

Letters of support from our Sanctuary friends;

## **Rainbow Valley Bird Rescue**

When sadly Three Owls had to close its hospital and aviary operations down, we took some hens, ducks, and pigeons from Nigel. I could see when Nigel arrived, how upset he was at having to part with the birds. It made us feel upset too, that the birds which had a good home at Three Owls (some had been there for years) were having to face the upheaval of being re-homed. However, they are now living near Skipton with our good friends Keith and Lyn; who have a smallholding, and all are doing very well. They have plenty of space, and more importantly, a home for life.

Keith has got to know the birds very well, and all the different characters. The pigeons have a large aviary and can come and go as they please. The ducks have two ponds and a beck to swim in, and share with two swans and a few geese. The hens have settled in very well; a little while ago, a few of them wandered onto the new vegetable patch and scratched up all the seedlings while Keith's wife was out! So it all had to be replanted and a fence put around before she returned! One hen (named Tatty) is very tame. She likes to come into the kitchen and is never happier than when she is on someone's lap.

We started to take in all types of cage and aviary birds eleven years ago, and are a halfway house for them. Regular trips are made to a Sanctuary called the Parrot Zoo, where they live as natural life as possible in aviaries, and once admitted they have a home there for life. We do not sell or re-home birds as pets. Without the help of the Parrot Zoo ([www.parrotzoo.com](http://www.parrotzoo.com)), we would not be able to undertake our rescue work, and equally without support from kind people like yourselves, the work we do in collecting, treating, and caring for the birds would not be possible. We give our time freely to help the birds; it is the cost of food, medicines, and transport with which we struggle. We are not a Registered Charity at this time, but would welcome any assistance you feel you can give towards our work with the birds.

Pat and Richard Morgan  
Rainbow Valley Bird Rescue

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## **Knoxwood Wildlife Rescue Trust**

Firstly, everyone here at Knoxwood would like to say a huge thank you to Nigel & the team at Three Owls. Knoxwood responded to an appeal by Three Owls and offered to take on any birds that they could not relocate on closing the hospitals and aviary facilities. We have done this for other sanctuaries before but we were not prepared for the astounding level of support given from the staff at Three Owls. We were provided with aviaries for the birds to live in and a whole host of equipment

we could never have purchased on our own. We are a "hand-to mouth" run sanctuary and we very rarely have even 6 months running costs in the bank and the items sent to us (all neatly packaged, delivered and installed by them too!) have been a huge bonus to us that we could never have saved up to buy ourselves. The hospital cages and equipment they provided for our use are top of the range and have made our lives so much easier and obviously we are now able to take on more wildlife as a result of all the extra facilities we have. We have even gained an extra member of staff... Because of our location we are able to allow certain birds, even those not fully able, to fly free round the site, which is what we did with the crows Oddjob & Bobby. Bobby is totally fit and usually calls in once every day or two for a snack but Oddjob decided that the wide world is not for him and can always be found lurking around the feed bins. He seemed to be taking massive amounts of food until we found out that he was taking food and feeding all our baby crows and rooks through their aviary wire! Since then we have allowed him into the aviary where the youngsters copy him feeding and tearing food up, saving us a lot of time teaching them ourselves! Three Owls also saved our bacon again at the early part of this year when we rescued 35 owls from a centre that had walked away and left them to die in their cages. Nigel & Co were on site immediately with a full load of emergency aviaries to house them, all we had to do was bolt them together and they were ready for action.

We have had an increased workload since taking in the birds from Three Owls, not only have we taken on birds directly from Three Owls itself, but since its partial closure we have had a veritable fleet of very dedicated people from the Rochdale area bringing us wildlife casualties that would have normally gone to Three Owls. We have also taken in huge amounts of other wildlife from closing and struggling sanctuaries from all over the north of England, which we could not have done without the equipment, aviaries and supplies from Three Owls.

