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Working for wild Birds of Prey and their Habitats

The famous Bath Urban Peregrines produce four 'Easter eggs'!

The **Hawk and Owl Trust** has set up an Urban Peregrine Project **St Johns RC Church, Bath**, and is in the process of working with several interested parties to set up sites around the UK.

The Bath project has captivated the imagination of people locally, nationally and internationally as people visit the website on the Trust's live webcams. The peregrine pair on St John's have featured in regional and nation media on-line, in print and on television.

Here is the link to the live webcam on St John's Church, Bath:

<http://upp.hawkandowl.org/bath-peregrines/bath-st-johns-church-peregrine-live-web-cam-2015/>

Here is a link to a Youtube clip of the fourth egg arriving:

<http://youtu.be/CGs5VU7ZtxU>

One of the joys of Urban Peregrines is that people who live in towns and cities have a chance of seeing up close a truly wild creature.

"Urban wildlife plays a crucial role in enriching people's lives: without it, many people would have no access to nature and all the benefits it brings"

'State of Nature' Report 2013

Bath Urban Peregrine Project



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Peregrines were first observed regularly in Bath about 14 years ago. After three years of peregrine residence without any indication of successful breeding, the Hawk and Owl Trust designed, built and installed the nest platform on the spire at St John Church, one of the peregrines' favourite roost sites. The birds first bred in 2006, and have successfully hatched and reared young every spring since.

Before the 2014 breeding season started, the Hawk and Owl Trust's Bath and West Wiltshire Group modified the nest box and installed a camera system. An extension to the front of the nest box was added with an integrated perch, primarily to provide more room for the young birds to exercise before they fly the nest. The adult birds have really taken to the new perch, their new 'patio' as the locals have named it.

Between 25 March and 1 April this year, the resident breeding pair at Bath has produced four eggs and both are busy with sharing the incubation. During this period, the male will take the lead in hunting and feeding his mate. This provides some fantastic viewing for those watching the birds from South Parade or the riverside walk, as the pair will indulge in aerial food passes directly overhead.

The staff of St John's Church have been pivotal in the success of this project, as Hawk and Owl Trust Project Coordinator Hamish Smith points out:

“Fr David Ryan continues to be tremendously supportive of the Bath Urban Peregrine Project, and to me in particular in my role as Project Coordinator. Without the support of the Clergy and staff of St John's this project would never have got off the ground, nor would it have achieved its current success. Fr David and his staff were looking forward to having four St John's 'Easter Eggs' this year, and thankfully the peregrines have come up trumps again.”



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It was observed that full on incubation started with the laying of the third egg which allows us to estimate that the first egg should hatch of between 1 and 3 May. However, nothing is certain so it's a case of watch the webcam at upp.hawkandowl.org/bath, or come down to the riverside and join us at the Peregrine Watch Point between 11:30 and 13:00 on most Sunday's until the end of June.

Notes to editors:

Hawk and Owl Trust

Founded in 1969 to help save the rapidly declining peregrine, victim of the pesticide DDT in the food chain 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 Shapwick Moor on the Somerset Levels) 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.

The camera system was designed and supplied by i-Code Systems, a Hampshire based IT/CCTV company with extensive experience in the installation and operation of covert wildlife camera systems. I-Code already supports the Hawk and Owl Trust's live video from the pair of peregrine falcons nesting on Norwich Cathedral. You can view live footage via the Hawk and Owl Trust website at www.upp.hawkandowl.org/

There is a Watch Point staffed by Hawk and Owl Trust volunteers on the Riverside Path near St John's Church every Sunday from 11.30am – 1pm if you would like to



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come along and find out about these wild creatures living amongst us in the heart of the Bath.

Ends.

For more images, high resolution video clip, information or interviews please contact:

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