

Friends of Ogden Water Newsletter

www.ogdenwater.org.uk

Welcome to our autumn newsletter as we head into Halloween and Christmas at the end of a busy schedule of site improvements. Those of you who attended the September social evening will have seen the pond development scheme fulfilled, complete with boardwalk and dipping platform. This was the focal point of the Breathing Places grant we secured and will be it's lasting legacy providing the site with opportunities for environmental education for years to come. Well done to all of those involved in this achievement, from the committee members who put the bid together, to the volunteers and rangers who did the digging out, drainage and building.

The autumn talks kicked off in style with Chris Buckley bravely stepping in as a last minute replacement to cover an unavoidable cancellation of the scheduled wind farm talk. Chris did a splendid job at short notice, giving an entertaining and very interesting talk on Bradfords Millennium Way. Check out the website for upcoming events and talks, details of which are also in this newsletter. Come along if you can and get involved.

Craig Spencer

A Scary Night at Ogden.....

Once again Halloween was a huge success judging by the numbers attending and feedback. This year we had an amazing 1800 members of the public spirit themselves onto the estate, many dressed in various states of horror (someone was even wearing a shell suit). Robin is still having recurring nightmares about the evening when it comes to the car parking! He can occasionally be heard muttering 'Never again.....'.

A big thanks must go out to all the volunteers and staff who helped. Many of the Friends lent a hand, alongside strong contingents from the Overgate Hospice and the drugs awareness charity Total Awareness Promotions (who did an excellent job of getting the crowd 'time-warping' at the end of the procession. So Halloween takings this year will be helping to support three good causes! Once again, thanks and maybe, just maybe, see you all next year.....??

Breathing Places

The BBC Breathing Places grant money that we received has enabled some very real improvements to the wildlife and community resources available at Ogden Water. The £9750 of grant was spent on four main projects; a wildflower area, nest box camera, interpretation panels and, last but not least, the pond restoration

The camera has already proven very successful, delighting visitors with live video images of a pair of nesting blue tits who successfully reared a brood of 9 chicks earlier this year.



However, there is no doubt that the main legacy will be the restored pond, with the addition of a new dipping platform. With water control measures in place, excavations carried out and all of the invasive weed removed. We look forward to this vastly improved habitat encouraging many different types of aquatic invertebrates to settle and take up residence. Together with the new dipping platform, the pond will provide an excellent base from which to carry out field studies and educational activities with school and community groups for the next decade.

STOP PRESS

The bird box camera that brought us much closer to the lives of the Ogden water Blue Tits has been adapted. With the aid of a chocolate box, plywood and some sticky-back plastic, visitors can now see the Ogden Water bird table camera on the TV in the visitor centre. We have already had close up views of many birds including jays & woodpeckers

The Autumn Talks Programme

The Rush for Wind 16th September 2008

Unfortunately this talk was cancelled and will be re-arranged for the new year. Instead our own Chris Buckley gave an entertaining talk on the creation of **Bradford's Millennium Way**, a 45 mile walk around many familiar and some unfamiliar local beauty spots.

Chris is one of the founders and designers of the walk, and he explained how it grew from first ideas, identifying the route, building bridges and putting up way markers. It took 18 months, involving a lot of effort, and much fun and amusement along the way dealing with local people, local pubs and the elements. The walk is used extensively today and its status is such that it is now shown on O.S. maps. A variety of charities also organise events on it.

As if the 45 mile route was not enough, Chris and his friends then created a series of circular walks, so that the Millennium Way can be enjoyed in small sections. Books on the Way and the Circular walks are available from the shop at Ogden Water. Many of us will be inspired to explore more of this countryside following Chris's talk.

Thanks to Chris for standing in at such short notice.

On 15th October, Jean Evans from the National Trust gave an informative and entertaining talk on the smaller properties of the National Trust. Titled 'I Could Live Here' all attending unanimously agreed that they could easily live in some of the properties, too!

Coming Soon.....



The Civil War
Thursday 20th November
7.15pm

by John Spencer,

Duke of Wellington's Regiment Museum.

All you need to know, including fashion of the day! Plus find out about skirmishes and battles in the local area. At the Education Centre School Room, Ogden Water. Admission Free, light refreshments available. Friends, guests and visitors are all welcome.

Calderdale
Council



Beginners Guide to Tree Identification



What is it?



Definitely a tree

Confused between your ash and your alder?
Stumped when it comes to finding oaks?

Join in our 1 day session of basic tree identification and learn how to recognise our most common species found in the local area.

Saturday November 22nd
Ogden Water, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Cost £10 per person (includes tree ID sheet to take away)
Booking essential as places are limited
Suitable for over 16s

For more information or to book a place please contact
01422 393208 or email chris.sutcliffe@calderdale.gov.uk

Visit Santa in his woodland grotto at Ogden Water

See Santa arrive at 12.00 Saturday 13th
December & visit him in his grotto
between 12-3pm

Grotto open on Sunday 14th December
11am - 3pm

Tickets available in the
Countryside Centre on the day
£3.00 per child admission



Ogden Owl Discovery Day

One day in August, Ogden Water played host to a parliament of owls.

