

The UK's leading specialist Bird of Prey & Owl rehabilitation organisation



**RAPTOR  
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

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

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 2012



## In this issue:

- ✿ Chairman's Chat
- ✿ 2012 AGM
- ✿ Rehabilitation
- ✿ Wirral Barn Owl Trust
- ✿ Ring 100<sup>th</sup> Bird
- ✿ And lots more!

EXOTICDIRECT

Sponsors the Raptor Rescue  
National Helpline

National Help & Advice Line: **0870 241 0609**

Online: [www.raptorrescue.org.uk](http://www.raptorrescue.org.uk)

PLEASE NOTE; THE HELPLINE 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

**Malcolm Robbins**

### Charity News

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

Gill Durber, Aidan Clarke, Martin Hoole, Oscar Godson, Stephen Wotton  
Nigel Swinscoe, Tim Hill, Eugene McKenna, Mr D Ash

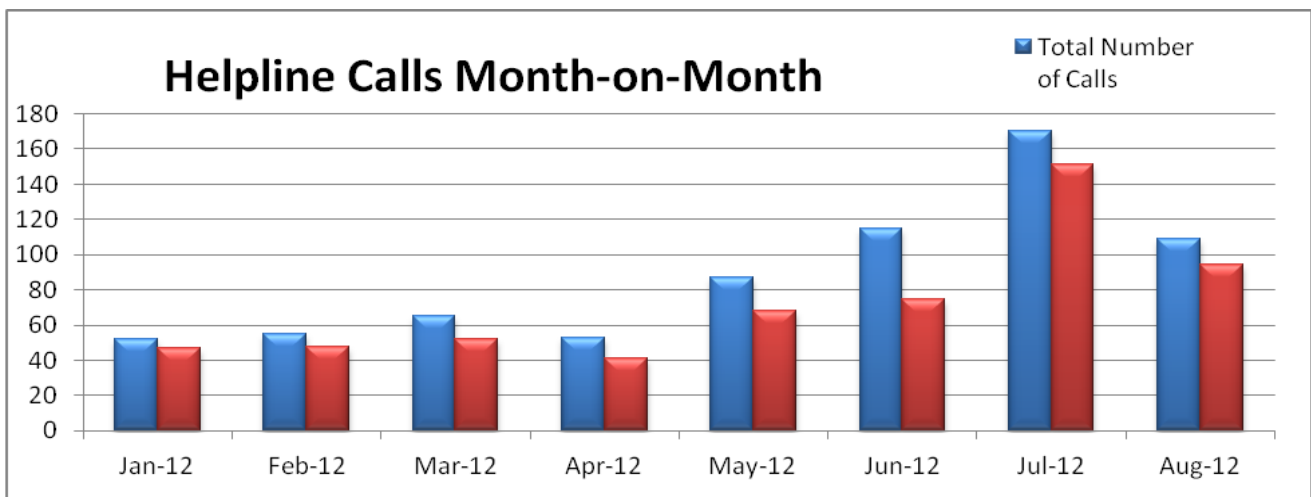
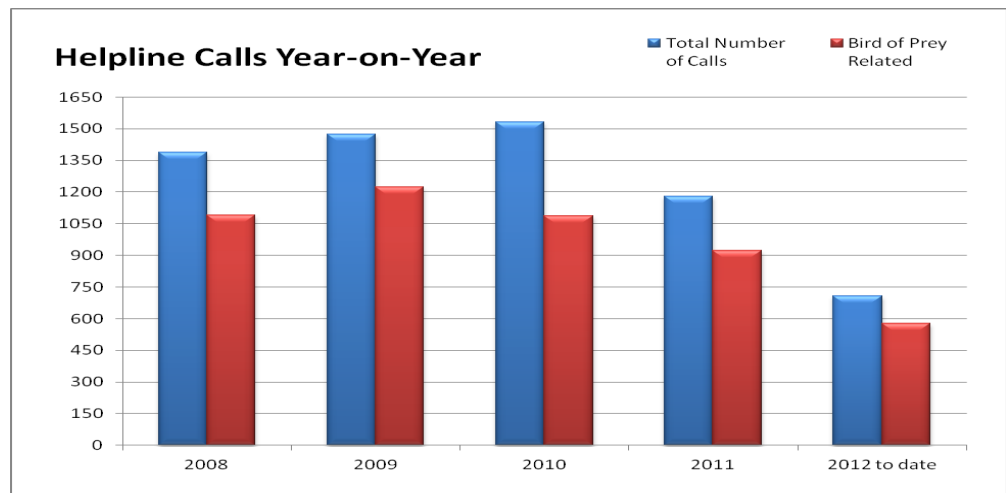
**The Board of Trustees would like to thank the following for their kind Donations:**

Pinder Funeral Directors, donation in lieu of floral tributes to the late Frank Michael,  
Monksdown School, Christ Church Friends, Mr Watt, Geoff Windsor  
Visitors to Gentleshaw, Farmers Arms.

