

THE OSPREY OBSERVER

Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife



ELEN AND HER CHICKS

New Glaslyn family

Aran and Elen have raised two healthy male chicks Blue OH1 and OH2. The new pairing on the Glaslyn nest has had a successful first season together and we hope it will be the first of many more to come. We believe Elen is a young osprey breeding for the first time and she has been a first class mum, fiercely protecting her young family and developing a great partnership with the more experienced Aran, whose fishing skills have yet again been second to none.

We wish the family well as they prepare for their long winter migration and look forward to seeing Aran and Elen together again in the Glaslyn Valley next Spring.

THE GLASLYN FAMILY



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Pont Croesor diary dates: Autumn Bird Watch – 21 and 22 October and Winter Bird Watch 25 and 26 November.

Gŵyl y Gweilch

There was a big turnout for our Gŵyl y Gweilch Osprey festival including an appearance at one point by eight ospreys flying above Pont Croesor! Aran also joined in the celebrations on the Sunday afternoon by delivering his first garfish to nest this season which was duly enjoyed by the chicks.



Visitors enjoyed excellent presentations over two days by Peredur Hughes, Gwyn Harrison, Kelvin Jones and Dr Tim Mackrill. Children enjoyed bug hunting and weaving. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and to the Glaslyn volunteers for making it such a success.



From Glaslyn to The Gambia



GILL PRITCHARD AND DR TIM MACKRILL

Osprey conservation in Western Africa is being given a boost thanks to support from Glaslyn Ospreys in memory of iconic Glaslyn female Mrs G.

Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife is celebrating the legacy of the iconic osprey with a £2500 donation to Dr Tim Mackrill's Osprey Leadership Foundation which works to promote wildlife conservation with children and young people in The Gambia, one of the UK ospreys' wintering grounds. The donation was announced at Gŵyl y Gweilch.

The Foundation was formed in 2018 by Dr Mackrill who was the keynote speaker at the two-day festival at Pont Croesor. The event celebrated 20 years of ospreys breeding in the Glaslyn Valley and the tenth anniversary of the Welsh conservation charity's work.

Mrs G was one of the UK's most successful breeding female ospreys but sadly failed to return from migration in March in what would have been her 20th year in the Glaslyn Valley.

She was believed to have been around 23 years old and had been breeding in Wales since 2004. Over the years, a total of 44 chicks successfully migrated from the nest under her care. Several of those have gone on to breed themselves elsewhere in the UK making her a grandmother to at least 130 and a great grandmother several times over. Some of her offspring have been re-sighted in Africa.

Although it is not known where Mrs G spent her winters, the majority of UK ospreys migrate to Western Africa, an incredible and often perilous 3000-mile journey. In the Spring, the birds undertake the 3000-mile return journey to reunite with their partners.



Chair of Glaslyn Ospreys Board of Trustees Gill Pritchard said; “Mrs G was a very special bird who made a significant contribution to the UK’s growing osprey population. We wanted to celebrate her life by helping to make a difference to educational and conservation work in the ospreys’ winter habitat through Tim Mackrill’s innovative project for young people.”

Dr Mackrill said: “Ospreys have a unique ability to link people through their amazing migrations and the Osprey Leadership Foundation works with young people at both ends of the Osprey’s migratory flyway. The generous donation from BGGW will enable young people in areas where Ospreys spend the winter to learn more about nature and the importance of protecting it, while also developing as young leaders who can make positive change in their local communities.”

Remembering Mrs G

We have produced an information board to commemorate the legendary Mrs G which is on show in the Visitor Centre at Pont Croesor. Poster versions are also on sale in the shop and on-line.

Volunteer and Trustee Judith Babbage (pictured) reflects on Mrs G's remarkable 19 years in the Glaslyn Valley.



Exciting news!

We have been informed that Blue W0, hatched on the Glaslyn nest in 2015, was seen at Threave Castle on 13 August. He was also seen at the same location in 2019.



