

OPEN DAY SUMMER 2023 ~ the pictures!



Welcome to Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve Open Day 2023, hosted by Cromwell Bottom Wildlife Group.



Simon Day
Chair CBWG

CBWGwildlife@gmail.com



David Langley
Joint Vice Chair



Hayley Cottrell
Joint Vice Chair

This year saw the return of some of our most popular attractions, together with some exciting new additions. Centre stage were Shibden Birds of Prey and we were delighted to welcome several new exhibitors such as Calderdale Badger Group, Halifax Hedgehogs Group and Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Our splendid new branded gazebos hosted a range of displays and showcased the work of the Wildlife group with a variety of publications, photographs and information. Other attractions included a

live moth display, guided walks, pond dipping and face painting, to name but a few. Our Visitor Centre was its usual hive of activity as visitors flocked for refreshments.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Trustees and Volunteers who worked tirelessly in preparation and to all exhibitors who kindly gave up their Saturday to ensure the event was a huge success.

**Simon Day,
Chair CBWG.**

There was a host of wonderful activities and displays, as many as possible are included in this publication.

The kindness of the weather, despite the dire forecasts, was the 'icing on the cake'.

Some of the Trustees and Volunteers hosted an estimated number of 400-500 people, as can be seen!

Around the Event



Robin, Tony, Michael & Allan



Sue (Cafe Vol), Mike & others



Lyn (NL Editor), Julie, Jen (Trustees), Josette and Griff (both Cafe Volunteers).

Alistair, stalwart Volunteer



Tony, Trustee, on the rota for First Aid duty

Guess who?



Jen & Bruce, Trustees, busy recording the raffle ticket sales.



Winners!



Shelagh, John, Bruce - Michael and Chris (stalwart Volunteers)



Teddy Tombola

The third year of raising money for Cromwell Bottom, staffed by Michelle and Jose. David Langley put out a Facebook plea for toys with amazing results. Everyone wins.

Raffle



Winners:

1st prize - Hayley Shibden Birds Experience

2nd - Emily
£100 Google Play voucher

3rd - Dom
RSPB Puffin Binoculars

4th - Alliana
Tesco hamper

5th - Mike
Tesco hamper

6th - Josh/mum
Wild Isles book

7th - Val
Bug Hunting Kit



Preparing for the Big Day

Volunteers David (Vice Chair CBWG), Alistair, Geoff, Paul, Alan and Josh clearing the paddock ahead of Open Day. Hay clippings have been moved to North Loop to enhance the habitat for a variety of wildlife, including insects and small mammals.

Images Tony, Trustee.



The Visitor Centre

Refreshments, always popular with the visitors to the Open Days, were served in the Visitor Centre throughout the event. Volunteers for the day: Linda, Brian, Sue, Anita, Kath, Hayley, Paul and Juanita, all of whom regularly volunteer on a Sunday, with Hayley Cottrell managing the staffing. NB: pictures of children photographed and published with the kind permission of the parents. **The Visitor Centre has now been open for a whole year! Happy Birthday!**



A fabulous selection of home made cakes from volunteers.



A family enjoys refreshments, especially the Teddy from the Teddy Tombola stall!



Linda, Brian & Juanita serving refreshments on their 2 hour shift! Juanita with Media Studies apron



More family enjoyment, especially the little girl with soft toy and painted face, courtesy of professional Face Painting stall & Teddy Tombola!



David chatting to people going on his Guided Walk, just as soon as tea-break is over!

At the CBWG Information Tent



Bruce - Trustee



Martin - Trustee and secretary to the Trustees with footage of Deer on LCD screen.



Mick Brookes, Chris and Jennifer - volunteers



Sue and Alistair - Volunteers



Robin Owen-Morley, Treasurer, Membership & Trustee with Alison Owen-Morley.

