

# OSPREY OBSERVER

JUNE 2026

NEWS FROM GLASLYN OSPREYS



ELEN AND KC6/TEIFI



GLASLYN NEST CHICKS



PONT CROESOR NEST CHICKS

## New beginnings

A new era is underway on the Glaslyn nest with Elen and her new partner KC6/Teifi's three chicks hatching during the last week in May.

Inside, read about the season so far and the welcome news about Aran who is breeding with a new female in the locality. The Friends of the Ospreys Pont Croesor nest pair Z2/Aeron and Blue 014 safely returned from their migration and also have three chicks. Meanwhile another pair KS6/Dinas and Blue 019 have relocated in the Glaslyn Valley to a new nest erected by Friends of the Ospreys.

This means that visitors to Pont Croesor can now enjoy unprecedented views of three breeding pairs making it one of the key Osprey viewing locations in the UK.

## The boys are back!

Six of Aran's male offspring since 2022 have now been seen back in Wales. Two of his last brood in 2022 with Mrs G, Blue 498 and Blue 499 have intruded in the Glaslyn Valley this season. Blue 497 is also breeding again this year in Monmouthshire. Meanwhile two of Aran and Elen's first brood together in 2023 have also been resighted this spring. Blue 0H2 was sighted in the Hafren Forest and his older sibling Blue 0H1 seen in Somerset and then at Dyfi Osprey Project.

Finally, Blue 6M9, the youngest of Aran and Elen's brood of three in 2024 was also resighted at Dyfi in May. See more pictures inside.



498 INTRUDING AT THE PONT CROESOR NEST

## Inside

The season so far  
Glaslyn Connections – Birds of Poole Harbour  
A decade of the Osprey Observer

# The boys are back!

From the front page



6M9 AT DYFI

Thanks to Montgomery Wildlife Trust for the Dyfi pictures



0H1 AT DYFI



0H2 AT HAFREN FOREST  
Picture from John Williams.



499

BLUE 497, BREEDING AGAIN THIS YEAR IN MONMOUTHSHIRE  
Thank you to Steve Roberts for sharing this picture.

# Soaring success for Glaslyn Valley osprey teams

Visitors to Pont Croesor can now enjoy unprecedented views of three breeding Osprey pairs.

Over two decades of successful conservation efforts in the Glaslyn Valley by Glaslyn Ospreys and the Friends of the Ospreys group has made the centre one of the key osprey viewing locations in the UK.

Following an uncertain start to the season on the famous Glaslyn nest, where ospreys have bred for over two decades, a new pairing, unringed Elen and KC6/Teifi (Dyfi 2020) have three chicks.

On the Friends of the Ospreys' Pont Croesor nest, Blue 014 (Poole Harbour Translocation 2018) and her partner Z2/Aeron (Dyfi 2017), now in their sixth year together, also have three chicks. Activities on both nests can be viewed in stunning detail at the Centre and more widely on YouTube thanks to live high-definition cameras.

A third pair of ospreys has also taken up residence on the new Friends of the Ospreys' Ty'n Llwyn nest, which can be viewed from the John Parry Hide at Pont Croesor. The pair Blue KS6 (Dyfi 2018) and Blue 019 (Poole Harbour translocation 2019), have relocated from a Friends of the Ospreys' nest in the Glaslyn Valley where they have been breeding since 2022.

RIGHT: BLUE KS6 + 019



Meanwhile the team at Glaslyn Ospreys were overjoyed to learn that Aran, ousted from his nest of ten years by KC6/Teifi, is breeding on another local Friends of the Ospreys' private nest with Blue 7C1 (Cumbria 2022). It is not known how many eggs they have but 7C1 is a daughter of Blue 9C (Glaslyn 2014) and therefore a granddaughter of the original Glaslyn pairing of Mrs G and 11(98).

Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield said: "After seeing Aran being ousted from the Glaslyn nest last year this is particularly wonderful news and the fact that the female also has a direct Glaslyn connection is very special indeed."

LEFT: ARAN + 7C1

In addition to the news about the Glaslyn Valley osprey families there have been several intruding ospreys seen so far this season.

