



Breathing Places Bid—Phase IV Success!

A grant application by the Friends for £2500 was approved on the 23rd April. This follows on from the success of previous applications to the Breathing Places scheme — funded by the Big Lottery Fund. You may remember that previously Breathing Places paid for, amongst other things, the new Ogden pond (which is starting to establish rather nicely!).

This latest round of funding is focused on engaging and encouraging the local community to use their local Breathing Place, with

an emphasis on using the facilities funded under the previous successful bid (ie the pond).

The new money will help to put on 3 activities/events: a mini beast exploration day on Sunday 7th June, a Birds of Prey day on Sunday 2nd August and a hedge planting day in late September.

If anyone would like to help on these event days, please contact (01422) 249136/ ogden.water@calderdale.gov.uk



Friends Work Parties proving literal.

Jan and Chris, practical co-ordinators, have added a new dimension to the bi-monthly work party. Renowned ginger cake lady Christine has been fueling the hungry work gangs with gourmet lunches over the winter period creating a jovial, relaxed and nourishing lunch time party. It has been noted that the per capita productivity rate has increased by 250% on work party days. A huge thanks from the Ogden Water staff to all. The next work party is on the **23rd May**, starting the installation of waymarking posts for the new trails leaflet. Now this will be a good days work! Telephone Jan or Chris if you'd like to lend a hand on (01422) 243761.

• This Issue:

- Ogden suffers break-in's
- Fund-raising day
- Help wanted!
- AGM
- Ogden Mystery
- Finances

Friends of Ogden Annual General Meeting and Social Friday 15th May at 7:00pm in the Ogden classroom.

This years AGM and social evening will be held on the 15th May. It'd be great to see you and your family/friends. Its a friendly evening get together, with an excellent buffet, quiz, raffle and banter, plus reservoir stroll at 6:30pm for those who fancy an amble in the fresh air prior to proceedings. All are welcome, and as usual the evening is without cost. This year, a more accessible spring-time evening is chosen—avoiding the dark nights and violent storms that have plagued the AGM in the past!

Once again, invitations go out to anyone who would like to be nominated for any of the positions on the committee. It'd be great to have some new faces interested and enthusiastic in helping take the Friends forward for the next year or two. All positions are up for election, including chair, secretary, membership-secretary, treasurer, publicity, newsletter, web, social, or indeed anyone interested in being on the committee without a specific portfolio. To discuss, Craig would be happy to talk to you on the evening, or give him a ring on (01924) 405442 before hand.

Easter Break-Ins Plague Ogden Water



Not the burglars (honest), but Dave and Robin looking suitably glum after the break in at Ogden. Photograph from the Halifax Courier on 8th April.

Two break-ins on successive Sundays have caused a fair amount of disruption at Ogden. On the first occasion the thieves/vandals/scumbags peeled back a security shutter to enter the office and then used a large wooden field gate as a ladder to climb into the Visitor Centre through the top window (after breaking it). To do this, they must have been agile and of a reasonable B.M.I. They stole the shop float, WATCH group money, donation boxes and a flat screen television that had been donated.

The following Sunday they broke in again and stole two drills, four chainsaws and three brushcutters. To make matters worse, this gear was nearly all new.

BREAKING NEWS

Ovenden Police have just informed us at Ogden that two suspects have been caught and are being questioned about the burglaries at Ogden Water. Lets hope its them. Bring back the stocks. Watch this space.

Can you help with the BBC Springwatch event???

HELP required on the 7th June for the Breathing Places 'Mini-Beast Mayhem' day. Get involved in a community activity day looking at grassland, woodland and pond mini-beasts. Hunts, insect homes, flower planting, advice, refreshments and more. Call Robin (01422) 249136

Ogden Water Fundraising Day Monday 4th May 2009

Brica Brac
Refreshments
Tombola
Books
Face Painting
and more.....

Once again, kind folk have galvanised into action to help raise money for Ogden. A joint fund raising venture by the Friends and childrens 'WATCH' group on Bank Holiday Monday (see left) hopes to raise enough money to get the electric mobility scooter back on the road, and help replace WATCH funds stolen in the burglaries.

So, if you have half an hour to spare, please drop in to the classroom and support the event – have a go on the tombola, relax with a cuppa and slice of finest ginger cake whilst reading the book you've just bought and then go and get your face painted!

If you have any books etc you'd like to donate to the cause, please drop them in to Ogden.

Any offers of help appreciated, too! Call Robin on (01422) 249136.

Mystery at Ogden... kindly compiled by Anthony Greenwood

Mystery surrounds the origin of this man-made feature near Ogden Water, shown right. It can be found on the OS Map at GR SE 067 305. It can easily be spotted from the path that leads from the far end of the Ogden Promenade to Tripping Green, near Halifax Golf Club.

