

Summer fun at the seaside

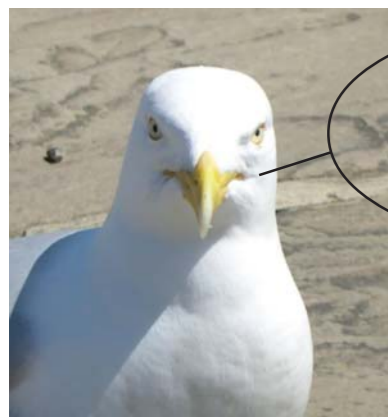
Over the last couple of month we have been at Ogden Water looking at lots of different thing. From bird feeders, to Christmas crafts, looking for signs of winter in the woodland and learning what we can recycle. But again it is time to spread our wings and visit pastures new.

This year, we are lucky enough to be able to hire a coach, and on **Saturday June 2nd** we are going to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Yorkshire coast. We have an itch to go rock pooling and fossil hunting on the beach, and we want you to come along as well!

We will be travelling by Metro Yellow Bus and you can bring your buckets and spades, sandals and sandwiches for a rip roaring fun day out. We hope to be able to pend the entire day at the coas and get some fish and chips on the way back.

We have included a letter to your parent and a booking form for the trip. We are limited to space (only 48 seats on the coach!!) and so it is a first come first served basis.

If you want to know more details then please talk to Chris or Robin at the March meeting.



See you at Robin Hood's Bay in June!!

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?

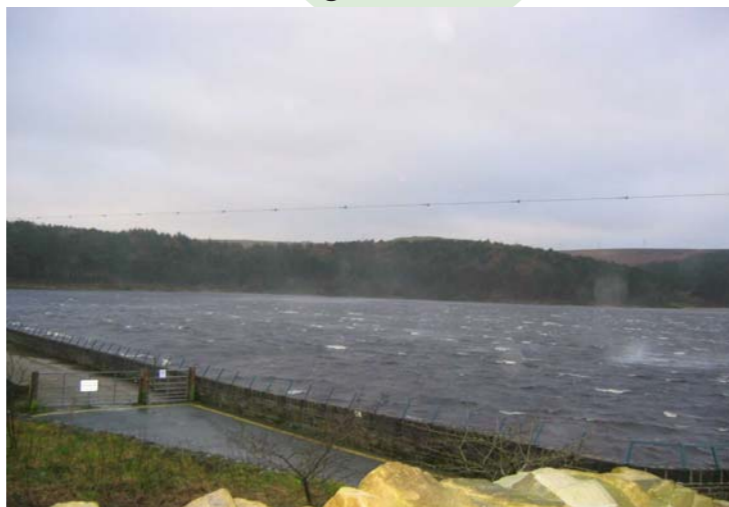
Why not join the Friends of Ogden Water & take part in lots of fun filled and exciting projects.

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

Bric-a-brac & bookstall

After the success of the last bric-a-brac and book sale, we have decided to hold another one. All the proceeds and donations made will go to the WATCH group. If you have any unwanted presents or items that are in good order then please let us know or drop into Ogden Water visitor centre.

Storms hit Ogden Water (and everywhere else!)



Ogden staff brave a closed window to capture weather conditions

Fierce storms whipped across the country on the 18th January and left lots of destruction to houses, cars and trees. With twigs flying through the air everywhere, and large branches being ripped off trees, the Ogden Woods weren't a safe place to be. For that reason, the decision was made to close the estate. Unbelievably, a few members of the public were still came into the site, ignoring the warning signs and secured gates and potentially putting their own lives at risk.

REMEMBER: Woodlands can be very dangerous places in high winds, trees blow down when the wind hits 55 mph (the windfarm stops turning at 56mph so use them as a guide

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 4



Welcome to our March newsletter, hope you are getting wrapped up nice and warm. Inside you will find another fun-filled issue including reports on what we have been up to, news of forthcoming events and news of a special WATCH outing.

November - Feed the Birds

Today was all about looking after our garden birds during the winter. We started by guessing the top 20 birds spotted in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch survey. Can you remember which came first?

Then we looked at what types of food are good for birds to eat. Peanuts, sunflower seeds, niger seed, cat food, fatballs, raisins and fresh fruit all were good to feed the birds. These were all nutritious and energy giving.



We then made bird feeders with everyone given a yoghurt pot which had a piece of string attached through a hole in the bottom. We filled it with seeds, peanuts and raisins all mixed up into a solid mixture with lard. This turned out to be a messy half hour.

The bird feeders were taken home, placed in the fridge overnight to help it set and then hung in the garden for the birds to munch.