"At least 13 individuals have been identified on top of the six known breeding birds in the Valley," said Heather. "Two of the most notable birds to be seen are Blue 498 and Blue 499, who are brothers from Mrs G and Aran's final brood together. We have also spotted Blue 7C4 a son of Blue KS1 (Glaslyn 2018), who nests in Yorkshire. Birds hatched at Glaslyn have gone on to influence the growth of the UK osprey population.

"Years of dedicated hard work by many volunteers has now made Glaslyn one of the key osprey viewing destinations in the UK with so much for visitors to see and enjoy at the Centre."

# The Season so far... by Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield

Things got off to a good start in 2026 when Elen returned to the Glaslyn nest on March 20, her earliest return to date. Weather conditions at the end of March were unfavourable for migratory birds such as Ospreys, so we were prepared that there might be some late arrivals this year. Elen soon began to make appearances on the Friends of the Ospreys Pont Croesor nest, as well as the Glaslyn nest. On March 25 Blue 685 (Tweed Valley 2021), landed on the Pont Croesor nest.

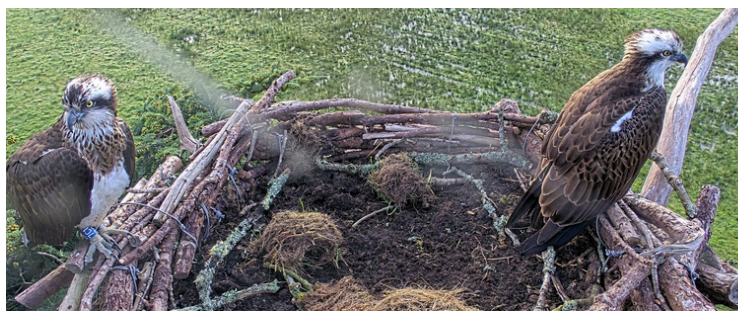
He is a male Osprey that we have seen previously and breeds at a private nest site in North Wales. He made appearances most days until March 28, so hopefully has now been reunited with his mate.

Sightings of Elen became less frequent after March 29 and we did not record her again until she intruded at the Pont Croesor nest on April 2. There were two other Ospreys above the nest while she was present, one of which was Z2/Aeron.



BLUE 685

After the trials of last season, we were delighted when Aran landed on the Glaslyn nest on April 4. He looked fit, healthy and strong and more importantly was back before KC6/Teifi. Our hopes of him being reunited with Elen were short lived, as when she did put in a brief reappearance on the Glaslyn nest that day she was in dispute with Blue 7C1 (Cumbria 2022), who is a granddaughter of Mrs G. The three of them can be seen flying over the Glaslyn nest in our Aran Returns video.



BLUE 7C1 + ARAN

Aran remained around the Glaslyn nest for much of April 5. He was joined for a short while by Blue 019 (Poole Harbour Translocation 2019), who breeds at a private nest in the Glaslyn valley. The following morning 7C1 joined Aran, both bringing in nest material, Aran mainly sticks and 7C1 turf and grasses. She left while Aran was absent from the nest.

During his absence a new Osprey arrived on the Glaslyn nest, KC6/Teifi was back! Although we were pleased to see him, we knew that the two males were likely to recommence the battle for the territory. When Aran returned he was divebombed by KC6/Teifi and Aran took chase. It was KC6/Teifi that returned to the nest that evening though. Kath Keir contacted us the following day to let us know that Aran was back at the location where he spent much of last summer. He was eating a fish, so it was a relief to know that neither male was injured. Although he was only on the Glaslyn nest for a short time, it was wonderful to witness a majestic Aran clutching a fish on the perch once again.

Initially KC6/Teifi displayed some odd behaviour. He defended the nest from all Ospreys, including females. He was not certain that he had won the territory, so viewed every Osprey as a potential challenger. He even chased off a Red Kite!

On April 10 volunteers at Protection reported three Ospreys above the Glaslyn nest, one of which was KC6/Teifi. 432/Eshells (Kielder 2021) was another and she seemed determined to stay on the nest. 7C1 was the third and there were a few talons out moments! A fourth Osprey carrying a fish was also noted and it looked to be an unringed male, that we suspect was Aran.



