

THE OSPREY OBSERVER

Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife



ARAN AND MRS G

Reunited

Mrs G safely returned from migration for the 19th year running on 26 March. Just over two weeks later on 10 April, Aran returned to the Glaslyn nest with no sign of the wing injury he sustained last summer. Turn to page two for the full story.

New Partnership

Osprey Charging Network and Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife have announced a new partnership to support osprey conservation at Glaslyn Ospreys.

Turn to page four for the full story.

STOP PRESS

Mrs G and Aran have three eggs! They were laid on the 19, 22 and 25 of April.

Also, 2017 male chick Z8 was seen fishing on Islay in Scotland in April!

Glaslyn Family Tree

The Glaslyn Family Tree is now on permanent display at the Visitor Centre and in the new Hide at Pont Croesor. For those of you who are unable to visit us in person, it is also published on our website and copies are also on sale in the shop.



Changing places before it all settled down

Z2/Aeron (Dyfi, 2017) returned to his nest at Pont Croesor on Thursday 31 March. Mrs G was on the Glaslyn nest 1.5 miles away when he arrived and she possibly spotted him flying in, as at 17.39 she circled above the Glaslyn nest and headed down the valley to join Z2 on the Friends of the Ospreys Pont Croesor nest.



MRS G

A week later they were still together at Pont Croesor. Z2 was providing Mrs G with daily fish and they were mating. It is not unusual to see this courtship behaviour in areas where ospreys breed close to one another, while they are waiting for their own partners to arrive. Basically, they are hedging their bets. If their own mates fail to arrive, they still have a chance of breeding success, which is their main priority. Ospreys have a long breeding season, and they need to get things underway as quickly as possible.



ARAN

Aran returned to the Glaslyn nest on Sunday 11 April, only to discover that there was no Mrs G to welcome him home. Meanwhile, at the Pont Croesor nest Mrs G was still with Z2/Aeron. Fortunately, on Monday 12 April the female that raised one chick successfully with Z2 last season, Blue 014, returned to the Pont Croesor nest.

Mrs G was soon evicted by Blue 014 and by Monday evening Mrs G was back on the Glaslyn nest with Aran and Z2 and 014 were back together on the Pont Croesor nest. The following day both males were hard at work bringing sticks and nesting material to their nests and going fishing to provide for their females.

Happily, the two pairs of breeding ospreys in the Glaslyn Valley were both reunited at their respective nests.

Returned Glaslyn Offspring update

Glaslyn hatched Blue 9C (2014) was photographed at RSPB Leighton Moss on 7 April. Thanks to photographer Geoffrey Pain for allowing us to share the image of 9C taken from the Causeway Hide.



9C's youngest sister from the same brood, Blue 8C was spotted on the Poole Harbour webcam on 29 March. We do not know whether she has a breeding nest, but it is known that 8C winters in Senegal.



White YA (2007) returned to Nest 1A at Kielder on 28 March and he was soon reunited with his unringed female.

Yellow 37 (2005) was a little later than usual this year and was first recorded back at Kielder Nest 2 on 4 April.

Yellow 37 is the longest breeding osprey in Kielder Forest. Thanks to Joanna Dailey, Forestry England, for permission to use pictures of the two Kielder birds.



Black 80 (2006) returned to his nest at Threave Castle, Dumfries & Galloway on 22 March. His partner Blue KC joined him a couple of days later.

Finally, thank you to Valerie Webber for passing on the news that White YC (2008) has returned to his nest at Roudsea Wood, Cumbria and also to Ian Watts for allowing us to share this fabulous image.

New partnership

Osprey Charging Network and Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife have announced a new partnership to support osprey conservation at Glaslyn Ospreys.

Osprey is one of the fastest growing UK networks of rapid Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, with over 300 already live on major routes and in towns and cities.

Ian Johnston, CEO of Osprey, said:

"At Osprey Charging, our purpose is to create a healthier planet for current and future generations. Primarily we do this through our growing public EV charging network, built carefully for the long-term and enabling more zero emission miles to be driven each day.

"The desire to preserve and protect goes beyond transport, however, and one of the reasons we chose Osprey as a name was to symbolise our commitment to a healthy natural environment.

"By partnering with charity Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife, we can materially contribute to osprey conservation and education, as well as the wider environmental stewardship of the centre and ultimately the long-term restoration of these protected birds in the UK."



The Glaslyn Valley near Porthmadog, Gwynedd is home to Wales' oldest breeding female osprey, known as Mrs G. The Glaslyn Ospreys Visitor Centre and Hide gives thousands of visitors every year the opportunity to observe and learn about ospreys.

