

# The Hoot

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR LOCAL NATURE-LOVING COMMUNITY

## News and Happenings



Unlike many plants and animals that have been quietly waiting out the winter, the Orton Wildlife Landscape’s group have been very active this year so far! Hopefully you have had chance to come along to one of our talks at Orton Market Hall, but if not, make sure you check out our events calendar and get some dates in your diary.

In March, David Greaves, a conservation officer from Eden Rivers Trust came to talk to us about water voles and all the fantastic work his team is doing to create habitat and re-introduce this charismatic and quintessentially British species. Thank you to everyone who came and donated.



MORE TALKS PLANNED IN 2024



Bee fly (*Bombylius major*) on Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) courtesy of Warren Photos

## Opportunity to Get Involved!

We are looking for volunteers to help us survey our species-rich road verges in Orton Parish this coming summer. If you, or anyone you know have ever wanted to get more involved with nature on your doorstep this is a great opportunity. All the training you need will be provided, no prior experience necessary. Surveys will be fun, fast and hopefully carried out in the sunshine! **First meeting on the 21st May 2024 @ 6pm.**



# News and Happenings cont'd



In February, we were very lucky to have Lee Schofield give a talk about the transformational work he has done on a hill farm in the heart of the Lake District.

From re-wiggling rivers, re-establishing wildflower meadows and re-generating woodlands, Lee and his hard-working team have shown how nature recovery can work hand in hand with local tradition and food production.

It was a fantastic turn out with around forty people and lots of money raised.

This month, members of OWL had the opportunity to visit Naddle Farm for themselves. As well as visiting the Celebration Woodland and hearing a talk about the farm, our group had the opportunity to view badgers in the new hide.

As dusk fell and the stormy weather continued outside, the group settled in with warm clothes and hot drinks to wait for the badgers to emerge. They took their time, but eventually the group got a really good view of these inquisitive animals, as they came right up to the hide, snuffling under logs and rocks for insects.



**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS OF ANY OF OUR EVENTS**

Badger feeding courtesy of Kate Blue

## Our Next Steps...

This winter, the members of OWLs held a series of meetings to discuss the direction of the group during which we collaborated to create a mission statement and a series of aims and objectives. If you are interested, you can view the summary of these discussions [here](#).

As well as community events and our wildflower verges project, we are also looking to focus on river restoration, tree planting and dark sky preservation. Get in touch if you would like to get involved.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

**Let's chat!**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

owl.group.admin@icloud.com

**Orton Wildlife Landscapes**



WILDFLOWER WALK

**\* NEXT EVENT \***

THURSDAY 23  
MAY 2024



## Tree Planting

Thank you to the volunteers from OWLs and Growing Well who helped to plant hundreds of trees in Raisbeck to improve upland habitat.



## Hedge Planting

Hardy volunteers from OWLs and the Lune Rivers Trust battled the cold and rain to plant hedgerows to improve river habitat and biodiversity in Raisbeck.

**\*\* SPECIAL EVENT – [CLICK HERE TO BOOK TICKETS](#) \*\***

Join our super local Bake Off star Abbi Lawson for a special event at Orton Market Hall. Abbi will be talking about Bake Off, foraging, baking with the seasons, and how she connects to the natural world through the ingredients she uses in her bakes. She will also be giving a baking demonstration using seasonal and foraged ingredients. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask your burning Bake Off questions, learn about foraging and how you can get started, recipe tips and tricks, and of course a taste test at the end of the evening!

SAT 11 MAY  
7 PM  
ORTON MARKET  
HALL



FLORA RECORDING  
WITH BSBI

**\*UPCOMING\***

MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024