

# Friends of Weir Wood Newsletter

Newsletter No. 100

Spring 2023



## Welcome!

### 2023 AGM Meeting formal results

Our AGM went very well. It was again only open to members & family/friends, but there was a good turn out with over 40 attending. The full minutes of our 2023 AGM meeting are available to view on our website.

To summarise the main business:

The 2022 AGM minutes were approved with no matters arising.

Bob Hastings & Darrin Madgin both stood down from the Committee.

Ian Hodgson was successfully elected to the Treasurer role. John Edwards was successfully elected to the Membership Secretary role.

The other standing Committee Officers were all re-elected. Tom Howard-Jones has passed the Membership Secretary role to John Edwards but carries on with his normal Committee and Website & Facebook roles as before.

All other Committee members were re-elected.

Both the Chairman & Membership Secretary / Website Editor had no major changes to report in their speeches and mainly gave updates and thanked various people for work carried out.

The Treasurer presented and explained various aspects of the audited accounts which were all agreed and accepted by the membership. Doug Roberts was re-elected as our auditor for 2024.

A question was asked about whether we had applied for any ecological charity funding. The Chairman suitably answered the point regarding our charity status.

There were no other questions or any other business raised at the end of the formal business.

We followed our AGM with a talk by our guest speaker James Adler - Chief Executive of the Conservators of the Ashdown Forest. James gave us a very interesting and informative talk titled "Weald to Waves".

He first spoke about the wildlife and history of the Ashdown Forest before going on to tell us about a new green corridor project that will link the West Sussex coast to the Knepp Estate, then cut across to join the Ashdown Forest.

It is hoped the corridor will eventually be extended eastwards and drop back to the coast in East Sussex. The talk was very well received by the audience. Our thanks to James for a very interesting, informative and entertaining talk. *by Bob Johnson*

### Newsletter reaches milestone No.100

Although the Friends was formed in late 1996, the first official Newsletter No.1 was not produced until Summer 1997. At that time we had 27 members. Roy Sanderson was the Friends Chairman. Ken McManaman who became our Ranger for many years had just been appointed following the retirement of Phil Saunders.

There had been a serious problem with trespassers and disturbance within the reserve, one of the reasons the Friends was formed. Another more important reason was that Southern Water had said that there was no public interest in the site and they wished to discontinue management of the reserve. The formation of the Society was to provide a

volunteer workforce and prove that there was local public support.

The first newsletter included the following news:

Tuesday had been appointed the ESCC volunteer day when "Friends" volunteers would assist the Ranger. ESCC had the responsibility of reserve management for Southern Water.

(The roles have since reversed with the reserve management being the responsibility of the Friends and the ESCC Rangers now assisting us).

One of the first tasks in 1997 was to clear the overgrown vegetation in front of the hide. (A never ending job - The hide you see now is not the original which was burnt down by vandals a few years later).

ESCC and Southern Water had just completed putting up two internal wire fences on the north and south bank boundaries plus some repairs to other fences to reduce trespassing. However the Friends noted that some issues still remained. (Fences still remain an issue with Southern Water to this day!!).

Project proposals included: Replacing an old rotting floating platform with a new Tern nesting raft. The planting of more Phragmites. To provide a small pond (the original has since silted over and its replacement has become our pondlet). 32 nest boxes were erected that year in the study area, (Many more now).

The annual East Grinstead Town Spectacular gave its proceeds to local charities. That year, 1997, the "Friends of Weir Wood" was nominated as one of the chosen recipients and received a cheque for around a £1,000 which initiated our funding.

We have grown since those early beginnings, but still remain a volunteer group. *by Bob Johnson*

### Members Spring Flowers & Birds Walk Saturday 22nd April

We are hoping the bluebells will be at their best for the walk. Meet at the hide car park for 9am for a quick look over the water and chat before leaving the hide car park at 9:15 prompt.