Jan Buckley



December - Christmas crafts

The last meeting of 2006, so we set out to collect some of materials for making festive decorations. We gathered leaves, twigs, bark, pine cones & sprigs of greenery from pine & fir trees. Then back to the classroom to make our decorations.

With a small log slice as a base we put florist's oasis onto it before pressing in our natural materials. Garlands of ribbons, sprinkles of glitter and tinsel were added as finishing touches. There were some real masterpieces!



We found that bread, as long as it is soaked, is okay for them. Some things such as salted crisps, dry rice, desiccated coconut are not good as they are not nutritious and can swell up inside the bird making it feel full but not giving it any energy.

Chris provided some pellets to dissect and discover what the Owl had been eating. Everyone was given a plastic cup, a pellet and some warm water with a drop of washing up liquid. These were left to soak for a while and then placed on paper towels to be examined. Using cocktail sticks to poke gently at the pellet breaking it open to find lots of little bones, skulls and jaws of small mammals such as shrews and mice.



Events: March - Trees, April - Easter celebrations, May - Buzzing bees, June - RHB

December contd...

We went to check out the trees which we planted almost a year ago. There were no leaves showing at this time of year, when we looked inside they looked promising with signs of budding ready for next Spring.



Everyone returned to the classroom for a small celebration of party nibbles & juice before settling down to watch a slideshow of the 2006 year of the Ogden Watch Group. There was a bit of a technical problem but eventually we could all see activities throughout the year. It was a good way of remembering all the fun and learning we had. At the end of the show it was time for home not forgetting our festive decorations with everyone looking forward to next year's Watch meetings.

Report & photos by Jan Buckley

Ogden Water WATCH group meetings

Saturday March 3rd Trees

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

Saturday 5th May Buzzing bees

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, for a closer look at all the different types of bees we find around the area.

For further details contact 01422 393208

Important Note. Please ensure that you arrive at the meeting point in time to start at 10am sharp.

Ogden Water is 150 Years old

Can you believe it, Ogden Water is 150 years old this year.

So here are some facts and figures about the reservoir

- It was originally built to supply water to Halifax
- It still supplies water to Halifax
- It took 400 men, 3 years to build
- It was the first dam in the world to have a clay heart to the dam
- It is the only reservoir in Yorkshire to have pitching all the way around the edges
- It holds 220 million gallons of water (that is about 1 billion cans of pop)
- Originally people could only walk across the dam (The Ogden Promenade)
- There was a see-saw at the far end of the dam wall
- You could not walk around the edge of the reservoir until 1988
- It was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 2003 (the first in Calderdale)
- Over 250,000 visitors come here every year

As part of the celebrations, there will be improvements to bring the promenade back with seats and lamps, a mosaic at the entrance and lots more including an official launch in September which you are invited to. More details will be coming soon.



Walk this way....

The New Wildside Booklet, with all the events, walks and talks from the Countryside Service will be out at the end of March. Remember to pick yours up from the Ogden water visitor centre after the April meeting. We hope to see you on some of the events around Calderdale. (that goes for the adults too).

Springwatch needs you

Yes Spring watch is back and needs your help, find what you can do below.



Three out of the six signs of spring, can you use a book to identify the other three?

About the Springwatch survey

Springwatch is the biggest survey ever into the arrival of spring. It is run by the BBC in association with the Woodland Trust and the UK Phenology Network. In 2006, more than 100,000 records came in and we hope to top that in 2007.

Why record spring?

By collecting information about the first signs of spring, we can help build the most complete picture of the season as it unfolds across the UK. Scientists will have a better understanding of how spring is changing and what needs to be done to help wildlife thrive in the UK.

What does it involve?

We're asking people to look out for six signs of spring and make a note of the date and the grid reference or postcode where they were first seen. You can record just one or all six.

- First frog spawn
- First seven-spot ladybird
- First red-tailed bumblebee
- First peacock butterfly
- First hawthorn flowering
- First swifts

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

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 and Ogden water WATCH group gives to the area by organising events and undertaking practical improvements.



Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

During the winter months we use up much more energy than at any other time of year. The days are short so we turn on the lights all evening, it's cold so we have radiators and fires to keep us warm. But we only have one environment and we need it to be there for us tomorrow, and the next day and for a long time in the future. So we need to look after it, and to do that we need only three words, **REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE**. By doing out little bit we can make sure our environment lasts longer.

At the start of the new year, many people make New Year resolutions (it's like a promise to stick to something throughout the year). You can make a resolution to help our planet by following these 5 easy steps.

1. Turn off your computer or TV at night and do not leave it on stand by.
2. Pack a litterless lunch - a lunch with no cartons or packaging.
3. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
4. Plant a tree, it will give us oxygen and a home for wildlife.
5. Recycle all your paper, cans, glass bottles and card board - it will stop them going into landfill sites when they can be reused.