

The UK's leading specialist Bird of Prey rehabilitation organisation.



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

An organisation dedicated to ensuring all sick or injured birds of prey are cared for by qualified people and that whenever possible released back into the wild.

NEWSLETTER **Issue 2 2009**



Is this the first recorded image of an alien bird or a new species of bird of prey?

Find out inside!

In this issue:

- ✿ **Chairman's Chat**
- ✿ **New Rehabber System**
- ✿ **Changes to the Annual Survey**
- ✿ **2009 AGM**

And lots more!

National Help & Advice Line: 0870 241 0609

Online www.raptorrescue.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE; THIS IS NOT A 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE, IF YOUR CALL IS NOT ANSWERED AN ANSWER PHONE IS AVAILABLE; PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AND SOMEONE WILL GET BACK TO YOU.

Chairman's Chat



It was another successful show at the Falconry Fair this year, the stand was run by Steve and Carol Davidson for their first time, and everything ran smoothly. I would like to give a big thank you to Ron Morris for inviting Raptor Rescue to attend such a well managed show.

This year, after a long service of 16 years as a Trustee, Keith Woodhead is stepping down in October. He will be still running in the background as a rehabilitator. I would like to thank Keith from all the Trustees for his hard work and wealth of knowledge he has put into the charity.



This October I will be stepping down from the position of Chairman and will pass it on to another Trustee with fresh blood and new ideas. Also Katrina Sullivan is stepping down as a Trustee to pursue a career as a Dog Handler with the RAF. Katrina recently moved to Cornwall and starts her basic training early in the New Year; she has been doing a great job as Membership Coordinator for the past 12 months. All the Trustees would like to wish Katrina every success in her new venture.



In July the Festival of Falconry was a successful show, 52 nations attended and photographs will be shown at the AGM in October, to whet your appetite, please turn to page 10.

I hope to see some of you at the AGM.

Many Thanks

Dean G Hemingway, Chairman



Raptor Rescue Needs You!

How would you like to become a Trustee for Raptor Rescue!

Several vacancies have arisen for Trustees, so if you would like to get involved in the running of the Charity, then now's your chance.

What's expected of a Trustee? You must be a member of Raptor Rescue. You will be expected to attend the four Trustee meetings held each year, usually in January, March, June and September (this sometimes varies) and the AGM in October. The meetings start at 12:00 noon and finish around 16:00 hrs.

As a Trustee you would be expected to take on a small role/job to which you devote as much time as you feel appropriate, also if you can help out at fund raising events that would be an advantage.

While we have a number of Trustee vacancies we also have two roles we would like to fill. One is for a Secretary. This role would suit someone with a little extra time on their hands. The role involves producing the agenda, taking minutes at meetings and the AGM, issuing those minutes and sending out letters of approval for fundraisers at the beginning of each year.

The other role is for a Survey Coordinator. This role will involve maintaining a database of rehabbers, sending out the annual survey forms, compiling the returned data and producing the annual report.

If you would like to discuss either of these roles in further detail, please contact Steve Davidson on 01925 726704.

Changes to the Rehabber Application Process and Annual Survey

Following a lengthy review of the rehabilitator system and annual survey, we are pleased to announce that as of 1st August 2009 we have done away with the old two tier system of 'Rehabilitator and Approved Rehabilitator' to a new 'Accredited Rehabilitator' system. A new application form has been designed to capture a wider range of information and experience from anyone wanting to become an 'accredited rehabilitator'.

If you are already a 'Rehabber or Approved Rehabber' your current status will remain the same unless you wish to have a new 'Accredited Certificate' in which case we would expect you to complete the new application form following the process as described below.

So - how will the new system work?

All Accredited Rehabbers will be expected to be members of the Charity and return a membership form with their rehabber application form. If they do not return the membership form their application will not be processed. Their membership will only be processed if they are accepted as accredited rehabbers. If their application is rejected, their membership will be returned with the letter explaining why they have been rejected.



