Interested in the craft of making walking sticks? Then come along and make your own stick at Ogdén Water.
Sunday 30th April 2006
£20.00 charge to cover expenses
Deposit £3.00 Required
Adults only

Material to make one stick and light lunch provided.
Register with
George A. Crowshaw
Tel: 01422 34802 or
Visitor Centre
Tel: 01422 24916
before 21st April 2006

What's That Tree? - Alder
Alder trees love water, you can normally find them standing on river banks or in wet marshy areas.

Alder have oval shaped leaves that are broad at the base and grey brown bark. The also have two types of catkins, the long thin male catkins and the smaller rounder female catkins.

Alder seeds are tiny, and the whole seed is encased in a special layer that ensures the seed can survive in water for up to a month.

Alder wood is light and in colour with a coarse texture and is used to make things, plywood and in smoking fish.

