

**Hawk
and
Owl
Trust**

Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve

Newsletter and events calendar

SPRING WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Returning summer migrants:

Marsh harrier

Cuckoo

Chiff Chaff

Sedge, reed and grasshopper warblers

Whitethroat

Spring flowers:

Hawthorn

Guelder rose

Yellow Flag

Dragonflies and damselflies emerging

Frogs, toads and newts in ponds and pools

EVENTS CALENDAR

INSIDE
WALKS, TALKS
& ACTIVITIES
IN THE NEXT
FEW MONTHS.

VOLUME 3,
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SPRING 2011

As the weather starts to warm up activity on the reserve increases. We impatiently wait for the return of the marsh harriers to breed in the reed bed along with other summer visitors such as cuckoo. Tawny owls are some of the first birds to start breeding each year and at least two pairs on the reserve are already incubating eggs. Barn owls have also been seen checking out one of the nest boxes so there is

hope that they too will breed.



A couple of exciting new bird species have been spotted at the reserve over the winter. Bearded tits (or bearded reedlings) have been seen in the reedbed as has a secretive bittern. It remains to be seen if

these birds stay to raise chicks or whether they are just passing through. Meanwhile some other birds have made their home away from the peace of the reserve. High above the bustle of the city streets the Hawk and Owl Trust have installed a platform for peregrine falcons on the spire of Norwich Cathedral. If the birds breed this year we hope to show pictures via our website.

300 CLUB

The Friends of Sculthorpe Moor 300 Club is a lottery draw that raises funds to help support the work of the Hawk and Owl Trust at Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve.

The latest 300 Club draw took place on Friday March 11th. There are now 167 tickets in the draw making the prize fund £626.26. The three winners are; 1st J. Smith number 92 £313.12, 2nd J. Smith number 93 £187.88, 3rd H. Aldridge number 62 £125.25.

Many thanks to all members. New members are now being accepted. If you would like to support us in this way please pick up an application from the reserve or download one from www.sculthorpemoor.org



Meet the volunteer co-ordinator

The work at Sculthorpe could not be carried out without the help of our fantastic team of volunteers who get involved in all sorts of activities on the reserve. Ann Cleall is our volunteer co-ordinator, contacting new people who express an interest in getting involved and keeping the volunteers in touch with events and developments on the reserve. Ann, a volunteer herself, also greets people in the visitor centre, gets stuck into weeding the garden, warden, and helps with education activities. Ann says "The volunteers at Sculthorpe are a friendly bunch. Volunteering here is very flexible and there are lots of areas where volunteers can help so if you are interested in getting involved contact the reserve, we would be delighted to hear from you."

Events Calendar



Family
Activities



Guided
walks



Courses



Exhibitions



Hawk
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Events



Talks

March



Saturday 26th. 7pm. **Mercury evening with North Norfolk Astronomy Society.** A talk about the mission to Mercury and, if the weather is kind, a chance to view the planet and other deep space objects through the Astronomy Society's telescope. Please book. £5



Sunday 27th. 2pm. **Marvellous Marsh Harriers.** Join the warden to look out for the returning marsh harriers and learn more about these spectacular birds. £4. Please book.

April



Sunday 3rd. 2-4pm. **Young Rangers.** Once a month meeting for young people between 13 and 18yrs who want to help monitor wildlife and manage habitat on the reserve. £2.50



Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th. 10.30-4pm. **Learning to draw and paint wildlife in our countryside.** Spend a relaxing weekend learning tips from wildlife artist Steve Cale. £50.



Easter holiday activities. We will be running some activities during the Easter holidays. Contact us for details of activities and dates.



Wednesday 20th. 2-4pm. **Kestrel Club Pond Dipping.** A chance for young people to find out more about the creatures living in the pond. Children under 8yrs must be accompanied by an adult. £2.50. Places are limited, please book.



Friday 22nd. 5am. **Dawn Chorus walk.** Join us for a magical walk around the reserve as the birds greet the dawn with their wonderful bird song. £12 including breakfast. Please book.



Wednesdays from 27th April until August 31st. 6-7.30pm. **Beginners Sivananda Yoga class** in beautiful surroundings. £6 per evening. Tutor: Nick Acheson. Please book.

