

The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary

Spring 2012 Newsletter for Schools

Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal IP14 6AT

Contact Details: Admin Team 08456 807897 info@owl-help.org.uk www.owl-help.org.uk



Did You Know?

At about 25 days old, Tawny Owlets become curious about the outside world. They can't fly at this age, but still often leave their nest or hole and hop to nearby perches. This stage of development is called 'branching'.

Owl Art Competition for Schools

The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary is home not only to owls, but also many other types of birds of prey - in fact we have about 90 raptors here altogether! The word "Raptor" comes from the Latin, "rapere" - meaning to snatch, grab or carry off and basically means a meat eating bird that catches its prey with its feet. Our challenge this term is to see if your pupils can design a bird of prey work of art with a Spring Theme - a great opportunity to think about springtime backgrounds as well as your choice of magnificent raptor!

Your pupils can use any choice of media and the more imaginative they can be, the better!

Entries must be received by March 30th 2012, clearly labelled with the student's age, name and the address of the school.

The competition will be judged according to three age categories; Foundation stage, KS1 & KS2. The results and winning designs will be posted on our website and displayed at the Sanctuary.

The lucky winners for each age group will receive an Annual Season Ticket to SOS worth £25.

Please send your entries to: Admin Time, The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal Suffolk IP14 6AT

Owl Jokes

- Q. An owl searching for prey is called...?
A. An Owl on the Prowl !!
- Q. What does an owl need after his bath?
A. A T-Owl

FREE Teacher Packs

You can access all the S.O.S. teaching resources designed specifically for Foundation & Key Stages 1 & 2 entirely FREE in safe .pdf formats from our website at www.owl-help.org.uk

Proclamation



Mediaeval Days for Schools

**Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Stonham Barns
June 14th & 15th 2012**

Let it be known that the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary will be staging special Mediaeval Days for Schools again this year, providing a flavour of early Tudor life which should be of interest to all Key Stage 2 students aged 7-11.

The Black Knight Historical Group will be recreating a range of exciting generic characters from the Middle Ages - Knights, Archers, Falconers, Serfs & Domestics - for the event.

Each costumed character will be equipped with a comprehensive selection of replica artefacts specifically designed for examination and study - armour that can be worn, weapons and tools which can be safely handled, etc.- that will also be used in a variety of displays within the mediaeval encampment to encourage curiosity and provoke discussion amongst pupils. The price for this exciting event is £5 per child, whilst teachers & carers free.

If you are interested in joining us at this special event, please call 08456 807 897 or email us at info@owl-help.org.uk for more info.

PLEASE NOTE that we are now nearly SOLD OUT for Thursday June 14th but have plenty of spaces left for FRIDAY JUNE 15th - please book now to avoid disappointment!



SPRING Conservation Tip **How we ALL can help**

Spring can be an especially hectic time at the Sanctuary, not just with our own breeding raptors, but also where wild owl chicks are concerned and in particular Tawny Owl chicks, who seem to find their way out of their nests with remarkable regularity. It is worrying to see a small, defenseless creature sitting forlornly at the bottom of a tree but, by and large, if it's a Tawny Owlet, the chances are mum and dad know exactly where it is and will continue to look after it.

So what can you do?

Generally, our advice if you find an owlet on the floor is to put the youngster back in the nearest tree and, if possible, keep an eye on it for 24 hours. If you are really concerned, it's best to take it to your nearest vet, who has a duty of care for wild animals and will check the bird over free of charge, or to a Sanctuary if you have one near.

Remember: All wild birds, including owls are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Pellet Detective Workshops

An fascinating, instructive and rewarding 'hands-on' activity for youngsters is the dissection of owl pellets, about which you will find lots of information on our website in the Schools section. We also sell sterilised Owl Pellets for this purpose at just 1.40p each + P&P. and recommend that one pellet per group of 2-3 children should be ideal.

Contact Us

To Adopt-an-Owl or for information about educational resources and activities at the centre:

please call us on 08456 807897

or email info@owl-help.org.uk

Alternatively, visit our website at

www.owl-help.org.uk

School Visits to S.O.S. - or ask **The Wise Owl Roadshow** **to visit you!**

Visit us at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, where our exciting Educational Days Out can be customised to the individual needs of your school. Besides the birds we also have a Red Squirrel colony and, new this year, Meerkat Korner.

