

Friends of Ogden Water Memo

January 2006

www.ogdenwater.org.uk

Chairman's comment

Dear Friends,

It's always exciting to be a member of our group but even more satisfying times lie ahead.

We have several inspiring talks arranged for winter and early spring which include the police wildlife officer and the air ambulance service and there's a wild flower identification course in May. We'll confirm dates at a later stage but please do attend if you can.

Dave and Robin have been working tirelessly over the Christmas period to ensure the site is looking good but we need your continuing support to help with projects and tidying up. If you would like to assist in any way there are lots of opportunities to do your bit on Jan's practical days. Just let Jan know if you can make it by using the contact details below.

We now have some excellent binoculars & a telescope thanks to BTCV funding which you are more than welcome to use around the site (providing we are satisfied you are not a confidence trickster or Bill Oddie). They are available from the Visitor Centre to all members.

Finally don't forget our post Christmas get together for all Friends, rangers and volunteers on the 20th January at the Causeway Foot. If you haven't booked a place yet, please do it very, very soon (see over for details). It's a great opportunity to meet up so please come if you can.

Yours Faithfully,

Craig Spencer (Chair)

Please send any future newsletter articles to
The News Desk
c/o Ogden Water
Ogden Lane
Halifax, HX2 8YA
Ogden.water@calderdale.gov.uk

Recent sightings

Since the turn of the year there has been a number of sightings of Crossbill at Ogden Water. They tend to be turning up at the Giants Tooth and the woodlands surrounding this ancient monolith. Look out for either a bright red bird (the male) or a yellowy grey bird (the female), about the size of a greenfinch, at the top of pine trees. As the name suggests they have a beak that crosses, which allows them to feed on pine cones. They use the beak to prise open the pine scales and scoop out the seed with their tongue. Also listen out for their shrill, metallic call as they fly around in a loose flock from tree to tree.



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

The 2006 Big Garden Birdwatch takes place at the end of January and all you need to do to take part is watch the birds in your garden or local park for an hour on either Saturday 28 or Sunday 29 January 2006.

You only need to count the birds for an hour, and just record the highest number of each species seen at any one time. It's important you don't count all the birds you see because some birds will return to your garden many times in the hour. Bring your results along to the visitor centre and we will send them all off to the RSPB.

For further details check out www.rspb.org.uk

Practical Days

Saturday February 18th

Welly work in the wet woodland

For further details please contact Jan Beecroft. Anyone wishing to help please contact Jan Beecroft, Practical Co-Ordinator on:- 01422 243761 (eve) or 07932855857 (mob) or e-mail: j.e.beecroft@bradford.ac.uk

Xmas Happenings at Ogden Water.

Saturday December 10th saw the arrival of Father Xmas on his powered sleigh to take up residence in his Ogden woodland grotto. Over the weekend he gave out over 270 presents to excited children, whilst the refreshments stall made a handsome profit of £75 serving expectant visitors. Thanks to all who made this a successful weekend.



The Festive Cheer was in full voice on the Sunday with carol singing outside the Visitor Centre.

Guided Walks

Saturday February 25th

Wind & Water Walk

A rare chance to see the Ogden Manager out of the office. Join Dave on a 4 miles walk taking in the woods & moorland (dogs on leads). Meet 10.30am outside Visitor Centre.

Postage Stamps

Thanks to all for the large wads of postage stamps received. Please keep them coming and drop them off in the Visitor Centre. They are being forwarded to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society to help raise funds.

The Ogden Water Xmas Party and Buffet.

Just a reminder that our annual 'Christmas' gathering approaches and will be held on Friday 20th January at the Causeway Foot. The party starts at 7:00pm, and the full buffet is **free** of charge (but, sorry, you'll have to buy your own drinks!). If you haven't already done so, please let us know if you can make it by completing and returning the form below with name and contact number. Alternatively telephone Ogden Water on (01422) 249136. Many thanks.

150th Anniversary Painting Exhibition - Help Required!

If you are a keen artist or have any experience of holding exhibitions, how about this for an exciting project? As you're probably aware, last year a photography competition was held at Ogden, with 100's of photos being contributed. The success of this event prompted the idea of carrying out a painting exhibition to coincide with the 150th Anniversary of the completion of Ogden Water in 1857/08.

At the moment it is still just an idea, and requires a small group of enthusiastic people to take it forward, possibly towards a regionally promoted exhibition at a local gallery. If you are interested, please contact Craig/Robin on (01422) 249136

Remember to visit
www.ogdenwater.org.uk
Recent updates include photos of
Hedgehog Day
Father Christmas Visit
Bird Box Building.

And please feel free to use the
on-line comments board or e-mail
webmaster Anthony with any
contributions for the web-site on
anthony.greenwood@virgin.net

Yes! I/we would like to come to the Ogden Water Buffet on Friday 20th January.

Name(s).....
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Telephone.....

Please Return to:
Margaret Stafford
17 Bobbin Mill Court
Steeton
Keighley
BD20 6PU.
Or return to the Visitor Centre.