May



Friday 6th. 8pm. **Woodcock walk.** An opportunity to walk round the reserve as the light fades to look out for woodcock roding. £5. Please book.



Saturday 7th 10.30am-4pm. **Owl Ecology Course.** Learn more about the ecology and conservation of the British owl species with, if all goes to plan, an opportunity to observe owlets being ringed. Tutor: Nigel Middleton. £25. Please book.



Friday 20th. 8pm. **Woodcock walk.** An opportunity to walk round the reserve as the light fades to look out for woodcock roding. £5. Please book.



Saturday 21st. **Wild about the Wensum at Pensthorpe.** Join us and many other wildlife organizations for this annual celebration of the valley's wildlife.



Sunday 22nd 2-4pm. **Young Rangers.** Once a month meeting for young people between 13 and 18yrs who want to help monitor wildlife and manage habitat on the reserve. £2.50




Tuesday 24th. 10am-3pm. **Fun with Flowers.** Enjoy a day painting spring flowers on the reserve or indoors in your favourite medium, with help and guidance from an experienced tutor. Suitable for all levels of painter. £30. Tutor: Carol Dobson. Please book through Chris Chalk tel:01328 853695, email:chris.chalk1@virgin.net.



Half term activities. We will be running some activities over half term. Contact us for details and dates


June

 Wednesday 1st. 9.30-11.30am. **Kestrel club Birdsong.** An opportunity for young people to join a birdsong expert and learn to recognise birds by their calls. £2.50. Children under 8yrs must be accompanied by an adult. Places are limited, please book.

 Saturday 4th. 10.30am-4pm. **Beginners SLR Bird of Prey Photography Course.** An opportunity to learn technique from a professional photographer whilst photographing some visiting captive birds of prey. £90 including lunch. Tutor: Gary Smith. Places must be booked in advance.


 Saturday 11th. 9.30pm till late. **Moth trapping.** Join moth expert Jon Clifton to see the amazing variety of moths attracted to the moth traps. £5. Please book.


 Saturday 18th. 10pm. **Glow worm walk.** Join our popular walk around the reserve in the dark to see the beautiful green lights of the glow worms. £5. Places are limited, book early to avoid disappointment.

 Friday 24th. 9.30pm. **Kestrel Club Glow worm walk.** A chance for young people to walk around the reserve in the dark to see the beautiful green lights of the glow worms. £2.50. Children under 8yrs must be accompanied by an adult. Places are limited, please book.

 Saturday 25th. 10.30am-4pm. **Beginners SLR Photography Course.** An opportunity to learn techniques from a professional photographer with the chance to take photographs on the reserve. £38. Tutor: Gary Smith. Places must be booked in advance.

 Saturday 25th. 10pm. **Glow worm walk.** Join our popular walk around the reserve in the dark to see the beautiful green lights of the glow worms. £5. Places are limited, please book early.

 Sunday 26th 2-4pm. **Young Rangers.** Once a month meeting for young people between 13 and 18yrs who want to help monitor wildlife and manage habitat on the reserve. £2.50.

 Wednesdays 29th June, 6th July and 13th July. 2pm. **Wildflower walk.** Three opportunities to join Tim Smith the assistant warden for a walk off the beaten track to see some of the reserve's beautiful wildflowers. £5. Please book.

For more information and to book places for our events or activities contact us on 01328 856788 or leanne.thomas@hawkandowl.org. Visit us at www.sculthorpemoor.org



Prints for sale

We have been given some prints of Brin Edwards award winning painting 'Barn owl over the Marsh' to sell in order to raise funds for the reserve. The prints are available unframed at £50 each. Contact us to place your order.

Rough Road

A big thank you to all the people who so generously donated money towards the resurfacing of Turf Moor Road. The surface of the road is now much smoother and should stay that way for several years. This has been a big investment for the reserve but we hope it will make a visit to us much more comfortable for everyone.

Corporate Sponsorship

We would like to thank the following companies for their support.

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If you would like to receive this quarterly newsletter electronically then please let us have your email address. Contact us on leanne.thomas@hawkandowl.org

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