



# Ogston Bird Club

## *December 2018 Newsletter & Membership Renewal*

Since the last Newsletter we have recruited yet more new members.

Val Jones, Colin & Jean Hickman, Tracey & Alex Mann, David & Jenny Thompson,

Sharon & Nigel Parkes-Rolfe, David & Jenny Thompson, Stephen Wood

**Welcome**

### **It's Membership Renewal time!**

We hope that you have enjoyed your membership at Ogston Bird Club in 2018. It won't be long before your membership renewal is due on Jan 1st. Please take the opportunity to renew as soon as possible and get it out of the way before the Christmas rush!

**A Renewal Form is attached to the end of this Newsletter** and can also be downloaded from the website at <http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk/how-to-join>

**Please remember to tick and sign the Gift Aid option on the form if you are a current taxpayer.**

This allows us to get a bit back off the taxman without costing you a penny extra! Every little helps!

**Remember that we have a further way to renew...ELECTRONICALLY!** Should you wish you can renew from the comfort of your armchair without the time and cost of printing or postage. All you need is an email account and to be able to make an online payment by BACS transfer.

Here's how to do it....

1. Send me an email to [obcmemb15@hotmail.com](mailto:obcmemb15@hotmail.com), with your name, first line of address, postcode and telephone number; tell me how much you wish to pay £12 Single, £15 Family (plus any voluntary donations if you so wish).
2. Wait for me to send the bank account number and a unique reference for you to show on your BACS transfer.
3. Use Online banking to pay the Membership Fee (remember to include the unique reference)
4. I send you an email confirmation with your new membership card.

And that's it, another rain forest saved.

May I also assure you that Ogston Bird Club will have absolutely no sight of, nor access to your account. The choice is yours. Renew by any method you like, just please renew, we need you!

Many thanks for being a Member of Ogston Bird Club!!

Steve Slack (Membership Secretary)

### **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!**

#### **Newsletter Editor Required**

We desperately need someone to produce our 3/4 newsletters a year. Currently, some members of the existing committee are filling in until the post is filled, in order to keep it going but they also carry out other substantial jobs. The job involves collecting information from other members of the committee and assembling the newsletter electronically using a word processing package such as Microsoft Word. The vast majority of newsletters are emailed to members with a small number requiring postage. This could

also be part of the role of Newsletter Editor for someone with the relevant skills and time but this isn't a prerequisite. A new appointment can of course bring with it fresh ideas, these could be very welcome.

If you're interested please get in touch with John Parlby who will be able to answer any queries.

Phone 07767652036, or, 01773 861262 Email [johnparlby1@gmail.com](mailto:johnparlby1@gmail.com)

Go on give me a call.

Thank you.

John Parlby (Chairman)

### **Moderator for the Ogston Flickr Group Needed**

Until recently Phil Rhead carried out this role and in addition, introduced the 'Photo of the Month' competition that he also organised. Thanks must go to Phil for both jobs. Unfortunately, Phil has decided to stand down and so the club needs a replacement, ideally to carry out both roles but certainly the Moderators role without which the OBC Flickr Group cannot continue. This is an internet based admin job involving admitting new members and over-seeing the photos that members submit to the group. Anyone interested, please email Martin Kaye ([martin.kaye@icloud.com](mailto:martin.kaye@icloud.com)) and he'll be able to answer your questions and provide you with further details of the role.

## **Habitat Restoration and Maintenance at Ogston**

The committee wants to make members aware of the club's strategies for habitat maintenance at the reserve, why we do what we do and why is it generally limited to the autumn and winter. So what follows is by way of an explanation.

Ogston Reservoir is an important site for: birds (250 species recorded), mammals such as the Harvest Mouse and a few rare plants. The site gained SSSI (Site of special scientific interest) in October 1986 and along with the significant levels of environmental protection that this provides came a raft of regulations for how the area should be managed. Details regarding Ogston SSSI can be found at:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1000538&SiteName=ogston&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>

Management and restoration work can only be carried out with the consent of Natural England and the Severn Trent Water Services Company to whom we have to submit a management plan annually. This plan has to demonstrate a determination to support and enhance the wildlife on the site. In order to retain the SSSI status we have to adhere strictly to the management plan and to deviate from it risks losing both the SSSI status and our tenure on the reserve.

Thus maintenance can only take place outside of the breeding season, i.e. from early September to the beginning of March. The plan includes a yearly cut of the meadow and grassland and removal of saplings within the grassland especially willow. Without this treatment the area would rapidly become scrub and eventually woodland with consequent reduction in the diversity of both habitat and species. In the past we have constructed islands, scrapes, bunds and reed beds that have diversified and improved the habitat for both birds and mammals. In the future we hope to further increase the size of the reed bed and wet grassland when funds allow.

