



FRIENDS OF OGDEN WATER NEWSLETTER

Newsdesk:
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All and any articles welcome
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Hi Friends of Ogden

The Summer is galloping on and there's been plenty of activities for all. We have reports on recent happenings and news of what's to come. I'd just like to say that we're new at this newsletter reporting so bear with us and please let us know if you have any worthwhile news or snippets you'd like to share with the rest of the group. Send to Chris and Jan Buckley - email: buckley080@aol.com or drop a note in at the Ogden Water Visitor Centre.

We look forward to seeing some of you at the various 'Friends' events.

The Friends of Ogden Water AGM was held on Friday 15th of May 2009

A pleasant evening was had by all, although once again the poor weather put people off. For the 'friends' who attended there was a lovely buffet and raffle prizes. The Committee was voted in, with a few minor changes.

Committee voted at AGM:

Craig Spencer
- Chairman
Christine Crowther/Amanda Farren
- Social/publicity
Chris/Jan Buckley
- Newsletter
Lorraine Barber
- Membership secretary
Gavin Davidson
- Practical co-ordinator
Robin Dalton
- Secretary
Anthony Greenwood
- Webmaster
Ross Northage
- Treasurer

Other committee members:

Donna Flitcroft
Bill Rogerson
Adrian Barber
Emma Newsholme

A big welcome to the new committee members, Donna and Mandie.

BBC Spring watch Mini Beast Day at Ogden Water

On Sunday 7th June, Ogden hosted 'Mini Beast Madness', one of a national series of events celebrating BBC Spring watch Weekend. This event was backed by grant money from the BBC Big Lottery Fund. Thanks to the help of Friends of Ogden, Calderdale Council Staff and volunteers, several activities were in place for people to enjoy.

By far the noisiest activity was the mini beast house construction area, where over 40 boxes were built during the course of the day. Thankfully, the loud thumps of the hammer were only accompanied by a very occasional scream as adults missed the nail completely with the hammer. More gentle activities included pond dipping, insect sweep netting on the moors, wildflower planting, face painting and bumblebee displays. Although quieter than hoped for, the weather stayed dry and all visitors enjoyed the various activities.



LOW LEVEL WATER!

If some of you wonder why the water level goes so low at this time of year, and it's amazing how many visitors ask this question, then the answer is because the Halifax people are drinking it (or taking too many baths!) The reservoir holds 22,000,000 gallons and it can empty by half in about 3 weeks. The Summer's heavy rainfalls can bring torrents of water into the reservoir from the surrounding hills and obviously is very welcome for both the people of Halifax and the wildlife around the reservoir.

WILDLIFE WATCH GROUP

A fund raising day for the group was held at the Spring Bank Holiday with a book sale, tombola, face-painting and more. Margaret Kershaw, co-ordinating the event said that £100 was raised and was most worthwhile.

Birds of Prey at Ogden Water

Sunday 2nd August 2009



Meet some extraordinary birds of prey, brought to you by Ridgeside Falconry, the UK's largest mobile display team. See up to 15 birds of prey, plus a spectacular free flying demonstration.

Visit the birds from 10:30.

Flying demonstration at 12:30 and 15:00 (times may change)
No charge, but donations to the Friends of Ogden Water welcomed.

Event supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

WILDLIFE CORNER

INFORMATION

Grey Heron

These large, striking birds can often be spotted standing motionless at the water's edge. Herons are large, long-legged birds with a long s-shaped neck. The back and wings are grey with the neck and underparts white. They have a white head with a wispy crest of long black feathers. The yellow bill is long and pointed. The longest recorded age of a heron is 25 years!

The habitat for herons are typically areas around lakes, ponds and rivers. Herons wade through shallow water searching for prey and will stand motionless waiting for the moment to stab the prey with its beak. Herons fly with the head drawn back and feet trailing behind. The wingbeats are slow and the curved wings form an 'm' shape.

The common call is a loud, croaking 'kah-ark' often heard at dusk when flying to their night time roosts. Herons breed in colonies, or sometimes solitarily, in woodland near to water. Nests are made from dry twigs and constructed in tall trees. Females lay 4-5 blue-green eggs, which are incubated by both parents in turn for about 28 days.

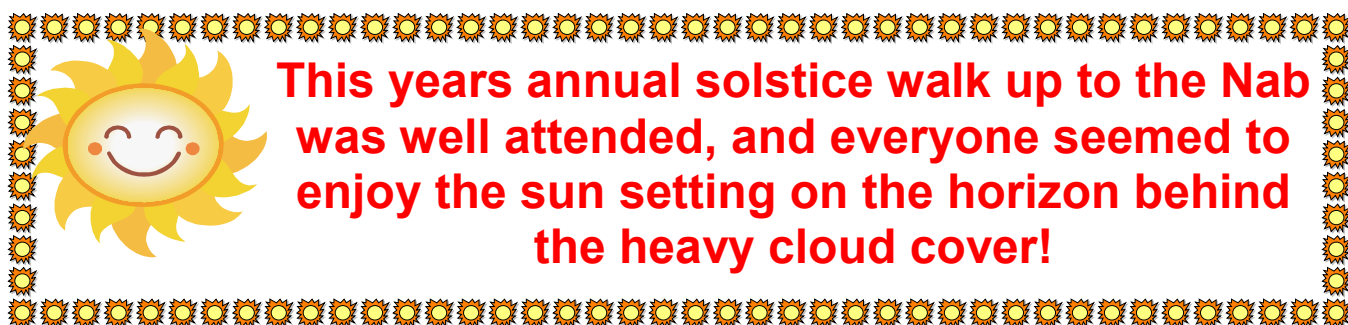


OGDEN WALKS BOOKLET

Chris and Jan have prepared a walks booklet for three walk routes from the visitor centre. The books have now been printed and all the way marking has been completed by the friends working party. Books are now available from the visitor centre for a small donation.

QUOTES & CLICHES

The optimist says the glass is half full.
The pessimist says the glass is half empty.
The project manager/engineer says the glass is twice as big as it needs to be. (There's more..)
The realist says the glass contains half the required amount of liquid for it to overflow.
And the cynic..... wonders who drank the other half!





Summer Events at Ogden Water

Friday 24th July

Pirates and Parrots

Join acclaimed environmental educator Gordon MacLellan for some pirate action and a half day of discovery and craft. You could be making your own pirate ship, puppets or treasure chest! Drop in anytime from 10:00 to 12:30 and 13:30 until 16:00. £2.50 charge.

Saturday 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. Booking essential on (01422) 249136

Wednesday 5th August **Going Batty**

Meet at 20:00 in the classroom at Ogden Water for a short talk and walk to spot our local bats. Free, but donations to the West Yorkshire Bat Group welcome.

Friday 7th August

Making Music in the Woods.

An introduction exploring music, ancient and modern instruments and creating your own musical instruments in a woodland setting. No need to be a musician or bring instruments. Meet at 11:00. Booking essential on (01422) 249136. £2 charge.

Monday 10th August

Poetry in the Pine Woods

A morning of listening to poems and creating your own using the local landscape and wildlife as your inspiration. Suitable for accompanied children. Booking essential on (01422) 249136. £2 per child.

PRACTICAL DAY

The date for next practical day is still to be arranged

If you are interested in joining the gang, then please contact Gavin