

WINTER/SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

YOUR WILDLIFE NEEDS YOU!

This year our we are working hard to encourage everyone in town to pledge to help wildlife! We have ideas for individuals and families, businesses, community groups & schools. All details are on

wildlifefriendlyotley.org.uk

Even if you are already helping Otley's wildlife, let us know what you're doing on social media using **#mywildlifepledge**



FAMILY PLEDGING TOGETHER

One family in Otley, the Barracloughs are forging ahead working through our suggested Individual and Family pledge ideas. They are the proud builders of the 5 star bug hotel: Bug-ingham Palace!

Check out their good work **#mywildlifepledge**

CO-OP FUNERAL CARE LEAD BUSINESSES IN PLEDGING

Rob Tindall of Co-Op Funeral Care in Otley has been leading by example for businesses. He has completed 8 of our suggested pledge ideas for businesses already!

Check out their good work **#mywildlifepledge**





OTLEY'S HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY

A perfect way of pledging is to sign up and become part of the hedgehog highway. We are collaborating with Otley's Maker Space to make it even easier to help hedgehogs. If you want to connect your garden to the highway, contact us and someone will come and make a passage for you!

PROPER FOOD FOR DUCKS

We now have a presence by the river in Wharfemeadows Park in the form of a banner. The banner aims to inform people and families feeding the ducks and swans about what is good food for them to eat. Special duck and swan food is sold at Dodgshons, Parkgate cafe and Petwise. We'd like to thank Wharfedale Naturalists Society for its financial support towards the cost of the banner.



BEST CHRISTMAS TREE

We won the best dressed Christmas Tree at last year's Christmas Tree Festival! Thank you to everyone who donated so generously and voted for us.

A special thank you to Sue Colman for creating officially the best decorations at the festival.

AWARD WINNING BAKERY AND LOCAL ARTIST SHOW SUPPORT

Bondgate Bakery, makers of delicious baked goods commissioned local artist Jane Trebillion, creator of the many fabulous window paintings decorating Otley to paint this fantastic homage to our good work. For more examples of her work, see jenny.trebillion.com

Thanks for your support guys!

SOCIAL SUCCESS

Two social events for us have been a great success. First was a packed venue at the Black Horse for a fantastic music gig on December 12th. Cathy Theaker's band the Stolen Bows and Chris Smith of the C.J. Smith Band both donated their services to give a fundraising evening for us. Thanks to them and all those who donated prizes for the raffle. We raised over £500. Our first ever get-together social evening on February 29th was also a great success. We filled the upstairs room at the Horse & Farrier with chatter about wildlife in Otley, breaking only to munch a slice of pizza or sip a drink. If you missed it don't worry, we hope to host another event in the near future.





Our upcoming work

Because of the Covid 19 virus much of our upcoming work and plans will be delayed. We have cancelled our fundraising event at the Buttercross on April 3rd. The Green Fair and Otley Show which we had planned to stalls at have also been cancelled.


School wildlife makeovers

Following our successful 'wildlife makeover' at Ashfield Primary School last year, we have been working hard on plans for similar wildlife makeovers at the Whartons, Westgate and All Saints primary schools, this spring and early summer. These will now be on hold.

Re-wilding verges

A focus group including members of Wildlife Friendly Otley, Otley in Bloom and Otley 2030 have been working hard to persuade Leeds City council to look at relaxed mowing and wildflower planting in selected grass verges and areas in around the town, but Leeds Council has so far failed to commit to any new regimes. However the group has had better luck with BT which has agreed for us to re-wild the grassed area in front of the BT building on Charles Street. If anyone knows of a plot of land, which is not Leeds Council land , and which they think would be good to re-wild please contact us.

Our species of the month — Brown Hare



The brown hare is thought to have been introduced into the UK by the ancient Romans (or perhaps even earlier), but it is now considered a naturalised species. They are even protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 and they are a priority species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. They are most common in grassland habitats and at woodland edges, favouring a mosaic of arable fields, grasses and hedgerows.

What's going on for wildlife around Otley?

During these strange times, where we all have to be careful of Covid 19, many events around Otley have been cancelled or postponed.

Whilst we are all social distancing, Spring has still begun. Why not begin working through our pledge ideas, or share what you are already doing for wildlife using **#mywildlifepledge** We could all do with seeing some good news stories and what's better than wildlife to lift the spirit. Full information and advice about the pledges are on the website: wildlifefriendlyotley.org.uk

It is important to still take a walk if you can and whilst out for your walk, why not pick up some litter, this is another great way to help Otley's wildlife and local people.

We all know how any sort of engagement with nature and wildlife is good for mental health and the soul. **NHS stands for the Natural Health Service too.**

Otley Swift Watch

The 15 Swift watchers will soon be hitting the streets of Otley, to count the returning swifts, look for them in their green high vis vests looking at the skies.



Wharfedale Naturalists Society

This fantastic local group is 75 years old this year!

The Annual AGM scheduled for next Tuesday 24th March has been postponed until further notice and there will be no meetings till further notice. In early April the Society will be sending out the Spring Newsletter in the usual way which will set

out what is happening (and not happening) for the Society this summer.

The Society's superb full colour publication detailing Society records for 2019 has been published as usual. With the April newsletter there will be an order form which will allow you to purchase a copy by post. Once again, please be patient and wait until you have the form to order a copy.

A full year of membership is just £12.50.

For more information visit the website <http://www.wharfedale-nats.org.uk/>

Chevin Forest and Gallows Hill

It is unlikely that any events will be going ahead but that doesn't stop you visiting these marvellous nature areas, plenty of room for social distancing whilst enjoying the outdoors. There are also other green spaces and parks around town as shown in Wildlife Friendly Otley's guide to where to see wildlife locally. Pick up a copy at the Library or Core.

STOP PRESS BIG FUNDING BOOST

We are delighted to announce that we have received a significant grant from Lush, the high street retailer of fresh hand-made cosmetics.

The money which will be an enormous help to fund our forward programme is funded by sales of Lush's Charity Pot Body Cream product. The money raised is given away to fund grassroots organisations working on animal protection, human rights and environmental issues around the world.

Lush says "Our charitable giving is not a marketing exercise, and we ask nothing back from the groups we fund. We just want to help those who work tirelessly to make the world a better place, and who play a useful part in the movement to create change."

A big thank you to Lush and its customers. We are not only grateful but honoured to be awarded such a grant. For more information about Lush's ethical policy go to <https://uk.lush.com/tag/our-policies>

AND THANKS AGAIN TO WHARFEDALE NATS.

We have received a further grant from the Wharfedale Naturalists' Society towards our wildlife pledge campaign which aims to engage more people in doing things for wildlife.

Like or follow us on social media



Facebook and Instagram
@wildlifefriendlyotley

Twitter
@wildaboutotley