All new applications will have to be accompanied by the appropriate evidence requested to back up their application. This includes photos of their facilities i.e. aviaries, examination room, equipment. If the back up evidence is not supplied the application will not be processed and returned to the applicant.

All applications will go before the Board of Trustees at one of the quarterly meetings usually held in January, March, June, and September.

If the application is accepted:

- The applicant will receive a welcome letter with copy of accredited certificate (**dated to the end of the current year**)
- A copy of the Code of Practice and Rehabbers Handbook, our Code of Conduct for Rehabbers and Fund Raisers

If the application is rejected:

- We will notify the applicant that they have not been successful and explain why their application has been unsuccessful
- If the application is rejected because the facilities do not meet our requirements, we will explain what needs to be done and if the shortcomings are addressed, they can reapply

Resources

All requests for resources from any rehabilitator must put be to the Board of Trustees in writing (letter or e-mail). These will be reviewed at the next quarterly Trustee meeting.

Accredited rehabilitators can apply for the following:

First aid supplies, Carry boxes, Catch net*, Hospital unit*, Portable hack aviary*, Mileage costs#, Vet bills#



*As there is a high cost to purchasing these items, applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with consideration being given to the number of birds handled each year and with regard to hack aviaries the location (as we may have one in the area already).

#Mileage costs and vet bills can only be claimed for birds that are passed on via our National Helpline Number. All requests for mileage and vet bills will be checked against the report from the National Helpline for eligibility. Unfortunately we do not have the funding to cover all birds handed into rehabilitators from other sources.

Annual review & survey

- In January each year the accredited rehabber will receive the annual survey request along with an annual accredited rehabilitators declaration form
- If the person wishes to continue as an accredited rehabber they must complete the declaration form and return it with their survey
- If they return the survey and declaration, their new accredited certificate will be sent to them.
- If we do not receive their survey and declaration by 31st March of that year, they will be taken off the accredited rehabbers list and will be expected to return any equipment
- If they only return the declaration, they will be contacted for their survey and if it is still not submitted they will be removed from the list

Annual Survey

For a number of years now the annual survey has followed the Raptor Rescue financial year of September to August. We now plan to change this to a calendar year and will link it into the Accredited Rehabber System by making it a requirement that all accredited rehabbers complete the annual survey in order to keep their accreditation.



2008-2009 Survey

Normally we would send out the survey forms in September and ask for them to be returned by end of December. This year, we would like you to keep recording casualties up to the end of December. In January 2010, we will send out the survey form for the period September 2008 to December 2009.

We will then give you until 31st March to return your survey forms along with your Rehabber Declaration (*as detailed above*). Where we used to publish the survey results in the January Newsletter, we will now aim to publish a special survey report once the data has been collated. The survey form has been tweaked a little to make it easier to fill in. Where possible we will send the survey forms by e-mail. You will then have two choices, Form 1 can be printed off, filled in and returned by post or Form 2 can be completed on-line and returned by e-mail. Where we do not have an e-mail address, Form 1 will be sent by post.

Raptor Rescue places a great deal of importance on the survey to give us an accurate picture of our effectiveness, but our annual survey only gives a snap shot of the number of birds being rescued, rehabilitated and released within the UK. In order to get a better picture, Raptor Rescue is going to contact as many wildlife rescue centres etc as it can to see if they are willing to provide information on the number of birds they rescue each year so we can gain a more accurate picture of the number of birds being rescued.

If anyone has any questions about the new 'Accredited Rehabber System or Annual Survey', please do not hesitate to contact Steve Davidson on 01925 726704 or e-mail:

secretary@raptorrescue.org.uk

We hope you will agree that these two new systems are fairer, easier to follow and will help to take Raptor Rescue forward with your help.

Welcome!