## **Club Trips**

Club trips for **2019** have not been scheduled yet but when they are, full details will be available on the website and members will be informed by email, through the next Newsletter and a list will be pinned in the Main Hide and on the new Notice Board adjacent to the entrance gate.

## **Bird Feeding**

We extend our thanks to the Derbyshire Ornithological Society (DOS) who for the second year running have donated money to buy food for winter feeding of the birds at Ogston.

## Work Parties

Nine work parties have taken place since September this year. Sadly numbers of volunteers have not met the dizzy heights of previous years when 'exciting' developments were taking place and members responded magnificently to those ridiculous 'Your Club Needs You' emails. Okay so raking up mown grass, painting the hides and cutting endless willow saplings isn't the stuff to make the heart race with excitement but it still has to be done so if you can lend a hand in the future, please come along to be at least entertained with the constant wit of some of the regulars.

Along The West Bank we have done the annual cut of the meadow between the Main Hide and Public Hide. This is done to eliminate scrub encroachment and keep the wet grassland in good condition.

We have also removed an extensive amount of willow from the West Bank. This is an annual task to prevent the wet grassland developing into an extensive area of scrub, which is not good for the wading birds, mammals or hunting raptors.

This has all been achieved with the continued help of our members. Thank you.

David Marshall

## Renovation of the Hides



Significant improvements have been carried out to the base supports for both the Main and Sue Worsey Hides. The clue that something was wrong with the Main Hide was that the door started jamming against the floor. An investigation discovered that a plank of wood inserted between the sleepers that supported the front southeast corner of the hide had rotted and started to collapse. Our in house construction guru, Collin Shore (he master minded the replacement of the Main Hide roof in February this year) ably supported by the regular 'gang' came up with the

solution of using a hefty car jack to raise the corner of the hide, dig a foundation and support the hide on a pillar of concrete blocks.

After clearing the vegetation in front of the Sue Worsey Hide this autumn, we were dismayed to discover that the hide was supported by little more than fresh air. One could envisage that sometime in the future, it could have rolled gracefully into one of the ponds. As can be seen from the photos, much the same technique was used to stabilise this hide and this should last for many years to come.





## **Birding Trip to Spurn**

We chose Saturday November 3rd to head to Spurn point. Spurn is oft regarded as a birders paradise around these parts and we have indeed been before. The visit that springs to mind was a couple of years back during which, as we headed towards the point, we did espy a gathering of similarly clad and geared up folks rushing across the road from their hastily parked cars. Of course we tagged along (in case you were wondering) and, with a dozen of the aforementioned fellows, stood and stared at a solitary hawthorn bush. A Greenish Warbler was our intended prey - in a greenish bush. Never heard of one. Checked my Collins guide and there it was - a Greenish Warbler, surrounded on several pages by other, well, greenish warblers. Please don't shout at me. I accept that such a statement might get me lynched by proper Spurn type birders but I don't have the eye that they have. Anyway, back to the recent trip.

Up the M1, M18 then A63 through Hull which becomes the A1033 then eventually B1445.

As is our tradition on such days out, a hearty breakfast is a must. Pre-trip research led us to the Thornbirds Café in Thorngumbald. In what was once the old post office, we found a delightful café well used by locals and managed by a delightful lady. Too early for a cous-cous salad we opted for a large cooked breakfast. Absolutely delightful, cooked to order, wholesome and of fine quality. With tea, 6 English pounds!

Waddling off, we headed to Welwick (O.S. ref TA 338191) which meant a bouncy drive down a dirty bewildered (not a real word but you know what I mean) track to get to see the Salt Marsh. Little to see with a strong, cold breeze but we have had Short Eared Owls and there has been Pallid Harrier there before.

On towards Spurn we went and stopped at the Kilnsea Wetlands, on the Easington Road. Not a lot to see as the wind kept everything hunkered down but we happened upon a lonely birder who alerted us to a couple of Shore Larks 'just over there, follow the path'. Twenty minutes later we got there and were fortunate that two over eager photographers had flushed them to our bank so we got good views not more than 10 metres away.

On to Spurn we went where a bit of a surprise was in store. The new Discovery Centre has certainly imposed itself on the area. Most noticeable was the Car Park where they try to fleece visitors £5 a day, regardless of how long you stay. Every inch of spare verge along the road was occupied by miserly types like us but I suspect that facility may well be removed soon.