We will start by going into our woodland study area for the woodland flowers and bluebells, plus we hope to see and hear some spring birds, hopefully also having a quick look into a box or two at some nesting birds, before returning back to the car park for a short break. (Bring a flask)

The second part of the walk will be over to Whillet's to have a look at the meadows, pond and reed bed, returning back to the car park for around 12:45.

No need to book, just turn up. Please wear stout walking shoes or boots as the paths are likely to be wet/muddy and are uneven in places. *By Bob Johnson*

**Osprey** – Many are interested in seeing this iconic bird. It is now migration time and some are passing through. One was reported seen distantly at the dam end on 13/4. One at the west end on 14/4 at 7:00am.

In spring Ospreys are travelling north to nest, only staying long enough to feed and rest, so sightings are a case of luck, but early mornings can often be more productive.

**Little Grebe** – 2 from 29/12 until 3/1, 3 from 5/1 to 8/1, 1 on 22/1 & 30/1, 2 on 2/2 & 14/2, 1 on 2/3 & 9/4.  
**Great Crested Grebe** – Regular (counts over 2), 4 on 2/1, 5 on 22/1, 4 on 29/1 & 31/1, 5 on 9/2 (counts over), 7 on 12/2, 26/2 & 27/2, 10 on 1/3, 11 on 12/3 & 15/3, 6 on 19/3 & 20/3, 10 on 29/3 & 9/4.  
**Mute Swan** – 2 on 30/12 & 31/12, 2 from 19/1 until end of period, (counts over 2), 3 on 5/4, 4 on 9/4.  
**Cormorant** – Up to 35 regularly (counts over), 37 on 12/1, 68 on 2/1, 42 on 6/1, 48 on 13/1, 61 on 14/1, 64 on 1/2, 70 on 16/2, 43 on 19/2, 52 on 1/3, 36 on 15/3, 39 on 30/3 & 6/4, 41 on 7/4, 43 on 9/4, 47 on 11/4. (25 active nests)  
**Little Egret** – 1 on 30/12, 19/1 & 21/1, 3 on 22/1, 2 on 24/1 & 26/1, 1 from 6/2 to 1/3, 2 on 12/3 to 15/3, 1 on 26/3.  
**Grey Heron** – Up to 5 until 26/1 then up to 18 until 30 on 4/2, (counts over 26), 30 on 24/2, 28 on 3/3, 31 on 12/3, 27 on 16/3, 23/3 & 28/3, 43 on 27/3, 32 on 30/3, 28 on 1/4, 37 on 26/4, 32 on 9/4, 27 on 11/4. (45 active nests).  
**Barnacle Goose** – 52 on 2/1, 6/1 & 9/1 then up to 51 regularly until 19/2, 14 on 3/3, 12 on 4/3 to 12/3, 11 on 13/3, 8 on 15/3.  
**Greylag Goose** – Regular (counts over 50), 67 on 1/1, 97 on 2/1, 83 on 9/1, 93 on 11/1, (counts over 80), 101 on 14/1, 103 on 20/1, 111 on 21/1, 138 on 22/1, 117 on 26/1, 90 on 27/1, 83 on 31/1 then numbers dropped, 48 on 5/2, 27 on 6/2, 18 on 10/2, up to 15 from 19/2 until end of period but with 26 on 13/3 & 21 on 15/3. Also occ hybrids.  
**White Feral Farmacyard Geese** – 3 still at dam end.  
**Canada Goose** – Up to 16 regularly (counts over) 50 on 7/1, 17 on 22/1, 24 on 30/1, 20 on 1/2 & 5/2, 24 on 19/2, 25 on 24/2, 18 on 5/3, 34 on 10/3 & 12/3, 40 on 13/3, 44 on 15/3, 42 on 19/3, 65 on 21/3, 19 on 23/3, 20 on 30/3, 22 on 6/4, 18 on 7/4. A Canada/Greylag hybrid is also occasionally seen.  
