



Registered Charity No. 1070744

FRIENDS OF RODLEY NATURE RESERVE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2018



Photo credit BBC Countryfile Magazine and photographer Stephen Garnett

A group of volunteers with the award plaque

It came as a complete surprise when we were told that we had been nominated for the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2018 in the Nature Reserve of the Year category and had reached the final shortlist of five reserves. The public were then asked to vote for their favourite and when voting ended on 5th March we were even more surprised when we were told that we had won as we were up against some high profile nature reserves.

Winners in the various categories were announced in the May edition of the magazine which went on sale on Friday 13th April. In it we were described as a "David among Goliaths, Rodley Nature Reserve in Leeds took first place in this category thanks to the evocative story of its incredible transformation from a water treatment works into a haven for wetland wildlife". Looking back, it is certainly hard to believe that less than twenty years ago there were no wetlands, no hides, no paths, no dragonfly ponds, no crop field, no wildflower meadows and no hedgerows here. We had a very small band of volunteers in those early days and visitors were few. What has been achieved in the last 18 years is certainly little short of amazing.

Magazine editor and judge Fergus Collins says "This is a massive triumph for the volunteers who maintain the site. This previously little-known wetland jewel brings the wild to a huge number of urban and suburban people as well as providing a key stop-over for migrant birds and a crucial breeding habitat for wildfowl, amphibians and invertebrates."

A big thank you to regular visitor Beckie Bower who nominated us for this award and to the thousands of people who took the trouble to vote for us. A big thank you too to all our volunteers who work so hard to make the reserve the wonderful place it is for both people and wildlife.

Grand Easter Egg Hunt **Easter Sunday—1st April**

Organising outdoor events is always a worry, particularly so when it is early in the year. This year it was even more worrying following the almost Arctic conditions in March and the threat of more snow over the Easter period. Fortunately, the event enjoyed a largely dry albeit cold day sandwiched between a very wet day on Saturday and a morning of heavy snow on the Monday. And for a change the gazebos were not buffeted by strong winds.



The event was certainly well advertised but the number of visitors who turned up surprised us all and it was certainly the best attended event that has ever been run here. Nearly seven hundred children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt itself which took them round Tim's Field, along the Willow Path and back down the road to claim their prize. It is estimated that around 2,500 visitors came to the event in total. Volunteers controlling traffic were hard pressed to find parking places for the large numbers of cars arriving over a short period and we are grateful to Rodley Cricket Club for allowing us to use their facilities for overflow parking.

Rarely have we seen such long queues for the Visitor Centre. Clearly, news about the delicious home baking produced by our volunteers had got around.

Organised by Aireborough Rotary Club, this now annual event raises valuable funds for local charities and introduces many visitors to the Reserve. We are grateful to Aireborough Rotary Club's volunteers and, of course, to our own volunteers who worked so hard on the day to make such a successful event.



Official Opening of the New Manager's Garden Hide

We were pleased to be able to welcome to the Reserve board members from Green Leeds Ltd for the official opening of the new viewing hide at the Manager's Garden feeding station on 19th March. Chair, Councillor David Blackburn cut the green ribbon and congratulated the volunteers for all their hard work in making the Reserve such a special place.

Since 2008 Green Leeds has provided valuable support in terms of funding for viewing hides, accessible footpaths and maintenance equipment. On a sad note, the grant for the Manager's Garden Hide will be the last awarded by Green Leeds which



is now closing its operation and Rodley Nature Reserve Trust would like to thank the board members for all their support over the years which will have played no small part in Rodley being awarded the title of Nature Reserve of the Year 2018 in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards.

The new hide has a special viewing point for wheelchair users as do most of our hides now. However, the path to the Manager's Garden has been very difficult to negotiate over recent weeks thanks to a lot of rain and snow and the construction of a hard path from the road to the hide is now regarded as essential before next winter. This will be of benefit to all our visitors

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

With effect from 25 May 2018 the new GDPR regulations come into force. Our policy for your data can be summarised as follows.

In order to fulfil its legitimate interest Rodley Nature Reserve retains Friends of Rodley Nature Reserve members' contact details solely to allow us to administer your membership, provide you with RNR news and information and submit gift aid declarations. We will not use or provide your information to market any product or service (apart from RNR events) nor will we sell/give your contact details to any third party unless legally mandated to do so. Member's details can be updated, corrected or removed at any time by contacting the Membership Secretary. A full version of the policy is available on our website.

In the membership form you agree that we can use your personal data to supply the Newsletter either by email, post or you opt to collect from the Visitor Centre. For those who provide an email address we have taken the view that this allows us to supply you, by email, information that would appear in a Newsletter eg Campaign News and Event notification if it is more appropriate than waiting for the next Newsletter. For those who opt for an emailed newsletter we will continue to take that view. If you would prefer not to receive additional emails please advise the Membership Secretary (FriendsofRNR@sky.com) and he will update his records accordingly.

For those who choose to have their newsletter posted, or to collect from the Visitor Centre and supply an email address we can no longer use your email address after 25 May 2018 without your expressed consent. As a consequence our database will be flagged as no emails until you advise us of your consent. The Membership Secretary will write to each member in this situation to advise how to give consent and once that has been restored you will receive emails as defined.

If you have any questions please contact the Membership Secretary.

RESERVE EVENTS FOR 2018

May 12th 9am	Bird Walk	Join us for a walk round the reserve to look for summer visitors	Meet at the main car park
May 26 th 10am	Moth Trap Opening	Learn about the moths which are flying at this time of year	Join Dave Nesham near the visitor centre
June 23rd 9.30am -4 pm	3rd Leeds Birdfair	A full day of activities including various exhibitors, equipment demonstrations, hands-on activities and BBQ	Visitor centre area and round the reserve
June 30 th 10am	Moth Trap Opening	Join Dave to ID more moths	Near visitor centre
July 21st 9pm	Bat Night	Walk round the reserve to look for bats and listen to them on our bat detectors	Meet at visitor centre – booking essential
July 28 th 10am	Moth Trap Opening	Final Saturday moth ID with Dave - more moths on Wednesdays in August	Near visitor centre
July 28 th 8.45pm	Bat Night	As above	As above
August 1st 10am	Moth Trap Opening	Join us to see some of the many interesting moths around in August	Meet near the visitor centre
August 4 th 9am	Small Mammal Survey	Learn how to ID voles, mice and shrews with John and Maxine	Meet at visitor centre
August 8 th & 15 th 10am	Moth Trap Opening	Another opportunity to join Dave Nesham opening moth traps	Meet at the visitor centre
August 18 th 11am	Summer Fair	Our annual summer fair with many stalls, BBQ, tombola, bouncy castle and mini steam engine rides	Near the visitor centre
August 22 nd & 29 th 10am	Moth Trap Opening	Final Moth Trap opening	Meet at the visitor centre
October 27 th 11am and 2pm	Pie & Peas and Fungus Foray	Our final event of 2018 Pie & Peas from 11am until sold out followed by a Fungus Foray starting from the visitor centre at 2pm	Visitor centre for Pie and Peas – booking essential to avoid disappointment

Reserve Opening Times
Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 9am - 5pm (4pm Nov– end Feb)
Visitor Centre Opening Times - 10am - 4pm

For Rodley Nature Reserve Trust Matters:

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Website: www.rodleynaturereserve.org