The Board of Trustees would like to welcome the following new members to Raptor Rescue:

Avril Broad
Mrs M Buckley
Damian Collins
Keith Corver
Mr Dunning
Helena Jefferson

Mike Leicester
Alexandra Priest
Sean Richie
Chris Smith
Colin Manson
Mr & Mrs Tees

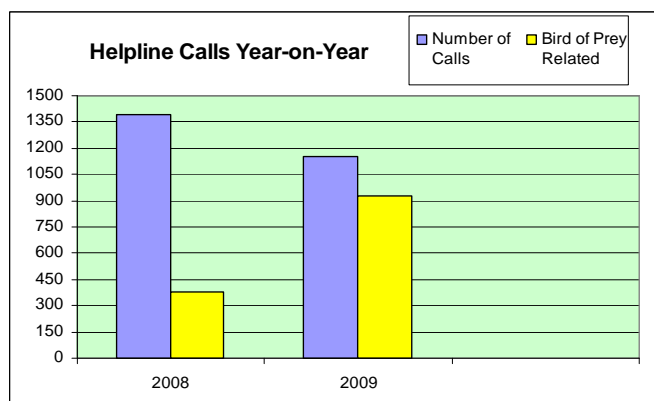
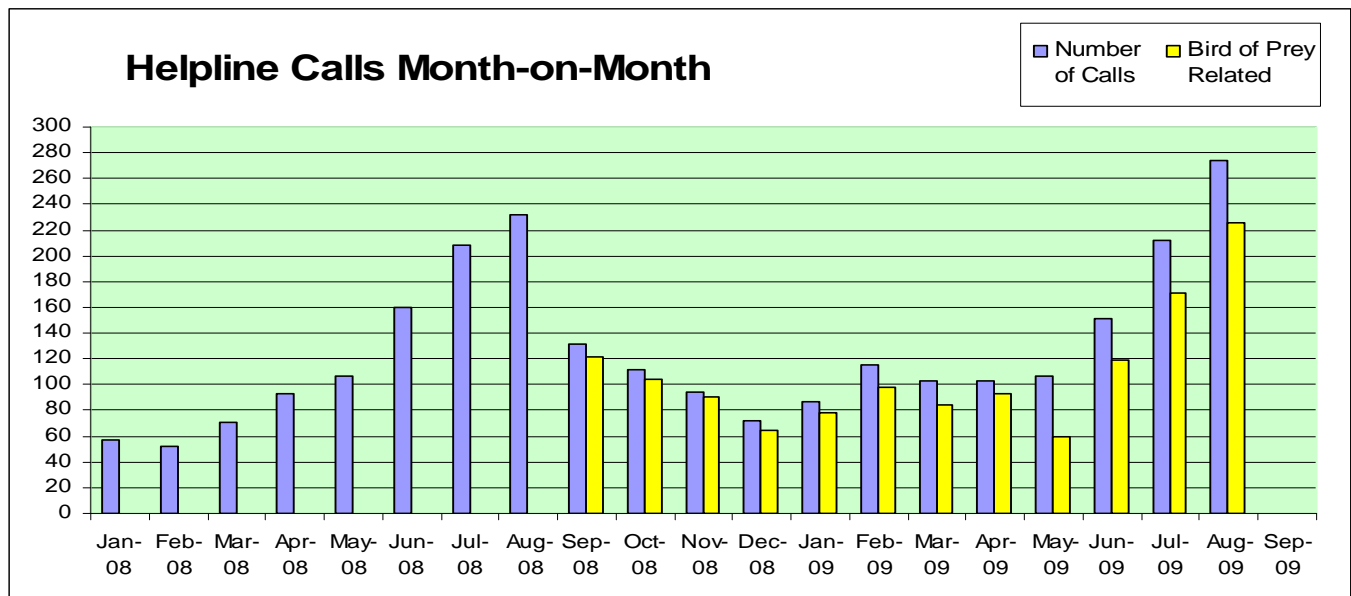
Thank You!