**Egyptian Goose** – up to 3 regularly throughout period (counts over), 5 on 2/1, 9 on 5/1, 4 on 8/1 & 19/1, 5 on 21/1, 4 on 29/1 & 30/1, 7 on 12/2, 5 on 19/2, 4 on 1/3, 4/3 & 12/3, 7 on 29/3.  
**Mandarin** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over), 6 on 2/1, 4 on 3/1, 8 on 6/1, 10 on 17/1, 6 on 19/1, 15 on 22/1, 4 on 29/1, 6 on 31/1, 4 on 10/2 (counts over), 11 on 21/2, 6 on 26/2, 5 on 1/3, 7 on 5/3, 6 on 15/3, 5 on 29/3, 7 on 4/4.  
**Wood Duck** – 1 on 5/1, 3 from 8/1 to 17/1, 2 on 19/1, 21/1 & 29/1 to 31/1, 3 on 10/2, 2 on 12/2.  
**Wigeon** – 1 on 2/1, 6 on 14/1, 9 on 20/1 & 21/1, 16 on 22/1, up to 13 from 24/1 to 13/2 with 14 on 10/2 & 12/2 then 10 on 16/2, 8 on 19/2 & 21/2, 7 on 27/2 & 1/3, numbers slowly decreased until 3 on 7/3 was the final sighting.  
**Gadwall** – 2 on 29/12, 3/1 & 19/1, up to 4 from 22/1 to 10/2 with 5 on 31/1, 2 on 12/2 & 16/2, 6 on 19/2 & 21/2, 4 on 26/2 & 1/3, 1 on 3/3 & 5/3, 2 on 7/3 & 13/3.  
**Teal** – Up to 5 until 26/3 (counts over), 11 on 29/12, 12 on 3/1, 10 on 5/1 & 7/1, 7 on 22/1, 8 on 26/1 to 30/1, 9 on 2/2, 6 on 6/2, 12/2 & 14/2, 15 on 9/2, 7 on 1/3 & 12/3.  
**Mallard** – Resident (counts over 17), 19 on 29/12, 32 on 30/12, up to 27 from 1/1 to 6/1, 31 on 10/1, 18 on 13/1, 24 on 16/1 then up to 22 until 22/1, 49 on 22/1, 46 on 24/1, 28 on 26/1, 25 on 29/1, 33 on 1/2 then only up to 23 until 12/2, 33 on 19/2, 18 on 26/2, 20 on 12/3. Also 1 White feral Duck regularly seen.  
**Tufted Duck** – Up to 4 from 29/12 to 7/1 with 11 on 2/1, (counts over 11), 13 on 17/1, 12 on 21/1, 15 from 22/1 to 27/1 then up to 21 til 5/2, 23 on 6/2 & 7/2, 32 on 9/2, up to 45 from 10/2 to 10/3, (counts over), 49 on 12/2, 47 on 1/3, then gradually dropping to 33 on 15/3, 28 on 18/3, 24 on 24/3, 16 on 29/3, 12 on 1/4 then only up to 8 until 11/4.  
**Pochard** – 3 from 30/12 to 15/1, up to 5 from 16/1 to 4/2 then up to 9 until 19/2 then only up to 5 until 12/3 but with 6 on 27/2. 4 on 13/3 to 16/3 finally 1 on 18/3, 2 on 23/3 & 24/3.  
**Red-crested Pochard** – 1 from 13/1 to 29/1, 1 on 2/2, 9/2 & 14/2, 1 on 10/4 & 12/4.  
**Pintail** – 3 on 7/2. **Shelduck** – 1 on 1/2 & 10/2.  
**Shoveler** – 1 on 1/4 & 5/4. **Goosander** – 1 on 19/1.  
**Common Buzzard** – 1 regularly until 2 on 15/1 (counts over 2), 3 from 22/1 to 31/1, 3 on 19/2 & 26/2, 5 on 27/2, 3 on 1/3, 6 on 12/3, 4 on 13/3, 7 on 18/3, 10 on 19/3, 5 on 21/3 & 27/3, 3 on 4/4, 5 on 9/4.  
**Goshawk** - 1 on 17/1, 12/2, 27/2, 1/3, 4/3, 13/3, 18/3, 20/3 & 24/3.  
