

RAPTOR ALLIANCE IN THE NEWS – FROM SHARON AYLING JUNE 2014

NEWS FROM THE LAW COMMISSION

The final report on the wildlife project (together with a draft bill) is scheduled to be ready for publication in October 2014.

Given that wildlife protection and management is a relatively controversial area of law, we do not expect government to take our bill forward during the last parliamentary session. We believe, therefore, that it will be up to the next Government, after the 2015 elections, to decide what to do with the final project.

LETTERS FROM FANCIERS

I would like to thank the following people for their letters/emails regarding hawk problems over the last few months. Some of these have been followed through by our PR Company who have arranged newspaper articles and media interviews; Mr Ken Rose, Mr Phill Harrison – Caerwent, Caldicot, Mr Ernest Green – Worksop, Mr Brian Carberry – Stockton-on-Tees, Mr A J Fell – Mansfield, Mr Les Clayton – Risca, Newport, Gwent, Mr T H Bird, "Hawk Eye" – Northern Ireland.



MEETINGS WITH MP'S

Stewart Wardrop (RPRA) & Colin Clark (WHU) have had meetings with some of the MP's in the Gloucestershire area, regarding getting support for Pigeon Racing and the effect of hawk attacks on our traditional sport.

The first meeting was with Martin Horwood (MP – Cheltenham) Martin will support our cause, he will speak with his contacts to help move us forward.

They met with Neil Carmichael (MP – Stroud) who was very interested in our plight and gave us some recommendations as how to move forward with lobbying. Neil has also written to George Eustice MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, this letter explained the damage hawks are having on the sport, and requesting licences to be issued for persistent hawks to be taken away from problem areas. They also met with David Drew (Ex MP – Stroud) who visited Stewart's father's loft. He took a great interest as he has attended pigeon functions in the past and also knows fancier's in the area. David asked lots of questions. He again gave them knowledgeable advice and was very much in favour of giving his support.

In summary all will be supportive, knowledgeable and pass on useful contacts.



Our PR Company "Voice" work quickly and efficiently, when we give them the leads we need for good Media and Press Coverage the majority of these interviews have lead to our hawk problems within the sport being televised.

Dave Stuart from Cambourne, Cornwall was revisited by BBC Cornwall in May as his hawk problem has increased since last year. This was aired on the 5th May 2014. Stewart Wardrop was also included in this interview.

Andy Talmer from Bedford was visited at his loft by the ITV Anglia Crew and interviewed about the raptor attacks in Bedford. This TV interview was shown throughout the day on the 7th May, including being featured on the regular news bulletins with a longer feature on the six O'Clock News. Andy was also interviewed by BBC Three Counties Radio and this was broadcast on the 1st May 2014.

On the 9th May 2014 the South Wales Evening Post, published an article about raptor attacks in the area after interviewing Gwyneth Jones. This article also went online. Wales on Sunday sent a journalist to interview Gwyneth and they also published their article both online and in print on the 18th May 2014. On the 28th May 2014 ITV Wales broadcast an interview with Gwyneth, highlighting the issue she is facing, this is also included a piece with Margaret Evans the President of the Welsh Homing Union.



MOVING FORWARD 2014

1. More Meetings with local MP's, preparing an effective lobbying pack for 2015.
2. Meetings with various Organisations who also have similar problems within their sport. We also need to build some rapport with the RSPB!
3. Fund Raising – Young Bird Sale (Look out for this coming shortly) We have had some fantastic donations from high profile lofts and fanciers.
4. Sustain Press Activity
5. Ongoing Administration, recording and collation of all the many and varied sources of input.

We are now on Facebook under the heading Pigeon Racing UK/Ireland. Please visit us as, we need lots of like's. I am regularly adding newspaper articles, links to interviews with fanciers who have major hawk problems. I need your comments too.

facebook

MORE FACTUAL STORIES & INTERVIEWS WILL BE COMING DURING JUNE

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL ARTIFICIAL PEREGRINE NEST SITE

Last year I wrote to many buildings/sites with artificial peregrine nest boxes requesting when cleaning the nests out that any leg rings found be returned to me. The only site to do this was Lincoln Cathedral, who sent me about 25 leg rings. I have written to the majority of the owners, asking a variety of questions, I do still have some people to contact. We are hoping to build a case study from this, so anyone that has been contacted and not got back to me yet, we would appreciate your help with this. I would like to thank these people who have got back to me so far – Michael Beadle (Melton Mowbray), Bob Long (York), Mr & Mrs Ellis (Lincoln), Dave Dixon (Barnsley), P. Barnes (Newark), D Crossland (Barnsley), D. Melkevik (Grimsby), R. Allenby (Scunthorpe) and W Overend (County Durham).

I have been watching the live camera at Nottingham University and I have spotted a red leg ring, so I wonder how many more are in that nest!?



WE URGENTLY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU IF:

Your sport is being ruined by frequent Hawk attacks in your gardens/lofts?

Are you willing to speak out for media purposes?

Do you personally know any of your local MP's who would be happy to listen to our plight?

I would like to record how many birds you have personally lost so far for 2014 due to hawk attacks?

Please send your information, letters and pictures to: **Sharon Ayling, Raptor Alliance, Unit G5 Seedbed Centre, Wyncolls Road, Colchester, Essex. CO4 9HT**

Or E Mail: shazi@btconnect.com

Please join me on Facebook: Pigeon Racing UK and Ireland – See you there fanciers.