Thanks to Robin, the Owls Great & Small Project were able to come along for the day and show off the owls. Outside in the marquee there was the chance for people to meet up with Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Scoops Owl, Indian Owl and a host of their other feathered bretheren.

In the classroom, there was the opportunity to make masks, have their face painted and even get to hold and stroke some of the owls. It was a turely amazing day with over 500 people came along to learn more about the owl, birds of prey and Ogden Water.



Fire Wood For Sale, £2.50/bag Available from the Visitor Centre

The wood is a sourced from necessary tree felling works within the sustainably managed Ogden woodlands.



Procedes aid further improvements to Ogden Water.

Adder update

Over the summer, eyes have once again turned 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 monitoing 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 Sutcliffe has got a couple of excellent shots of common lizards he found underneath.



Chris S. and some of the volunteers did try to do some mammal trapping on the moorland near to the tins. We wanted to find out what food there might be around for the adders, however of the 15 traps that were set, none of them had any small mammals in them the following moring.

Species rediscovered

Whilst searching for adders , Chris S. found a different BAP species whilst looking for another!

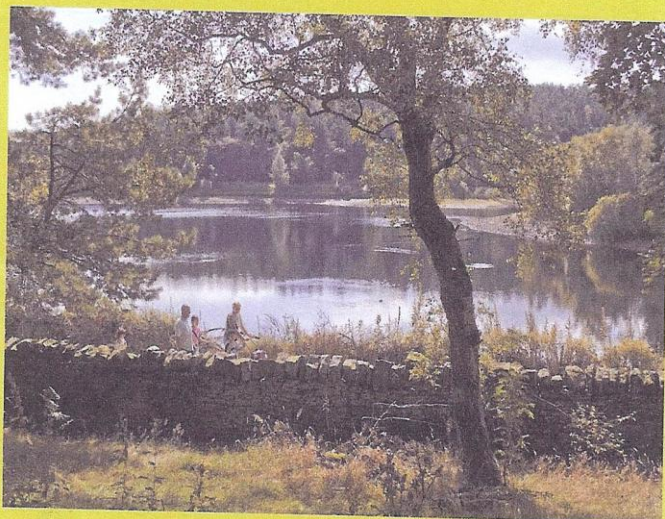
Under one of the tins was the caterpillar of the Golden Rod Brindle moth. This species that feeds on heather & bilberry and has not been recorded in Calderdale since 1955.



'Walks around Ogden' leaflet

Thanks to the hard efforts of Chris Buckley, the leaflet is now down at the printers, and should be with us by the end of November. All that is needed to do now is install some waymarking posts to help guide the public around. Watch this space!

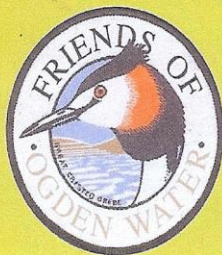
SHORT WALKS AROUND OGDEN WATER LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



Walk 1: The Waterside Walk
Time: 40 minutes. Distance: 1.25 miles

Walk 2: The Woodland Trail
Time: 1.5 hours. Distance: 2.5 miles

Walk 3: The Giants Tooth Trail
Time: 2.5 hours. Distance: 3.5 miles



Friends of Ogden Practical Days

After the success of the last work party (ditching around the Ogden Estate), Jan and Chris have two further days for your diary. The new format for the work parties is 10 to 3pm, with pie/pastie/peas and juice throw in for lunch. How about that for an incentive to come along? However, don't feel you have to stop for the whole day.

On November 15th, there's an opportunity to participate in some tree planting and create an area of new woodland. A small area has recently been clear-felled as part of the long term woodland management of Ogden, and now needs some tidying and replanting with native deciduous trees. This is a great way to spend the day, leaving a lasting legacy and also help off-set your carbon footprint!

The next party (don't worry - not that kind of party) will really blow out any post-Christmas cobwebs. Its on January 10th and will be the annual recycling and distribution of Xmas trees around the reservoir path. All hands on deck for this one. Last year we received 450 trees!

For further information contact Robin on (01422) 249136, or Jan and Chris on (01422) 243761.

Calling all birders 2007-2011 Bird atlas

Are there house martins nesting under the eaves of your house, or do you have bullfinches visiting your garden. These observations and others besides, would make useful observations that could be added to the Bird Atlas 2007-11.

The first audit of British Birds in over 20 years. If you want more information then check out www.bto.org/birdatlas/index.htm

Christmas Helpers Wanted!

Can you spare any time on Tuesday 2nd December, between 10 and lunch? Help is needed wrapping Christmas presents for this years event. Also, help will be needed on the 13th and 14th December serving refreshments to visitors whilst they wait to see Father Christmas.

As a special bonus, all helpers will be able to meet the great man himself. Telephone or e-mail Robin at Ogden. Details opposite.

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