**Sparrowhawk** – 1 on 1/1, 9/1, 15/1, 22/1 & 31/1, 1 on 5/2, 9/2, 16/2 & 26/2, 1 on 12/3, 27/3 & 30/3.  
**Kestrel** – 1 on 3/1, 22/1 & 29/1, 2 on 19/2, 1 on 26/2 to 5/3, 4 on 12/3, 1 on 18/3, 20/3, 29/3 & 11/4, 2 on 9/4  
**Red Kite** – 1 on 29/1, 6/2, 12/2 & 19/2, 1 on 4/3, 13/3 15/3 & 19/3, 2 on 27/3, 1 on 9/4.  
**Osprey** – 1 on 29/3, 2 on 30/3, 1 on 4/4 & 9/4.  
**Pheasant** – Regular (Counts over 5), 6 on 10/3. **Red-legged Partridge** - 1 on 4/4.  
**Water Rail** – 1 on 6/1, 9/1 & 22/1, 2 on 9/2, 1 on 19/2, 2 on 29/3, 1 on 12/4.  
**Moorhen** – Resident 1 regularly from 17/1 to 27/2 (Counts over), 3 on 22/1, 2 on 29/1, 3 on 19/2, 1 on 20/3.  
**Coot** – Up to 3 regularly until 21/1, up to 5 from 26/1 to 9/2, 6 on 10/2 (counts over), 9 on 12/2, 7 on 16/2, 11 on 19/2, 10 on 27/2, 9 on 1/3, 12 on 4/3, 7 on 5/3, 8 on 7/3, 9 on 9/3, 10 on 12/3, 7 on 18/3 & 20/3, 8 on 19/3, 7 on 26/3 & 9/4.  
**Common Snipe** – 9 on 16/1, 5 on 19/1, 3 on 30/1, 1 on 5/2, 4 on 14/2 & 21/2, 1 on 15/3.  
**Lapwing** – 16 on 10/1, 40 on 19/1, (counts over 25), 27 on 26/1, 45 on 29/1, 43 on 30/1, 30 on 7/2 & 14/2, 28 on 27/2 then numbers slowly dropped, until 18 on 5/3, 3 on 16/3, 1 on 26/3 was last sighting report.  
**Little Ringed Plover** – 1 on 1/3 & 4/4. **Common Sandpiper** – 1 on 9/4 & 12/4.  
**Black Headed Gull** – Regular until 13/3 (counts over 10), 14 on 1/1, 79 on 9/1, 20 on 15/1, 48 on 19/1, 90 on 21/1, 130 on 22/1, up to 16 from 24/1 to 1/2, 20 on 5/2, 100 on 13/2, 23 on 19/2, 82 on 1/3, 111 on 3/3, 239 on 4/3, 17 on 12/3 & 13/3.  
**Mediterranean Gull** – 1 on 14/3.  
**Common Gull** – 1 on 2/1 & 8/1, 2 on 5/1, 15 on 9/1, 6 on 11/1, 2 on 12/1, 4 on 15/1, 6 on 19/1, 2 on 21/1, 12 on 22/1, 5 on 30/1, 30 on 13/2, 1 on 21/2, 7 on 1/3, 4 on 3/3, 5 on 4/3, 4 on 13/3, 7 on 14/3.  
**Herring Gull** – Up to 2 occasionally throughout period (counts over), 4 on 29/12, 6 on 8/1, 7 on 15/1, 16 on 29/1.  
**LBB Gull** – 1 on 12/2 & 1 9/2, 2 on 26/2, 1 on 7/3 & 12/3, 2 on 13/3, 5 on 20/3, 4 on 29/3, 2 on 7/4, 5 on 9/4.  
**GBB Gull** – 1 on 24/1 & 11/4. **Common Tern** - 5 on 12/4.  
**Stock Dove** – 2 regularly throughout period (counts over), 5 on 15/1, 4 on 17/1, 3 on 21/1 & 4/2, 4 on 9/2, 3 on 26/2 3/3 & 15/3, 5 on 12/3 & 16/3, 1 on 28/3, 4 on 1/4, 3 on 6/4 & 9/4, 4 on 11/4. **Collared Dove** – 1 on 14/3.  
**Wood Pigeon** – Ubiquitous (counts over 35), 80 on 12/1, 90 on 14/1, 60 from 31/1 to 4/2.  
**Barn Owl** - 1 on 21/3. **Kingfisher** – 2 regularly from 27/3 until end of period.  
**Green Woodpecker** – 1 on 9/1, 29/1 & 31/1, 1 on 9/2 & 12/4.  
**Gt Spotted Woodpecker** – Up to 2 regularly reported throughout period.  
**Swallow** - 2 on 29/3, 10 on 9/4, 6 on 11/4 & 12/4. **Sand Martin** – 1 on 14/3, 13 on 29/3.