And thanks all those members who give a little bit extra when renewing their membership.



### National Helpline Update Sponsored by:



## Raptor Rescue 2012 AGM

This year the AGM will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Lower Moss Wood Educational Nature Reserve and Wildlife Hospital, School Lane, Ollerton, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 8SJ - Map ref SJ 781 751

### Itinerary:

**12:30 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 .

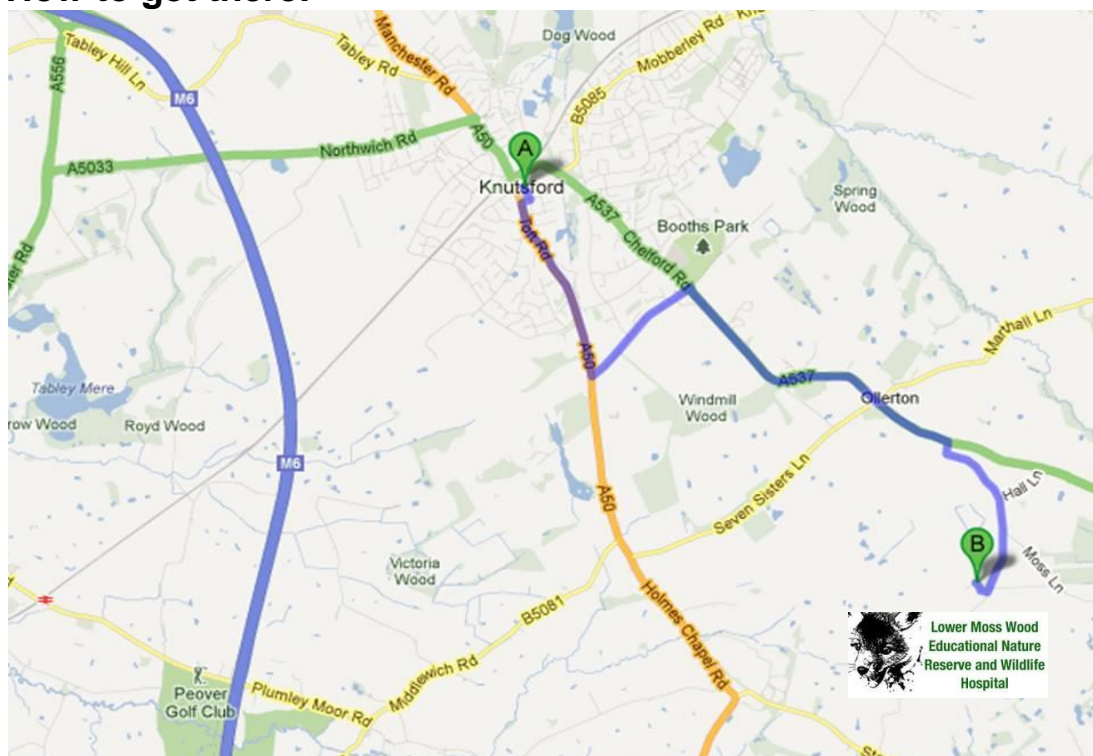
**14:30pm – Tour of Lower Moss Wood**

**15:30 - 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:



Lower Moss Wood has been an educational nature reserve and wildlife hospital for over twenty years. The warden, Ray Jackson MBE, is an Accredited Raptor Rescue Rehabilitator and with help from his band of volunteers, has been providing a place for schools, disabled visitors, environmental groups and many others to come and enjoy the countryside, learn about conservation and the environment ... and have a good day out!

The wildlife hospital is situated within the wood, near Knutsford in Cheshire, and takes in any orphaned, sick or injured wild animal or bird for care, rehabilitation and

eventual release back into the wild. In addition to the hospital itself there are a number of aviaries and purpose built recuperation pens. The wildlife hospital is not open for viewing, but visiting parties can learn about the work that takes place there during their trip.