Knoxwood is now very well equipped but we still struggle to find our running costs to keep our sanctuary going. Our donations have declined rapidly (and our work has increased) since the beginning of the current economic crisis and if you feel that you could help on a one-off or better still a regular basis then we would love to hear from you. We have a standing order facility where you can donate from £2 per month, please contact us for a form or you can donate online at [www.knoxwood.org](http://www.knoxwood.org). Of course cheques and postal orders are always welcome too! Alternatively you can donate up to £10 using your mobile phone. All you need to do is text KNOX01 followed by the amount you want to donate to 70070. We receive the entire amount!

Knoxwood Wildlife Rescue Trust, Thornby Moor, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 0LA.

[www.knoxwood.org](http://www.knoxwood.org) - [info@knoxwood.org](mailto:info@knoxwood.org)  
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Registered Charity in England No. 1079659

# Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue

I have known and respected Nigel and the work of Three Owls for over 25 years. The work he has put into the sanctuary into making it into the centre of excellence during the 33+ years he has been there is breathtaking, often working 18+ hours a day to make things work (as is so often required in wild animal welfare sanctuaries). So many times I have asked for advice, have **never** been refused, and this readiness to help has been the keystone to what Three Owls has always been about. For many, they see it as purely a bird sanctuary - somewhere to take a bird in trouble. In reality it has been far more than that, providing expert advice about bird care in the wild and when NOT to interfere with nature, and how to help birds in difficult situations without taking them out of the area. The tours around the facilities gave many people the education they needed about the damage they actually did when previously they thought they were 'helping' birds in the wild. Generations of people visited, from both school age right through to the elderly. In the last decade or so, the facilities were improved for wheelchair users - so much thought went in to helping people and birds; Nigel is a true investor in people, often giving the underdog a chance to bring the best out in people. Even the Sunday Sales brought in a wide collection of people from all walks of life, and gave a true community spirit - everyone with the same ultimate goal ... to help the birds. It is a travesty of justice that the Sanctuary has been forced into closure of its hospitals and aviaries, I know first-hand just how hard the trustees battled with the council to try and avoid this situation. The outcome of the council's actions has implications for many sanctuaries throughout the country, and I have had many people contact me from all over, concerned about the future for wild bird care. Whatever the future holds for Three Owls in its amended line of work, I know that Nigel will give it his all, and make it a further success for wild birds in distress. We all wish him and the other trustees of Three Owls well, and are glad their invaluable Helpline service is continuing.

We would also like to say a huge 'Thank You' for their gift of hospital cages and medical equipment; allowing us to give the best care possible to those birds which do come our way.

Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue was founded in 1991 when we found a very underweight young hog outside our home. Although Three Owls did occasionally take in hedgehogs too, this was a sideline purely as there was often no-where else to take them, and so a real need was there. Somehow word got around that we were caring for Hedgehogs and we suddenly found ourselves taking in more and more very sick , injured and orphaned ones.....which is how the Hospital came into being. Each successive year saw an increase from the last until by 1998 the average annual intake was well over 1000 (now 1500-2000 per year) and happily the releases back to the wild passed the 75% mark While this was very rewarding it was not without a lot of heartache and sadness having seen so many horrific injuries caused by man's indifference and cruelty. We have also been a half-way house on occasion

for a small number of birds on their way to Three Owls - often dropped off in the early hours when a hog was admitted for care at the same time; again, Nigel's advice and guidance has been invaluable.

Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue is the largest hedgehog rescue centre in the northwest, and can have up to 300 patients at any one given time. We solely depend on donations from people like yourselves to survive. Our ever-growing vets, food, bedding and cleaning material costs are huge. Any donations are gratefully received. We have a small but dedicated group of volunteers that give up many hours of their free time to maintain our standards of care. If you live in Rochdale or surrounding towns and think you could be a volunteer then give us a call, (you must be 18 or over). We are always in need of tinned cat or dog food (non-fish variety).

