

# WOW ANOTHER SUCCESS

On Sunday 11th September approximately 1,000 visitors enjoyed another day at Pikelow Farm, Marton as the gates opened at 10:00 am for the Local Group's 4<sup>th</sup> WOW (Wildlife & Outdoor World Extravaganza). The RSPB Macclesfield Group would like to thank Arighi Bianchi, Sibelco UK, ECM & Charter Vets for their sponsorship and David & Ann Taylor for their generosity in providing Pikelow Farm and its utilities free of charge for this event.

During the day the Wonderful Or Wicked Café served approximately 650 cups of tea or coffee and patrons managed to eat 275 scones, 15 T-Breads, 12 assorted cakes, 7 sponge cakes & 4 tray bakes spending over £900 in the Café. Lydia thanks all those who helped with the preparation and serving throughout the day. The quality of the refreshments on sale were second to none and thanks are also due to all who baked and donated cakes etc. to sell.



Photograph by Neil Robinson



Photograph by David Tolliday

Other key fundraising areas were the 'Bargain Hunt' stall run by Ann Taylor, the RSPB sales goods organised by Chris Revett & Joan Wilson and The Raffle Tent where Anne & Karen Bennett supported by Liz Siddal, Bernard & Jean Griffiths sold raffle tickets for the first prize of a hamper, together with a guess the name of the Teddy & Doll In addition, Plant, Jam & Marmalade sales with Jean, Dorothy & Bruce were busy in the Big Shed. Around the site you could see demonstrations from The Blacksmith, look inside a travelling caravan or admire some tractors from a bygone age.

One of the most pleasing aspects of WOW was the very positive feedback we received extolling the educational aspects of WOW through for example the Bat Group, Bee Keeping, Barn Owl Group,



Photograph by Darren Mayer

Dragonfly & Butterfly Conservation, BioQuip, AquaLife, Biota, The N.F.U. Road Show and our own Wildlife Explorers Group (WEX).

Building the wildlife garden and participating in the Pentathlon Games (Archery, Golf, Coconut Shy, S&TA Target Fly Fishing & Feed the Owls) was a highlight for many of the 238 children who attended WOW. During the WEX activities children built bird boxes, a hedgehog house (from some very expensive wine boxes!), put plants around the edge of the pond, a real muddy experience and constructed a compost bin from pallets donated by Gawsworth Nursery. All this work contributed to the Wildlife Explorers Group achieving a Gold Wildlife Action award from the R.S.P.B. Full details about this fantastic achievement can be found by clicking the WEX logo on the [www.macclesfieldrspb.org.uk](http://www.macclesfieldrspb.org.uk) website.



Photograph by Darren Mayer



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Another popular destination for children and adults was the CAWOS & Ringers stand. Visitors could watch the experienced ringers weigh and measure mist netted birds from Pikelow Farm before putting little rings on their legs for identification. Scientists may now monitor their progress if they are netted

again in this country or if they are one of our departing Summer migrants at an exotic location on another continent. From the day a total of 207 birds at Pikelow Farm now have a shiny ring on their leg.



Photograph by Darren Mayer

Ray Rush showed visitors how to make corn dollies in the Big Shed where there were tables with Strawberry Fields Crafts, bird and wildlife books from Picture Book (Leek) together with local Stick maker, John Helm, Oona Bissett cards and local artist Jacky Freeman. Down by the pools was a demonstration of Pole lathe Turning and The Green Bank Company of Archers gave us an opportunity to try and hit the target! Focal Point Optics together with representatives from Zeiss, Swarovski, Opticron & Hawke demonstrated binoculars

and telescopes to visitors so they could see 'wildlife in close up'. As the day wore on the open auction bidding got more serious for the 4 foot bench donated by Country Rustics of Swettenham finally ending at five o'clock with a highest bid of £95 for the cause from a lady who lives in Cheadle, a real bargain for a bench that retails at £118!!

During the afternoon we were very pleased to welcome The Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East, Councillor Roger West, who took his time to look around the various displays and enjoy tea and cake at the café.

Through the efforts of the Wildlife Explorers 172 marine pledges were signed and the RSPB stall enrolled 5 new National RSPB members. WOW, what a great day of achievement for all who helped towards the **£5,500+** that was raised for the RSPB 'Living Classrooms Initiative'. I think the final word should go to Mrs Whittam, one of the many happy visitors

at Pikelow Farm on Sunday who said: "We thoroughly enjoyed the educational day today, many thanks for a well organised event, my 3 year old son loved milking the cow and my husband and I loved holding the chicks".



Photograph by Chris Eccleston

Ian Taylor

On behalf on the WOW organising Committee