Lower Moss Wood is also a private nature reserve; seventeen acres of mixed woodland set in two hundred and eighty acres of arable farmland in the heart of rural Cheshire. The nature reserve is managed to provide many different habitats and so encourages a wide variety of flora and fauna. There is a half-mile circular path that meanders through the Wood, enabling many interesting observations without destruction of precious habitats. There are a number of vantage points to view the ponds, and hides overlook a peat bog and a wooded glade.

We hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you in October.



## Re-homing Aviaries

### All Thanks to Pets At Home and Hutch “n” Sutch

Following a donation last year from Pets at Home under their adoption/re-homing scheme, the Board of Trustees allocated part of the donation to provide four new aviaries to house birds of prey and owls that are taken in and waiting to be re-homed.

We were fortunate that Hutch “n” Sutch, Lincolnshire based specialists in bespoke wooden buildings (and all other things wood!) were prepared to manufacture the aviaries to our specification and to subsidise part of the costs.



The aviaries, as pictured above, have recently been delivered and will soon be erected in their new locations, which cannot be soon enough as there is a list of birds just waiting to take up residence! Further pictures and report to follow

Hutch “n” Sutch are located at Fleet Road Nursery, Fleet Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire PE12 8LD.  
Telephone 01406 425892

Check out them out at [www.hutchnsutch.uk.com](http://www.hutchnsutch.uk.com) and mention Raptor Rescue

### Raptor Rescue Fun Day at Gentleshaw

The Board of Trustees would like to say a big thank you to Jenny and Lesley for organising the fun day at Gentleshaw on Saturday with the proceeds going to RR. We made £83.44 in total, £15 was from a new membership and the £68.44 from the tombola, bird handling and donations, and a big thanks to all the Gentleshaw volunteers who helped out on the day.





## Rehabilitation

### Tawny Owl Feather Trim



November 16<sup>th</sup> I had a call from my local Vet, they had a Tawny Owl in and could I take it. On arriving at the Vets I was told the person who brought the owl in said, "It fell out of a tree into a fire." And I saw a grunt of flying pigs last week. On inspection I could find no trace of burns, not a singed feather or foot to be found.

No, this bird had its wings and tail feathers clipped to stop it escaping. Unfortunately the person left no name and address, good job or I would have reported him and had him prosecuted for cruelty.

I asked the Vet to ask for names and addresses of any one taking them birds of prey, not just wild but captive bred birds too. This does help when releasing wild birds as they can be released back where found. Pity this person got away.

**John Welsby**



### Gentleshaw



**20th June 2012**

This Buzzard was collected from a vet in Stafford, he had been clipped by a car.

No major injuries and currently recuperating in our animal friends insurance sponsored secluded aviary.

Back where he should be



## May & June

Both bought in to the sanctuary within a day of each other and aged about 4 weeks. They are very bad tempered, which is perfect. They were feeding themselves straight away and have not required any handling.

## 20th June 2012

'Pond' the Tawny owl – found tangled in pond netting. She had a nasty flesh wound to her wing but 2 weeks and a little treatment and she is now back where she should be.



Ok, yes, you need to look closely at the second picture. Honest, that blur in the red circle IS an owl. :-)



No longer a common patient, the first little owl we have had in a while. He was found next to a road and had slight swelling of the ear/eye and was very thin.

He is doing well and nice and strong now so good to go short. (called him KFC as I missed dinner going to collect him and was forced to have a certain chicken takeaway instead, other takeaways are available)

Aug. 2012 - Back in the wild, with help from Katie, yep, that blur is him honest!







**Aug. 2012**

Genghis is a baby Kestrel, brought in as a chick.

He has serious attitude and is a real fighter, he is almost hard penned (fully feathered) and will be off for hack soon.

Clay the Tawny owl, found stuck in a water logged quarry and covered in clay and dirt.

Seven baths later he was good to go, not that he appreciated the baths one bit!



## Ryedalerehab



**May 2012**

4 young Tawnies (left) are now out in the aviary.

They're not good flyers yet but getting there.

I had an early one which was ringed and released earlier this week.



**June 2012**

A farming couple found this young Little Owl in their hen run with the chickens all joining in to make short work of this little predator. He was rescued and put in nearby bushes where the crows and jackdaws decided to finish him off. So he came here to build up before his return.