Blue W0 was considered to be a miracle chick. Aran accidentally kicked him, as an egg, out of the nest cup. The egg was left for some hours before Aran spotted it and rolled it back to the safety of the nest cup.

Many thanks to Ken White for the recent photo.

Welcome to Pont Croesor



A group of Glaslyn Ospreys Live Chat followers met up at Pont Croesor in July. The Chatters' Extra Time event was an opportunity to meet up for those who follow the Live stream from the Glaslyn nest. Many had travelled from different parts of the UK. Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield spoke and answered questions about the project, which this year celebrates 20 years of breeding ospreys in the Glaslyn Valley.

We were also pleased to welcome team members from several other UK Osprey projects to Pont Croesor in July.

There was an opportunity, in the beautiful afternoon sunshine, to take a group photograph of our friends from far and near, Llyn Brenig Osprey Project, Friends of the Ospreys, Birds of Poole Harbour, Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Rutland Ospreys.



If you would like to volunteer at the project, find out more on our website:
www.glaslynwildlife.co.uk/volunteering
or contact Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield on
info@glaslynwildlife.co.uk

Meet the Team

Volunteer Mick Alexander is featured in this edition's Meet the Team in which we introduce some of the dedicated people who play such a vital role in the work of Glaslyn Ospreys.

Mick is one of the longest serving volunteers at the project having been involved since 2004. An avid bird watcher he took up a role with the RSPB engaging with visitors in the early days of the project. He later served as a Director of the community interest company which ran the project after the RSPB pulled out and then as a Trustee, serving a total of four years counting both roles.



A former marketing and training consultant from the Home Counties and now living in Beddgelert, he arrived there in 2004, the same year as Mrs. G and 11(98) first nested! So their destinies are intertwined. Mick told us why he is passionate about ospreys and Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

There's a very special atmosphere and team spirit at Glaslyn Ospreys. The volunteers are some of the loveliest people you could wish to meet. They are dedicated to sharing inspiring stories and information about these wonderful birds of prey. I volunteer at the Visitor Centre at Pont Croesor where we welcome thousands of people from far and wide every season. I have also spent many hours volunteering at the wonderful Protection site.

What makes the project so special?

It's an opportunity to be unashamedly passionate about conservation and wildlife, share our love of these awesome and beautiful birds and promote the success of the growing population of ospreys in the Glaslyn Valley.

Would you recommend volunteering at Glaslyn Ospreys?

I couldn't recommend it highly enough for people of all ages. I would love to see more young people from the locality become involved. No-one needs to be a wildlife expert, there is plenty of support and advice from all those involved with the project. It's an opportunity to share with others the enjoyment of watching ospreys, which have made such an encouraging comeback in recent years.

Favourite osprey? Favourite chick?

Favourite osprey has to be Mrs. G. I spent many nights on Protection, just me and Mrs. G, or so it seemed to me. She would doze briefly from time to time, and so would I! A bond was built between us, on my side at least!

Favourite chick is either Black 80 or W0, Wwww Bach as he was known. I fancy I was present at the foot of the nest tree when Black 80 was ringed. If I'm mistaken then it's our miracle chick, W0. When he was still in the egg, he was kicked out accidentally by Aran, when his dad took off rapidly after an intruder. He stayed there, unincubated, overnight. When Aran took over brooding the next day he spotted the errant egg and drew it back to resume its incubation.

