



THE OSPREY OBSERVER

Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife



BLUE 497



BLUE 498



BLUE 499

In this issue

Appeal update

Wildlife watch

Becci and Nia's sponsored walk

Meet the trustees

Flying high!

Our three chicks Blue 497, 498 and 499 successfully took to the skies in July bringing the total number of Mrs G's offspring to fledge to 44. See their story so far this season on page two.

News of two more Glaslyn offspring

We are delighted to report that two more Glaslyn offspring have been seen at locations in the UK this season.

Blue Z8, one of three male 2017 chicks was re-sighted for the first time on Islay in the Hebrides. Blue 8C, female from 2014, also made two appearances—firstly at Poole Harbour and then at Loch of the Lowes! Turn to page six for pictures and more details.

Iolo Williams opens the new hide

It was a memorable day at Pont Croesor on 2 July when naturalist and television wildlife presenter Iolo Williams officially opened the new hide. He is pictured here inside the hide with Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife Chairman Gwyn Harrison. See pages three and four for more pictures and a report of the day's events.



The season so far

2022 Timeline:

March 26 - Mrs G returns

April 10 - Aran returns

April 19 - First egg

April 22 - Second egg

April 25 - Third egg

May 26 - First chick (01:25)

May 27 - Second chick (20:42)

May 30 - Third chick (12:51)

June 29 - Chicks Ringed: 497, 498, 499

July 17 - 497 fledges

July 19 - 498 fledges

July 21 - 499 fledges



THREE EGGS



FIRST CHICK OF 2022



MRS G AND CHICKS



2022 CHICKS GROWING



Cywion Glaslyn Chicks 2022						
Cyw Chick	Rhif Modrwy Darvic Darvic Ring Number	Rhif Modrwy BTO BTO Ring Number	Oed yn Modrwy Age at Ringing	Rhyw Gender	Pwysau Weight	Hyd Adenydd Wing Length
1	497	1065663	34 diwrnod / days	Benyw / Female	1560g	305mm
2	498	1065664	33 diwrnod / days	Gwryw / Male	1450g	289mm
3	499	1065665	30 diwrnod / days	Gwryw / Male	1320g	242mm

PICTURE CREDIT: CHRIS PARRY



Iolo Williams opens the new hide

It was a memorable day at Pont Croesor on 2 July when naturalist and television wildlife presenter Iolo Williams officially opened the new hide.

There was a warm welcome for Iolo who said it was always a pleasure to visit Glaslyn Ospreys which he said was a terrific success story.

“Since the days when the first ospreys were seen in the Glaslyn Valley who would have dreamt that today we would be celebrating not just one breeding pair, but three,” he said.

Thanking all the volunteers for their dedication he also paid a warm tribute to the late John Parry, a former volunteer and loyal supporter who sadly passed away during the pandemic. The new Hide has been named after JP, as he was affectionately known. “JP’s spirit lives on here,” said Iolo.

JP’s son Lliffon Parry Williams and daughter Einir Roberts were among the many guests and visitors at the event.

In thanking all those who had contributed to the success of the project, Chairman Gwyn Harrison said:

“I am delighted to welcome everyone to Pont Croesor today for this celebration which is the culmination of a number of years of hard work. I want to thank everyone who has been involved and especially the many supporters whose generosity has made it possible. I would also like to thank MK Enterprises of Llanrwst who built this terrific hide”

From the hide, visitors have unrivalled views of the Glaslyn Valley and with telescopes, can see the Glaslyn osprey nest, home to Mrs G, Wales’ oldest breeding female osprey and her partner Aran.

The hide is also an excellent vantage point for the nearby Pont Croesor nest where another pair of ospreys are successfully breeding for their second year.

A public appeal was launched last August to help replace an ageing hide and improve viewing facilities for visitors. The appeal reached its £35,000 target within four months and building work was completed in time for the start of the new season in March.

Donations to help build the new hide came from loyal supporters far and wide. Generous donations were also received from local companies Rock Engineering and Alun Griffiths Civil Engineering and from the Gaynor Cemlyn Jones Trust, the Chapman Trust and Cymdeithas Ted Breeze Jones.

Inside the hide, new sponsors Osprey Charging, one of the fastest growing UK networks of rapid Electric Vehicle charging points has funded interpretation boards, new telescopes and tripods.



One of our volunteers Gail Edgley, who supporters will recall raised £6000 towards the hide project when she swam 10k of the Afon Glaslyn last summer, was on the other side of the camera on the day of the official opening. Thank you Gail for your pictures of people enjoying the official opening event.

