

Friends of Ogden Water Newsletter

November 2007

www.ogdenwater.org.uk

Editorial

We it has been a busy few months, with the washed out summer, Green Flag award, September celebration day for the opening of "The Promenade", the Boggart festival, Halloween, and getting everything ready for Santa's visit. Not to mention all the work that has gone on all over Ogden.

Inside there are reports on Halloween, upcoming events, news from the Breathing Places work and a number of celebrations for you to come along to. See you there.

Ogden Water does it again!!

Yes, those immortal words that spread either joy or deep fear have been uttered. Ogden Water has done it again!!, but this time it is the 5th year on the trot that we have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag.



Ogden Water manager Dave Wilson with his 5th Green Flag

The award recognises outstanding greenspaces and is judged on a number of criteria, of which Ogden Water excels. A well done to the hard work of the staff, Rangers and Friends who all work with the aim of promotion, enhancement and protection of Ogden Water. Also in the awards for the second year were Wellholme Park, Brighthouse and Manor Heath Park, Halifax.

Winter Activities at Ogden

Sunday 30th December/27th January 08

**Ogden Water Craft Fair
Ogden Water Countryside Centre**

Saturday 16th February

**Bird box making
Ogden Water Countryside Centre**



The Ogden Water Calendar 2008 Ogden Water Calendar

Stunning photos of Ogden taken by local photographers and Friends, available from the Visitor Centre,
only £5.50.
Limited Edition!

The 2008 Friends of Ogden Water Social, Quiz and A.G.M.

**Friday 1st February,
from 7:00pm**

Come along to dust away those post Christmas blues and enjoy a social evening and review of 2007. There will be a quiz, raffle & full catering, professionally provided, to round off our 150 year celebrations.

As well as an opportunity to catch up with each other, the evening will include the all important business of the Annual General Meeting.

If anybody would like to put themselves forward for the committee, please contact Robin on (01422) 249136.

Please come along to the social evening and celebrate all the great things that the Friends have achieved in 2007.

Breathing Places

We now have the money from the Breathing Spaces for the work to the pond, woodland and creation of wildflower meadows.

To date work has started on the clearance of the two walls that dissect the ponds at present. There are some great big stones within the wall and some surprises too. On a recent work party a large stone was unearthed with a fossilised imprint of a prehistoric plant.

Work has also taken place to remove some of the trees that need to come out and prune back others.

Calder Cares volunteers have been on site to assist with the building of raised beds, two of which are now awaiting final positioning in the Boggart Wood. They also planted up a hedgerow alongside the grassy area below the classroom.

Chris is in talks with the Council IT department and the company supplying the bird box cameras to find out how we can link the pictures as a live feed into the website.

More work will begin in earnest after Christmas, so if you fancy getting stuck in especially after so much good food and drink over the festive period, please let Dave or Robin know.

Coming a close second

Members who regularly read the Halifax Evening Courier may remember a competition earlier in the year to rate the "Seven Wonders of Calderdale".

A number of high profile figures put forward their favourite place or landmark and gave reasoning for their personal choices. The public were then asked to vote to choose the favourite.

Ogden Water was championed by Halifax MP Linda Riordan, who said that when not in the halls of power in London, Ogden is one of her favourite places because "people can find rest and relaxation and collect their thoughts".

Well the votes are in & with the counting done we can reveal that unfortunately Ogden Water came in second place, Behind the Piece Hall in Halifax town centre. Thanks go the Linda for choosing Ogden and we hope that like her you feel that Ogden offers the chance for relaxation, rest and enjoyment.

Halloween 2007

As the nights become darker, the wind a little stronger and the temperature cooler, it must be time for the annual Halloween Lantern Walk. Robin and Dave spent many an hour rounding up the various spooks, ghosts, ghouls, monsters and ghostbusters ready for a special night.

This year we were lucky enough to have Total Awareness Promotions involved who set up a number of flashes, frights and some very scary dancing by on chairman of the friends group.

The evening arrived with Friends, volunteers and rangers wrapped up warm and ready for the off. Slowly the crowds came (slowly at first, like blood from a fresh cut) before gushing forth to meet on the dam wall to await the Woodland Wizard.

Once he had been called forth, collected his thoughts and grasped his staff firmly in his hand, our fearless necromancer lead over 1400 people on a journey of fright, screams and comedy (did you see that Frankenstein's monster dance!!!) around the reservoir before disappearing into the ether as spookily as he arrived.

A great big thank you to all who were involved, especially those who had never been to the event before. Remember without the support of the Friends, Rangers and Volunteers we would not be able to put this event on.

Check out photos of the event on the website.

THE OGDEN WATER XMAS RAFFLE

To support the Friends of Ogden Water
help fund improvements to
Ogden Water Local Nature Reserve

TICKETS £1.00 per strip
TO BE DRAWN

12 NOON Friday 21st DECEMBER 2007

First Prize ...
Christmas Hamper
Second Prize ...

Bottle of Jack Daniels and tumblers
Third Prize ...

Presentation Bottle of Late Vintage Port

Tickets available from the Visitor Centre.
(01422 249136)