KC6/TEIFI



432/ESHELLS

432/Eshells remained with KC6/Teifi through the weekend and just as things were beginning to look settled the situation at the Glaslyn nest changed again. On April 13 Aran made two appearances over the Glaslyn nest, close enough to be able to recognise him. Mid-afternoon KC6/Teifi delivered a Brown Trout to 432/Eshells, but she appeared to be nervous of something high above the valley prior to his appearance. Elen took that moment to make her first appearance at the Glaslyn nest in just over a week and following an aerial dispute between her and 432/Eshells it was Elen that landed back on the nest.

Elen laid her first egg of 2026 at 02:32 Sunday morning 19 April.

Elen and KC6/Teifi had only been reunited for 6 days on Sunday. Generally, the earliest that females will lay eggs is 8 to 10 days after being reunited with their mates, more typically 10 to 12 days. Although it was very likely that this egg had been fertilised by KC6/Teifi, there was also a possibility that he could consider this egg not to be his.

On Tuesday evening April 21, Elen laid her second egg at 19:24. She laid a third egg on Friday 24 April at 12:26



ELEN

## Friends of the Ospreys Pont Croesor nest

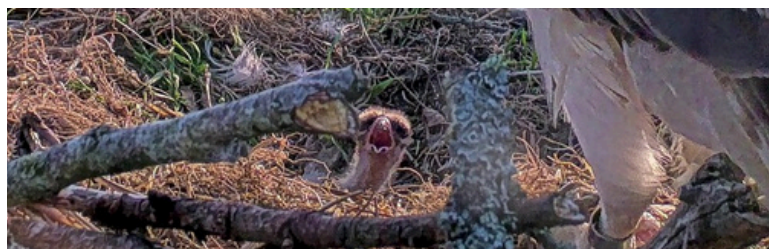


The Friends of the Ospreys Pont Croesor nest pair were reunited with Z2/Aeron returning on 1 April and Blue 014 a day later on 2 April.

Blue 014 laid the first egg of the season on the Pont Croesor Friends of the Ospreys nest at 18:29 on Sunday 18 April, with her mate Z2/Aeron by her side.

Although we could not see the eggs clearly in the nest, from her behaviour we were quite sure that Blue 014 had laid her second egg at 14:40 the afternoon of Tuesday 21 April.

Blue 014 laid a third egg at 11:55 am on Friday 24 April.



PONT CROESOR NEST CHICK 1



Visitors to Glaslyn Ospreys can see a stunning new addition to the side of the John Parry Hide.

The beautifully crafted life-sized silhouette of an Osprey in flight carrying a fish has been commissioned and donated by a kind supporter who wishes to remain anonymous.

The metal artwork was hand drawn and manufactured from a photo of an osprey by Ravens' Way Metalworks, designer-makers of unique, sustainable metalwork based near Caernarfon. The company has generously donated 50 per cent of the cost of the order to support Glaslyn Ospreys.

Jo and Nick of Ravens' Way visited Pont Croesor recently to see the metalwork in place. They are pictured here with Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield. To find out more about the company visit [www.ravensway.uk](http://www.ravensway.uk)



Over the past five years, we have been following the progress of Machynlleth based artist Karen Davies, as she created this beautiful felted Osprey. We were absolutely thrilled when Karen very kindly offered to donate the artwork to us.

The Osprey is now on display in our Visitor Centre. The detailing in the artwork is incredible. Thank you so much Karen for donating this stunning artwork which is greatly appreciated by us and the visitors that are admiring it.

# Glaslyn Connections

## Poole female Ospreys in Wales by Alison Copland

In 2018 I was lucky enough to be accepted as a volunteer on the Poole Harbour Osprey Translocation Project, a collaboration between Birds of Poole Harbour, The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Windows and other local partners. The aim of the project was to help restore a South Coast breeding population of Osprey for the first time in over 200 years, and in doing so help fragmented populations across Western Europe to link up and expand.

Following the successful release of eight Osprey chicks into Poole Harbour in 2017, the second phase of the translocation began in July 2018. The team, led by Dr Tim Mackrill, Brittany Maxted and Paul Morton, received 14 new chicks from Scotland, which were collected under licence by the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and translocated to Poole on 11 July. Their blue Darvic ring numbers were 001 to 014, fitted on their right legs as they were going to fledge in England rather than Scotland (where the Darvic rings are placed on the left leg)..



