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July 2020



### Hen Harrier Action: July newsletter



Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to our latest newsletter, focused on plans for the first ever online Hen Harrier Day. It builds on a fantastic period of engagement with so many people in communities across the UK, and we're very excited about it!

We've just announced that the event will be hosted by Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin. Chris has actively supported Hen Harrier Days since the very first in 2014, and is a fantastic ambassador for hen harriers, and Megan will be doing lots of cool stuff. There will be other familiar faces too, as well as some new ones.

## **Hen Harrier Day Online**

Hen Harrier Day Online will take place on 8 August 2020 and run across several social media channels including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. The programme will be announced very soon: highlights over the day will include:

- Chris and Megan hosting, supported by other well-known presenters and naturalists
- A haunting new song by composer Cheryl Camm, lamenting the loss of so many hen harriers to illegal persecution
- Lots of great new video celebrating hen harriers and other birds of the uplands
- Information about raptors, their persecution and other problems of the uplands
- Readings of the winners of our Young Wild Writer Competition, with the overall winner being read by Michael Morpurgo
- Excellent innovative video pieces from the winners of our Early Career Naturalist Challenge
- Poetry from some of the UK's leading poets, with several pieces written especially for Hen Harrier Day
- Contributions from some of our leading young influencers, talking to well-known writers, politicians and others.

And more: there will be song, street art, T-shirts, more creative work by young children, cartoons, contributions on the wider animal welfare and environmental issues associated with driven grouse shooting – and ideas for how the uplands could be better managed for nature and for people.

During the event we will be fundraising for the Langholm Moor Community Buyout. We're proud to be supporting this ambitious project that can help show the way forward for land previously managed as grouse moor.

We're also, with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, running a great secret postcard auction and you'll hear more about that on the day too.

## **Hen Harrier Day Wales**

The first ever Hen Harrier Day in Wales took place on 18 July. An online event, it featured talks by leading naturalists, conservationists and others. There was also a raffle with some

wonderful prizes. The whole event, now on Facebook [here](#), has had more than 10,000 views.

### **You can now donate**

We are pleased to say that you can now donate to Hen Harrier Action. We've set up a fundraising platform with Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and you can find it on our website: [henharrierday.uk/donate](http://henharrierday.uk/donate). CAF claim the Gift Aid for us, so if you donate please complete that bit. Hen Harrier Action is a tiny charity, we have no paid staff, we are all volunteers, and we have no premises either. But we do have central admin costs such as for the website which it would be great to have help with. Additionally, we are looking to continue our work in raising awareness, supporting more events next year, and in strengthening our central contribution.

### **Other news**

Sadly, raptor persecution continued unabated over lock-down, with new evidence now emerging seemingly almost daily as forensic results come back from newly re-opened labs and the police put out calls for information. And of course this is only the tip of the iceberg. Just this week there has been a huge public outcry over a young white-tailed sea eagle found poisoned on a grouse moor in the Cairngorms National Park. There has never been a successful prosecution for the illegal killing of an eagle in Scotland. Increased penalties mean nothing if there are no prosecutions, the criminals just carry on with impunity. You can join the many people - in Scotland and elsewhere - who have written to demand that the Scottish government finally take action:

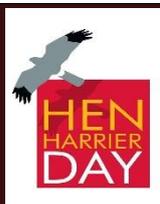
Nicola Sturgeon: [firstminister@gov.scot](mailto:firstminister@gov.scot)

Roseanna Cunningham (Environment Cabinet Secretary): [CabSecECCLR@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecECCLR@gov.scot)

More positively, birders have been enjoying views of a juvenile bearded vulture in the Peak District. Given that area's reputation for wildlife crime, there have been concerns regarding its safety, but so far it has come to no harm. Bearded vultures often move away from their home mountains before returning to settle down, but this is only the second UK sighting. The bird arrived on 26 June and has been seen regularly ever since.

### **Keep up to date**

To get the very latest news of our plans, please follow us - Hen Harrier Day - on Facebook and Twitter @HHDAYUK. And please share with all your friends and followers – we want to get the message out as widely as possible.



Visit the Hen Harrier Action [website](#)

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