Rochdale Hedgehog Rescue  
Fallowfield Drive  
Shawclough  
Rochdale

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Registered Charity No. 1063457

## **Johns' perseverance is revealing**

Throughout our battle with the Council to make them see the harm ill-fitting legislation would do to Three Owls, they made it clear both in meetings at the Sanctuary, and in public meetings elsewhere, that they had no choice but to pursue the matter further; if they did not, then legal action would be taken against them. They also stated on numerous occasions that they had on two occasions sought independent legal advice, and that this had concurred with the conclusions they had come to.

However, when pressed further on these issues, they refused to reveal first WHO the mysterious 3<sup>rd</sup> party was making the legal enquiry (giving us no option to approach them directly and find out precisely what this legal threat was). We also pressed for these two external legal opinions sought, as it was important to find out what experience they had in similar cases, and if they had in fact ever visited Three Owls on which to base their opinions. In each case, the Council rebuffed us and stayed tight-lipped.

John Thorpe has been wonderful in attending many meetings on my behalf during 2010 since the services here were reduced; I needed to remain focussed on the job in hand of looking after all the birds and sorting out new homes, sorting out what was happening with the staff and volunteers, and of course the sanctuary aviaries, hospitals, buildings and land, so he was right at the forefront of a lot that was said.

The first point the Council refused to reveal; exactly WHO the 3rd party were, was revealed by Rochdale Observer - the Born Free Foundation. However, Born Free have gone to some lengths to state that they NEVER threatened the Council with any legal action, they simply made an enquiry, and the Council were well within their rights to say the Sanctuary was OUTSIDE the scope of zoo licensing, and that Born Free would have accepted that.

The second point of the external legal opinions dragged on and on, with much sidestepping of Johns' persistent letters questioning their actions. Letters of reply were promised but either didn't materialise, or came without the actual answers to the questions posed. Finally, in **January 2011**, John received a letter from David Joy of the Legal Services Section of the Council that stated;

"I can confirm that the Council did not seek an external legal opinion on the potential application of the Zoo Licensing act 1981 to the Three Owls Bird Sanctuary."

"In light of concerns raised by the Planning and Regulation Service as to the consequences of applying the Act, a further opinion was sought. I undertook a detailed review of the initial advice and subsequently provided my own separate advice to the Planning and Regulation Service."

"From early on in the process, the possibility of seeking an external Counsel's opinion on this important matter remained an option. In my advice to the Service, I concluded that the issues were clear and that I did not consider it was necessary for the Council to seek a further opinion."

So, to conclude this sorry episode, NO external legal advice was sought as claimed, and they simply relied on each others reports.

Of course none of this brings Three Owls back to what it was, but it goes a fair way to put the record straight for those who were misled by various offices and organisations.

**Summum ius, summa iniuria** - *The extreme law is the greatest injustice. Similarly, when those with great responsibility commit blunders in office, they do much more harm than would others.*

NB: I have been asked to clarify that the original officer from the Council who attended with regard to Zoo Licensing was Mr Andrew Gumbley, and not Mr Grumbley as some people have quoted.

# Helpline proves to be a real Life-line

A huge number of people from all walks of life have been in touch over the past few months, concerned that there was no other organisation they could turn to - with the same level of experience and knowledge, in order to seek help and advice for specific wild bird 'situations'. However, we have absolutely no plans to stop our Helpline service - as I have always said "there's no use having knowledge if it isn't shared".

During the bitter winter weather we experienced during December 2010 alone, we took 300 calls for help and gave out almost 1500 minutes of detailed advice. Feedback from those calls has shown that from the information given, many many wild bird lives were saved.