THE FIVE POOLE HARBOUR 'HACKING' PENS IN 2018

Tempting as it was to prolong the encounter, I had to make myself quickly swap the food plates and close the hatch. As the chicks grew larger, the pieces of fish we gave them also increased in size, until they were able to take a half or whole fish and feed themselves by holding down the food with their talons and tearing the flesh with their beaks, just as an adult would.

Through CCTV monitored in a small caravan, the team was able to judge when the young Ospreys were approaching the correct time for release. This involved recording when they were using the perches, 'helicoptering', and making short flights inside the pens. They would also spend a lot of time at the front of the pens looking out over the nearby marsh and wider harbour beyond.

Despite a difficult period of extremely hot weather combined with other factors that caused problems for some of the younger chicks, Blue 014 proved to be a strong, healthy bird. She was released from her pen on 31 July and successfully fledged. During the following few weeks, she was often viewed in flight from RSPB Arne, to the delight of everyone who saw her. She was last recorded in the area on 31 August, when she decided it was time to set off south on her first migration. At that time, we had no idea if we would ever see her again.

Blue 014 was collected from a nest near Kingussie in Scotland on 10 July 2018 and was the largest and oldest chick that year. She had one sibling (Blue JU8), another large female, which was left in the Scottish nest. The chicks were placed in five specially built 'hacking' pens at a private site in Poole Harbour. Blue 014 was kept in Pen 1 with Blue 013, also a female.

The chicks were fed fish on paper plates through small hatches at the back of the pens, designed to keep human contact to the absolute minimum. One day, however, when I opened the hatch of Pen 1, she was right there a few feet away staring at me with those piercing amber eyes of a young Osprey! An amazing experience.



CCTV IMAGE OF THE TWO CHICKS IN PEN 1 -  
BLUE 013 AND 014



DR TIM MACKRILL MONITORING  
THE CCTV IN THE CARAVAN

So it was truly a wonderful surprise when on 20 May 2020 she landed on the nest at the Dyfi Osprey Project in mid-Wales! Their webcam pictures were stunning. So much so that I was inspired to do a watercolour painting of her at that time. She was only the second of our translocated chicks to have returned to the UK – the first was a male, Blue LS7, from 2017, who returned to Poole Harbour in 2019 and paired up with Rutland female Blue CJ7 (2015) but sadly failed to return in 2020. Blue 014 was then seen elsewhere in 2020 – Dyfi again (9 June), Anglesey (10 June) and Llyn Clywedog (23 June) – so she obviously liked Wales!

In 2021, she returned to Wales and paired up with Blue Z2/Aeron (2017) from the Dyfi Osprey Project on the Friends of the Ospreys Pont Croesor nest, and they successfully raised one chick. The pair have continued to breed on the PC nest each year since then, providing excellent views for visitors to the Glaslyn Osprey Project from their viewing hide. This year it is now also possible to watch them on a beautiful, high-quality livestream, due to a collaboration between Friends of the Ospreys and Glaslyn Osprey Project.

Thanks to good friends and fellow Poole volunteers John and Paula Thorpe, who invited me to join them on their annual tours of the Welsh Osprey projects, I have been able to visit Glaslyn in person for the last three years to see Blue 014 in her element on her nest. It is always a fabulous experience, not only seeing this very special Osprey, but also for the extremely friendly welcome provided by Heather Corfield and all the rest of the Glaslyn team. As if that wasn't enough, Darren Moore and the Friends of the Ospreys have very kindly allowed me to attend the ringing of Blue 014's chicks at the PC nest on more than one occasion. This is truly an awesome experience and I will always be grateful for the chance.



WATERCOLOUR  
PAINTING OF BLUE 014  
FROM A DYFI OSPREY  
PROJECT SCREENSHOT



WATERCOLOUR PAINTING  
OF BLUE 019 AT GUNJUR  
QUARRY FROM A PHOTO  
BY JOANNA DAILEY

Blue 014 is one of three translocated Poole females that are now breeding successfully in Wales. The other two are Blue 019 (2019) and Blue 372 (2021) at Llyn Brenig.