Jean Cook, who lived at Tripping Green for many years, says that it was called the 'Ogden Hydro'. She is not sure why? She remembers playing down by the bridge and finding large chunks of broken statues, for example a lady with long hair. Perhaps this could have been washed downstream from the Hydro?



Photo looking across the valley to the 'Ogden Hydro' Clearly shows a lot of effort has been put in. But why?

Speculation suggests it could have been some sort of work creation project around the World Wars? It could also have been created for and by the workers at the long gone Bottoms Mill at Tripping Green, the first mill in the Ackroyd dynasty. If anyone has any ideas, we'd be very pleased to hear them, and who knows, finally solve this long standing mystery once and for all?

The Blaeberry, Bilberry or Mountain Bumble

Edie Jolley, volunteer Biodiversity officer for Calderdale, has asked us all if we could keep our eyes open for the Bilberry bumblebee. Knowing many of you are often out and about enjoying a walk on the moors (and not just around Ogden) it'd be useful to enlist your help, too! The bilberry or mountain bumblebee (*B. monticola*) is not a priority species for Calderdale, but it is rare. As its name suggests, it has quite specific habitat requirements -



and is unsurprisingly found mostly in the uplands.

The species has been found in Calderdale (Edie has a couple of sites to check out) and is strongly associated with bilberry in the spring—so now really is the time to go looking. The photo (by John Watson) shows it as a small but striking bumblebee with yellow stripes and a large area of orangey red on its tail - see photo.

Coincidentally, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust has just started a survey for this species and is also asking for any sightings. See this for ID info: <http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/monticola.htm>

Any sightings please to: edie.jolley@calderdale.gov.uk, or drop a line here and we'll forward it on.

Spring Watch 2009. Be part of the national BBC SpringWatch Weekend at Ogden Water on June 7th. See below for more details!

Hop the difference.

Ever wondered how to tell the difference between a frog and a toad? Read on...

Toads are notoriously elusive. This is partly due to the fact that they travel at night and tend to hide by day. They also prefer large deep ponds; they hide under foliage or logs in the daytime.

Is it a frog or a toad?

Toads differ from frogs in having shorter back legs, which makes them more likely to crawl than hop.



They also have a drier skin and golden eyes, unlike frogs. Toad spawn is hard to spot as it is in fine, bead-like strings of black pearls in jelly - not many people have seen it. When mating, males form characteristic clusters around the females in deep water.

Last year, you may recall, Ogden was literally awash with 1000's of young froglets and toadlets. You really did have to watch your step going around the reservoir. Maybe this year when out and about, see if you can spot the difference?

Forthcoming Events May/June/July.

Tuesday 26th May. Kite Flying Extravaganza!

Make your own kite from scratch with the materials provided, and then head out onto the moors to fly it. Alternatively, bring your own kite to fly. Join in the fun with our experts anytime from 10.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 15.00. Materials charge of £2.50. Telephone (01422) 249136 for further information.

Sunday 7th June. Mini-beast madness at Ogden Water! Helping celebrate the BBC Springwatch Open Weekend.

Join us for a fun day of activities exploring the smaller beasts and creatures that live at Ogden. Dare you hunt for mini-beasts? Fancy a quick dip? Learn about the humble bumble bee or build an attractive house for insects! Anytime between 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 until 15:00. One of numerous events organised nationally as part of the BBC Springwatch weekend. For further information tel: (01422) 249136.

Sunday 14th June Understanding Map and Compass

Join Jan and Chris Buckley at Ogden Water for a 1 day navigation course. Booking essential - only 14 places available. To book, ring 01422 243761 or e-mail buckley080@aol.com Outdoor clothing and boots are required. Bring your own map and compass or use one of ours. Cost £20 per person. Day includes a 4 mile walk - suitable for children over 10 if used to walking.

Sunday 21st June Solstice Walk

Meet outside the Ogden Water Visitor Centre at 19:30 for an evening stroll on the longest day. This 5 mile walk takes us to 'The Nab', where we will enjoy a hot cuppa and watch the sunset. 50p charge. Suitable for children 8+. Appropriate clothing essential. Tel: (01422) 249136 for further information.

Friday 24th July. Pirates and Parrots.

Sail into Ogden Water and join acclaimed environmental educator Gordon MacLellan (aka Creeping Toad) for some pirate action and a half day of discovery and craft. You could be making your own pirate ship, pirate puppets, parrots or treasure chest! Drop in anytime from 10:00 until 12:30 and 1:30 until 16:00. £2.50 charge. Contact (01422) 249136 for further information.