Birding wise, the wind put paid to that with only distant views of the usual waders on the mud. Curlews, Redshanks being the big numbers. As for the more unusual birds, we saw nothing. Any birds that did decide to move in the shrubs and bushes were blown away at such a rate I for one couldn't get my bins on them, let alone identify them.

With the light fading we set off home and called in at Paull Holme Strays (O.S. ref TA181251). Good views over close in mud flats usually provide good numbers of waders. However our visit today was cut short as the area was closed over due to embankment 'improvements'.

Off to Derbyshire. The verdict? Spurn is a place where you need to expect the unexpected. At the right time of year, the right weather conditions and with a bit more subject knowledge than me, it is an exciting place to visit.

Steve Slack

(Hardly a ringing endorsement – perhaps they should have visited in October during an easterly wind – Ed)

## **Ogston Bird Club Privacy Policy**

Members connected to the Internet will have been bombarded recently by many websites asking for your approval to insert cookies on your computer, tablet, phone etc and where necessary, asking you to tick boxes giving them your permission to contact you by email, phone, text etc. All this has come about as a result of a change of legislation that tightens up the Data Protection Act. The new legislation is known as the General Data Regulation Protection (GDPR) and is aimed at strengthening our rights over the privacy

and security of our personal data. All organisations, both large and small who store personal data have to explain to those people whose personal data they hold, what they use it for, how they keep it safe and how long they will retain it for. The simplest form of communication is called a Privacy Notice. The club has a Privacy Policy available to be read on our website (under the ABOUT menu item) and while it is quite brief, it is guaranteed to cure bouts of insomnia. New members, and members who renew in 2019, will receive a copy – something to look forward to!!

## Ogston Birding

The birding may not have been brilliant at Ogston this autumn but the recent rain has filled the scrapes and the birds have welcomed this by returning so get down there. One of our members managed this lovely photo of a Lesser Redpoll.



### August Highlights

While there were days when birding was extremely quiet, there were many days when lots of raptors were showing well including Hobby, Sparrowhawk, Honey Buzzard, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Buzzard, Goshawk and Peregrine. The Osprey on the 8th was the first since the spring. From then on an Osprey was seen on most days occasionally accompanied by a second bird. Sadly we have to report that two individuals armed with cameras trespassed on the West Bank, presumably to get photos of these iconic birds and promptly scared everything away. Other highlights were a Honey Buzzard that remained for 20 minutes and the large number of Buzzards that could be seen on some days culminating with 12 seen in the air at once.

### Full August Sightings

Blackcap	Great Crested Grebe	Mallard	Shelduck
Black-Headed Gull	Greenshank	Mandarin Duck	Siskin
Buzzard	Grey Heron	Marsh Harrier	Snipe
Canada Goose	Grey Wagtail	Meadow Pipit	Sparrowhawk
Chiffchaff	Greylag Goose	Merlin	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Gull	Herring Gull	Mute Swan	Swift
Common Sandpiper	Hobby	Osprey	Teal
Common Tern	Honey-buzzard	Oystercatcher	Tree Pipit
Coot	House Martin	Peregrine Falcon	Tufted Duck
Dunlin	Kingfisher	Raven	Whinchat
Gadwall	Lapwing	Red Kite	Whitethroat
Garden Warbler	Lesser Whitethroat	Reed Warbler	Willow Tit
Goldfinch	Little Egret	Ringed Plover	Willow Warbler
Goosander	Little Grebe	Sand Martin	Yellow Wagtail
Goshawk	Little Ringed Plover	Sedge Warbler	Yellow-Legged Gull

### September Highlights

The last Osprey was seen on the 3rd and an adult Honey Buzzard flew over on the 5th. It is a real privilege to see a Honey Buzzard and this is only the fourth record at Ogston three of which have been seen this year. Hobbies were again seen fairly regularly this month including juveniles on occasion. The first Black Tern of the year visited on the 21st and the first Brambling of the season was reported on the feeders on the last day of the month. This month signals the beginning of the autumn migration; Whooper Swans were seen on a number of occasions along with the first Pink-footed Geese.

### **Full September Sightings**

Arctic Tern	Goshawk	Merlin	Stonechat
Black Tern	Great Crested Grebe	Mute Swan	Swallow
Blackcap	Greylag Goose	Osprey	Swift
Black-headed Gull	Hobby	Peregrine Falcon	Teal
Brambling	Honey-buzzard	Pied Wagtail	Tree Sparrow
Buzzard	House Martin	Pink-footed Goose	Tufted Duck
Canada Goose	Kingfisher	Pintail	Wheatear
Chaffinch	Lapwing	Raven	Whooper Swan
Chiffchaff	Lesser Redpoll	Sand Martin	Wigeon
Common Gull	Linnet	Shoveler	Willow Warbler
Curlew	Little Egret	Siskin	Yellow Wagtail
Dipper	Little Grebe	Skylark	
Gadwall	Mandarin Duck	Snipe	
Goldfinch	Meadow Pipit	Sparrowhawk	

### **October Highlights**

Migration over the area began to hot up this month with sightings of Whooper Swans and Pink-footed Geese. On the 5th we had five Redwings over, the first of the season but this was followed by a count of 1258 on the 8th. Numbers of lapwing also began to build.