Blue 019 was collected from a nest near Forres in Scotland on 12 July 2019 and brought down to Poole with 10 other chicks, one of which – Blue 022 – became the breeding male on the first active nest in the south of England for around 200 years, together with a Rutland female CJ7 (2015). The chicks were cared for in the same way as in previous years, and eventually released. Blue 019 then delighted everyone by appearing regularly at Gunjur Quarry in The Gambia during the following winter, seen and photographed by both Joanna Dailey and the late Chris Wood. Chris asked me to do a painting of 019 from one of Joanna's photos, which I was very happy to do.

Blue 019 visited the Glaslyn webcam nest on 5 June 2021 and was seen in April 2022 at Llyn Brenig. She then partnered with KS6/Dinas (Dyfi 2018) in 2022 and bred at a private nest site not far from the Glaslyn Valley for the last four years. The pair moved in 2026 to a new nest platform erected by Friends of the Ospreys that is also viewable from the Glaslyn viewing hide.

Dispersal of Poole translocated females has helped the Welsh population to grow, thus fulfilling one of the original aims of the Poole project – to link up with other areas and projects to accelerate the more widespread return of breeding Ospreys to the south coast of England and well beyond.



Our replica Osprey nest has had a complete makeover this winter, due to the nest starting to collapse as the wooden base was rotting after being in place for 10 years. Our volunteers removed the sticks and replaced the base for the nest to sit on with a brand new one at the end of last year.

Some people might remember Duncan Halpin, who ran the Visitor Centre when it first opened in 2015. Duncan went on to have a very successful career in conservation, working at some of the best wildlife locations in the UK, such as the Farne Islands, Isle of Noss and Blakeney Point. Duncan very kindly offered to rebuild our replica nest as he has had experience with erecting Osprey nesting platforms. He came over with his girlfriend Freya, who met when they both worked on Osprey Protection at Loch of the Lowes in 2016, and in just a few hours they transformed the replica nest. Mrs G's perch looks like it is back in place on the Glaslyn nest now!

## Hobby Watch

Followers will be aware that a pair of Hobbies were thought to have made a failed breeding attempt near the Glaslyn nest with numerous sightings on camera last summer.

Hobbies do not build their own nests, so following advice from raptor expert Jimmi Hill during the winter, we installed two artificial basket nests in oak trees in the vicinity of the Glaslyn nest but at a suitable distance so that neither the Hobbies or Ospreys would disturb each other. We hope this will support any future breeding attempts should these beautiful birds return to the Valley. We have placed Reolink solar powered security cameras to look down on to the baskets which will enable us to monitor any activity. We will keep you informed of any developments.



# A decade of news thanks to volunteer's innovative fund-raising idea

We're celebrating a decade of the Osprey Observer newsletter and in this edition, we chat to former volunteer Kath Keir whose brainchild the publication was back in 2016.

Kath and her partner Dave had been volunteering at the project since 2014, mostly doing overnight shifts at the Protection site. In fact, it was Kath who was on duty on the infamous occasion in 2015 when Aran, in his first year with Mrs G, accidentally kicked one of the eggs out of the nest cup.

"I remember it well," recalled Kath. "Mrs G had been chasing crows while Aran was incubating the eggs. She returned to the nest and as Aran suddenly got up, he caught one of the eggs and it ended up outside the egg cup, exposed to the elements and the crows."

Those watching will remember the following agonising hours when Mrs G seemed oblivious to the errant egg, only for Aran, several hours later to finally notice it was out of place and calmly roll it back into the safety of the egg cup.

"We didn't know if it would hatch," said Kath, "But much to everyone's delight not only did that happen but the chick – Blue WO – went on to be re-sighted at Kielder in 2017 and Threave in 2019 and 2023!"

But more of Kath's ongoing connection to Aran's 12 years in the Glaslyn Valley – and beyond – later.

In 2016 Kath had an idea to introduce the "Adopt an Osprey" scheme whereby supporters can buy packages ranging from £15 for one, £30 for a pair, or £55 for a family. Those adopting ospreys receive a personalized certificate, factsheet, photocard and this quarterly newsletter.

"The scheme proved to be a big success and has raised considerable funds over the years. I was responsible for putting the adoption packs together including writing the newsletter." said Kath.

