

National Moth Night

August 11th is National Moth night, so why not discover what moths are around your local area by having a moth watching event in your back garden.

You have seen the moth trap we used in July, by how about a few more tricks to try entice these wonderful insects to your garden.

1. Keep a security light on for the first two hours of darkness

2. Use a wine rope

You will need

Bottle of cheap red wine (Adults - definitely not for you!)

1kg sugar

1m lengths of thick cord, light rope made from absorbent material. Strips of fabric or muslin can also be used.

Heat the wine and stir in and dissolve the sugar.

Allow to cool and soak the lengths of rope.

Drape the "wine ropes" over low branches, bushes or fences just before dusk and check for moths by torch-light for the first two hours of darkness.

3. Sugaring

You will need

454g Tin of Black Treacle

1Kg Brown Sugar, (the darker the better)

500ml Brown Ale (for the moths not you!)

Paint brush

Slowly heat the ale in a large pan and simmer for five minutes.

Stir in and dissolve the sugar, followed by the treacle and then simmer for two minutes.

Allow to cool before decanting into a container. Fizzy drinks like Cola or Irn Bru may be used in place of the ale.

A drop of rum stirred in just before use is recommended but not essential.

Paint the mixture at eye level onto 10-20 tree trunks or fence posts just before dusk and check for moths by torch-light for the first two hours of darkness.



Poplar Hawkmoth



Pale Tussock

Natural Play

Many of you will have visited Jerusalem Farm in the past, played on the grass, explored the woodland or got wet in the stream. But now a visit there has been made much better with the development of a new playground. Complete with wobble boards, climbing net and chain bridge and much more it is just crying out to be used. Your roving reporters Chris, Dave and Robin made a special trip and tested all the equipment and said (breathlessly) "It's fantastic, what a place for a play ground, right in the middle of the woods".

Check out the photos!!!



We are not going to tell you exactly where on the site it is, as it would be more fun to go exploring and come across it. We hope you enjoy it.

Camping promotion

Jerusalem Farm campsite is open until mid September, and with the summer holidays coming up, why not take some time out and go for a camping out with your family.

WATCH members will get a £1 off the price on production of this newsletter when camping any nights Monday to Thursday.

Ogden Water Wildlife WATCH group

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All photos taken by Janis Buckley & Chris Sutcliffe

Ogden Water Wildlife WATCH Newsletter

Issue 5



Welcome to the summer edition of the WATCH newsletter, yes school is over and now is the time for relaxing and getting out and about. Inside we have a report on our day out at Robin Hood's Bay, information on activities you can undertake in your garden, great news about improvements to Ogden Water and Jerusalem Farm, and more events that are coming up.

Summer fun at the seaside

As the song says "Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Robin Hood's Bay" (okay so the last three words have been added by me). But what an adventure the trip out to Robin Hood's Bay was!!

Meeting early on the Saturday morning, with the mist hugging the tops of the trees and a chill in the air, stood at the entrance to the car park when really we should all be having a lay in. Waiting for the coach to turn up, and suddenly there it was emerging from the mist like a slow moving iceberg.

Picking up the large bags full of spare clothing, buckets and spades, towels and sun tan cream, we set off. Making good time along the road, speeding towards the east coast and leaving the mist behind to be replaced by warm sunshine, only to fall foul of the mechanical gremlins at Ruswarp (only 5 miles from the destination), when the clutch broke.

After a few moments the coach driver reappeared from under the bonnet saying that the coach was going nowhere. So off we all jumped and onto the grass at the side of the road (luckily there was a toilet close by). Some rapid phone calls between various people and a worried look on the faces of some but eventually Chris managed to arrange a number of minibus taxi's to take the group the rest of the way.

So split into two, we set off in the taxi's to our destination. Arriving at the top of the cliffs the view was obscured by sea fret, but the weather was warm and pleasant, so off down the hill we went.

Once onto the beach, after a quick change of shoes, we set about exploring. Armed with nets and trays we carefully looked into the rock pools. These are some of the most extreme habitats we have in the UK and have many specialised creatures living in them.



Robin talks the group through the correct dipping and searching techniques

Twice a day the rock pools are pounded by waves as the sea goes in and out, during the rest of the time the creatures are either underwater or exposed to the air. So the animals and plants found here must be able to cope with being submerged underwater or coping with the drying effect of the air.

Carefully making our way across the seaweed strewn rocks and peering into the lots of different sized pools we soon began to discover lots of marine life. Some were clear with sandy bottoms, others strewn with rocks and boulders, some deep, others shallow but no two pools were the same.