**House Martin** – 1 on 29/3, 20 on 11/4, 7 on 12/4.  
**Grey Wagtail** – 1 on 2/1, 19/2 & 26/2, 2 on 27/2, 1 on 4/3, 2 on 12/3, 19/3 & 4/4.  
**Pied Wagtail** – 1 on 5/1, 22/1 & 29/1, 29 on 12/2, 19 on 19/2, 6 on 12/3, 3 on 13/3 & 9/4, 6 on 11/4, 21 on 12/4.  
**Stonechat** – 1 on 9/4.  
**Meadow Pipit** - 4 on 19/2, 3 on 19/3.  
**Blackbird, Robin, Magpie, Wren & Dunnock** – Regular and resident. No count over 5.  
**Song Thrush** – 1 on 22/1 & 2/2, 2 on 5/2, 9/2 & 19/2, 1 on 9/3, 2 on 12/3, 1 on 15/3 to 18/3, 1 on 23/3, 28/3 & 30/3, 3 on 9/4.  
**Mistle Thrush** – 2 on 9/1 & 14/1, 3 on 22/1, 1 on 29/1 & 12/2, 2 on 19/2, 1 on 12/3, 16/3, 19/3 & 29/3, 2 on 9/4.  
**Redwing** – 9 on 6/1, 12 on 7/1, 4 on 9/1, 3 on 29/1, 11 on 9/2, 35 on 13/2, 1 on 19/2, 25 on 1/3, 2 on 9/3, 54 on 12/3, 36 on 19/3, 1 on 20/3.  
**Fieldfare** – 2 on 6/1, 17 on 13/1, 12 on 14/1, 3 on 16/1, 2 on 22/1, 14 on 29/1, 1 on 1/2, 6 on 10/2, 15 on 13/2, 1 on 19/2, 33 on 1/3, 31 on 12/3, 3 on 19/3, 2 on 20/3.  
**Chiffchaff** – 1 on 1/3, 2 on 16/3, 14 on 19/3 then 2 regularly (counts over) 3 on 26/3 & 30/3, 5 on 28/3 & 29/3, 4 on 1/4 & 7/4, 31 on 9/4, 4 on 11/4.  
**Common Whitethroat** – 1 on 12/4.  
**Goldcrest** – 2 on 1/1, 1 on 6/1, 24/1 & 19/2, 3 on 12/3, 1 on 18/3, 30/3, 4/4 & 6/4, 4 on 9/4, 1 on 11/4.  
**L.T. Tit** – 2 regularly - Up to 8 until 5/1 then 6 until 14/1, then 5 until 2/2 then 3 until end of period (counts over) 4 on 4/2 & 5/2, 8 on 19/2, 5 on 24/2, 4 on 3/3 & 16/3, 5 on 30/3.  
**Marsh Tit** – 2 regularly throughout period (counts over), 3 on 12/3 & 9/4.  
**Blue Tit** – Regular (counts over 10), 22 on 1/1, 26 on 10/1, 13 on 7/1, 23 on 9/1, 19 on 11/1, 11 on 12/1, 13 on 14/1, 30/1, 11 on 16/2, 2/3, 4/3 & 10/3, 20 on 5/3, 13 on 16/3.  
