

Halloween Lantern Procession

Are you ready for the scariest night of the year? Ogden Water can be a spooky place on October 31st, but it can also be a fun place to be as well. If you are feeling brave and adventurous then why not dress for the occasion, dig out the pumpkin lantern and come along for a walk around the reservoir at the dead of 7pm.

Friends of Ogden Water

Calling all grown ups, would you like to do something to help the environment, how about drystone walling? what about pond creation?

Why not join the Friends of Ogden Water & take part in lots of fun filled and exciting projects.

Meet new people, learn new skills and have fun. For more details contact 01422 249136.

Bric-a-brac & bookstall

On the weekend of August 12th & 13th a special stall will be set up at Ogden Water to run a bric-a-brac and book sale. All the proceeds and donations made during the weekend will go to the WATCH group to buy materials, equipment and for transport for trips. If you would like to come along and have a look at what is for sale, perhaps buy something or combine it with a picnic lunch up at Ogden then please do so.

If any of the adult would like to offer to help on the stall during the day then please contact Margaret at the next meeting on the 5th August.

North West bird fair

The weekend of November 18th & 19th sees the annual North West Bird Fair take place at Martin Mere Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (Lancashire). There will be stalls, talks and activities taking place not forgetting the chance to see the arriving winter wildfowl. Thousands of swans, geese and ducks descend on Martin Mere each year to spend the winter feeding on local fields and here is a chance to see them close up. But lets not forget the chance to see buzzard, peregrine, kingfisher and maybe even barn owl from the hides. And who knows who will be sat at the side of you in the hides. When Chris & Gillian went a couple of years ago, Bill Oddie helped them spot a kingfisher.

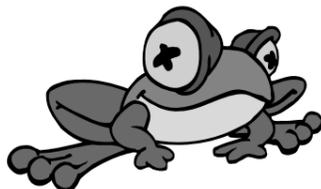
For more info on what is happening during the weekend log onto www.wwt.org.uk

Is your garden wildlife friendly?

Our back gardens are a real treasure trove of wildlife habitats, even the smallest garden can be used by wildlife. But how green is your back garden. Below is a survey from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to test how wildlife friendly your garden is. Simply go down the list and score points for the features you have. The more points the more wildlife friendly your garden is!!!

Feature	Points
Trees	2
Hedgerow	2
Number of different trees (1-3)	2
(3-7)	3
Log pile	2
Bird boxes	2
Bird table/feeders	2
Bat boxes	2
Insect home/bee homes	2
Climbing plants	2
Large stones and rocks	2
Compost patch	2
Pond with plants & fish	2
Pond with plants & no fish	4
Patch of stinging nettles	2
Wildflowers in garden borders	2
Wildflower meadow	2
Always use peat free compost	2
Don't use slug pellets	2

0-9 = blank canvas
10-19 = needs more work
20-29 = great habitats
30-36 = brilliant garden



By adding more of these items to your garden it is possible to get more wildlife visiting it. If you do not have one of the above items in your garden but think it would be a good idea to put one in, ask at a future WATCH meeting and we will get you some information and talk about it. If you have any stories about wildlife that has visited you in the garden why not write about it and we will put it into the newsletter.

Ogden Water Wildlife WATCH group

Ogden Water
Ogden Lane,
Keighley Road,
Halifax.
HX2 8YA
01422 249136 or
01422 393208



All photos taken by Janis Buckley & Chris Sutcliffe

Ogden Water Wildlife WATCH Newsletter

Issue 3



Welcome to our August newsletter, inside this bursting edition you will find out what the WATCH group has been doing over the summer and find out about our autumn programme. There are also some great surveys to get involved with read up on how some of our projects are coming along. If you have any ideas or articles that you would like to see in the newsletter please let us know!!

Wildflowers

A bright May day greeted the group at Shibden Park as for the first time we moved away from Ogden and prepared to enter the hidden world of Cunnery Wood.

Cunnery Wood was the supply garden for Shibden Hall providing all the vegetables and fruits over 100 years ago. It was left to go wild but about 10 years ago a group called Naturefriends became involved and began to transform the area into a wildlife haven.



Once inside the gates there was a quiz to take part in that asked questions about the different woodland wildflowers. Already in the short distance from the gates to the willow hedge we passed lots of wildflowers including red campion, greater stitchwort, red clover, dandelion, blackthorn and plantain. This was staged so that we walked around the woodland looking at the different areas.

Starting off in the newly planted woodland, before moving up the track to meet the Greenman standing guard at the top of the wood. Passing the warreners cottage (where the rabbit keeper used to live and work) before heading down the side of the valley. This was covered with bluebells, and lucky for us they were the traditional native bluebells.

Once passed the bluebells we headed to the pond where we saw lots of tadpoles, snails and even a newt. After a long look in the pond we headed back to the start where we compared answers about the flowers we had seen, with everyone getting them correct. Well Done!!

Caterpillars & Butterflies

Again the group travelled away from Ogden and onto Manor Heath Park in Halifax. The subject of the being the most delicate of insects, caterpillars and butterflies.

Following on from an introductory games about how butterflies survive by using their senses which involved some of the group dressing up to look like a peacock butterfly and a discussion on how caterpillars changed into butterflies.

Armed with insect nets we set off to look in the undergrowth and the wilder areas of the park for any butterflies that we could find. Instead of finding any we found one caterpillar and lots of bugs and flies.

Ruth and Cath then organised a game to make a camouflage caterpillar and for everyone to hide theirs in the grass. We then had to find them

As we could not find any butterflies in the park we set off to the Jungle Experience and to look at the colourful tropical butterflies. Frankie and Lucy even had a butterfly land on them.