The Board of Trustess would like to thank the following people for their kind donations:

Fiona Corby; P& H Atkinson; Paul Mack
Warhammers Players Society
Falconers Hill Infant School, following a talk by Xiafalcons
Deeside Naturalists, following a display by Steve Dewsnap
Newport Pagnal & Olney Lions, following a display by Doreen & Malcolm Page
Plus two anomymous donations

We would also like to congratulate Beth & Paul Hewitt who recently married and asked for donations to Raptor Rescue instead of a wedding present. Our thanks go to Mr & Mrs Eldred, Mrs Appleton, Mr Padwell, Mr & Mrs Haywood who made donations.

Helpline Update



The National Helpline continues to receive a large number of calls as you can see from the graph.

Our thanks go to Gentleshaw Wildlife Hospital for their continued support in running the Helpline.

N.B. We are currently missing data from January 08 to August 08.

Rehabilitation

Buzzard - A Common Buzzard was brought in back in February by a vet from Pickering. She had cared for the bird for over a week after it was brought into her surgery. The bird was found on the Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire. She had fed it well and tried to release it but it couldn't fly. I left the bird to rest in a small shed and then took it for x ray on 28.2.09. The bird was x rayed and it was discovered to have been shot. The bird must have been shot in flight as the pellets were all on one side of the body and one wing. The wing was compromised in 4 places and it remains to be seen whether the bird will recover enough to lead a wild life. The x-ray will be photographed and sent on to the North Yorkshire Police. The RSPCA and RSPB have been informed. **Jean Thorpe**



Long-eared Owl - This beautiful Long Eared Owl was seen falling from the flyover railings into the River Ouse at York by soldiers' yomping across the bridge!



They went to the rescue and managed to retrieve the bird and it was brought to RydaleRehab. It seems she may have had a whoosh from a lorry/car so no injuries and she was a flyer. She was rested overnight in a raptor rescue intensive care box where she ate 2 dead day olds.

The following morning she was examined and rung by a member of Natural England and BTO ringers. It was clear she had a brood patch making her a breeding bird and from an undiscovered Long Eared Owl breeding area. She is at least 3 years old from the moult pattern on her flight feathers. She had real attitude and was returned to the pasture close to the River Ouse at York. She flew wonderfully well on release and flipped over a hawthorn hedge to woodland beyond. Picture above, is the bird giving me 'the look' before leaving the box for home. **Jean Thorpe**

Barn Owl – A lady in Warrington, Cheshire, got a surprise when a Barn Owl flew in through her open bedroom window one evening and took up residence on her wardrobe. She left it there overnight, calling the RSPCA the next morning. The RSPCA collected the bird and phoned the IBR who in turn contacted me.

The bird was dropped off, checked over, and found to have a sharp keel but other than that, the bird seemed content and alert. There was only one anklet on the bird and from the state of it, it had been there for some time and both legs were bare of feathers. The anklet was cut off and he has been left with no anklets so the feathers can re-grow, which they are doing nicely. The bird was then taken to a spare aviary, given fresh water, which it promptly jumped into and stood drinking for some five minutes. Two chicks were placed in with the bird and it promptly ate just the heads.

At this point, the bird seemed to take a turn for the worse. It was given a dose of lectade and put into a box for the night. Next day the bird was alert again so he was put back into the aviary and given some more food. Every effort has been made to locate his owner but to no avail. We have called him The Stig, as he arrived with us the day The Stig from BBC 2 's Top Gear revealed who he was!! **Carol Davidson**



Is it a bird of prey? Well....Yes! **Is it a new species of bird of prey?** Well....No!
The eyes are the give away!



This Tawny was found covered in diesel oil in a quarry in Spaunton, North Yorkshire. The above picture shows the bird in the bath after being washed with green fairy liquid and rinsed very well.

The bird was then put in warm cupboard to recover. Once it was dried out, fed well for a week it was ready to go home again. This just goes to show how tough Tawny's are. Always good to know what you do works!

Jean Thorpe



Drying out



Being Released

Unfortunately, rehabbing doesn't always have a happy ending.