### **Full October Sightings**

Blackcap	Gadwall	Mallard	Song Thrush
Black-headed Gull	Goldfinch	Mandarin Duck	Sparrowhawk
Brambling	Great Crested Grebe	Meadow Pipit	Starling
Buzzard	Grey Partridge	Mute Swan	Stock Dove
Canada Goose	Grey Wagtail	Pied Wagtail	Swallow
Chaffinch	Herring Gull	Pink-footed Goose	Teal
Chiffchaff	Lapwing	Pochard	Tufted Duck
Common Gull	Lesser Redpoll	Raven	Whooper Swan
Coot	Linnet	Redwing	Wigeon
Cormorant	Little Egret	Rock Pipit	Willow Tit
Crossbill	Little Grebe	Siskin	Wood Pigeon
Fieldfare	Mallard	Skylark	Yellow-legged Gull
		Snipe	

### **November Highlights**

Regular sightings of Goldeneye this month and in greater numbers than in recent years was pleasing to see. More frequent sightings of Brambling and a gradual build up of the Gull Roost signals the approach of winter. Of particular note is the regular sighting of a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter Glaucous Gull.

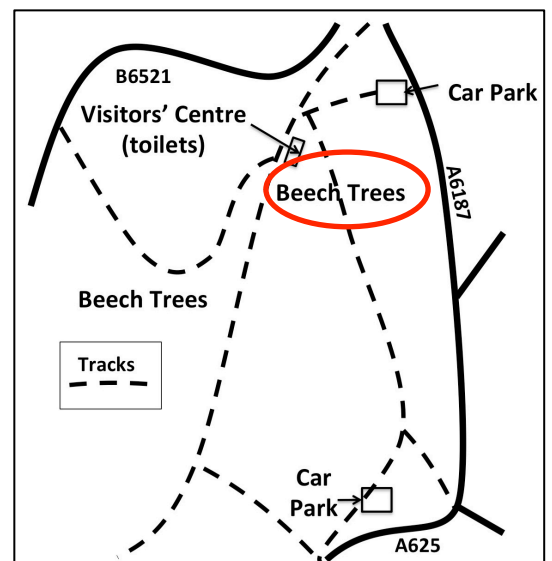
## Full November Sightings

Blackcap	Gadwall	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Redwing
Brambling	Glaucous Gull	Lesser Redpoll	Rock Pipit
Bullfinch	Goldeneye	Linnet	Shoveler
Canada Goose	Goldfinch	Little Egret	Siskin
Caspian Gull	Goosander	Little Grebe	Skylark
Chaffinch	Great Black-backed Gull	Mallard	Snipe
Chiffchaff	Great Crested Grebe	Meadow Pipit	Starling
Common Gull	Great White Egret	Mute Swan	Teal
Coot	Grey Wagtail	Pink-footed Goose	Tufted Duck
Cormorant	Greylag Goose	Pintail	Whooper Swan
Crossbill	Herring Gull	Pochard	Wigeon
Dunlin	Kingfisher	Raven	Willow Tit
Fieldfare	Lapwing	Redshank	Wood Pigeon
			Yellow-legged Gull

Our membership gives us 100's of pairs of eyes to spot birds. To help our Club Recorder, Tim Sexey, please enter your sightings in the daily logbook or alternatively, contact Tim via email at [bluetail.58@live.co.uk](mailto:bluetail.58@live.co.uk) Thanks to Tim for all his hard work inputting his and others observations onto the OBC website

## Birding Nearby

Just a brief suggestion if you fancy seeing Bramblings. Recently there has been a flock of several hundred on the National Trust's Longshaw Estate. While there's no guarantee that they will be still there, there are plenty of beech trees and it seems to have been a good seed year so it's a fair bet. Their chattering is a delight to hear and when disturbed, waves of birds take off in spectacular fashion. The most likely spot is the beech wood behind the visitors' centre (circled on the map). From behind the centre, follow the 'Wooden Pole Car Park' finger post.



## Christmas Present Material - The Birds of Derbyshire

We are able to offer a special price on the 'Birds of Derbyshire' book. The normal price is £40 but a few are still available at £25.

