

Friends of Ogden Water Newsletter

July 2006

www.ogdenwater.org.uk

Editorial

Summer is well and truly here, with temperatures recently recorded outside the Visitor Centre of **94 F** in the shade. This must be getting close to a record! Of course, along with the arrival of summer comes a busy period of activities for all to enjoy.

The recent Friends attendance at the Thornton gala was a resounding success (read more in side), and future events at Ogden include Kite Making and - back by popular demand - is the Native American Indian day. Also, for those interested in wildlife, look out for the Friends event on National Moth Day inside.

Around the site Jan has been very busy working on various projects with the Friends, and our chairman Craig has again taken on the seasonal Ranger position.

Take care,

Chris and Robin

Summer Barbeque!

This years summer barbeque will be held on Saturday 2nd of September, kicking off at 6.00pm.

Friends, volunteers, rangers and their families are all welcome. Bring your own favourite savoury or sweet dish to share, plus the odd sausage/burger/mushroom to throw on the BBQ. Please let Robin or Craig 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

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

Bric-a-brac!

The Ogden Water Wildlife WATCH are having a bric-a-brac and book stall on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th August at the Ogden Countryside Centre, between 10 and 3.30pm.

Money raised will go to the WATCH group, which is designed to provide children with the opportunity to discover, enjoy and help protect their local environment.

So if you have any unwanted items in the attic, why not drop them off at the Ogden Water classroom?

Better still, why not come along and grab yourself a bargain!

Heat Wave Strikes

One gentleman who certainly didn't agree with the recent spell of hot weather is Ogden manager Dave Wilson. Visibly melting as the day warmed up, here you can see Dave adopting one of his many strategies to keep out of the sun. Fetching!



Thornton Gala on Saturday 8th July

Thankyou to all those who helped organise and run the Ogden Water stall at Thornton Gala which was an unqualified success. The stand comprised a general Ogden information section and displays by the Friends and the Wildlife Watch Group.

Once Jan had shown the assembled rangers how to put up the gazebo, the afternoon passed without a hitch. New members were recruited to the Friends and the Watch group with money being raised for both concerns. As many as eight different members helped on the day, selling gifts from the visitors centre and promoting Ogden Water. Christine sold copious amounts of ginger cake and could have sold that amount twice over. In fact she did sell some of it twice but as Lorraine discovered possession is ninth tenths of the law and when it's all gone, it's all gone!

One recalcitrant senior volunteer was repeatedly recognised as his yuletide incarnation as Father Christmas. This was strenuously denied. Clearly Santa would be in the North Pole preparing for Christmas and not at Thornton Gala.

This was an enjoyable first foray into Village fetes and I suspect it may be the first of many now that we have tested the water, so to speak. Hopefully we may have encouraged a few local people to explore what's on their doorstep. Thanks to all that helped.

Craig



The Friends and WATCH group stand at Thornton Gala. Photo taken by Jan Beecroft.

Chainsaw Sculptures

The woodland sculptures are now all painted and ready for installation around the woodland trail. Thank you to Gavin for his hard work in sourcing the right paint, his expert eye for colour co-ordination and his painting skills. The plan now is for Jan and Dave to organise their distribution on site as part of a practical day project coming soon.



BTCV Courses in August (and they are free to Friends!)

The forthcoming courses are run by the British Trust for Conservation volunteers in August. They are running from and are free to members of the Friends of Ogden Water.

Craig attended a course on stile (style?) building earlier this year, and had a thoroughly constructive time.

Small mammals workshop at Oakwell Hall.
Tuesday 1st August 9.30-4.30pm

Summer tree identification at Oakwell Hall.
Thursday 3rd August 9.30 - 4.30pm

Wildlife Gardening at Oakwell Hall
Saturday 5th August 2006 9.30 - 4.30pm

Summer Tree identification at Oakwell Hall.
Sunday 6th August 2006. 9.30 - 4.30pm

For more information or to book your free place please phone Gareth Wilson on 07740 899730.

Summer Events at Ogden Water

Friday 28th July

Kite Making and Flying. Bring the children along anytime between 10 - 12am and 1pm to 3.30pm to make your own kite - and then go and fly it on the local moors.

Monday 31st July

Ogden Water - Walk to health. Meet outside the visitor centre at 10.30 for a gentle 1.25mile stroll around the reservoir.

Tuesday 1st August.

Yorkshire Day Walk. Meet Dave outside the visitor centre at 13.30 Ogden Water for a 4-5 mile walk. Suitable for children only if over 10.

Wednesday 9th August.

Wild Wednesday - Nature Detectives.

Meet Holmes and Watson outside the visitor centre at 19.00 for a fun evening exploring Ogden Water.

Monday 14th August.

Ogden Water - Walk to Health. Meet outside the visitor centre at 10.30 for a gentle 1.25mile stroll around the reservoir.

Friday 18th August.

Earth walk. Meet outside the visitor centre at 10.00 or 13.00 for a family walk looking at Ogden in a different way!

Wednesday 23rd August.

Wild West Wednesday. Sessions at 10.00 or 13.30 learning about the first true environmentalists. Make your own headress before stalking off into the woods for fun and games. Booking essential. £1/child.

For further information about any of the above activities contact (01422) 249136.

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.

Friends in Action!

Over the past few months, we've been tree planting in the new wet woodland area and will be putting an interpretation board in soon.

We've also created a secondary pond beyond George's View out of a muddy pool in the woodlands. Large logs were used as edging, but we still need to add more material.

The vegetation around the reservoir path has also had a good prune!

Forthcoming projects will include the erecting/placing of the sculptures, and step construction on the woodland trail. If this sounds like it could be too heavy for you, don't worry there's lighter options!!

Well done to everyone participating. However, there's plenty more to do and everyone's welcome to come along and lend a hand.

The dates for future events are below, all beginning at 1pm unless stated otherwise. Here's the dates for your diary!

August 5th

September 16th

October 14th

November 18th

I've been posting a report and photo's of the monthly activities on the Website (www.ogdenwater.org.uk), so remember to have a look at what we've been doing.

If you wish to be contacted by e-mail with reminders and updates please send me your e-mail address to buckley080@aol.com and I'll add you to the list.

Regards,

Jan Buckley, Practical Co-ordinator.

Anyone wishing to help please contact Jan on:- 01422 243761 (eve).

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.



Attention Artists and Painters!

After a very successful photo competition in 2005, Christine, Lorraine and Margaret are busy organising a painting and drawing exhibition for next year. So, if you would like to put any work on display, get in touch and get those paints/pencils/pastels etc out.




To help Celebrate
150 years of Ogden Water,
why not enter the 2007
Art
Exhibition

Open to all painters and artists.

If you enjoy painting or drawing, why not enter your art work into the 2007 Ogden Water Art Exhibition?

The theme for the exhibition is the Seasons of Ogden Water, and by publicising it now, gives plenty of time for you to get out and paint!

For details, entry forms and conditions, telephone:
(01422) 205050.




July's Sign of the Month!



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.

2007 Ogden Water Calendar

Coming soon is the Limited Edition 2007 Ogden Water calendar. At the moment the print run is just 100 (although may be extended to 200 copies if demand is high)! Reflecting the theme of the painting exhibition, the calendar has some stunning seasonal photographs of the Ogden Water landscape.

Price is expected to be between £3.50 to £4.00, covering the costs of printing. If you would like to reserve a calendar, you can let Robin know on (01422) 249136.