A male Hobby was found downed in a garden at Hemingbrough nr Selby East Yorkshire. After x rays and examination the bird was euthanased. It had a fractured leg on the joint, a fractured radius on one wing and a fractured metacarpus on the other wing.

Most obvious cause of the injuries looked to be over head wire damage. The bird weighed 164g and was examined by Craig Ralston, the Head

Warden of Lower Derwent Valley Nature Reserve who confirmed the bird as an adult male. **Jean Thorpe**

This juvenile male Hen Harrier was found on Llandegla Moors, North Wales with a badly broken left wing but no other injuries. The bird was crop tubed with Lectade and put in a hospital unit and then 2 hours later and given another dose. As it was looking a bit brighter it was left a turkey poult and was later observed standing up ripping into it, so I was hoping for a positive outcome.

After speaking with Chairman Dean, the bird was taken to RSPCA Wildlife Hospital at Stapeley, Nantwich. Following an examination, it was pointed out to me how bad the break was and that secondary infection had taken hold so it would have to be euthanised.

Steve Dewsnap



The Board of Trustees would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to Barbara Flood and her husband Melvin for all their hard work and loyalty as rehabbers for Raptor Rescue. Barbara and Melvin have just stepped down after many years as rehabbers and we would like to wish them all the very best for the future. They will be greatly missed.

Note from the editor.

I would like to make a one or two page feature in each newsletter relating to rehabilitating.

Do you have any rehabbing stories, tips or information you would like to share with other rehabbers and our members? If so, please send them to Steve Davidson (*see back page for contact details*).

All submissions welcome.

My special thanks to Jean Thorpe, RydaleRehab for providing a regular supply of rehab stories.

News, Bits & Bobs

Wildlife Crime

The RSPB has reported they received 1,206 reports of crimes against birds of prey for 2008, including 210 reports of shooting and destruction. This figure is slightly down from the all-time high of 1,228 reports in 2007 and remains the second highest ever recorded by the charity, which believe many more go undetected and unreported.

Ian West, Head of Investigations at the RSPB, blamed the high number of deaths on the failure of the police to take wildlife crime seriously enough. He believes that crimes against birds of prey should be recorded and included in national statistics. The Government lists the killing of birds of prey as a wildlife crime priority and yet these crimes are not recorded by the Home Office.

This provides little incentive for police to tackle crimes seen as less important. If someone steals a packet of sweets, it is recorded in the Home Office figures. If someone shoots a golden eagle, it is not recorded.

Many more birds of prey will probably be lost before the authorities start taking these crimes seriously? The law will continue to be flouted and our natural heritage ransacked for want of modest resources and a shared determination to tackle the problem.

Rutland ospreys

After spending the winter in West Africa, March heralded the return of Ospreys to the Anglian Water reservoir at Rutland.

With Spain and southern Europe enjoying some calm and settled weather in the spring the birds' flight north from Africa was much easier than normal.

The two birds returned to nests on private land but the Rutland Water team was hoping that birds known as 08 and 5N will return to Lyndon Nature Reserve where they have bred for the last two years.



This year has seen four chicks fledged from two nest sites, bringing the total number of chicks fledged to 26 since 2001.

Equipment Review – The Pineo Pendleton Glove



One of the treats of attending the Falconry Fair with Raptor Rescue is being able to take the opportunity to visit other exhibitions and stalls to catch up on old friends, to stock up on equipment and also to check out what is new.

The things that caught my eye this year included the goat skin gloves being sold by Doug and Trish Pineo from Washington, USA. I have a collection of gloves, mostly of the suede finish and find it almost impossible to keep the thumb and forefinger area clean. The Pineo Pendleton glove finished in goat skin looked just right for owls and kestrels, the price was extremely keen but sadly they had sold out of my size.

I was tempted to go for the larger size but Doug suggested I leave him a tracing of my hand and he would custom make a glove for me and give it to me at the Falconry Festival. Glove has now arrived (mailed to me as I missed the Festival) and I am delighted with it. So anyone looking for an excellent, easy to clean glove, and excellent service try www.pineofalconry.com and mention Raptor Rescue. I find the glove fine for larger hawks and owls as well as falcons but have not put it to the test with a European Eagle Owl just yet!

