

July 2021



Hen Harrier Action: July newsletter



Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to our July newsletter with exciting news about our brilliant Hen Harrier Day event, coming up in just a few days' time.

Hen Harrier Day Online: 1 August 2021



We're thrilled that our online Hen Harrier Day will be hosted by David Lindo, the Urban Birder, with Lauren Cook, winner of last year's Early Career Naturalist Challenge. It's been a great pleasure working with David and Lauren developing the event, and we're sure they will do us proud. Modelled on our hugely successful Skydancer Day in May, our Hen Harrier Day will have more great content about hen harriers and other birds of the

uplands, the results of our competitions and challenges, some music, and more. (David pictured above, photo credit Susana Sanroman, Lauren pictured below).

As with all of our events, we'll aim both to celebrate the beauty of nature in the uplands and to expose some of the serious issues affecting them and show how they can become so much better for people and for nature.

A highlight will be some great footage from a hen harrier nest in the wild far north of Scotland. You'll be able to see the parents and eggs, then the tiny chicks and finally the almost fully grown and fledged young birds.



The birds are the stars, of course, but there's quite a story behind this first successful hen harrier nestcam, and we'll tell that too. At Hen Harrier Action, one of our aims is to encourage everyone not only to visit the uplands but also to get more from the experience when they are there. It's easy these days to get used to seeing less wildlife when we are out in nature and to think it normal. But if we sharpen our vision and see with more understanding, we'll enjoy more wildlife and recognise better what must change. So our programme will include a short workshop on identifying the birds of prey that can be found in the uplands, a piece on the heroes who voluntarily devote hours and days to monitor and protect them, and another on wildlife crime investigation.

We'll also aim to show how with effective restoration and rewilding there really is a vision for how the uplands can become so much better than the nature-depleted places we so often experience today.

The event will be livestreamed on the Hen Harrier Day YouTube channel, starting at 10.00am on Sunday 1 August. Click [here](#) to set a reminder. As ever, you will also be able to view the event later if you choose. The whole event will also be viewable on catch up from shortly after it ends. We're still finalising the running order for 1 August but you can see the main details of the event [here](#).

Our event will include news of other Hen Harrier Days to come, including on 7 August from [Wild Justice](#), and a series of online activities planned for the rest of the summer by [Derbyshire Wildlife Trust](#) with our support, culminating, we hope, in an actual on-the-ground event in mid-September.

Your call to action: 'Draw their attention'



Our call to action this year is 'Draw their attention'. The aim is to try to wake up our elected representatives to the scale and urgency of the nature emergency, yet to do so in a simple and vivid way. We'd like everyone to send their MP, MSP or MS a postcard with a drawing of a hen harrier on it and a simple message such as 'Save our Skydancers'. You've already shared with us some great pictures of the postcards you've sent,

and we'll show a few of these on 1 August as well as urging lots more of you to send (and share) images and words over the coming weeks. No need to wait for 1 August: more details [here](#) (and if you send us a photo of your drawing before then we may show it online).

News from Hen Harrier Action

We're privileged at HHA to have a very strong board of trustees, people who not only give brilliant strategic direction to the charity but also contribute in many more 'hands-on' ways. We have no staff, it's all down to us and our excellent volunteers. So it is brilliant to be able to announce that we are strengthening our board still further. We welcome:

Dr Cathleen Thomas, professional ecologist, science communicator and raptor worker who led the 'Hen Harrier LIFE' project for RSPB, coordinating the UK's largest tagging programme and contributing to many Hen Harrier Day activities.

Ian Cooper, mountain guide and leader, organiser of the first Hen Harrier Day in Wales, and very much involved in a number of raptor protection schemes there.

Indy Kiemel Greene, a naturalist, photographer and volunteer who at age 16 has already done a huge amount to promote a wilder future for us and the planet.

Welcome to all three, each of whom will help us greatly, as we get on with building our networks and reach as we move forward from the excitement of Hen Harrier Day Online. You will shortly (but not quite yet) be able to read more about each of them, alongside other trustees, [here](#).

Support us

The last newsletter brought more generous donations than ever. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed, whatever the amount. Your ready willingness to support the charity is truly inspiring; knowing that you have our back is as important as the financial support itself. Donations are eligible for Gift Aid; to make a donation, click [here](#).



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