We are recording the amount of use the Helpline provides, not only for our records, but so that everyone can see that Three Owls knowledge is continuing to help wild birds throughout the world each day. This information is also continually updated on our Website;

14-11-10 to 30-11-10

158 Calls 652 minutes = 10 hrs 52 mins (approx 4 mins 7 secs per call)

1-12-10 to 31-12-10

300 Calls 1469 minutes = 24 hrs 29 mins (approx 4 mins 53 secs per call)

1-1-11 to 31-1-11

230 Calls 1101 minutes = 18 hrs 21 mins (approx 4 mins 47 secs per call)

1-2-11 to 28-2-11

213 Calls 659 minutes = 10 hrs 59 mins (approx 3 mins 6 secs per call)

1-3-11 to 31-3-11

313 Calls 1167 minutes = 19 hrs 27 mins (approx 3 mins 44 secs per call)

1-4-11 to 30-4-11

329 calls 1314 mins = 21hrs 54 mins (approx 3 mins 59 secs per call)

1-5-11 to 31-5-11

476 calls 1985 mins = 33hrs 5 mins (approx 4 mins 10 secs per call)

1-6-11 to 30-6-11

577 calls 2245 mins = 37hrs 25 minutes (approx 3 mins 53 secs per call)

**Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter**

*- Your knowledge is nothing when no one else knows that you know it*

*As you will have noticed, the delay in the newsletter being printed means that John has now completed his ride - but needs your sponsorship just as much as ever - the deadline for receiving monies has been extended to 1st September; here is his post-ride report....*

## **The Manchester to Blackpool Bike Ride 22 years and counting**

By John Thorpe

I was probably more concerned about this year's ride than any in my 22 years of participation, due to my lack of preparation and my advancing years (he said, frantically appealing for sympathy!), and as if to rub salt in the wound, my son's girlfriend, Ishani, took part in the London to Oxford Ride and did a very respectable time, given that she had never done it before. Well, she's a lot younger than I am! Seriously though, I couldn't recommend entering a long ride without proper preparation, but sometimes a man's gotta do .... Well you know the rest.

My preparations weren't helped by a problem with a cracked rear wheel rim which made it highly dangerous to use it, and the fact that it only arrived on the Saturday before the ride left me working late to fit and check it. My thanks to Darren of Pilkington Cycles, who's looked after my bike for many years now. At least my steed was 100% fit, and I set off at 5.30 on Sunday morning, but not before my loving wife Karen had got up specially to take pictures of me with my little 'helmet cam' camera on (she couldn't stop laughing!) For posterity, or possibly in case the insurance company needed evidence before paying up! With Nigel's assistance I got the camera up and running, and decided to see if we could capture something of the flavour of the open road and the groans of agony!

At the Manchester United Football Ground, I had a photo taken with my friend Rick, the famous yellow-suited 'Voice of the Ride', who gave me a 'plug' over the tannoy, and set off at 6.35am. I must confess, I much prefer the starting of the Town Hall Square, for both atmosphere and ease of access, and can't quite see the benefit of the change. With helmet cam switched on I eased myself gently into the ride, and came aware that doing a commentary whilst riding invites some strange looks from fellow riders, who could be forgiven for thinking that one is cracking up and rambling! Come to think of it, I've been doing that for years according to my wife.

To anyone who was in the Ride and recognises the man with the strange protuberance on his helmet (people are making up their own jokes now!), I really wasn't talking to myself.

My ride number was 3079 this year (bit of a come-down from No. 1 isn't it?), and according to the ride organisers there were around 8,300 entrants. It certainly felt like I can tell you. Working our way out of Manchester always a good thing I find, we headed out on quiet roads to Leigh and Atherton, heading north through Aspul, and passing the entrance to lovely Haigh Hall at 8.50. I took a fifteen-minute break from 8.25 to 8.45 near the entrance, since we weren't riding through the grounds

again this year. It's such a shame that the ride misses out this traditional part of the course, as it's not only beautiful and uplifting, but allows tired legs to rest, as the path descends steeply through the woods. I must write to the organisers and complain, again!

