

The Osprey Observer



HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish all our members and supporters a happy and healthy 2022. Here at BGGW we are looking forward to another exciting new season and of course the return of Mrs G and Aran.

NEW HIDE

Thanks to your fantastic support we have reached our £35,000 target towards building our new Hide. We hope it will be completed before the birds return in the Spring.

OSPREYS GALORE!

Over 19 different ospreys, which included Mrs G and Aran were seen on the nest or in the Valley during last season. It's a great conservation success story. See inside for more details.



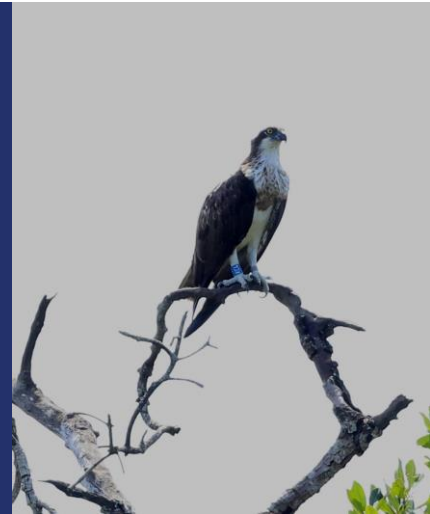
GAIL'S SWIM

One of the major fund-raising events for the new Hide in August 2021 was a 10k swim along the Afon Glaslyn by volunteer Gail Edgley. Her ambitious challenge raised a fantastic £6000 towards the project. Thank you, Gail! Picture copyright: Jan Knurek

KC4 in Senegal

Exciting news in November 2021 from Senegal where female Blue KC4, the youngest of the 2020 Glaslyn chicks was sighted at Kallisaye Reserve. See you later this year in Wales KC4?

Thanks to Vic Paine for the photograph.



LOSS OF A DEAR GLASLYN FRIEND

Our dear friend, John Parry Williams passed away on 31 October 2021. JP was involved with Glaslyn Ospreys right from the time the birds were first discovered nesting in 2004 and gave hundreds of hours volunteering with the RSPB during their stewardship. He was also a friend to other Welsh Osprey projects and volunteered at the Dyfi Osprey Project in the early years too. Although he was no longer an active volunteer, he was a loyal supporter of BGGW. He was always ready to share his knowledge of Ospreys, other birds, wildlife and the local area with new volunteers and visitors. JP was a true gentleman and was kind, generous and had a real sense of humour. He will be greatly missed by us all at BGGW.



New camera shines through

The new 4K camera installed at the nest site at the beginning of 2021 not only captures stunning images of our ospreys but as our Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield demonstrated it also brings us breathtaking views of the moon. It has also enabled us to identify ring numbers of intruding ospreys more easily and of course shows us the Glaslyn Valley and Snowdonia in its true splendour throughout the year.



MRS G'S DYNASTY

Last year five of Mrs G's chicks and three of her grand-chicks were known to be breeding in the UK. Since 2004, 41 of her chicks have successfully fledged and she has 112 grand-chicks and ten great grand-chicks that we know of. Two of her offspring with her first partner Ochre 11(98) are thriving at Kielder Forest. Here is one of them, White YA staring at the camera in a brilliant picture from Joanna Dailey, Forestry England. Two of YA's chicks, Y1(16) and UV(14) are also now breeding at Kielder.



On-line SHOP

We have a variety of bespoke quality items priced £4 and under including Mrs G or Aran coasters, enamel pin badges and BGGW chrome osprey keyrings, all in our new eco-friendly packaging. Go to: <https://www.glaslynwildlife.co.uk/shop>





Aran pictured on the nest perch.

END OF SEASON SIGHTINGS 2021

We last saw Mrs G on Sunday 29th August as darkness fell. She had spent most of the day on the A498 tree and may have roosted there. This has always been a popular feeding tree with the Glaslyn ospreys and it was well used during the last few weeks of this season. Mrs G ate two fish there on that Sunday, as did Aran. There were no further sightings of her, so we assume she began her migration south early the following morning.

Aran did not visit the nest again once Mrs G had left, but we saw him most days eating his fish on the A498 tree and sometimes he would visit the river bend tree, where we had watched him eating small self-caught trout in the early days of his recovery. There were no sightings of him on 9th and 10th September, but he reappeared on the river bend tree on the afternoon of Saturday 11th. We saw him on the A498 tree with a fish the following day, but the remaining sightings of him were all on the river bend tree. At 08.46 on Tuesday 14th September Aran left the river bend tree for the final time in 2021 and headed south.

At the end of an eventful season and his wing injury, he was flying strongly, defending the nest successfully from other ospreys and had no problem fishing or carrying large sticks. We are confident he had made a full recovery.

We sincerely hope that he and Mrs G will soon be gearing up for their long journey home.

OSPREYS GALORE!

There was a record number of ospreys sighted and identified in the Glaslyn Valley last year. Here is a list of the birds, excluding Mrs G and Aran. Many were Welsh born returnees. Let's hope one of our Glaslyn chicks returns home this year.

31st Mar Z2/Aeron (Dyfi 2017) 5th Apr Female, BTO ringed only on right leg

14th Apr Female, blue ring left leg, LM6? 14th Apr Blue 014 (Poole 2018)

14th Apr Unringed male 6th May KS8 (Clywedog 2018)

6th May KS7 (Clywedog 2018) 17th May Male, blue ring left leg, LJ2?

30th May KS6/Dinas (Dyfi 2018) 4th June KA7 (Clywedog 2019)

5th June Blue 019 (Poole 2019) 8th June KC1 (BM 2019)

14th June Blue 494 (Pont Croesor 2021) 20th June Z1/Tegid (Dyfi 2016)

2nd July KA3/Hesgyn (Dyfi 2019) 29th July KA5/Roli (Brenig 2019)

10th Aug Blue 493 (BM 2021)



KS8



KA5



Z1



Z2



KA3

GOOD LUCK BECCI!

Rebecca Phasey has been a valuable member of the Glaslyn Ospreys seasonal staff since the 2018, when she first joined BGGW as our Education Officer. However, Becci will not be re-joining us for the 2022 season, as she has been offered full-time employment within her local community. It is an exciting opportunity for her, and we all wish her every success as she begins her new career.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Becci for her contribution to BGGW over the past four seasons, in particular for her wonderful video editing, graphic skills and also her great presence representing BGGW on radio and TV programmes. She also compiled previous editions of this publication. Not forgetting her wonderful contribution towards our 2021 Live Streaming Appeal with her Three Peaks Challenge. Good luck for the future Becci!

