

# Friends of Ogden Water Newsletter

December 2006

[www.ogdenwater.org.uk](http://www.ogdenwater.org.uk)

## Welcome

Another Ogden Christmas approaches and Santa has agreed to come back again. We have a very busy year ahead with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 07 & hopefully, a mass of activity for our members and volunteers if we are awarded funding for site improvements through Breathing Places. We won't find out until May so keep your boots handy for a summer of pond building, making raised planting beds and such.

Anyone who attended our autumn talks programme will agree, I'm sure, that our speakers were a great success with record turnouts including 50 people for The Red Kite and excellent responses for The Wildlife Police and Enthralling Walling. The intention is to secure further interesting and educational speakers for 2007 so any suggestions are very welcome. Hope to see you at our A.G.M and social on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan or sooner if you can come up to Ogden for Santa weekend, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December (mulled wine and mince pies in the classroom).  
Craig.

## 150 Years

On 1st September 2007, Ogden Water will be commemorate its 150th birthday. To celebrate the historic occasion we hope to make some improvements to the dam by reinstating the Promenade with gas lamps, flower planters and benches. There will be numerous fund-raising events throughout the year, or if you wish to make a personal contribution or perhaps buy a bench then please contact Dave.

It is also hoped to replace the gates with ones more in keeping with the reservoir, a new area for viewing the Promenade, reservoir and rhododendrons will be created beyond the dam and above turning circle, a mosaic will be placed at the car park entrance and interpretational panels about the dam and its importance will be produced. Opportunities to get involved with the project will be available soon.

## Editorial

Welcome to the December edition of the Friends of Ogden Water Newsletter, and what a packed newsletter it is, featuring news of our award winning group, the terrors of Halloween, review of forthcoming events, dates for Christmas socials and much more. Chris and Robin.

## FoOW Officially Best Community Group in Yorkshire



Friends of Ogden Water have scooped a top award. The Best Community Group at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust npower Conservation Awards. The award including a certificate and £250, was in recognition of the exceptional support that FoOW gives to the area by organising events and undertaking practical improvements.

**Thursday January 18th,  
from 7:00pm  
The Ogden Water New Year  
Social and AGM.**

A night of mixing business and pleasure, as we hold the Friends of Ogden AGM and also enjoy a buffet and prize quiz in the Ogden classroom.

Please support this event and the Friends of Ogden by coming along, and add your say in voting for the committee.  
Please bring a sweet or savoury food dish to share.

## Breathing places

As part of the BBC Autumnwatch programme, the BBC and Big Lottery Fund have launched a new source of funding. It has been agreed that the FoOW will apply to this scheme for improvement to the woodlands and to the ponds.

Through the grant we hope to improve disabled access to the Boggart Woodland behind the classroom, create a series of raised beds, put up bird box cameras and a new wildflower area on the edge of the woodland.

The main aspect of the bid will be improvements to the woodland pond with new landscaping, dipping platform and interpretation. If we are successful we will find out in May 2007, and work likely to begin after the 150 years celebrations., so keep your fingers crossed.



**THE OGDEN WATER  
150 YEARS CELEBRATION  
XMAS RAFFLE**  
In aid of the  
**Promenade improvements**  
1st Prize ...Christmas Hamper  
2nd rize ..Old Johnnie Walker  
Black Label  
3rd Prize ...Bottle Cava  
**TICKETS £1.00 per strip  
available NOW from the  
visitor centre  
TO BE DRAWN AT  
12 NOON WEDNESDAY  
20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2006**



**Visit Santain his woodland grotto  
at Ogden Water!**

**See Santa arrive at 12.00  
Saturday 9th December**

**Visit him in his grotto from  
12.00pm - 3.00pm  
Grotto also open on  
Sunday 10th December  
11.00am - 3.00pm**

**Tickets available in the Countryside  
Centre on the day. £3.00 per child,  
including a present from  
Father Christmas**



## Ogden Water WATCH group meetings

**Saturday January 6th**

**Winter Woodland 'Wonder'**

Wrap up warm for a session outdoors in a winter woodland. Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR

**Saturday February 2nd**

**Remember Recycling**

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR for fun and games and to learn more about recycling.

**Saturday March 3rd**

**Trees**

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR to have look and learn about our trees we planted last year. Remember to wrap up warm.

**Saturday April 7th**

**Easter Egg Celebrations**

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR for a traditional celebration of Easter activities.

For further details contact 01422 393208

Children must be between the ages of 8-14, cost £1 per child & begin at 10am sharp

# Halloween

This years Halloween was again a howling success, with nearly 1600 enthusiastic ghouls,witches and wizards turning up for the fearsome night walk. The highlight was Nessie the dinosaur, who made a special trip down from the Highlands to scare all of the brave walkers.

Thanks again to all who helped make this years event such a success.