**Great Tit** – Regular (counts over 4), 5 on 1/1, 8 on 7/1, 10 on 9/1, 11 on 11/1, 5 on 14/1, 31/1, 12/2 & 16/2, 6 on 6/3.  
**Coal Tit** – Up to 2 regularly throughout period.  
**Nuthatch** – Up to 2 regularly throughout period (counts over), 3 on 2/2.  
**Treecreeper** – 1 on 1/1, 3/1, 7/1 & 10/1, 2 on 9/1, 1 on 19/1, 31/1 & 1/2, 1 on 12/2, 19/3 & 4/4.  
**Jay** – 1 on 9/1, 22/1 & 1/2, 3 on 29/1, 4 on 19/2, 1 on 26/2, 12/3, 15/3, 19/3, 2 on 4/4, 3 on 7/4, 1 on 9/4 & 11/4.  
**Rook** – Up to 2 occasionally (counts over), 4 on 29/12, 8 on 1/1, 3 on 3/1, 30 on 14/1, 5 on 24/1, 7 on 29/1, 30 on 2/2 & 19/2, 34 on 12/3, 5 on 23/3.  
**Starling** – 250 on 2/1, 12 on 1/3, 7 on 19/3.  
**Jackdaw** – Occasional, (counts over 30), 36 on 29/12, 50 on 14/1 & 4/2, 40 on 26/2, 50 on 7/3.  
**Carrion Crow** – Resident in low numbers (counts over 2), 4 on 22/1 & 2/2, 3 on 19/2, 6/3 & 7/4, 4 on 1/4.  
**Raven** - 1 on 29/12 & 3/1, 2 on 9/1, 12/1 & 14/1, 1 on 21/1 & 29/1.  
**Chaffinch** – Up to 5 regularly (counts over), 6 on 29/12 & 13/1, 7 on 12/1 & 12/2, 6 on 16/2 & 19/2.  
**Goldfinch** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over), 3 on 7/1, 5 on 8/1, (counts over 5) 17 on 11/1, 7 on 16/2, 6 on 19/2, 7 on 12/3 & 19/3, 10 on 20/3, 6 on 30/3, 7 on 9/4.  
**Greenfinch** – 1 on 24/1, 20/3 & 30/3  
**Bullfinch** – 1 on 9/1, 3 on 16/1, 1 on 17/1, 21/1 & 22/1, 3 on 29/1, 1 on 5/2, 5 on 12/2, 1 on 19/2 & 4/3, 2 on 12/3, 3 on 18/3, 1 on 1/4, 4 on 9/4.  
**House Sparrow** – 1 on 9/4.  
**Siskin** – 1 on 6/1 & 8/1, 10 on 9/1, 22 on 11/1, 1 on 20/3, 4 on 23/3, 2 on 29/3.  
**Lesser Redpoll** – 2 on 9/1.  
**Yellowhammer** – 1 on 19/3 & 20/3, 1 on 9/4.  
**Reed Bunting** – (Roost counts - 54 on 6/1, 6 on 22/1, 12 on 5/2, 60 on 9/2, 75 on 19/2, 40 on 5/3, 23 on 12/3), 2 on 18/3, 1 on 29/3, 6/4 & 9/4.

