



## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Welcome to our third newsletter, full of news about how Otley is increasingly a 'wildlife friendly town!'

### OFFICIAL LAUNCH GETS US OFF TO A FLYING START

There was a full house for the official launch of Wildlife Friendly Otley earlier this year. Five speakers gathered to share what their groups were doing for wildlife around Otley; Andrew Howarth of Gallows Hill Nature Area, Jonathan Dunster of Chevin Forest Park, Richard Marsh of Otley Swift Watch, Katie Burnett of Otley in Bloom and Peter Riley of Wharfedale Naturalists. The event was very successful and attracted some positive publicity, check it out;

<https://www.ilkeygazette.co.uk/news/17407195.otley-bidding-for-wildlife-friendly-status/>



### TERRIFIC IDEA!" SAYS TOP NATURALIST AND AUTHOR

A celebrity endorsement for our group was also announced. Mark Cocker, the Naturalist and Author offered this support for the launch event;

**"Otley's Wildlife Friendly Town is a terrific idea: timely, necessary and planted where all great ideas are born - at the grass roots! May it grow and flourish far and wide."**

**We're going to be back at  
the Green Fair!  
Saturday 13th April  
Please come see us at the  
greenest event of the year!**

**There are prizes to be won!**

**Both children and grown-ups can test their  
wildlife knowledge with our quizzes.**

Prizes have been generously donated by Courtyard  
Planters, Petwise, Sainsbury and Waitrose).

**Otley Green Fair**  
FREE Saturday 13th April 10am-4pm ENTRY



Campaigns  
Crafts  
Rainbow Morris  
Children's workshop  
Café with vegetarian and vegan food  
**Otley COURTHOUSE**  
an arts and resource centre for everyone

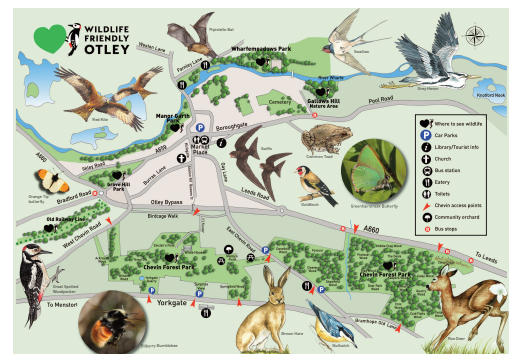


## Helping ducks on the river

We are looking to install a sign at Wharfemeadows Park, to advise families what to feed birds to promote good health, instead of white bread, which is not good for ducks or the local ecology. Recommended duck food is already available to buy from Parkgate Cafe, Dodgsons at Manor Square and Petwise in Orchard Gate.

## “Where to see wildlife around Otley”

Our ‘Where to see wildlife around Otley’ leaflet is almost ready for the printers! We are very grateful to Otley Town Council for a grant for the design costs but we still need to find the funding to print it, if anyone has any leads we would like to know!



## Our Species of the Month Buff-tailed bumblebee

The Buff-tailed bumblebee, like other bumblebees has an annual life cycle. Young queens who have hibernated through the winter in a small self dug hole, energy early and feed on early nectar and pollen. They then seek a suitable nest site and start laying her all female work force!

# Whats going on for wildlife around Otley?



## Friends of Chevin Forest

**As spring begins to turn the Chevin greener, the forest fills with bird song including early migrant arrivals such as the Chiffchaff and some brave butterflies.**

The Friends of Chevin Forest are well on with their Sunday working parties to help with vital work. If you fancy lending a hand, they are normally held monthly, upcoming

Sundays include; April 14th, May 12th, June 9th and July 14th. New volunteers are always welcome.

### Events

Saturday 27th April from 9.00am: **Early morning bird walk** (with Bradford Ornithologists)

Tuesday 30th April from 9.00pm: **Woodcock exploration** (with Bradford Ornithologists)

Saturday 29th June: **History walk** (part of Otley Walking Festival)

Saturday 6th July: **The Chevin picnic** (part of Green Spaces for Good)

They are also launching a new website [www.chevinforest.co.uk](http://www.chevinforest.co.uk) and a new history trail leaflet.

[chevinforest@gmail.com](mailto:chevinforest@gmail.com)

## Friends of Gallows Hill

**The nettle beds are buzzing which means spring has arrived!**

The friends of Gallows Hill are also hard at work with their practical conservation work parties, usually held on the first Tuesday of every month from 10.30am. including; 9th April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July. Please dress for the weather and bring a packed lunch, meet by the car park.



### Events

Sunday 7th April from 12.00pm: **Willow weaving**, come along and weave a wonderful bird feeder from the willow harvested at the ponds.

Sunday 5th May from 10.30am: **Forest gardening**, a day to focus on planting, protecting and preparing the forest garden.

Sunday 5th May: **Beltane fire festival**, join us to celebrate the festival of Beltane with a creative workshop, woodland parade and Beltane fire!

Sunday 19th May: **Forest school**, environmental fun for ages 4-10 years old. Please contact Amanda to book 07714329654 [amandaclimb@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:amandaclimb@tiscali.co.uk)

Thursday 23rd May from 7.00pm: **Birdsong evening**, meet by the car park and join Robyn for a wonderful evening of bird song and identification.

## Otley Swift Watch

There are 16 volunteers watching the skies from May, looking for the charismatic local Swifts! Otley Swift Watch walk the streets of Otley every year and map where they are nesting. If you are interested in becoming part of the team contact Richard

[richardmarsh25@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardmarsh25@yahoo.co.uk)





## Otley In Bloom

Volunteers at Otley in Bloom, who do such a fantastic job in putting colour and life all over the town, have already been very busy with sprucing up flower boxes, planters and the towns public spaces. In addition they make a significant contribution to helping wildlife round the town by repairing, cleaning and replacing nest boxes. There are 12 altogether! See if you can spot them. To help our endangered pollinating insects they are also involved in several nectar beds. This spring there will be a new wildflower meadow on the verge at Ilkley Road/Bradford Road/Bypass, installed by Leeds City Council with funding from Otley BID. There are also regular "How to garden for wildlife" posts on their facebook page [www.facebook.com/otleyinbloom/](http://www.facebook.com/otleyinbloom/)



## The Wharfedale Naturalists

We are very fortunate to have the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society locally. It is a huge source of wonderful information about our local wildlife. They have a superb programme of talks and events. The spring and summer programme is about to start, 24 events for members to attend and it is only £12.50 for a full year of membership. For more information visit the website

<http://www.wharfedale-nats.org.uk/>

### Visit Gallows Hill Nature Area with WNATS

Tuesday 21st May from 7.00pm, meet by the car park.

WNATS member and Otley resident Bruce Brown will lead a visit around the nature reserve.

**River Six**  
Wildlife Friendly Otley  
Secretary

**Andrew McKeon**  
Wildlife Friendly Otley  
Chairman