Events: August - Tracking, September - Orienteering, October - Shelters, November - Mystery, December - Christmas Party & Tree Plant

Limpets and barnacles were clinging to rocks, while periwinkles and hermit crabs could be seen scuttling around and carrying their homes around on their back. Turning over rocks revealed a number of different crabs, from shore crabs to velvet swimming crabs (we even managed to find an edible shore crab - but it was deceased). Some people were lucky enough to see some of the shoreline fish species, including blenny, plaice and a wonderful pipe fish.

Pipe fish



Velvet swimming crab

As Robin Hood's Bay is one of the best places on the east coast to look for fossils, following lunch we met up with Alison "The Hammer" Hainsworth for a spot of fossil hunting.

After a quick explanation of what a fossil was, how they came to be here and what we might find (helped along with some fine examples), the group set off to scour the beach. Soon there was a steady stream of people turning over rocks and bringing them to Alison to have the rocks hammered open. A good selection of fossils were found, but with the tide coming in and not wanting to get cut off, we packed up our bags and headed off the beach for the trek up the hill.



Once at the top we met up with the replacement coach and jumping aboard, it was a short trip over the hills to Whitby, for a short stop so we could get a fish and chip tea, have a stretch of the legs, buy some last minute souvenirs and rock.

Strolling around Whitby on a warm sunny afternoon was wonderful way to end the day, especially with locally caught fish to eat.

Unfortunately it was soon time to bid farewell to the east coast and head back home, across the Fylingdales Moor, past the Hole of Horcum, down towards York and back to Ogden.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the trip out and that the unfortunate incidents with the coaches did not spoil it for anyone.

If you did enjoy yourself and would like to go somewhere again next year (but with a better coach company) then please let any of the leaders know, perhaps a different area of the country, perhaps to look at something we do not have at Ogden Water.

Do Something!

Are you sometimes bored during the summer holidays, not sure what to do, or where to go? Well back Do Something! is back again for 2007... and is bigger than ever!

Packed full of essential information on all sorts of activities in and around Calderdale, Do Something! 2007, is the most comprehensive guide to what's going on for kids during summer.

48-page guide Packed with activities and events, from the Countryside Service, Parks & streetscene, Museums and arts and much more. There will be something for everyone and contact information supplied for each activity.

There is also 'Halifax-on-Sea' featuring all you need to know about the two fantastic beaches coming to Halifax this summer.

Also new this year is a mini guide of activities for 11 - 19 year olds 'Get in Touch'. Do Something! 2007 will be available from Calderdale libraries, leisure centres, pools and Tourist Information Centres.



Breathing Places

Many of you will have watched the recent Springwatch programmes, but can you remember the Autumnwatch series from last year. As part of that programme, The BBC and Breathing Spaces were giving away money in order to improve places for wildlife.

The Friends of Ogden Water and Ogden Water Wildlife WATCH group applied for some of this money and were successful. We received £9750 to make Ogden Water even better for wildlife.

But what are we going to do with the money? Below are some of the projects that we will be undertaking and in the next few months the WATCH group will have the opportunity to get involved with.

- Improvements to the pond including digging out and remodelling the pond banks so that we can use the pond for dipping. Also included is a new dipping platform.
- Provide information on the new pond through displays and boards.
- Creating a wildflower meadow in an area next to the Boggart Wood.
- Improving access for people in wheelchairs to both the pond and into the Boggart Wood.
- Create 4 raised beds in the Boggart Wood that mimic the woodland floor so people in wheelchairs can see what the woodland floor is like and what lives there.
- Get some bird box cameras to watch chicks developing (watch out Bill Oddie!!).

Check out the Ogden Water website at:
www.ogdenwater.org.uk
 including reports and photos of WATCH group in action, lists of future events and much more



An evening in the woods

It might sound scary, but why not come along to Ogden Water on Thursday 11th October for our "Fly by Night with the Countryside Service" event. We will be having a talk before heading out and looking and listening for Tawny owls.



If you want to come along, wrap up warm, bring a torch & be at the visitor centre for 7.30pm.

Ogden Water WATCH group meetings

Saturday 4th August

Wildlife tracking

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, to track and discover how flour cellotape can be used to track wildlife

Saturday 1st September

Orienteering

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, can you find your way around our wildlife orienteering course. Don't get lost.

Saturday 6th October

Shelters

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre, for session building shelters in the woodland. Will your shelter stand up to wind and rain?

Saturday 3rd November

Mystery activity

More details at the September and October meetings

Saturday 1st December

Tree planting and Christmas party

Meet 10am outside the Countryside Centre to go tree planting before our Christmas party

Important Note. Please ensure that you arrive at the meeting point in time to start at 10am sharp (unless stated).