After the expedition into the Jungle the group were given Painted Lady caterpillars to watch grow and hopefully release at a future meeting. Because they grew so quickly we had to release 11 before the meeting and unfortunately none of the other chrysalis turned into butterflies, but we have some more and the group should be able to release them soon.



Events: September - Migration and art, October - Fungi Foray, November - Bird feeders, December - Party

Stream Dipping

What a gorgeous sunny day for messing about in the water! Everyone turned up at Jerusalem Farm well prepared wearing their wellies (even Mum's & Dad's were wearing them).

Chris started by explaining where water comes from and how it arrives in the streams and how important water is to all living creatures. He showed us a picture diagram showing the clouds and the rainfall, the hills and the valleys and how it all collects into streams and rivers. Then it was time for everyone to take a fishing net into a shallow part of the stream and start hunting for different species of water dwelling creatures.

Everyone was eager to examine the contents of their nets. We had trays of water ready on the banking to carefully empty the contents of the

nets into. We could then examine them easier still by transferring them into smaller individual trays.

Some of the species found were:- caseless caddis fly, cased caddis fly, shield bug, rhyacophila, freshwater shrimp, blackfly larvae, mayfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs and beetle larvae.

Everyone was having lots of fun & some were eager to go deeper, ending up with water filled wellies & wet socks! It didn't matter though, because the sun was so warm they were dried out in no time. Someone even managed to catch something in their wellies instead of their net! Margaret had some refreshments ready for welcome break of chilled orange juice & biscuits. Everyone had a super morning's outing - Janis



Ogden Water WATCH group meetings

Saturday September 2nd *Migration & the Greenman*

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR to learn about the swallows migration route and to make greenmen.

Saturday October 7th *Dead mans fingers & witches butter*

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR for a walk with our fungi expert to discover what is decaying in our woodlands.

Saturday November 4th *Bird feeding*

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR to learn about how wildlife survives during the winter months. Chance to make a bird feeder for your garden.

Saturday December 2nd *Christmas Party*

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, Ogden Water LNR for a Christmas party with slide shows, quizzes and the lots more. You never know who might turn up.

For further details contact 01422 393208

Moth morning

There is the chance to come face to face with some of the creatures of the night during a special event held on 23rd September (meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre).

Chris and Robin will be having a closer look at moths. They will set a moth trap up the night before and monitor it throughout the hours of darkness. Hopefully a variety of moths from both woodlands and moorland will be attracted. There will be the chance to have a look at what has been caught. How many hawkmoths, Vapourers and other exoticly named moths will be found.

There will also be handouts and information about making your own moth trap to try out in your garden.

So feel free to come along and see what is flying around Ogden during the night.



Poplar Hawkmoth found at Jerusalem Farm

A new way to keep in touch

We have set up an internet BLOG for the WATCH group to find out more information, to keep you informed and to get messages out easily to you.

What is a BLOG?

A blog is a record of things that are happening, a way of talking to people through the internet and of getting information across to people.

What will be on the BLOG?

Lots of things that will be of interest from reports on activities, photos, future meeting dates, wild-life sightings, surveys, jokes & loads more things.

How can I read the BLOG?

You will need a computer with internet access, but do not worry if you don't have one at home. Try your school or your local library, most of these have free internet access. Once you get onto the internet then type in the following address. www.ogdenwatch.blogspot.com (you could then put it in your favourites so you do not have to keep typing it is all the time).

How do I put something on the BLOG?

Just email it to chris.sutcliffe@calderdale.gov.uk and he will put it on.

Clean up the world weekend

It sounds like a big job but are you up to the challenge of cleaning up a little part of it? September 15th - 17th is International Clean Up The World Weekend. People and groups from across the globe will be setting out to clear away litter, remove rubbish and make the world a better and cleaner place, And you can be involved if you want to. We are holding some litter clean ups at Ogden Water, Beechwood Park and Shibden Park as well as trying to clean up the atmosphere by planting trees. If you and your family would like to get involved with an activity and perhaps join the global campaign then please contact 01422 393208 for more details.

Check out the Ogden Water website at:
www.ogdenwater.org.uk
including reports and photos of WATCH group in action, lists of future events and much more

Bill's Back with BBC Autumnwatch

Time does fly, it was not long ago that we were glued to the TV to find out how Daiman the Jackdaw, Runty the Blue Tit and all the other stars of Springwatch were coping with the big wide world. But just around the corner is Autumnwatch. As the seasons change once again there is the call for people to be on the look out and record signs of autumn. We have included a survey form with this newsletter for you to start recording. Also be on the look out for Autumnwatch on BBC 2 in October.

Check out the following websites for more details

www.bbc.co.uk/autumnwatch

www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/wild/helping/autumnwatch

www.naturedetectives.org.uk



Summer BBQ

This year we hope to have the smell of sausages and burgers in the air by will be holding a summer barbeque on Saturday 2nd of September, with the fire being lit at 6.00pm.

We are inviting all to come along WATCH group members and their families, Friends, volunteers, rangers and staff. Bring your own favourite savoury or sweet dish to share, plus the odd sausage/burger/mushroom to throw on the BBQ. Please let Robin know if you are coming so we have an idea of numbers.

If you need a bit of extra persuasion, we'll be providing a tray of tasty and locally made 'Oggie Pies' and putting on some drinks. So make it a date, the more people the merrier and see you on the 2nd! Tel: (01422) 249136.