With the advent of COVID travel restrictions in 2020, which impacted trips to the post office to distribute the packages, Kath reluctantly gave up managing the scheme which was handed over to other staff and volunteers at the project.



KATH WITH ARAN'S NEW NEST IN BACKGROUND

It remains a success to this day with scores of adoptions every year by supporters far and wide. The newsletter distribution has since been broadened to help keep members and volunteers up to date with developments.

Whilst Kath is no longer a volunteer at Protection or the Visitor Centre, she has kindly continued supporting the project with proceeds from talks and book and craft fairs at the popular tea room she runs in the locality.

But back to Aran. Over the years he was regularly seen fishing in an area, off the beaten track, that Kath was familiar with, and which she thought could be a good location for the installation of a man-made Osprey platform. In 2022, she approached the landowner for permission and then sought the help of Darren Moore from Friends of the Ospreys to erect a platform.

Last year, when Aran lost the Glaslyn nest following the battle with KC6/Teifi, a dejected Aran was regularly seen in that vicinity and Kath was able to give welcome updates.

Happily, following his three-day appearance back at the Glaslyn nest in April, before being ousted again this year by KC6/Teifi, Aran has now returned to the area he spent much of last summer and has attracted a new mate.

“Having followed Aran since he arrived in the Glaslyn Valley 12 years ago it is now a privilege to be able to track this latest chapter in his life, and to have played a part in providing him with a new home.” said Kath.

Many thanks to Kath for her brilliant work supporting and protecting the Glaslyn Ospreys.

To adopt an Osprey go to [www.glaslynwildlife.co.uk/adopt-an-osprey](http://www.glaslynwildlife.co.uk/adopt-an-osprey)

## Stop press...

In April it was confirmed that Aran's new partner is Blue 7C1 (Cumbria 2022) who is a daughter of Blue 9C (Glaslyn 2014) and therefore a granddaughter of the original Glaslyn pairing of Mrs G and 11(98). At time of going to press it is not known how many eggs they are sitting on but Aran and Blue 7C1 have a chick! Aran is a father once again.



ARAN ON EGGS WITH 7C1 ON THE PERCH

# Ospreys in The Gambia Education Programme

Supported by Bywyd Gwylt Glaslyn Wildlife

The team of peer-educators from the Gunjur project organised a survey of wintering Ospreys along the Gambia coast between Gunjur and Tanji on 8 February.

Two teams each spent five hours in the field, with the first team (yellow line on map) covering the coast from Tanji south to Sanyang, and the second surveying the stretch of coastline from Gunjur north to Sanyang (red line on map).



MAP SHOWING THE AREA SURVEYED

This was an excellent opportunity for the team to organise the costs and logistics of this kind of event.

A total of 89 Ospreys were recorded by the team, and they are currently writing up the results of the survey. Gunjur quarry and the surrounding area held the largest number of Ospreys with a total of 64 seen. It is thought that the number of birds in this area has increased recently due to human pressure along other sections of the Gambian coastline.

The group have also been busy filming a video about Ospreys in The Gambia which will be shared with the Osprey Leadership Foundation's Osprey Leaders group at Rutland Water. The Osprey Leaders have made their own video which was sent to the team at the Gunjur project in March. The video can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/FZLBi636E90?si=Z8LLCi30XEFWugSC>



THE TEAM PLANNING THE SURVEY

# Chatters' Extra Time



This is your opportunity to meet up with fellow Glaslyn live stream followers and chatters in person at Glaslyn Ospreys!

Shortly before the Visitor Centre is due to close at 16:30 on Monday 6 July, participants will be invited to join us for a short talk with a panad and cake in the John Parry hide. The talk is to be confirmed.

Booking is essential. Reserve your space for free by clicking <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gwylwyr-glaslyn-amser-ychwanegol-glaslyn-watchers-extra-time-tickets-1988613573731>

We look forward to seeing you!



SOME OF OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS ARE PICTURED IN THE JOHN PARRY HIDE WHEN THEY MET UP AT THE START OF THE SEASON.

## We'd like to hear from you

We hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of the Osprey Observer. We welcome your comments and any suggestions for future articles. Please contact Volunteer and Trustee

Barbara Milne at

[barbara@glaslynwildlife.co.uk](mailto:barbara@glaslynwildlife.co.uk)