Moths - release and identification

Anthony Arak, Andrew Cockcroft and Charlie Streets are Calderdale's most famous Moth-ers. From spring to late autumn they trap around twice a week in different habitats from moorland to coniferous woodland and everything in between. They have 'moth breakfasts' down at Cromwell Bottom when identification is done and moths released. Look on Cromwell Bottom's Facebook page for dates; links on the penultimate page of this document.



Charlie's Blog



Andy's Blog

Images credit Charlie Streets



Poplar Grey to light from North Loop.



Reed Veneer to light from the lagoon, it's a reedbed specialist



Lunar Hornet Moth to a pheromone lure by the visitor centre.

From Moth Trapping and ID at Cromwell Bottom on 9 July 2023.

Pond Dipping

Pond dipping activities, led by Robin Dalton, Calderdale Council's Area Countryside Officer, took place throughout the event. CBWG works in collaboration with Calderdale Council, who own the Reserve and North Loop. Robin fulfils a major role in this partnership, and CBWG Trustees and Volunteers are hugely grateful to him for his time, commitment, skills, and enthusiasm. Around 30 people attended each session, including parents and children. A very popular activity for all!



adding a bit of colour to the pond dipping queue!



Sphagnum Moss Project

Growing Moss for the Love of Peat - The Calderdale Sphagnum Project.

Gill Wrigley, Calderdale Council, had a stall displaying the work in promoting sphagnum moss, growing it and replanting. It's a great carbon store as well as holding water to help prevent flooding.

Calderdale Countryside Service has provided a polytunnel for the propagation of sphagnum moss. It is located in the compound behind the new Education Centre (pictured below). The idea behind this four year project is to plant out the sphagnum on upland moors in Calderdale. This will go some way to reducing the carbon footprint and hopefully help minimise the flooding in the Calder Valley. The project will no doubt continue after four years!

If you are interested in getting involved in the Calderdale Sphagnum project or would like Gill to come and talk to your group or school -

gillian.wrigley@calderdale.gov.uk.



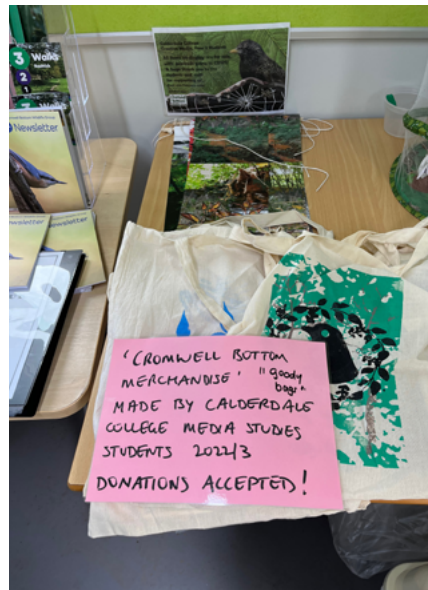
Calderdale College

Sue Griffiths, of Calderdale College's Art, Design & Media Department, brought a display of students' work. Groups of students have used the Reserve to provide inspiration for their project work. They have created a whole range of wonderful products, some of which have been for sale in the Visitor Centre. The aprons the Visitor Centre Volunteers wear are designed by the students.

We look forward to working with them on another project next year.

Art Tent

Paintings by Stuart Bamford (first pic), photos Graham Haigh - Trustee second pic) , cards by Kirsty Collins - can't find her just now! Probably out photographing Kingfishers, for which she is famous!



Kirklees College Animal Centre

The animal care centre is part of Kirklees College and houses a wide range of animals. The site also includes a small farm. The centre offers a variety of courses (for both young people and adults) in animal care, and in land-based subjects.

The college runs courses to give students a range of experiences for example dog grooming to conservation. Qualifications are from entry level to level 5 which is university standard. Below is a small offering of their inhabitants!

Royal Python



Don't bite the hand that feeds you!



Sue, looking very pleased to be holding it!

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

A charity dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring wildlife and wild places in Yorkshire. It looks after over 100 nature reserves right across the county, and is involved in many other conservation-related projects. Its work inspires people to understand and value nature. Peter Lau came to Open Day to represent the Trust.

