

DEWSBURY COUNTRY PARK NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter

January/February2021

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Happy New Year, hope everyone is well and safe. Why not start this year with a fun activity with the family or as just an inquisitive nature lover and join in with the 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. The BGBW is actually a really important survey to identify what is doing well in our important garden habitats and in our environment generally. It's a brief glimpse to see what birds are passing through, and gives us an idea on certain species numbers and distributions. The beauty of the survey is that you can do it from the comfort of your own home and it's also a really great way to improve your bird identification skills. In the past the BGBW has helped with identifying realistic populations of some of our most loved garden birds such as the Wren, Robin and Blackbird. This year the RSPB have included lots of fun interactive quizzes, learning opportunities and live footage. The BGBW is a 3 day event and you can join in between the 29th and 31st January. Please visit www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/ for more information and the downloadable bird survey form. Happy bird watching.....



"There are 619 different species of birds to be found in the UK, some resident and some migrant, with the House Sparrow (above), Starling and Blue tit being the most common". Ranger Pete



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10,500 Trees Planted at the Country Park

We are planting trees for the future, for our children and the generations that follow them. Trees are incredible pieces of natural engineering, they provide oxygen, they store carbon, regulate our temperature/climate, provide ecosystems and refuge for our biodiversity, protect and condition finite soil, provide fuel/materials, and also give us mental pleasure and stability. Humans have planted trees for some/all of the above reasons for centuries with many past civilisations and religions adopting them as their gods and protectors.

In the UK at present woodland cover only represents 13% of land use making our country one of the lowest in Europe. Globally the planet loses an area of woodland the size of the UK per year and in the past 5 years this has accelerated!



Kirklees Council as well as other neighbouring authorities, land owners, businesses and communities are working in close partnership with The White Rose Forest to increase woodlands and canopy cover in the North of England with a collective aim to plant around 50 million trees in the next 25 years.

The trees myself, my colleagues and local volunteers/and volunteer groups have planted at DCP have been planted in accordance with the sites objectives and grant scheme with the Forestry Commission and importantly to contribute to the above, of increasing tree cover in Kirklees in line with the WRF initiative.

We planted 10,500 mixed native and non-native species of trees between mid-September and mid-November 2020, 80% fully guarded against grazing predators such as deer, and the rest planted without protection. Our trees were sourced by our great Parks Development Officer team from a quality supplier in Shropshire, where they are all grown on site.

I would like to thank all the Kirklees staff who volunteered before the current lock down, and used their volunteering hours to help plant. A big thank you to all other fantastic volunteers who included The Mormon Church, Wakefield and Dewsbury Soroptimists UK, SR2, Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group, Mirfield Rotary Club, Kirklees Apprentices (Parks) and some really great local people who live in the vicinity.

Species of the Month

We have 3 species of woodpecker in the UK, the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker , the Great Spotted Woodpecker and the Green Woodpecker. The Great Spotted Woodpecker (Right) is the most common of the three. Its population here in the UK has fluctuated considerably over the past century due to changes in forestry and the removal of dead trees, herbicide use and the competition/predation from other tree dwelling species such as the invasive Grey Squirrel.

About the size of a Blackbird the Great Spotted Woodpecker is relatively easy to identify. It Ducks and dives in the air and this is often accompanied by a long sharp 'Chip' sound. When stationary normally clung to the side of a tree its under tail wing is red and is used as a support . The males have a red dot on the back of their necks (nape) where as the females have no marking. Juveniles have a full red crown until they mature.

Woodpeckers make an incredible nest by boring into dead or semi dead branches/trunks of trees and then boring down to almost 1 foot in depth. The skull of the bird is protected by a membrane that stops injury and is primarily where the idea and design of safety helmets came from, especially motorcycle helmets.

This could be a bird that ventures into your garden especially if you have mature trees.



Photo: *Dendrocopos major*

Country Park Maintenance

Lots of upcoming work will be happening over the next few months at the park to keep it looking great and welcoming, please keep checking Facebook to see how you can get involved with volunteering:

- Hedges to be cut on main footpaths (February)
- Old tree planting fencing to be removed (all year round on-going)
- Meadow cutting and collected (March)
- Interpretation improvement (all year round on-going)
- Installation of new steps near Lowfield Road Carpark entrance (April)
- Hedgelaying (October Start)
- Tree planting (September with volunteers, orchard and arboretum creation)



Nature Diary: Wildlife to look out for....

Trees can bring a sense of warmth and colour in these cold dark days in Winter. Look out for Goat willow (Right) and the fantastic male flowers of Hazel (Below) seen in hedgerows and woodlands from the start of February.

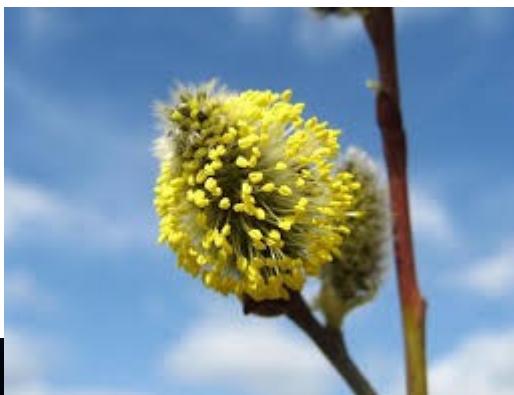


Photo: *Corylus avellana*

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about DCP

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[facebook.com/
dewsburycountrypark/](https://facebook.com/dewsburycountrypark/)

New Family Red Route Walk

Welcome to Dewsbury Country Park
Lowfield Road Carpark Entrance

A map of the Dewsbury Country Park area showing a red route line with numbered stops 1 through 8. Stop 1 is at the Lowfield Road Carpark entrance. The route winds through fields and hedgerows, passing by a wetland area and a bridge. A black arrow points to the text "YOU ARE HERE".

Try our Family Red Route Walk and look out for the 8 brass rubbing posts along the way: see www.facebook.com/dewsburycountrypark for more information about this fantastic country park!

Wetlands **Kingfisher Bridge** **Wild Flower Meadows** **Nature Walks**

Kirklees COUNCIL

A family red route walk is being created with a designated route that has been chosen for its interesting view points and features. Brass rubbing posts are also being installed (8 in all) for you to find representing the nature that can be found at the country park.

The interpretation board to the left will be installed into the lectern found at the Lowfield Road entrance to the country park highlighting the route.