The partnership will see Osprey Charging provide three new telescopes and tripods for the brand new and improved hide at the Centre, as well as new visitor information boards and a Family Tree of the Glaslyn Osprey Dynasty.

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Gwyn Harrison, Chairman of the charity's Board of Trustees, said : "We are delighted to announce this new partnership with Osprey and are grateful for their generous support in helping us provide new equipment and information material for the Hide.

"From the Hide, visitors can use telescopes to get clear views of the Glaslyn osprey nest, as well as a nearby, newer nest. Live broadcasts from the Glaslyn nest are also streamed directly to both the Visitor Centre and the hide throughout the day. During last season over 19 different ospreys, including Mrs G and her partner Aran were sighted on or around the Glaslyn nest and in the Valley."

More information on Osprey can be found at <https://ospreycharging.co.uk/>

Welcome back!



We're pleased to let you know that our former Education Officer Becci Phasey, who moved on to work in a new role in her local community, has returned to do some part time freelance work for us this season to make sure we see regular on-line video clips of activities in and around the nest.

We're delighted that she is also volunteering with us this season at the Visitor Centre and Hide.

Furthermore, she and her friend Nia are planning another fund-raising hike, in aid of Glaslyn Ospreys taking in the peaks of Yr Wyddfa, Cnicht and the Moelwynion – the beautiful mountains that form the stunning panoramic view seen from the Visitor Centre and Hide at Pont Croesor.

Welcome back and thank you Becci!

First visitors to the new hide



Glaslyn Ospreys Visitor Centre and the new hide opened to the public for the first time this season on 26 March. Amongst the visitors, and the first to visit the new hide, were Chris and Derek Rees from Brecon. To mark the special occasion, Visitor Centre Manager Heather Corfield presented them with a calendar and a Mrs G print.

The hide will be officially opened on 2 July by Iolo Williams.



Built over the winter months following a successful public appeal to raise £35,000 towards its construction, the hide will improve viewing facilities for the thousands of people who visit every year to see ospreys and other wildlife in the Glaslyn Valley.

From the hide, visitors can use telescopes to get clear views of the Glaslyn osprey nest. Live broadcasts from the nest are also streamed directly to both the Visitor Centre and the hide throughout the day.

The hide is also an excellent vantage point for the nearby Pont Croesor (Friends of the Ospreys) nest where another pair of ospreys successfully bred for the first-time last year. The pair, Z2/Aeron (Dyfi 2017) and 014 (Poole Harbour 2018) have also returned.

A different view



Sharp eyed viewers watching the video of Mrs G returning to her nest, might have noticed a different camera view at the beginning of the video.

During the winter months we decided to purchase a new camera for Pont Croesor. After a discussion with Andy, our technical expert from CCW Solutions, we decided to locate the camera on the pole that is next to the Pont Croesor railway station. The view of the valley from Pont Croesor is incredible in glorious 4K and it will give fantastic views of the trains in both directions. We will see the ospreys flying over the valley like never before. The camera has an amazing zoom, and we can see the Pont Croesor nest and the Visitor Centre with it. It even has a windscreen wiper for rainy days!

Once again, heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for your generosity which has enabled us to buy this new camera. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to sharing the 2022 season with you all.

Mrs G's air miles

Although we do not know the exact age of Mrs G, it is likely that she was at least three years old when she first bred with 11(98) back in 2004.



Assuming she migrates to West Africa each year, travelling around 3000 miles each way, she will have travelled approximately 117,000 miles on migration during those years. That is the equivalent of 4.5 times around the world. What an incredible amount of air miles!

Latest news on our St David's Day Appeal

As you are aware, BGGW is the only independent osprey charity in Wales, and we are totally dependent on you, our loyal supporters, to continue our work.

On St David's Day, we launched our annual Appeal. This year, we hope to raise enough funds to replace the present wireless connections and bridges with an FTTP connection directly to the Visitor Centre, which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our livestreaming.

The good news is that, as of today, we have raised over £9,000! We are well over half-way to reaching our target! On behalf of everyone at Glaslyn Ospreys, a heartfelt thank you to all for your generous donations. We cannot improve our live streaming without your help.

Any donation, small or large will be greatly appreciated. You can contribute:

Via our website through the CAF Donate or PayPal button.

By sending a cheque payable to 'Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife' to Glaslyn Ospreys Visitor Centre, Pont Croesor, Prenteg, Porthmadog, Gwynedd, LL49 9SP

By a cash, card, or cheque donation in person at our Visitor Centre

By Bank transfer to BGGW's charity bank account. Please contact us at info@glaslynwildlife.co.uk for details.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can also **Gift Aid** an additional 25% to your donation. You can download the form our website and either return it by email or by sending it to the address above.

Thank you very much for your generosity and support.