Our merry 'band of brothers' (and sisters) wended its way northwest to Standish then due north to Charnock Richard before going west and then north to Leyland and Preston. The number of hills this time seemed greater, and the course definitely took in more uphill than last year; a fact I confirmed with a couple of older, regular competitors who rode it in 2010. Every time I turned a corner there seemed to be another hill, and the leg muscles certainly complained loudly! Mind you, I'm not a great hill climber at the best of times, and by the time we reached Preston at around 10.45, they'd taken their toll. On the long and not so winding road into Preston, which was still never-ending, but at least dry and not too windy this year, I witnessed some of the most blatantly stupid and arrogant riding I've seen in twenty-two years. A group of around forty or fifty riders spread all over one side of the road, totally blocking it and frustrating following drivers, some of whom crossed into oncoming traffic to get round them. There was no reason or excuse for it, other than to imitate scenes in the Tour de France; which in case these numbskulls didn't know, is run on roads closed to traffic - not fully operational ones! Someone could have been injured or killed, and it certainly didn't present a good image to the public. Shame there were no motorbike marshals around.

Our route skirted the Preston Docks area this year, unlike previous years, and took a different route out towards the Fylde. I took a fifteen-minute break from 10.45 - 11.00 and transferred some of the weight of food and drink from the saddlebag to my stomach. Of course the bike still has to carry the weight anyway, but at least I felt better! I think it was about this point that an energetic and enthusiastic Marshall at a large roundabout greeted us as we sped by (who am I kidding?!) With an athletic dance and the repeated words "Come on lads, dig in, dig in!" I know he meant well, but I couldn't help thinking someone would dismount and dig him in before the morning was over!

From here, we rode west to Kirkham, through Treales, another small and pretty Fylde village, then south to Freckleton and west to Warton. At this point, most of the hardy souls who rode last year knew what was coming up, and were gritting our remaining teeth (just kidding - I've still got most of mine and most of my original moving parts!) in anticipation of the infamous costal stretch to Lytham St. Annes. This, though beautiful if one is taking a bracing stroll with the wife or the dog, is a killer on a bike, as the wind is constant and sometimes, as last year, so strong it actually stops a rider and blows one back.

Around this point, a couple on a tandem bike, spying friends on the roadside on a right hand bend, stopped in front of me with no warning, and pulled over for a jolly chat! I narrowly missed a collision, and shouted cheerfully that perhaps their mental competence and ability were questionable! Or words to that effect.

The next few miles were definitely 'head down and think of the finish line' time. Although the wind wasn't as strong as in 2010, it was bad enough, and the piles of wind-blown sand decorating bungalow drives were reminders of its potential strength. Eventually, we swung onto the Promenade in Blackpool, and the finish line with its large white banner was in sight. As I crossed the line I caught the eye of my friend 'The Voice of the Ride' in his little white booth (I threw his eye back as a matter of courtesy of course!), and waved as energetically as I could. He saw me, and announced on the tannoy, "I've just seen my friend, rider 3079 who's now completed twenty-two Blackpool rides". The assembled crowd went wild, and at least three people burst into spontaneous applause as I nimbly grabbed my yellow carrier bag full of 'goodies' this year and my certificate of completion from a rather nice young lady - well, when you stop noticing things like that it's time to nail down the lid on the box! 'Goodies' this year included a malt loaf, water, shower gel, muscle rub sachet, energy gel sachet and energy bar. I ate and drank everything edible with relish (pity about the shower gel, but at least I had fresh minty breath!). I crossed the line at 12.50, making a total of 5hrs and 45 minutes (excluding breaks), and with the rides to and from Manchester, I covered a total of over 80 miles, getting home at around 5.30.

The weather on the whole, was better than expected, apart from a few showers, and I was pleased that I completed safely in a modest but reasonable time. All the sponsorship raised will help us continue our work with the Reserve and conservation work, and I thank you for supporting my humble efforts. I'll be back in 2012 with luck, and try to make it twenty-three rides in a row.

