



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY OTLEY

NEWS RELEASE

7 December 2020

Go Wild with Christmas Gifts

Local community group, Wildlife Friendly Otley is urging people to help wildlife this year with their Christmas shopping as there are lots of ideas for gifts which also benefit nature.

Looking after wildlife brings its own rewards and there is a wide range of gifts including bird feeders, nest boxes, bird baths and houses for bugs and butterflies, frogs, toads and hedgehogs which can bring fascinating life to any garden. From a first pair of binoculars for a youngster to stocking fillers like wildflowers seeds and small packs of bird food there is something to suit all tastes and budgets.

Commenting, Andrew McKeon of Wildlife Friendly Otley said: “During the first lockdown in spring and early summer many people enjoyed seeing the beauty of nature and hearing and seeing birds and wild flowers. They also found comfort and peace in the natural world and their gardens. Christmas time is a good opportunity to give something back to nature. Buying local also helps Otley shops where there is a very good selection of wildlife related gifts.”

Books on nature and wildlife also make great presents. Nature writing has boomed in recent years and become hugely popular this year with the increased interest and awareness of nature during the lockdown in the spring. Examples include Chris Packham’s latest book, Back to Nature and the award

winning Diary of a Young Naturalist by 15 year old Dara McNulty. Otley's independent Bookshop on the Square has a good range of nature writing.

The local retailers such as Courtyard Planters, Petwise, The Original Factory Shop and Yorkshire Trading sell a wide range of wildlife related items. Local artist Kate Broughton has produced a new artwork, which celebrates some of the wonderful wildlife we have here in Otley and she is donating a percentage of the cost to Wildlife Friendly Otley. Another is a fabulous hanging woodpecker, inspired by our logo, by Amy Panda. Both items are available through the artists' websites. <https://katebroughton.co.uk/shop/otley-wildlife-wall-art-print/> <https://amypandashop.com/collections/birds>

(See photos)

Membership of wildlife charities such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust or the RSPB can be given as a gift. Wildlife charities have a range of nature-related gifts. You can have a tree planted and dedicated as a gift with the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and join the national effort to plant trees to help tackle climate change in our own Yorkshire Dales.

ENDS

Photos of The Otley Wildlife Poster by Kate Broughton and Amy's handcrafted woodpeckers

Enquiries

Andrew McKeon wildlifefriendlyotley@gmail.com 07802 484 155