If you're interested, contact John Parlby on 01773 861262 or email him at [mjohnparlby1@gmail.com](mailto:mjohnparlby1@gmail.com)

### The Birds of Derbyshire

The book you must have if you are interested in Derbyshire's birds

Special price for last remaining copies

Ring the stock holder nearest you for details (even cheaper if you collect!).....

**Last few copies !!!**

**Stock holders**

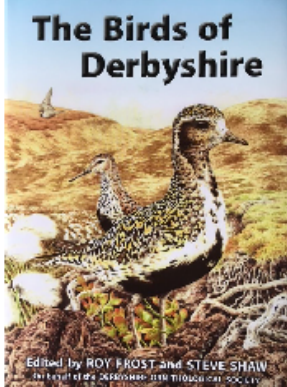
**North West:**  
Peter Carefoot 01457 238664

**North:**  
Bryan Barnacle 01433 630726

**North East:**  
John Parlby 01773 861262

**Central inc. Derby:**  
Paul Bingham 01332 513487

**South:**  
"Syd" Garton 01283 544870



**The Birds of Derbyshire**

Edited by ROY PROST and STEVE SHAW  
The Derbyshire Naturalists' Club

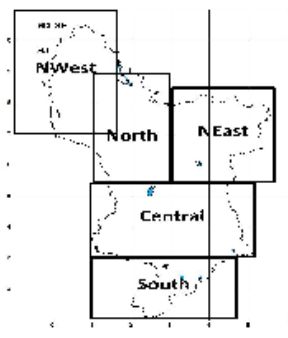
Published in 2013

376 pages

History  
Habitats  
Species status  
Breeding Bird Survey  
Colour photos  
Charts  
Line drawings  
... and more

Excellent reviews

30.5cm x 22cm x 3.5cm



Map showing the distribution of the book's content across Derbyshire, divided into five regions: NW, N, NE, Central, and S.

And finally, help us to keep our site safe for members and attractive for the birds –

- *Lock all gates, doors and windows securely if you're the last one out!*
- *Keep scopes and camera lenses fully inside the hide windows.*
- *Report any damage to a Committee Member.*
- *Always carry your membership card with you.*
- *Don't pass on lock codes to others.*
- *Don't forget to scramble the padlock codes including those at Jim Mart.*

Your next Newsletter will be published April 2019, so until then enjoy your birding!!



# OGSTON BIRD CLUB - Membership / Renewal Application 2019

Applicant (S) Information (Please Print)					
Applicant First Name		Applicant Surname			
Email				Telephone	
For a <b>Joint Membership</b> (2 Members at the same address) Enter the second member's details below					
2nd Applicant First Name		2nd Applicant Surname			
Email				Telephone	
Postal Address :					
Postcode:					
Membership Type (please tick) NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWING MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/>		Single £12 -		Joint £15 -	
Add Postage for paper copies of Newsletters (ONLY if you have NO email address)		£2.50	Voluntary Donation	£	Total -
<p>I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED WILL BE HELD ON THE OGSTON BIRD CLUB DATABASE <u>FOR CLUB USE ONLY</u> AND WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER CLUB, ORGANISATION OR BUSINESS. IF THE COMMITTEE FEEL THAT MEMBERS MAY FIND AN ITEM, RELATED TO BIRDWATCHING BUT NOT SPECIFICALLY TO CLUB MATTERS, OF INTEREST, IT CAN BE SHARED <u>BY EMAIL ONLY</u>.</p> <p>IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE SUCH ARTICLES, PLEASE INDICATE BY TICKING THIS BOX <input type="checkbox"/></p>					
Signature of applicant (s):					Date:

**Please Note : Membership renewals are due on JANUARY 1st annually.**

## \*\*\*\* Gift Aid \*\*\*\*

Gift Aid raises more funds for Ogston Bird Club without costing you a penny more. If you're a UK taxpayer we can reclaim the tax on your membership subscriptions and donations.

**For each £1 you give, we can claim 25p from HM Revenue and Customs.** All we need is for you to tick this box ☐

I would like Ogston Bird Club to reclaim the tax on this and any other eligible donations or membership subscriptions that I may make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I understand that I need to pay enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year to cover the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations otherwise it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**GIFT AID DECLARATION --- PLEASE SIGN AND DATE:**

*Signature:-* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:-* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return above form with cheque/PO made payable to Ogston Bird Club:**

Ogston Bird Club c/o Mr Steve Slack, Membership Secretary  
26 Bramble Way, Kilburn, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 0LH  
E-mail - obcmemb15@hotmail.com