Alternatively, we can bring our Wise Owl Road Show to your school, again with a package tailored to suit your requirements, to which can be added our Pets Advice Workshop, outlining best practice for keeping rabbits and guinea pigs for youngsters.

Educational visits are available throughout the year - please call 08456 807897 or e-mail info@owl-help.org.uk for more information. Please note - all our falconry and education staff are fully trained and have been Enhanced CRB checked.



COBWEB
Barn Owl



BUG
Tawny Owl



SNOWDROP
Snowy Owl



LANARK
Long Eared Owl



TAIGA
Great Grey Owl



CECIL
Spectacled Owl



COMET
Peregrine Falcon



LILY
Little Owl



PUNGU
Bateleur Eagle

Why not ADOPT-AN-OWL **for your Class or School?**

When your school or class ADOPTS-AN-OWL at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary (registered charity No. 1086565), the collected donation will go towards a number of special projects aimed at the preservation and conservation of Owls in the wild. The amount of the donation is at your discretion - even the smallest amount will make a world of difference and a difference to our world. An illustrated certificate of adoption will be supplied with our compliments.

Suffolk Owl Sanctuary Update

About the Sanctuary

Although lots of local people have heard of us, it's surprising how many don't actually know what goes on behind the scenes here at the Centre and what our 'raison d'être' really is. Established as a registered charity in 2001, the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary is not just a haven for owls, but also many other birds of prey, including eagles, falcons, hawks, buzzards and one mischievous vulture! All 90 or so of the birds that live at the Sanctuary are captive bred and help to provide a unique opportunity for visitors to learn about different birds of prey and their importance in our world. The Suffolk Owl Sanctuary is run by a small but dedicated team, supported by a devoted and much appreciated group of volunteers and its key aims are to provide Education about birds of prey, Care and Rehabilitation for injured birds of prey and to promote Owl Conservation throughout the UK and beyond.

A Wild Start to 2012

We launched into 2012 in spirited fashion, with a special Baden-Powell "Wild Weekend" to help encourage all our young scouts and brownies to get out and about after the Christmas Break and to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the death of Lord Baden-Powell in January 1941. Baden-Powell was born in 1857 and served in the British Army from 1876 until 1910 in India and Africa. During his Africa years, Baden-Powell wrote several military books about reconnaissance and scout training, which were often read by boys and which then prompted him to write the publication 'Scouting for Boys', published in 1908. Whilst he was writing the book, Baden-Powell decided to test his ideas by organising a camping trip on Brownsea Island and it's this that is now seen as the beginning of scouting. The S.O.S Wild Weekend was a two-day event packed with lots of hands-on activities and workshops provided by local

organisations including the Mid-Suffolk Countryside Rangers and The Woodland Trust. In addition, Jamie Baker brought along his giant land snails and stick insects, we had visiting parrots and macaws brought by the Ipswich Exotic Bird Rescue team and the Close Encounters Roadshow also came along with some superb reptiles for visitors to handle. In addition we had some exciting illustrated talks by a scientist from the British Antarctic Survey Team and from an explorer who had made the incredible journey across the Canadian Arctic to the Magnetic North Pole.

Big Birds arrive at S.O.S.



We have been extremely fortunate to add some stunning species to our bird of prey family recently, including a striking pair of Tawny Eagles. These sizeable birds have a wingspan of between 165-185 cms and weigh in at about 2.4 kilograms each - that's a good couple of bags of sugar or more landing on the wrists of our falconers during the spectacular displays featuring a wide range of different birds you will see alongside the Red Squirrels, Ferrets, Chipmunks and Meerkats that can be seen when you visit us on a school trip S.O.S.

Owl Hangman

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(Answer: Tawny Owlets hop onto branches before they can fly)

FREE Teacher Pass

You & your family are invited as our guests to visit us at

THE SUFFOLK OWL SANCTUARY

Stonham Barns, Stonham Aspal IP14 6AT

Tel: 08456 807897 • www.owl-help.org.uk

- Over 90 owls & other birds of prey
- Red squirrels, chipmunks, meerkats & ferrets
- Flying Displays from Easter to September
- Woodland Walk • Owl Safari

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND 10.00am - 5.00pm daily (4.00 in winter)

Flying displays are subject to weather conditions - please call ahead before travelling if in doubt

Please note: One Pass Per Family ~ Pass Limited to 5 people ~ Pass Must Be Given Up on Day Of Visit

