



## NORTH SOMERSET AND BRISTOL GROUP NEWSLETTER – June 2016

Dear Member

We had a wonderful evening at Blagdon with Reserve Warden, Nigel Milbourne who told us all about the exciting bat house project, supported by Bristol Water, and the work that is being done monitoring the different species in the area, including the nathusius pipistrelle. There was also the opportunity to stay later for some bat trapping with their new harp trap. Earlier we enjoyed a 'safari' around the inner road of the lake and looked at the traditionally managed meadows, with such beautiful flowers, especially orchids at this time of year.

In June, we have two walks. The first is a daytime walk on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**, led by Barry. We hope to see peregrines, kestrels, buzzards and sparrowhawks. Meet at 10.00am at Sea Walls (ST560747), then walk via the Observatory and the Suspension Bridge to Ashton Court arriving at about 1.30pm. Barry and Susie have been researching the Ashton Inn! Please note this is a one way walk of about 2 ½ miles – there is parking at Sea Walls, in Ashton Court or the Long Ashton Park & Ride for car sharing, and Portishead, Weston and Clevedon buses all pass close to Ashton Court.

The second walk is **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June** when we are exploring one of Bristol's little known wild places – Dundry Slopes. Local resident Keith Way has kindly agreed to share his passion for and knowledge of the area. Meet at 6.45 for 7.00pm at The Scout Hut, Bishport Avenue, BS13 9LR. This is a busy residential area so please park considerately in nearby side roads and, if possible, car share. It may be worth bringing a bat detector if you have one. The paths can be slippery on the slopes so stout footwear is recommended.

From the Treasurer - A polite reminder that as of last year there is a charge of £2.50 per walk and that walks are for members only.

A slight correction for those considering Barry's walk to Crook Peak in July – the return will be by Compton Combe, not Compton Martin as on the programme

Update on the two tawny chicks in last month's newsletter: our temporary repairs to their nest box seem to have lasted! Both owlets are fit and well and I watched them being ringed by Chris Sperring on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Trevor Riddle from YACWAG was also there and has promised to either refurbish or to replace the box once the owlets have fledged.

### *Kestrel Highways Project*

As always, Barry is pleased to have reports of kestrels in the area. Barry: [baz.gray@btinternet.com](mailto:baz.gray@btinternet.com)



*News from Shapwick Reserve:*

From Simon - The building work on the new machinery store on the reserve has now started, but, as yet, we have no date when it is expected to be finished. Once complete, there will be many volunteer tasks in connection with fitting it out but until then we will not have any monthly tasks over the summer. Phil & I were treated to a lovely view of a Red Kite circling over the reserve yesterday which was a lovely start to the day.

For more information please contact : [simon.beard@hawkandowl.org](mailto:simon.beard@hawkandowl.org) Tel 01300 320008 or Barry: [baz.gray@btinternet.com](mailto:baz.gray@btinternet.com)

*Other dates and items which may be of interest: .*

**4th June 'Avalon Marshes – Landscape, Heritage and Wildlife'** - This day-long event at Strode Theatre, Street, is a celebration of this unique area. It will include talks, films and presentations by experts including local wildlife writer and TV producer Stephen Moss, wetland archaeologist Richard Brunning, Glastonbury Abbey archaeologist John Allan, and naturalist and broadcaster Chris Sperring. Tickets are £12 and include lunch.

**11-12<sup>th</sup> June - Festival of Nature** in Bristol – if you can help with this please contact Roger Moses - [roger.moses@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.moses@btinternet.com)

**11-25<sup>th</sup> June - Bristol to Bath Festival of Nature 2016** – a series of exciting, free, family friendly events taking place along the River Avon between Bristol and Bath. There will be a range of activities, workshops and talks.

**Clothing** - If you would like any clothing with the Hawk and Owl logo, such as polo shirts or sweat shirts, please let me know and I can do a group order, thus paying just one lot of postage.

**Sponsored cycle ride** - On Spring Bank Holiday weekend Mike Nuttall was cycling from St John's RC Church, Bath to Norwich Cathedral to raise funds for the Hawk and Owl Trust's Urban Peregrine Project. The ride was inspired by female falcon 'GA' (BTO ring number) that hatched at St John's Church on 8 May 2013 and was spotted in April 2015 above the nest platform on Norwich Cathedral. His Justgiving web site is still active.....!

Recently GA has returned to Norwich Cathedral and it would appear that her presence has caused the resident female to abandon the area, leaving the male with the task of feeding all four chicks on his own. See 'Super Dad' in action on the webcam!

We look forward to seeing you on at least one of our two walks in June.

Best wishes

**Carrie Riches**

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