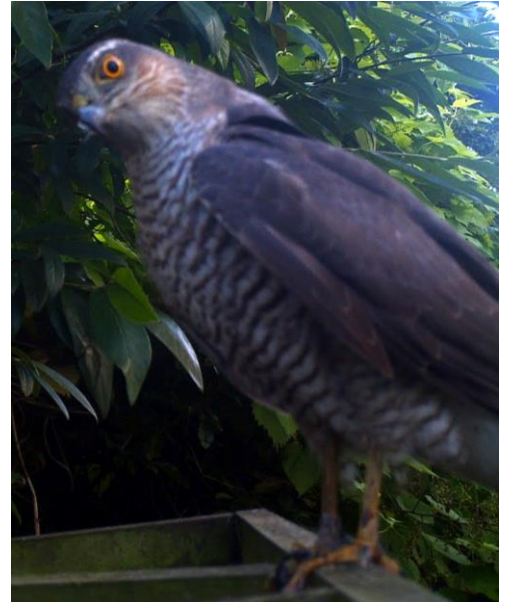
He should do well and is resting with food and in a dry pen for now. The persistent rain has not been good for juvenile wildlife and many young birds and mammals will have perished. I heard of young tawnies wet through and dying ground nesters found in the long wet grass. Let's hope it cheers up soon.

## July 2012

This big adult female Sparrowhawk has become a regular here. She was brought in as young bird with a dipped wing from Scarborough. She needed time out and was carefully looked after, ringed and eventually released from my back gate. See previous blog of her going. She returned after 10 days and I put food out for her. She became a regular and is in her third year.

She disappeared last spring for 6 weeks. I presume she had been nesting and things hadn't gone well. She hung about the garden resting and feeding after. She remained off and on and this year she went missing for over 3 months.

I was delighted to see her back 3 weeks ago where she appeared on top of an aviary. She looks to have a good brood patch and is eating and carrying food away. I put the spy camera out and here she is having her picture taken! A beautiful bird living a wild life but allowing me a small glimpse of her antics, mega.



This young Kestrel came in thin, bruised and on one leg.

I can't find a break, his feet were scuffed and he was found on the road side. So think he may have been knocked.

He allowed me to tit bit feed him today, so fingers crossed he will recover.



## Aug. 2012

These 3 young Barn Owls were taken into care after being found thin and poor in a local nestbox. The first one was found flip flopping round a garden. She had left the nestbox too early and wasn't a good flyer. A barn owl nest box was located in the gable end of a garage. I managed to find a local builder who likes barn owls to come out to have a look in.

The householders were away on holiday and their neighbour was watering the garden and found this weak chick. We hoped the nest box had an

inspection hatch sadly it didn't so Andy had to unscrew the back board of the box whilst dangling on the rafters high up in the roof space. Once inside 2 more young birds were found, one very weak.



I brought them home, rehydrated them and left to rest with food in a box. They ate very very well and must have been extremely hungry. Andy up the ladder, rather him than me! The following day the fourth member of the family turned up in the same garden, perching low under some stone steps.

All 4 are faring well and have been BTO rung. Within the next week they will go back to their nesting home. I'll grill them in for a few days, feeding daily. Then the grill can come off and the birds will be free to come and go. Young Barn Owls tend to roost back in their safe nest box homes so we will be able to continue to feed, giving them a soft release.



## Wirral Barn Owl Trust Ring 100<sup>th</sup> Bird

A Barn Owl floating over the fields used to be a common site on the Wirral peninsula. Two major surveys - one in 1932, the other in 1985 - showed that the population declined in Cheshire and Wirral by 85% in the intervening years.

The main reasons for the decline are loss of rough grassland habitat, which is home to prey species such as voles and mice, and the loss of nesting and roosting sites in old farm buildings: many of these have been converted into homes or replaced by modern agricultural buildings which are unsuitable.

When the (then called) Wirral & Ellesmere Port Barn Owl Group was first set up in 1999 there was only one pair of breeding Barn Owls known on the Wirral peninsula, from the North Wirral shore right down to the Shropshire Union Canal near Chester.

Now a registered charity, Wirral Barn Owl Trust aims to encourage a viable population of breeding wild Barn Owls on the Wirral peninsula. They hope to achieve this by:

- Collecting and collating sighting reports
- Locating and monitoring breeding pairs
- Visiting farmers and land managers to publicise the problem and promote habitat creation/protection
- Installing nestboxes in areas where there is suitable habitat and a shortage of natural nest sites
- Liaising with local authority planning departments to protect breeding birds and to encourage mitigation for Barn Owls when farm buildings are redeveloped
- Provide supplementary feeding (in temporary, extraordinary conditions)



Steve Harris of Wirral Barn Owl Trust was ringing the 100th Wirral Barn Owl chick



Wirral Country Park Ranger Mathew Thomas

For full details of the Wirral Barn Owl Trust, please go to: [www.wirralbarnowltrust.org](http://www.wirralbarnowltrust.org)

## Trustee Profile

Each issue I will ask a Trustee ten searching questions to see how they tick!