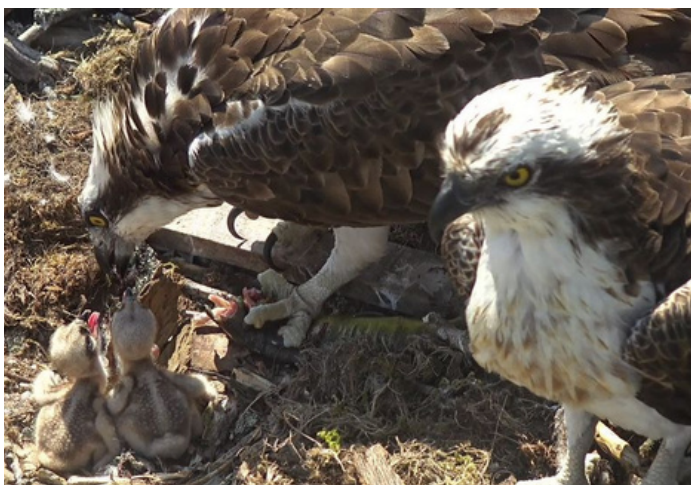
Season's Highlights



FIRST CHICK



SECOND CHICK



**ARAN WATCHES ELEN
FEEDING THE CHICKS**



CHICKS ARE RINGED



OH1 FLEDGES

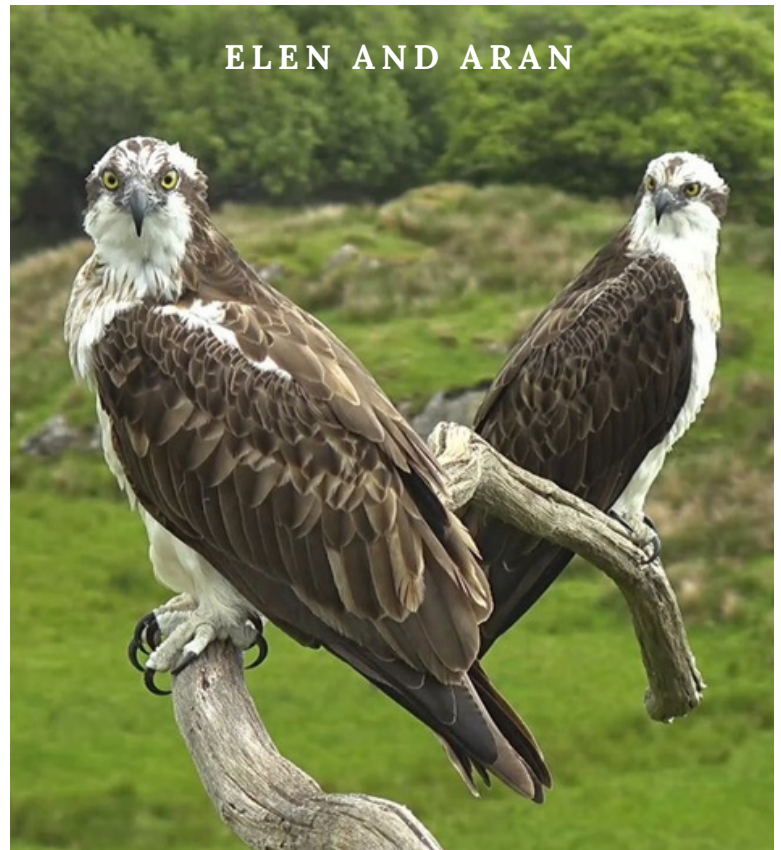


OH2 HELICOPTERING

More of the Season's Highlights



Cywion Glaslyn Chicks 2023						
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	OH1	1065659	34 diwrnod / days	Gwryw / Male	1400g	275mm
2	OH2	1065660	33 diwrnod / days	Gwryw / Male	1510g	266mm



Aran Fishing

Local birdwatcher and photographer Elfyn Lewis managed to snap some amazing photos of Aran as he fished along the Afon Glaslyn. It takes much strength and skill for ospreys to fish successfully - that Aran was able to do so in high winds and rough water is incredible.

Thank you to Elfyn for sharing the photos.



Wildlife Watch



Viewers of the live stream might remember watching the developing relationship between a pair of swans over the winter months. Well, they are now proud parents to two young! The family has regularly been seen on the Glaslyn river from the Visitor Centre in recent weeks.



Many thanks to Julian Thompson and Bruce Hurst for two interesting moth identification sessions over the summer.



We'd like to hear from you!

We hope you enjoy reading the Osprey Observer and we welcome your comments and any suggestions for future articles. Please contact Volunteer and Trustee Barbara Milne on barbara@glaslynwildlife.co.uk