I also visited Falcon Vitamins and have several samples of their products for personal evaluation with my birds. My birds have yet all to complete the moult and it will be interesting to compare condition at the end between those receiving Falcon M and those on another supplement. So far I have been impressed with the Leucaspray foot care that forms a thin layer on the feet and prevents germs penetrating the skin and pathogens contaminating the skin.

The birds' feet seem to be much cleaner and appear more resistant to picking up contaminants. I have not had need to use the Leucagel which is a formulated dermatological gel recommended for treating the dreaded bumblefoot in birds and other skin lesions – its use is not confined to raptors and it can be used for skin problems for birds, dogs, and other mammals – so the first of my animals with foot problems will be the test case! Falcon Vitamins have indicated that they will supply sample treatment for bumblefoot upon request – please contact them at www.falconvitamins.co.uk and mention Raptor Rescue.



Last year my very first bird, Scully the one eyed buzzard died of old age and although I have some great photographs of her, I really fancied a picture of her for my office wall. She taught me more about Birds of Prey than any book or course and I miss her dearly. I talked to a number of artists displaying at the Fair and finally settled on a couple to commission a head study and a full study based on photographs I supplied.

The head study is still in a work in process but I have now received a splendid fine pencil drawing from Colin Kimberley an artist from the Shrewsbury area, which really captures the essence of Scully in the snow of North Wales. Colin makes no prints from his drawings, what you get is a unique and original "one-off".

He was, it seemed to me, somewhat reluctant to finally give me the picture, and I think he wanted to keep it for display purposes. So if you are in the market for a one of a kind picture, please think of Colin – he can be contacted on 01743 461014 and again mention Raptor Rescue. You can also catch his work at the Weston Park Show later this month.

Malcolm Robins



2nd International Festival of Falconry 2009

Chairman Dean and his wife Jane at the opening parade of countries. There were 52 countries taking part at this year's festival.



Jane and Raptor Rescue members Val, Jason and William Turner helping out at the Raptor Rescue stand.

One of the Turkmeni falconers in their National costumer.



Annual and General Meeting - Sunday 25th October 2008

**St Joseph's Community Centre, Lichfield Street, Rugeley,
Staffordshire, WS15 2EH**

Itinerary

12:00 noon – Doors Open – Time to meet old friends and make new ones.

13:00pm – Buffet Lunch*

14:00pm – Meeting Commences

It is anticipated that the business part of the meeting will take approximately one hour with tea and coffee to follow.

15:30pm – Festival of Falconry, talk and slides by Dean Hemingway - **Quiz**, a bit of fun testing your general and wildlife knowledge.

17:00 - Depart

*A cold buffet lunch will be served at a cost of £5.00 per person to those who order and pay in advance using the form on the bottom of the enclosed Trustee Nomination Form.

We regret that anyone who does not order and pay in advance cannot be served any food on the day.

How to get there:

The motorways and major routes to Rugeley are:

M1, M5, M6 and A38

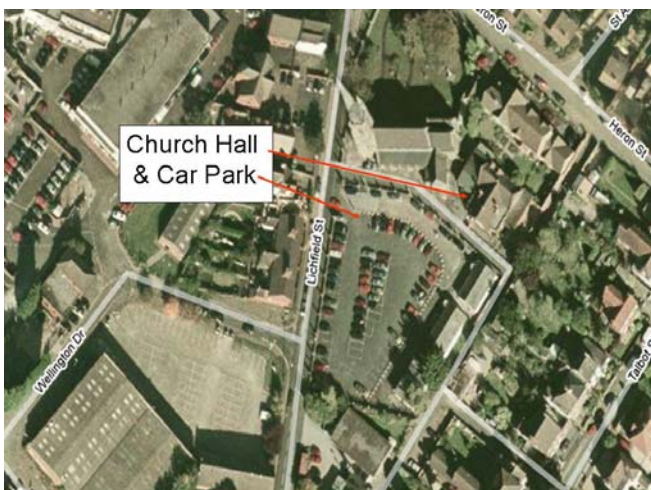
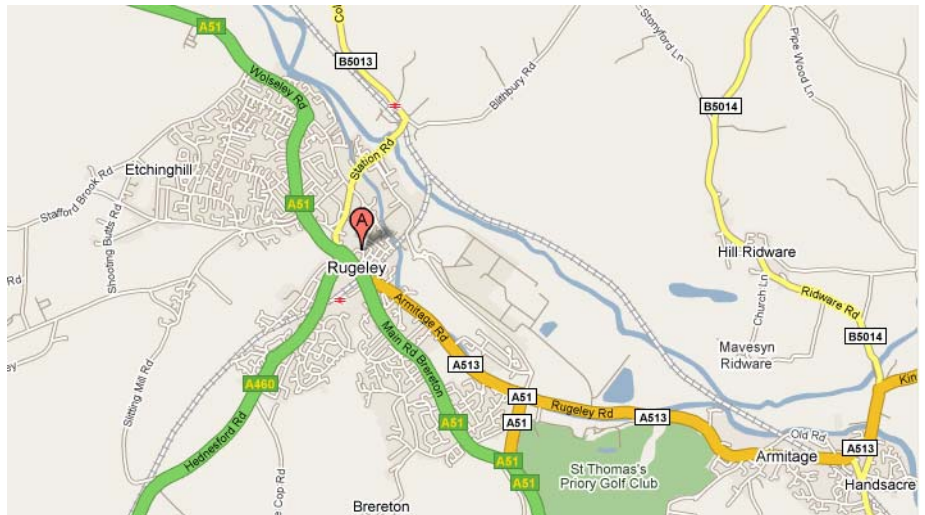
There are four roads converging on Rugeley, these are: **A513, A51, A460 and B5013**

Approaching from the North (A51)

Arrive in Rugeley at the main roundabout with the Travel Lodge and petrol station on the left, go straight ahead on the A51. At next set of traffic lights turn left into Lichfield Street. St Joseph's Church is approx 100 yards on the right.

Approaching from the South (A51)

Arrive in Rugeley at the railway arches and traffic lights, go straight ahead on the A51. Go through the next set of traffic lights, at the roundabout go back on yourself the opposite way on the A51 and at the next lights turn left into Lichfield Street.



Park in the free car park next to the church, the community centre is next to the church

(Trustee Nomination Form and Buffet Request Enclosed)

National Help & Advice Line

0870 241 0609

The aim of the telephone helpline is to provide assistance to anyone who encounters an injured bird of prey. Once the relevant details have been provided, callers can be given basic instructions on how to care for the casualties temporarily, whilst efforts are made to contact local rehabilitators or experienced individuals who can collect the bird and transport it safely to specialised care facilities. When this is not possible, the Charity is often able to provide contacts for a veterinary surgeon or other local help.

PLEASE NOTE: The National Help & Advice Line is NOT a 24-hour emergency service. However, an answer phone is available outside of normal operating hours.

Benefits of Membership

Membership of Raptor Rescue is open to anyone with an interest in birds of prey and who wish to support the Charity.

Annual membership fees are divided into three categories:

Junior Members (Under 16) £7.50

Household Membership (One address) £15.00

Wildlife Centre Membership (Raising own funds) £25.00

Two Newsletters and usually two Updates are produced each year

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Barn Owl – Steve Davidson

Hen Harrier – Steve Dewsnap

Festival of Falconry – Dean Hemingway

Trustees – Steve Davidson

Glove & Buzzard – Malcolm Robbins

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this publication, no responsibility for loss occasioned to any person as a result of any statement contained in it can be accepted by the author or publisher. Comments made by the author(s) do not constitute advice. The guidelines we issue are advisory only and have no force in law.

Registered Charity Number 283733

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