**Reserve News** by Bob Johnson

**Barnacle Geese at Weir Wood** - On the 2<sup>nd</sup> January myself and Alastair Gray were bird watching at the west end when the initial 52 flock circled over the reservoir eventually landing on the water before moving onto fields nearby to feed including Pintail Bank. We were to find out they were part of a national study of naturalised Barnacle Geese within the UK. A total of 1298 Barnacle Geese had been ringed, adults receiving white neck collar tags and juveniles yellow leg tags. 34 of ours had been tagged. We were able to obtain ID numbers on the tags using our telescopes. The tag numbers proved our flock was from RSPB Saltholme & Scorton in Yorkshire, many of these naturalised feral flocks rarely migrate, staying within their local areas, so a large flock movement south was very unusual, and we fed our sightings info back to the study group.

Our birds were not static at Weir Wood visiting most days to feed in nearby fields but also went missing for large parts of the day. Other barnacle geese flocks had moved south, with some on the Swale marshes in Kent. A bird we recorded at Weir Wood was seen the following day at Swale, which showed how far the birds were travelling and mixing.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb the now 51 flock left Weir Wood and reports of our ID tag numbers were coming from Holkham in north Norfolk. Later that month some of the birds then moved into Lincolnshire and all assumed they were now travelling north back to Yorkshire.

However on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 14 birds arrived back at Weir Wood, some of the ID tag numbers were different so flocks had mixed and split up again. The birds slowly left Weir Wood again over the next few days the last Barnacle Goose sighting at Weir Wood was of 8 birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

The study group are still not certain why so many birds moved South. Where they looking for new breeding or feeding areas – searching for other flocks? It will be interesting to see if more tagged Barnacle Geese return next winter.

**Around the Reserve News** – We recently completed the building of a new dipping platform at Whillet's which is more robust and larger than the old one. We are also about to launch a new Tern raft to effectively replace the badly damaged raft which will be towed back to land and scrapped, it will also not be long before the Common Terns arrive.

The meadow opposite the car park viewing area has had some of the waterside trees removed and bramble cut back to give another area like Pintail bank for wildfowl to graze. This habitat should help increase the wildlife at the reserve and give some closer views of the birds from the car park.

We have put out a trial floating nest platform near the heronry for hopefully nesting GC Grebes, although currently all the sticks etc we tied on have been robbed by nesting Cormorants & Herons!!!

**Breeding bird News** – A pair of Kingfishers appear to be investigating nesting locations. A Coot pair look to be starting nesting at the west end, a bird that has not breed at the reservoir for a while. Stock Doves already have young in some of our larger nest boxes, Mandarin ducks are also starting to nest. A Mute Swan pair have been making a nest under the heronry. The Nuthatches are again nesting in the Car Park.

The small nest boxes are starting to get used with Tits starting nests, but we really need some warm weather to activate plant growth and increase the numbers of insects and caterpillars they will need to feed their young.

