



Lin Murray  
Press Officer  
Hawk and Owl Trust  
M: 07781 657 944  
E: [lin.murray@hawkandowl.org](mailto:lin.murray@hawkandowl.org)  
W: [www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org)

**Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats**

21 March 2013

## **Press Release**

### **They're back! Peregrines lay first egg of 2013 on Norwich Cathedral spire nesting platform**

The peregrine falcons using the Norwich Cathedral nesting platform, installed by wild bird of prey conservation charity the Hawk and Owl Trust; are back and laid their first egg at about 4.30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013. In 2012 the first egg appeared in the early hours of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – almost identical dates!

Normally a bird of the sea cliffs, wild peregrines have been slowly moving into our cities, especially over the last few decades. In Norwich, a male peregrine first appeared at the Cathedral a few years ago and was then joined by a female. The Hawk and Owl Trust installed the nest platform, 75 metres above street level, in February 2011 to give them somewhere secure to nest. The birds started to use the new platform immediately and hopes were high for successful breeding in 2011, but the female was then driven away by a larger juvenile bird. Although the juvenile female was not expected to breed because she was too young, she surprised everyone by laying an egg but it did not hatch successfully.

Happily the peregrines returned to the spire in 2012 successfully fledging two chicks, the first recorded in the city.

Over a million people watched the trials and tribulations of the daily life of the peregrine family last year via the live peregrine webcam or through the telescopes at the Peregrine Watch Point, set up in the Cathedral grounds by the Trust. These dedicated followers and many more are once again settling down to enjoy another season in the life of our own pair of 'Urban Peregrines.' The Watch Point will be open every day from 25 March and the live webcam is available at [www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org); click on the Urban Peregrine button, or on the Norwich Cathedral website [www.cathedral.org.uk](http://www.cathedral.org.uk) where you can also find directions to the Cathedral.

---

**President | Chris Packham**

Registered Charity No 1068565

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England No 3254207

**Chair | Barbara Handley**

Head Office: PO Box 400, Bishop's Lydeard

Taunton, TA4 3WH | T: 0844 984 282



Lin Murray  
Press Officer  
Hawk and Owl Trust  
M: 07781 657 944  
E: [lin.murray@hawkandowl.org](mailto:lin.murray@hawkandowl.org)  
W: [www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org)

## Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats

The live webcam can also be viewed at the Hawk and Owl Trust's reserve - Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve near Fakenham. You can sit in the warmth of the visitors centre and enjoy a cup of coffee and cake, whilst catching up on the latest episode of 'The Peregrines'! The reserve is open every day except Mondays and the visitor centre is open from 9am until 4pm. For more information please visit: [www.hawkandowl.org/sculthorpe/about-sculthorpe/](http://www.hawkandowl.org/sculthorpe/about-sculthorpe/)

If you are interested in volunteering to help at the Watch Point please contact the Hawk and Owl Trust by emailing the Peregrine Project Officer [carrie.kerry@hawkandowl.org](mailto:carrie.kerry@hawkandowl.org) . 20,000+ visitors came to the Watch Point last year, many of them children, keen to connect with the peregrines that have made their home in an urban environment.

The Cathedral Peregrines project has been generously supported by hosts Norwich Cathedral; Archant, Viking Optics, I-Catcher Systems, M & A Partners, Syngenta Ltd, WildSounds and WiSpire by FreeClix .

-ENDS-

**Press enquiries:** Lin Murray 07881 657 944 [lin.murray@hawkandowl.org](mailto:lin.murray@hawkandowl.org)

There are pictures of the peregrines on the cathedral available in high resolution.

Please note: Copies of stills of the egg from the webcam are available but as they have been taken from the CCTV system they are not available in high resolution.

### Notes to editors:

#### Hawk and Owl Trust

Founded in 1969 to help save the peregrine, in serious decline due to the effects of pesticides and persecution, the Hawk and Owl Trust is a national charity which now works for the conservation and appreciation of all wild birds of prey and their habitats – both in its nature reserves (such as Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve near Fakenham) and in partnership with others. Working with communities and other organisations, farmers, foresters and landowners, the Trust

---

**President | Chris Packham**  
Registered Charity No 1068565  
A Company Limited by Guarantee in England No 3254207

**Chair | Barbara Handley**  
Head Office: PO Box 400, Bishop's Lydeard  
Taunton, TA4 3WH | T: 0844 984 282



Lin Murray  
Press Officer  
Hawk and Owl Trust  
M: 07781 657 944  
E: [lin.murray@hawkandowl.org](mailto:lin.murray@hawkandowl.org)  
W: [www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org)

### **Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats**

researches, restores and manages nesting, roosting and feeding habitats and encourages greater understanding and appreciation of these very special birds.

[www.hawkandowl.org](http://www.hawkandowl.org)

---

**President | Chris Packham**

Registered Charity No 1068565

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England No 3254207

**Chair | Barbara Handley**

Head Office: PO Box 400, Bishop's Lydeard  
Taunton, TA4 3WH | T: 0844 984 282