Thank you for your fantastic support

We're delighted to announce that our annual appeal, which we launched this year on St David's Day, has topped our £15,000 target.

This is fantastic news for the project and it's all down to the generous support of our loyal supporters far and wide. As a charity we are totally dependent on you to continue our work and your support this season has, once again, been phenomenal.

We wanted to raise funds to provide a direct broadband connection to the Visitor Centre and improve the resilience of our live streaming. We currently depend on a number of wireless 'bridges' and links to stream images from the cameras and those of you who follow our live streaming will recall the issues we had at the start of the season. We were able to stabilize the system for the season ahead, but a more reliable solution is needed in the longer term to enable trouble-free transmission of the wonderful images of our osprey family.

We are continuing to investigate the best technological solution to address the issue during the closed season, and will of course keep you informed about any developments.

Meet the trustees



The Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife trustees are a group of volunteers who manage the project and decide its future plans and developments.

They meet formally at least four times a year and also sit on working groups covering finance, technical and site matters, the volunteer and visitor experience, publicity and marketing. There is an annual general meeting in December when reports are presented to Members.

Pictured from left to right, back row, David Archer, Gwenan Williams (Treasurer) Judith Babbage.

Front row, Barbara Milne, Chris Parry, Gwyn Harrison (Chairman), Gill Pritchard, Ian Cooper and Dr Helen Wood.

Another Glaslyn Osprey returns!



Z8 PHOTOGRAPHED BY DAN BROWN

In 2017 three healthy chicks fledged from the Glaslyn nest, all male. We felt hopeful that we would hear more about at least one of the 'Class of '17' one day. We have had quite a long wait, but we have finally received the news we had been hoping for and there is an amazing coincidence.

In April, Dan Brown was leading a wildlife tour at RSPB Loch Gruinart on Islay in the Hebrides when he photographed an osprey with a blue colour ring on the right leg. It turned out that the osprey was none other than the youngest of the 2017 brood, Blue Z8.

Male ospreys are generally highly philopatric and return to breed close to their natal area, so it is incredible that Z8 appears to have made his home so far from Wales. What is even more incredible is that Dan is also originally from North Wales and it isn't the first time he has met Z8 either. Here are Dan's own words about the amazing coincidence. "Whilst back 'home' in 2017 I paid a visit to the Glaslyn Osprey Project where the heads of three chicks including Z8 were just visible above the nest rim! Little did I know we would see each other again five years later and 200km north having both explored many different areas of the world!".

We would like to thank Dan for sharing his photo of Z8 with us and you can read more about the wildlife tours he runs with his wife on their website.

<https://wild-discovery.com>



Z8 is the eleventh Glaslyn born osprey known to have returned to the UK as an adult and yet another that does not appear to have read the rule book regarding philopatry!

LEFT: Z8 ON THE GLASLYN NEST 2017

Blue 8C also seen in Scotland

Although Glaslyn born Blue 8C (2014), has been resighted several times since 2017 in both Senegal and in the south of England at migration times, we have never known where she spends her summers or whether she is breeding.

In May she was seen intruding at the Loch of the Lowes nest in Perthshire, so perhaps she has a nest of her own in the area?



Thank you to Dr Tim Mackrill and Raz at Scottish Wildlife Trust for keeping us informed.

Wildlife watch

While our dedicated volunteers are busy chatting with visitors at Pont Croesor about our ospreys they are also keeping an eye open for other species around the site.

Every day, details of all the different birds and other wildlife spotted are recorded on one of our new display boards in the Hide and in the Visitor Centre. The information is regularly collated and so far, over 4000 records have been logged this season! Amongst the more unusual species seen this year have been the Great White Egret, Green Sandpiper and eleven Whimbrel. A Brown Hare was also spotted.



Volunteer Gill Jones enters a record of a sighting on the board in the Hide.

Becci and Nia's sponsored walk



A challenging sponsored walk by Becci Phasey and Nia Hughes, along some of the peaks which form the scenic backdrop to the Glaslyn Osprey Centre at Pont Croesor, has raised a tremendous £2434.57.

The pair walked 19.4 miles in one day from Llanberis over Yr Wyddfa, Cnicht and Moelwyn Mawr, ending their trek at Tanygrisiau.

Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife Chairman Gwyn Harrison received their fantastic donation at the Visitor Centre last weekend.

Well done Becci and Nia! Heartfelt thanks to them and everyone who supported them.

DoE students

We had two Duke of Edinburgh Award students volunteering at the Visitor Centre in July.

Thank you Alex and Kiran for all your hard work, we hope that you enjoyed your time with us.