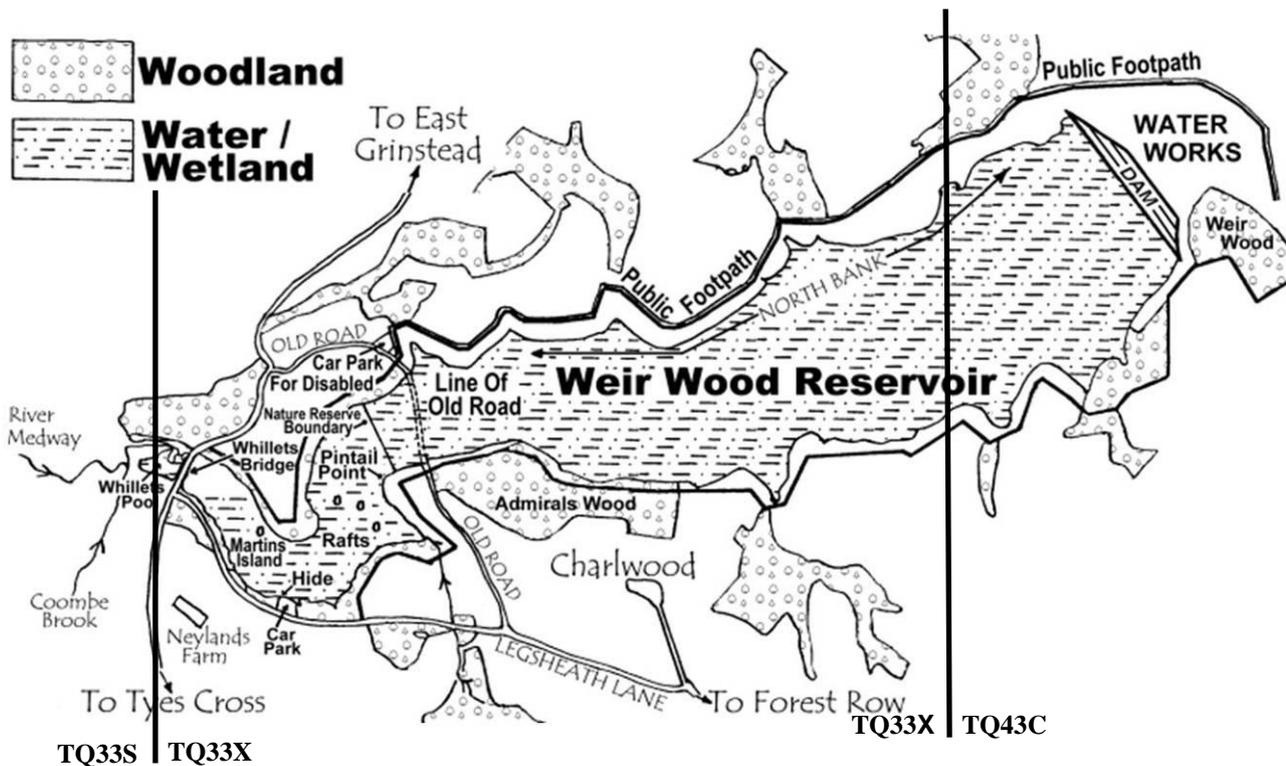
The heronry is doing very well. On the 4<sup>th</sup> April there were 45 active Heron nests a similar number to last year. So far this year we have confirmed 17 nests have 28 young. The heronry also holds 25 active Cormorant nests, 3 more than last year. So far, we have confirmed 10 nests hold 15 young. It is still early days and the number of successful nests and young should increase over the next few weeks. If you visit the heronry listen for the young begging for food. Heron young make a low repeated “kakakaka” call, Cormorant young is a higher pitch shriek type call. Look for birds flying in as both Herons and Cormorants regurgitate food for their young and when bill to bill feeding good views of the young can often be made.

At the dam end an Egyptian Goose pair has had 5 young goslings. The rookery in the large trees behind Sailing Club boat yard is also active with approx. 15 nests noted.

## Friends News

**OPEN DAY - Sunday 16th July:** Will be our annual Open Day event from 9:30 to 16:00 (bird ringing will finish earlier) based as usual at the nature reserve car park and Whillet’s meadows. We will have a similar format as before. This will include visiting Whillet’s for the wild flowers, bird ringing, pond dipping, bee hives & honey.

Car park for the telescopes, moth display and hopefully some refreshments.  
More details will follow nearer the time in our next newsletter.



### Friends of Weir Wood Society General Information

<b>Chairman:</b>	Bob Johnson, 01892 661548	<b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:info@weirwood.me.uk">info@weirwood.me.uk</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	John Edwards, 01892 541147	<b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:membership@weirwood.me.uk">membership@weirwood.me.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ian Hodgson, 01293 885749	<b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:treasurer@weirwood.me.uk">treasurer@weirwood.me.uk</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Bob Johnson, 01892 661548	<b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:newsletter@weirwood.me.uk">newsletter@weirwood.me.uk</a>
<b>Website Editor:</b>	Tom Howard-Jones, 01293 883039	<b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:sightings@weirwood.me.uk">sightings@weirwood.me.uk</a>

### Other Contact Information

Tuesday Work Party Volunteers: [work@weirwood.me.uk](mailto:work@weirwood.me.uk) Website Photos: [photos@weirwood.me.uk](mailto:photos@weirwood.me.uk)  
 Wildlife Sightings: [sightings@weirwood.me.uk](mailto:sightings@weirwood.me.uk) Friends General E-Mail address: [info@weirwood.me.uk](mailto:info@weirwood.me.uk)  
 Website Address: <https://www.weirwood.me.uk>