Wildlife Support Officer Peter Lau was an avid wildlife observer and videographer, who specialised in the under-water environment, and scuba dived many of our world's best locations. Now, reserve routes are tested by Peter for accessibility, including Cromwell Bottom, and are accompanied with a full description of the terrain, the facilities, and importantly the hazards that the site might present to a person, visiting who is reliant on wheels for mobility. The route guides also include many photographs of the route, along with gate or width restriction measurements.



Shibden Valley Falconry

Kevin and Jo Ryan of have decades of experience of keeping and flying birds of prey. They provide displays and experience days, have been involved in related film and television work, and have often assisted the RSPCA, fire service, and police in situations involving raptors. Kevin, Jo and Vic brought a wonderful selection of Raptors, here are just a few.



Kevin Ryan



Meg, female Bengal Eagle Owl aged 18!



Little Bob, male Peregrine Falcon



Guess what bird this is?
Answer to Visitor Centre!

Calderdale Badger Protection Group

Calderdale Badgers group is made up of volunteers from all walks of life who protect and help badgers in the area in a variety of ways (including rescuing injured badgers), and who provide advice and education about them. The Group is affiliated to the Badger Trust. Lee Roberts, along with CBWG, is responsible for the capturing footage from trail cameras around the reserve, which feature on our Youtube site. Lee, Cath and John brought their display marquee to Open Day.

There are several ways in which you could help. If you know of any setts near your property and are happy to provide details, please email

info@calderdalebadgergroup.org.uk

The group are also interested in hearing about any badger sightings, badger activity, any road traffic accidents or about proposed development that may threaten spaces where badgers live. Please be assured that we treat information regarding our local badgers with great care. (Extract from the website).



Lee and Cath



Lee and John - was that a glove puppet badger?



Halifax Hedgehogs

A non-profit-making organisation that rescues and cares for injured or ill hedgehogs, or orphaned hoglets, that are found by members of the public. Whenever possible they are then released back into the wild. Sam and Liz were selling home made products as well as mugs and cards and had a very informative display about what the organisation does. Please check out their facebook page, link on penultimate page of this publication.

Calder Rivers Trust

Protecting and improving rivers and waterways across Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

Jane Rowling had a fantastic display and selection of items for sale. The group work with farmers amongst others, to help keep rivers clean.

Link to website as before, along with many other links.

Yorkshire Air Ambulance

An independent charity providing a lifesaving rapid response emergency service to 5 million people across the whole of Yorkshire.

Jan Swallow of J2 Crafts and volunteer created a lovely display of their work and items for sale, raising money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, such as homemade crafty things like knitted toys with all money going to the charity. So far they have raised £89,000! This is awesome!



Links to websites and social media of exhibitors

Shibden Valley
Falconry



Calderdale Badger Protection
Group



Calderdale Council
Countryside Service



Calder Rivers
Trust (Facebook Group)



Kirklees College
Animal Centre



Yorkshire
Air Ambulance



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust



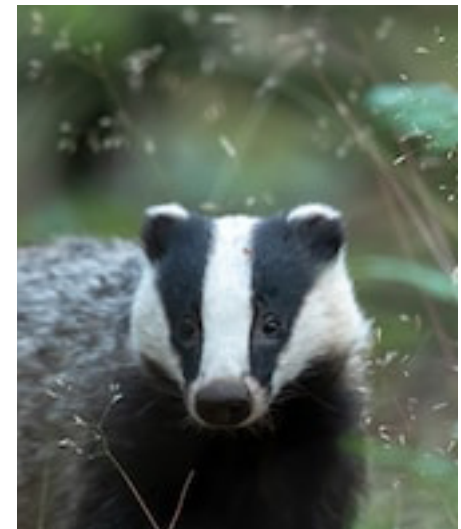
Halifax Hedgehogs
(Facebook Group)



Cromwell Bottom
Wildlife Group



Donations very gratefully accepted, thanking you in advance.





*A Newsletter Team
production, Aug 2023.*