This issue I asked, Trustee and owner of Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre, Jenny Morgan:



### 1. What are your favourite five birds?

1. Mackinder Eagle owl
2. Great Grey Owl
3. Batelur eagle
4. Barn owl
5. Lanner Falcon

### 2. What's your favourite book and why?

I love to read, Lee Child, Ian Randall, Kitty Neal, Virginia Andrews, Jeffrey Archer, anything I can bury my nose in.

### 3. What's your favourite film and why?

All Disney films – because I just do!

Lady Hawk- because there is a horse and a hawk in it!

1<sup>st</sup> Harry Potter film- owls and I love fantasy films

Anything with Tom Cruise, Richard Gere or Jason Statham in a state of undress in it!

### 4. What's your favourite food and why?

Pork scratching and scallops, but not necessarily together, because they are yummy.

### 5. What's your favourite TV show and why?

Dog the bounty Hunter, CSI , Hollyoaks, Natural world. Don't know why, just enjoy watching them.

### 6. What's your favourite piece of music and why?

Anything by Michael Jackson, especially Billie Jean, anything by Queen especially Fat Bottomed Girls and Don't Stop me now. , Def Leopard, Bon Jovi or Frank Sinatra. Love pachelbel canon in d, makes me cry and is the piece of music I had at my wedding.

### 7. What car do you drive and why?

LWB Vauxhall Fronter 'cause its big and I can fit lots of animals and birds in it.

### 8. What place in the world would you most like to visit and why?

Bora bora, just sounds fab.

### 9. If you could have any job in the world, what would it be and why?

This one, running my own sanctuary I LOVE It. If I couldn't do this or ever wanted to earn some money, a party planner.

### 10. If you were stranded on a desert island, who would you most like to be stranded with and why?

Soppy, but my husband, he is my best friends and we don't get to spend enough time together.





**PATRONS:**

**Steve Lingham - Chris Packham - Pollyanna Pickering**

**Honorary President: Mr Bryan Paterson**

**Honorary Vice President: Mr Robert Haddon**

**TRUSTEES**

**Malcolm Robbins** - Chairman/Rehoming Coordinator - Tel: 07734 845288 - contact for any issues relating to Raptor Rescue in the Chairman's absence, any issues relating to external magazine articles, press releases or TV related activities, re-homing birds of prey.

**Daniel Goldsmith** - Vice Chairman/Rehabilitator Coordinator - Tel: 07881 826811 -, contact for applications to become a rehabilitator.

**Carol Davidson** - Treasurer - Tel: 01925 726704 - contact for any financial issues, donations, membership payments, and first aid equipment.

**Lesley Smith, Jenny Morgan** - National Helpline & Secretaries - Tel: 01785 850379 - contact for any issues relating to the National Help Line, to order publications, to request attendance at events.

**Steve Dewsnap** - Stock Control - Tel: 01244 813127 - contact for any issues relating to sales goods.

**Andy Craven** - IT Communication Coordinator - Tel: 07879 007007 - any issues relating to the website or for links to the website.

**Steve Davidson** - Newsletter Editor - Tel: 01925 726704 - contact for Newsletter and Updates.

**Ian Taylor** - Trustee - Tel: 01298 70959 - any issues relating to the Rehabbers Handbook and Code of Practice.

**Sharon Mathews** - Survey Coordinator - Junior Members Newsletter/Web Pages - Tel: 01603 485006 - contact for annual survey and junior newsletter/web pages.

**Geoff Windsor** - Sponsorship Coordinator - Tel: 01625 584586 - contact for details of sponsorship for Raptor Rescue.

**Barbara Royle** - Trustee

**Membership Secretary:** Barbara Turner, 31 Touches Meadow, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1PA, Tel: 01460 64664 - contact for membership and membership renewals.

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

This issue published March 2012 Raptor Rescue  
Design and Production -Steve Davidson  
Printed by Claymore Signs, Warrington

**Pictures:**

Cover - Jean Thorpe

Rehabbing - Gentleshaw, Ryedalerehab,

Tawny Owl Feather Trim - John Welsby

Wirral Barn Owl Trust - Ron Thomas

Re-homing Aviaries - Malcolm Robbins

Gentleshaw Fun day - Steve Davidson

**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.

**National Help & Advice Line**

**0870 241 0609**

**[www.raptorrescue.org.uk](http://www.raptorrescue.org.uk)**

**Registered Charity Number 283733**

