



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**

## **Press Release**

# **Norwich Cathedral Peregrine Falcons update: Two chicks hatch over night!**

The peregrine falcons using the Norwich Cathedral nesting platform, installed by wild bird of prey conservation charity the Hawk and Owl Trust, have hatched their first two chicks of 2013! They began to appear at 22.49 on Tuesday April 30. It is expected that the third and fourth eggs, if they are healthy, will hatch over the next 24 hours.

Hawk and Owl Trust Conservation Officer Nigel Middleton says:

‘This is a monumental occasion for nesting peregrines in Norwich, their second year of successful breeding in the city. We are delighted that they have taken up residence on our nesting platform at the Norwich Cathedral spire; a fine example of these magnificent birds of prey embracing life in the heart of our cities. These peregrines are providing a great opportunity for Norwich City dwellers, via our Watch Point in Cathedral Close, or through our live webcam, to get up close with truly wild birds of prey. An opportunity not to be missed. From the feedback we are getting it appears that most of Norwich is glued to our webcam for the latest episode of ‘The Peregrines!’

You can see the live webcam feed at: <http://upp.hawkandowl.org/live>

Video clip of the moments that the new chick was revealed: <http://youtu.be/hidxrjim4do>

Stills of the first images of the two chicks can be seen overleaf:

---

**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

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



Normally a bird of the sea cliffs, wild peregrines have been slowly moving into our cities, especially over the last few decades, earning themselves the nametag of 'urban peregrines'. 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. Their first egg of 2013 arrived at about 4.30pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the 2<sup>nd</sup> about 04.55 on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The third egg appeared at about 17.00 on afternoon of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Their fourth and final egg for 2013 arrived on 29 March, Good Friday morning, around 6.35am.

Over a million people watched the trials and tribulations of the daily life of the peregrine family in 2012 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 started again on 25 March and will be open daily until the chicks fledge sometime in July. The

---

**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**

live webcam link 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.

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, SRE Technologies, Syngenta Ltd, WildSounds and WiSpire by FreeClix; Kiln Crafts Centre, M & A Partners

-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. We have avi video available from the webcam and more stills from the webcam.

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

**Notes to editors:**

**Hawk and Owl 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**

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 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