## Christmas Wrapping Paper!

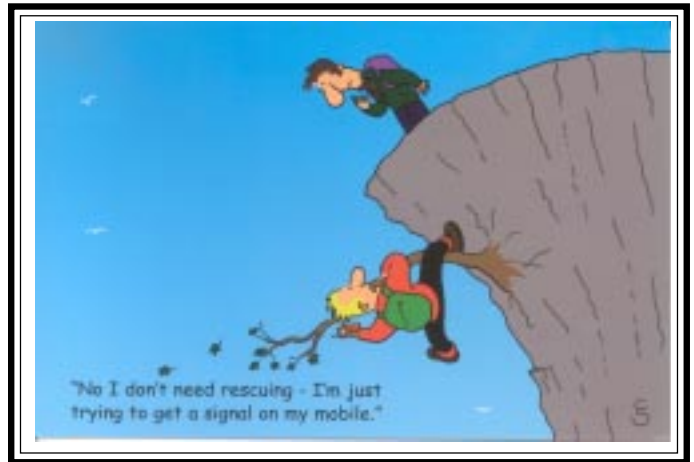
Unless you are a particularly enthusiastic and impatient pressie opener, you may find that your Christmas wrapping paper is still in good order. If so, Santa's Elves would be more than happy to have it for recycling. Please drop it off at the Ogden Visitor Centre before your post-Christmas saunter around Ogden Water.



## Sunday 17th December

### Ogden Water - A Walk to Health.

Get into tune for Christmas by meeting Jan Buckley outside the Visitor Centre for a 3.5 mile walk around Ogden and over the local moors. Meet at 13:00. The walk is then followed by a Xmas meal at the Causeway Foot for those interested. Advance booking essential for the meal Tel: (01422) 243761



## Practical Dates

Don't over indulge on the mince pies and mulled wine this Christmas, our supplies of Christmas Trees will be arriving soon and we need your help to either plant them or stack them as a barrier around the waterside.

Janis will have a number of dates for practical sessions coming out in the New Year, or you can keep up to date with our interactive message board in the visitor centre (its the grey/cork one we stick things to).



## The world's biggest birdwatch need you

It's easy to take part in the world's biggest bird survey next January. Just watch the birds in your garden or local park for an hour and help the RSPB to us learn more about the birds in the UK's gardens. Last January, over 450,000 people spent an hour watching their local birds, collectively recording over 8.1 million birds in more than 270,000 gardens.

The next Big Garden Birdwatch runs on **27-28 January 2007** and we want you to take part!

### How to take part

The survey is very simple. All you need to do is watch your garden or local park for an hour on either Saturday 27 or Sunday 28 January, note down the birds you see and tell us the highest number of each species you see at any one time in the hour (this avoids counting the same birds twice.)

The RSPB analyse the results to find out about UK garden birds & postcode will allows them to look at the data by geographical area too.

### Take part online

You can submit your results using our easy online form. This means that the RSPB get your records immediately and there is no cost to process your results. They go straight into our database without having to be input manually, so we have more money to spend on helping birds. Alternatively you can use the form available from us at the January social and bring it in so we can submit them together with the results from the WATCH group.

### The results

In 2006, the house sparrow was the commonest bird in your gardens, beating the starling into second place. So, if you have an hour to spare over the weekend of 27-28 January, please join in and make Big Garden Birdwatch 2007 the biggest and best yet!

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## Calendars

For those who have not got one, the limited edition Ogden Water calendar is on sale from the visitor centre. With only a few left, what better way to support the area than take home a calendar or give on as a Christmas present. Only £5.50 each, so hurry.

## Feeding Garden Birds

### The Need for Gardens.

Over the last few decades our countryside has been gradually disappearing under the pressures of intensive agriculture and property development. This means that birds need gardens to act as small nature reserves, providing vital areas for food and nesting. Even the smallest of urban gardens attracts an interesting variety of birds.

### Choosing the garden as a place to find food.

Birds visit gardens because they are changing their habits to make the best use of the garden environment when it provides them with what they need. For example, a poor fruiting season, , means competition for wild food, so that some birds have to look else where to feed.

### What food?

Birds need foods rich in fats and carbohydrates to help them build up the vital reserves of body fat they need to survive long, cold winter, nights.

### Dry Cheese

This is ideal for birds, but strongly flavoured or blue types tend to be left. Crumble or grate the cheese for smaller species, such as gold crest. In cold weather, sprinkle some into the leaf litter beneath bushes and trees for wrens, which don't visit bird tables

### Crusts and crumbs

Bread is most often put out for birds, but it is not the best choice. It fills empty stomachs, but is not very nutritious

### Rice, pasta and pastry.

Rich in starch, these will keep starlings and rooks happy

### Fruit

Old fruit, past its best, can be put out. Also, it can be cut into pieces for the bird table. Fieldfares and redwings, as well as robins, blue tits and blackcaps enjoy fruit.

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