## Three Owls Wood

"From everything bad you can find something good" ..... is what Mrs Watkinson used to say to me; and how right she was in so many different ways. The closure of the hospitals and aviary facilities on the Rochdale site has been horrendous for all. But following on from this tragedy and the sale of the top acre of land and buildings at Rochdale, hatches a new part of the life of Three Owls. It is a dream that Mrs Watkinson always planned for, but was never able to achieve in her lifetime. It was also a back-up plan she had carefully thought through, should the Sanctuary ever find itself in the position of having to close, the aim would then have been to clear all the debts, and to plant up whatever land we had/could get to create a woodland which would provide sanctuary in itself for generations, and could be set into Trust to protect it from everything else.

Unfortunately, as house prices continue to fall, then agricultural land prices have risen - as investors look for alternative sources to hold their funds, and we have had a battle on our hands to secure good agricultural land in an area where wildlife can thrive not only for the current generation, but for future generations to come.

Perseverance has at last paid off, and with some tactical bidding we have been able to secure a large parcel of land covering some 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres (over 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> times as big as all that which we originally had at Rochdale), this new site being at Tarleton near Southport - already important to Three Owls as a bird release area. The adjoining lands are a mixture of grazed, farmed, set-aside, and copse, so the benefits to wildlife from this development will be huge. We will be taking advice from the experts as regards tree planting suitability and sustainability, benefits for wild birds, and the larger environment. The site does have a large stable-block on it, which will be useful for storage of materials, and for volunteers and study groups to shelter whilst working on the Reserve.



There will not be any tree planting work done on this land until November at the earliest, as trees should not be moved until they are dormant during the winter months. When we are nearer the time, we will put a note on our website inviting people to 'come and plant a tree or two' and organise a day when this can be fitted into a schedule. Of course the whole site will not be planted, as it is important that there are open areas, grasses, ponds, hedges etc to allow a diverse section of life to live without problems.

If you wanted to be involved and do not have access to the Internet, then please do get in touch and we will contact you in other ways.

I must say a HUGE *Thank You* to my two co-trustees for sorting out the Sanctuary land and buildings sale, especially to our Head Trustee; David Unwin who liaised directly with the Charity Commission and got everything moving. He has also spent months doing viewings and meetings whilst we looked for land suitable for Three Owls Wood. This has allowed me to concentrate on the birds' welfare so much more than otherwise and is really what teamwork is all about.

Stewart, I have yet to come across a veterinary surgeon as dedicated to wild bird care, (and I've met loads over the years) and I will never forget the 'miracle' operation on our Peregrine Falcon with a broken wing - so expertly repaired that not only could it fly again, but fit enough to return to the wild. The veterinary work you have undertaken on the Sanctuary's behalf far surpasses anything I could have asked for, or ever hoped to achieve.

*David and Stewart* - you are both a real credit to Three Owls, and rarely get the recognition you deserve.

And what of me....

A huge number of people have been in regular touch to make sure I am ok; friends and family, subscribers, sanctuaries, and supporters alike. I have received offers of jobs, spare rooms, temporary houses ..... but my work at Three Owls was always incomplete, and being my No. 1 charity (though I do support several others and do other care in the community work), I said I would stay here until the building sold to protect it from being broken into and vandalised if stood empty - which could in fact have rendered it unsaleable. Unfortunately, it has taken longer to sell than I had originally visualised. There were extra problems to overcome as there was an Equitable Charge against the property going back over 20 years which had to be removed and that process took several months to complete. The sale was complicated and set up with very detailed regulation, guidance and advice from the Charity Commission to our Head Trustee, along with the stipulations our trustees have had to add in order to protect the Nature Reserve from harm in future years.

