

Friends of Ogden Water Newsletter

www.ogdenwater.org.uk

BBC Breathing Places Grant - Update.



A successful grant bid put together by Chris and Craig gave the Friends of Ogden Water a sum of £9750 from the BBC Breathing Places scheme. As the deadline for completing the project fast approaches (July 31st), spending the money has been a priority (if its not spent - we have to give it back!!) and works have gathered momentum in true Ogden fashion....

The projects....

The project has so far helped build some wild flower planters, plant a small wildflower meadow and purchase a top specification wireless bird box camera system (more on this elsewhere). However, the main source of expenditure is directed at the restoration of one of the Ogden Water ponds so that it is a better wildlife habitat and suited more to use by visiting groups for pond dipping.

The pond.

The pond works have been carried out on the existing pond alongside the reservoir. This had become choked with woodrush and had very limited wildlife value. This is because it is fed by a stream which picks up cold water from the surrounding moorland, providing it with a consistent flow. Unfortunately, this also meant that the water body is too mobile and pond temperatures never rise high enough to encourage aquatic invertebrates to inhabit it.



The solutions.

This project aims to divert the majority of the water flow around the stream, allowing the water to stand and warm up. A sluice system will allow the pond to be topped up whenever necessary. In addition, excavation will landscape the two sections of pond into one larger area of water and remove the dominating rushes. Iris, marsh marigolds and other welcome species of aquatic plant will be removed by hand for re-introduction when the project is completed.



Access and Education.

Accompanying these habitat improvements, access will be made better for schools and community groups to take advantage of the pond for dipping activities. This will include installation of a dipping platform, with access for wheelchairs. Interpretation panels will be installed providing information about the different habitats and wildlife. To finish the project, nets, identification booklets and hand lenses will be bought for groups to use.

Come and visit the new pond on the Friends social on August 29th.



Ogden Wildlife Cam goes LIVE!

The new Ogden Wildlife Camera is a fantastic addition to the awesome array of technology now used at Ogden Water. Paid for by the BBC Breathing Places grant, the wildlife camera has been resident in a nest box inhabited by a family of blue tits. With live pictures being transmitted back to the Visitor Centre, visitors could enjoy the unfolding documentary about blue tit family life on television. Of the 12 eggs laid, 8 chicks successfully went on to fledge and leave the nest box.



How many blue-tits?

With the box now empty, the wildlife camera is looking for a new location and new subjects to watch. One option being considered is to mount it near a bird table, broadcasting close-up pictures of birds back to the Visitor Centre.

When its back in action, the wildlife camera will also be used to feed pictures onto the internet. The link is in place - just keep an eye on the ogdenwater.org.uk website for further details.

The television in the visitor centre was generously paid for by Mrs Lesley Oldroyd and Family, whose kind donation to the Friends was made in memory of her parents, Mabel and Eric Barnett

Please send any future newsletter articles to:
The News Desk
c/o Ogden Water
Ogden Lane
Halifax, HX2 8YA. (01422 249136)
ogden.water@calderdale.gov.uk

Walks around Ogden leaflet.

Chris and Jan Buckley are putting the finishing touches to a short 'Walks around Ogden' leaflet. It's been a good few years since Ogden last had a walks leaflet, so this will be a very welcome addition to the (limited!) leaflet range available at Ogden. It should be on the shelves towards the end of the Summer.

Help! Christmas!

Yes, we know that the Summer has hardly started, but this year we thought a bit of advanced Xmas planning wouldn't go amiss. If you can spare any time to help with the Father Christmas event, particularly with wrapping the presents, please could you drop the staff at Ogden a line? Dates will be sorted nearer the time, but it will be useful to know if anyone is happy to help.

Wildlife News.

As summer is now here (?), eyes are once again turning towards the moors in search of adders. Last year they caused quite a stir when spotted sun bathing on the golf course.

This year, a small scale monitoring project is underway at Ogden. Small corrugated sheets have been placed around the estate in sheltered, sunny spots. It is hoped these may attract any adders as they look for suitable places to catch some warmth. The corrugated sheets are checked visually by looking on the tops and also very carefully lifting them to see what lurks underneath. Although no adders have been seen on them, Chris has got a couple of excellent shots of lizards he found underneath.



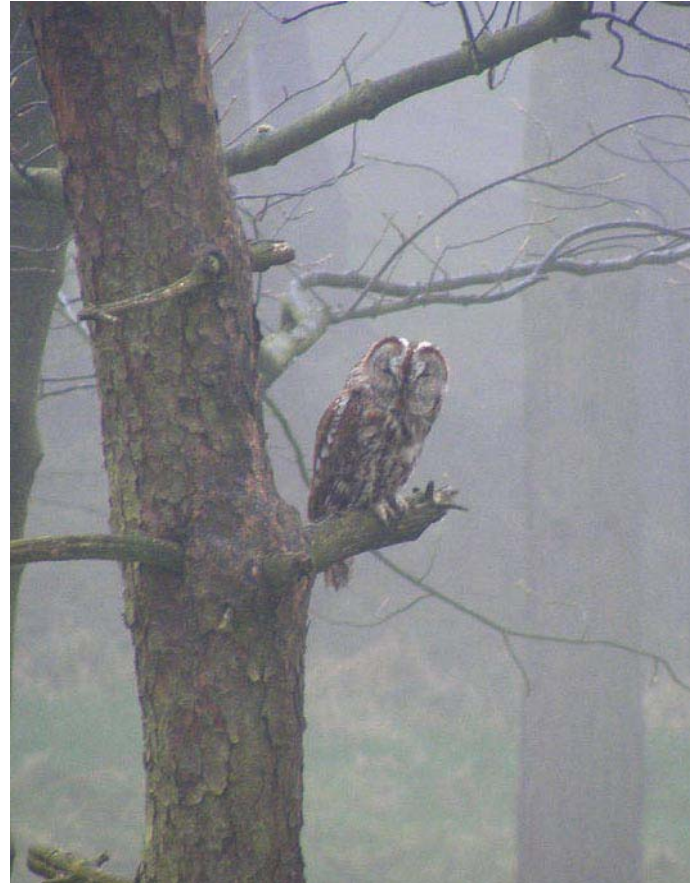
Have a **Hoot** at Ogden!
Ogden Owl Discovery Day



