



Registered Charity No. 1070744

FRIENDS OF RODLEY NATURE RESERVE NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019



Open Country's Good Access Award



We were delighted to receive a telephone call at the end of November from Harrogate-based charity Open Country telling us that we had won this year's Good Access Award which recognises the best countryside "access for all" project in Yorkshire. Open Country's aim is to help people with disabilities to access the countryside. David Shaftoe, Chief Officer of Open Country said "We see a lot of positive developments in accessibility across the county, but Rodley Nature Reserve stood out for going the extra mile to ensure its open space can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter what their ability" The award was presented to Trust Secretary Peter Murphy at a ceremony in the Visitor Centre on Saturday 1st December and now has pride of place in our display cabinet.

It has always been our aim to make all areas of the Reserve available to wheelchair users and our less able visitors. All of our birdwatching hides now have special facilities for wheelchairs and major improvements have been made to some of our paths over recent years. This year, of course, our hard-working volunteers constructed a new hard path to the Manager's Garden Hide and this is already proving its worth in the very wet ground conditions of December. Work is currently under way on a new path from the Reedbed Hide to the Dragonfly Ponds. We are grateful to the Co-op Local Community Fund for their support for the paths project which has helped to make this work possible.

After the presentation a group from Open Country with one wheelchair user spent the afternoon visiting the hides. The weather was far from pleasant but they were treated to excellent views of Kingfisher from the Lagoon Hide and enjoyed hot drinks and cakes on their return to the Visitor Centre.

Co-op Local Community Fund

Co-op members have helped raise an amazing £6,750 for our hard surface paths project in 2018. A big thank you goes to them and the Co-op Local Community Fund. The new paths our volunteers are able to construct thanks to this funding are making a real difference for wheelchair users and our other disabled visitors.

2018



To celebrate how much members have raised for us and other local causes in 2018 we were invited to a Payout Celebration Day at the Co-op's Farsley store on Saturday 24th November. This gave us the opportunity to take a display board showing what valuable work is being done on the Reserve with the money raised and to thank Co-op members for supporting our cause.

Friends' Membership Secretary

Howard Smith has been the Friends' Membership Secretary since January 2015 but he will be relinquishing this role from 24th January this year when the Friends' Annual General Meeting takes place. A big thank you goes to Howard for the excellent job he has done during his time in office. We are pleased to welcome Christine Cooper who will take on this role from 24th January. Her contact details can be found on the back page of this Newsletter.



Support Rodley Nature Reserve Trust by shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk

When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate to Rodley Nature Reserve Trust.

Support us every time you shop.

Nest Box Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who has supported the sponsorship scheme during 2018. A total of 33 boxes have been sponsored up to the end of the year and we hope that the scheme will continue to receive support during 2019. Forms are available in the visitor centre with a choice of boxes for Owls, Kestrel, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Robin. Sponsor a box for a member of the family or a friend and receive a Gift Certificate.

Toilet Development

We are delighted to announce that work on our new toilets is now almost complete and they should be available for use by the time you read this. We now have double the number of toilets we had previously which was regarded as essential due to the increasing numbers of visitors coming to the Reserve. A big thank you to all our visitors for their patience throughout the work and for putting up with the portaloos during this period.



Rodley Robins Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party was held on Saturday 8th December. Whilst the party food was being put out, we played a game of Bird Bingo in the Visitor Centre. We want to apologise to any visitors who were there, for the noise we made. We're sorry but we were very excited and we all wanted to win! We also couldn't wait for Santa's visit! For our Secret Santa presents this year we all painted a pebble with something Christmassy on. We have some super artists!



Sadly, Santa's sleigh broke down, but that didn't stop him visiting us. He just improvised and arrived in a wheelbarrow, pushed by his trusty Elf, Miles. After

we had eaten, we were treated to a trumpet carol solo from Alfred, one of our Robins, and we all joined in the singing.



A lovely end to a fabulous party!



Denese Swann, Robins Leader

The Rodley Barge



Rodley volunteer Geoff photographed following presentation of the cheque

A big thank you to the Rodley Barge public house for supporting the Reserve's fundraising in 2018 by hosting a collection box - and thank you to all the customers who donated.

A sum of £632.50 was raised to enable us to make even more improvements on the Reserve for our visitors.

The following events are the first of many new initiatives that Rodley are introducing for 2019 to encourage children and their parents down to the Reserve. We are hoping that more local children will be introduced to the habitat and wildlife to be seen on Rodley Nature Reserve



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 26th & 27th January 2019



10.00am - 11.00am and 2.00pm - 3.00pm on both days

It's fun to find out which birds and other wildlife visit our gardens and it helps the RSPB to build a snapshot of wildlife numbers across the UK. The results will help them to spot problems, but more importantly, it's the first step in putting things right.

We will be doing our Big Garden Birdwatch in The Manager's Garden and The Bee Garden. Come along and join us for one hour between 10.00am and 11.00am or 2.00pm and 3.00pm on either Saturday or Sunday.

It's easy to take part. Just watch the birds for one hour and record the highest number that you see. Count sheets and pens will be available in The Visitors Centre. Just bring yourselves and binoculars if you have any.

Afterwards, come back to the Visitors Centre for a warming cuppa and a bun, whilst the kids make squidgy bird cakes to take home!



National Nest Box Week 14th - 21st February 2019



Build a Nest Box

Saturday 16th February - 10.00am - 12.00pm

St Valentine's Day marks the start of National Nest Box Week. It's the time we remind ourselves to give courting birds a warm, secure home for raising the next generation.

Come and join us on Saturday morning 16th February, and we'll show you how to build your own nest box to take home. It's easy and great fun too! Just think - the box you make could soon be filled with baby birds!

We have a limited number of bird box kits available, so if you are interested in joining us, book at the visitor centre Wed/Sat/Sun in person or on 0113 2040441 or email info@rodleynaturereserve.org

All children must be accompanied by an adult.
Adults - please bring a small hammer.



Supervised Pond Dipping Saturday 23rd March 2019 11.30am - 1.30pm



Pond Dipping starts today at Rodley. Come down and join us to see what has survived the Winter!

We will be there to make sure you keep safe and help you identify the creatures you catch.

It will be lots of fun, but it may be cold so make sure you are appropriately dressed.

"REMEMBER THAT ALL THE THINGS YOU FIND IN THE POND ARE LIVING CREATURES"



Rodley Nature Reserve Dates for your Diary 2019	
The Easter Egg Hunt	Easter Sunday 21st April 11.00am - 3.00pm
4th Leeds Birdfair	Saturday 22nd June 9.30am - 4.00pm
Summer Fair	Saturday August 17th starts at 11.00am

Reserve Opening Times

Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 9am - 5pm (4pm Nov- end Feb)

Visitor Centre Opening Times - 10am - 4pm

Telephone No on open days - 0113 2040441

For Rodley Nature Reserve Trust Matters:

Trust Secretary:

Peter Murphy Tel: 0113 2930188

Email: pandbmurphy@ntlworld.com

Visitor Centre Volunteers Coordinator:

Claire Ducker Tel: 0113 2909365

Email: Claire.ducker@hotmail.co.uk

Friends Membership (from 24th January 2019)

Christine Cooper Email: rnwetlands@hotmail.com

78 Acres Hall Crescent, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 9DZ

Education Bookings:

Sue Henderson Tel: 0113 2298919

Newsletter:

Peter Murphy

Chair of Friends of RNR

Barbara Murphy Tel: 0113 2930188

Email: pandbmurphy@ntlworld.com



RODLEY NATURE RESERVE



@ RodleyNR

Website: www.rodleynaturereserve.org