Thankfully, after many months, the sale has been agreed, and has some extra benefits to the charity, which no other buyer could match, and the buyer (a local businessman) has granted the current sanctuary trustees a personal licence to occupy the office, along with a storeroom where all the archives are permanently stored. This is a huge weight off my shoulders, as it means so much less stress in setting up a new office and secure archive room, and all the associated paperwork that would accompany it. Also, mail can continue to come to the same secure location, and whilst doing the office work, I can keep a close eye on the nature reserve here too.

Many of the job offers I received were from generous friends and companies - appalled at how the actions forced against the charity would leave me without home and job. Unfortunately, by the time the property sold, many of these were no longer available. My commitment to Three Owls has not diminished, and the busy Helpline was a concern as in many occupations, it is neither fair nor appropriate to be answering a mobile phone at work - when not connected to the job you are doing. The calls now come in from a greater field than ever, right from the child finding an orphaned bird, all the way to a vet asking advice on operation feasibilities - and everything in-between (even the RSPCA have rung for advice). Many callers are relieved to find a 'voice' at the end of the line - so many get answerphones out of hours. I have set up a system now where I can trace a sanctuary close to where you're calling from and either tell you there and then, or return the call within minutes and give detailed specific information. Quantity of calls can vary from half an hour in the day, up to five hours in the day, each call taking on average 3-4 minutes. Of course this is unpaid work - but then, it always was, as I do it as part of my Trustee duties.

I am by trade, a time-served fully skilled aircraft fitter-wireman; but with all the cutbacks there is little opportunity in those departments at the current time.

However, I am fortunate that during the last thirty-three years plus, of working at Three Owls, my job has been extremely varied and I have picked up lots of skills along the way - even if most of it was unpaid!

Subsequently, and I have given this a great deal of thought over a long period of time, and looking into it in depth; I have decided to go self-employed - this will allow me the same freedom to continue my charity work as before, to ensure that people and the birds around us do not suffer from withdrawal of access to the knowledge I have, yet also allow me to 'get out there' and earn some money in order to 'survive' and continue to support myself and family. Already I have been busy with consultancy work, and am very grateful to local businesses who have allowed me to brush up on some of my less-used skills, picking up useful tips along the way.

(So if you need something doing - get in touch!)

Finally, I was taken aback and speechless when the new owner offered to rent me their newly acquired property on a personal basis. It was not an easy decision given the memories it holds, and I know that it is an expensive property to run. This *doesn't* mean any re-opening of the aviaries/hospitals etc - I will purely be living here, the new owner will also be using some of the buildings too, so my access will be limited.

However the benefits of being literally onsite to oversee the Reserve, and not have to travel out to sort out the office are a huge bonus, plus I was extremely concerned for the safety of the birds on the Reserve - our dogs are trained not to touch those ..... potential trespassers are another matter!

So, if you have any dry logs/wood etc to spare this and in future winters ..... I know where they can be put to good use!

## **Future news**

As we explained last time, this is to be the final edition of Three Owls News in this format. While I will miss writing it as it has been such a joy to do, there will be spells where there is little news, and I wouldn't like it ever to get 'boring' for our huge number of followers.

As soon as I am settled into my new line of work and lifestyle, I will start writing my book - sometime later this year. I have lots to put in; happy/sad times, information about wild bird care and treatments, recollections of all kinds, and of course further details of plans for the future.. There will also be several pages written by Mrs Watkinson. There will be regular updates on our Website ([www.threeowls.co.uk](http://www.threeowls.co.uk)) but for anyone who's NOT on the Internet, I would suggest you continue to write in - as you have all been doing for many years - and I will reply to you each on a personal basis as before.

Thank you for the call to your former support, and I hope that you will continue to give Three Owls the same loving as you have done over the past 49 years.

My Best Wishes to you all.

Nigel

## Three Owls Bird Sanctuary and Reserve

Affiliated to the Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

Wolstenholme Fold, Norden, Rochdale, Lancs. OL11 5UD

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Registered Charity No. 298352



ALL I NEED IS A BIT OF  
UNDERSTANDING.