The Friends are supporting what should be an entertaining and educational event on **Wednesday 20th August**. Run alongside a series of events organised by the Countryside Unit for the school holidays, the Friends have invited the owls and staff of 'Owls and Great and Small' to visit Ogden Water.

Along with the chance to meet eagle owls, snowy owls and tawny owls, there will be talks, mask making activities for the children, and of course plenty of photo opportunities! An ideal school holiday activity for the family. Event runs from 10:00am to 15:30. Drop in anytime. £2 charge.

Whilst on the subject of owls.....



Regular visitor Terry Cambell took this superb photo one morning, whilst out walking his dog. There has been an established population of Tawny Owls at Ogden for many years - Tawny Owls are territorial and will range over the same area for many years. Ten out of ten to Terry for snapping one of these shy birds at roost during the early morning hours.

Tawny Owl facts.

Things you might not know about the Tawny Owl!

Scientific name: *Syrinx aluco*

This is the most common and widespread owl in Europe with around 50-100,000 pairs in Britain.

The tawny owl is the biggest common owl in the UK, about the size of a pigeon. The females weigh more than the males.

Male and female tawny owls bond for life.

The tawny owl is nocturnal and therefore not often seen in daylight.

They hunt and eat small mammals, plus small birds, insects, worms or frogs.

Tawny owls have exceptionally good hearing: they usually detect their prey by the tiny rustling sounds small rodents make as they move around.

Their feathers are very soft, so the owl makes no sound as it flies.

Summer Activities at Ogden Water 2008

Friday 1st August

Yorkshire Day Walk

A 4 mile stroll to enjoy stunning views over Yorkshire, culminating in a traditional Yorkshire Pudding lunch at the local hostelry! 10:30 start from Ogden Water Visitor Centre. Booking essential. Telephone (01422) 249136. Suitable for children 8+

Thursday 7th August

Native American Indian Day

Become a Native American Indian at Ogden Water and learn about their culture, way of life and traditions, including song, music and dance. Meet at the tip! Places limited. £2.00 charge. Booking essential.

Wednesday 20th August

Ogden Owl Discovery Day

See main text.

Monday 25th August

Bank Holiday Nature Trail Quiz

Join Jan and Chris Buckley at Ogden Water for a 'drop-in' event. Runs from 11:00 until 15:00. Follow clues, collecting nature's treasure along the way. Family fun stroll - takes approx. 1 hour to complete the trail. 50p charge for quiz sheet.

Wednesday 27th August

Making Music in the Woods

Explore ancient and modern musical instruments in a woodland setting. No need to be a musician or bring instruments. Meet Merrilyn and friends outside the visitor centre at Ogden Water at 11:00. Booking essential. Cost £2.00.

Friday 29th August

Friends Summer Celebration!
7.00pm Ogden Classroom. See opposite for more details!

Saturday 6th September -

Friday 31st October

Yorkshire Boggarts Festival

Ogden has a long history of being home to elusive magical creatures known as Boggarts. they are rarely seen, but this time of year is the best chance of catching a glimpse. Call into the Visitor Centre for a guide, then head out into the woods to see if YOU can find them. Not for the faint hearted. Adults must be accompanied by children.

Please call (01422) 249136 to book or for further information.

Ovenden Moor Wind Farm

Re-powering

Love them or hate them, the wind turbines above Ogden Water have very much been a part of the landscape for the past 15 years. Although still giving reasonable performance, E.ON are investigating the feasibility of replacing the existing turbines with modern units - a process known as re-powering.

Planning permission for the project will be submitted to the Council later this year, after consultancy and necessary surveys have been carried out. The re-powering will reduce the number of turbines to 10 (there are 23 at the moment), but instead of standing 49 metres tall to the tip as they are now, they will be 115metres tall. These 10 turbines would increase the output from 9.2 MW to 20MW and extend the life of the windfarm as a feature on the landscape for another 20 years.

Friends of Ogden End of Summer Celebration, Social and Buffet

Friday 29th August from 7pm

Come along and join us in celebrating the completion of the BBC Breathing Places scheme and for our Summer get together. Enjoy an excellent buffet . chat . quiz . chance to catch up and gentle stroll to the new pond.

All are very welcome.

Free to members and their families.

Non-members £3.00 charge for buffet or £5 to include Friends membership.