

SPONSORSHIP FORM

YES, I/we would like to support the conservation of the Red Kites of Wales. Please enrol me/us as Friends of the Welsh Kite. I/we enclose the annual subscription fee of;

Individual Sponsor	£12.50
Family/Joint Sponsors	£20.00
Group Sponsors	£50.00

I/we would also like to enclose a donation of

£10 £20 £30 £.....

I/we enclose a cheque made payable to

'The Welsh Kite Trust' for £

GIFT AID DECLARATION UK TAX PAYERS ONLY

I would like the Welsh Kite Trust to treat my subscription/donation, together with any future payments, as Gift Aid for the purpose of reclaiming tax.

Signature

Return to: *The Welsh Kite Trust, 'Samaria', Nantmel, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6EN*

Form also available to download at www.welshkitetrust.org
A Welsh leaflet is available on request.

Our aims are:

1. To continue annual monitoring of the Welsh and Welsh/English border populations
2. To provide advice and help to farmers and other land owners with nesting kites
3. To continue research into the requirements of the kite in Wales
4. To provide expert advice to any new development schemes when there is any potential impact on kites
5. Where appropriate, to continue nest protection and rescue schemes for deserted nests and eggs or chicks in danger from robbery or starvation.
6. Provide information to the general public on the Red Kite and its environment in Wales.
7. To raise awareness of the threats to kites and other raptors from the misuse of pesticides and the deliberate setting of poison baits.
8. Where and when possible extend the scope of the Trust to other raptors in Wales and elsewhere. The Trust currently funds some work on Welsh Honey Buzzards.

Welsh Kites heading for Ireland

In 2007 the Trust began a project with conservationists at the The Golden Eagle Trust to reintroduce the Red Kite to Ireland. Hopefully between 2007 and 2011 nearly 250 young Welsh kites will be collected and sent to Ireland to help establish breeding populations in both the Republic and Northern Ireland. The first 30 chicks were released in Co. Wicklow in July 2007.



THE WELSH KITE TRUST

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Voted Wales' favourite bird 2007

PATRONS:

Sir Michael Leighton BT
Professor Ian Newton FRS FRSE
Bill Oddie
Iolo Williams

Please join us by becoming a 'Friend of the Welsh Kite' and help us to conserve one of Wales' most famous and beautiful inhabitants.



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THE ORIGINAL (AND STILL THE BEST) RED KITE CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY!

Voted the “Bird of the 20th Century”, the story of the Red Kite in Britain is a remarkable one, and rightly celebrated as one of Britain’s greatest conservation successes.

In mediaeval times the kite was abundant in towns and cities. In London, it was protected by Royal decree, in recognition of its service in removing refuse and dead animals that could otherwise harbour diseases. In the 14th and 15th centuries the Red Kite was probably the most numerous and familiar bird of prey in Britain. All this was to change. In the mid 16th century a series of parliamentary Acts were invoked aimed at controlling “vermyn”. These Acts put the modest price of 1 old penny on the head of each kite. As a result, over the following two hundred years, the unfortunate kite was systematically slaughtered. The rise of the game-keeper during the nineteenth century, and the Victorian egg and skin collectors, were final blows for the English and Scottish kites. The last pair of kites nested in England, near Ludlow (Shropshire), in the mid 1870s and in Scotland in 1884. By the turn of the century a mere handful of pairs survived in the remoter valleys of mid-Wales; a situation that continued up to the 1970s. Thanks to sustained conservation effort for over one hundred years the beautiful Red Kite is once more a familiar sight to a lucky minority of the British population but a thrill anyone can be guaranteed to experience simply by visiting mid-Wales.

The recovery of the kite in Wales was not simply a matter of luck: a huge amount of time, money and effort have been invested in the past. In 1994 the RSPB and CCW largely withdrew from funding kite conservation in Wales and so, in 1996, the Welsh Kite Trust was set up to ensure that the success already achieved was continued. It was formed by many of the people who helped achieve the earlier successes and who have several lifetimes’ worth of experience in Red Kite conservation. In 2007 two of the Trust’s Trustees were awarded MBEs in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours List in recognition of their outstanding contributions towards saving the Welsh Kite.

Our knowledge and enthusiasm can only be put to good use with your support. The Welsh Kite Trust is largely run on income derived from our sponsorship scheme the “Friends of the Welsh Kite”. In return for a modest annual donation you will receive an informative full colour booklet entitled *The Red Kites of Wales* and an exclusive enamel lapel badge and car-sticker. You will also receive the Trust’s bi-annual (usually) magazine *Boda Wennol* detailing recent developments at the Trust, annual breeding reports, current work and other interesting information. It also includes updates on the status of the various re-introduced kite populations in England and Scotland. Most important of all, your donation will enable us to continue our important work on this beautiful and iconic bird of prey.

Some Kite facts and figures

1. Apart from some unsuccessful attempts in the early 1900’s and again in 1957/58, NO Red Kites have been deliberately re-introduced to Wales. The birds are all descended from the handful of birds which managed to survive in the remote valleys of mid-Wales plus the odd immigrant which made its own way here.
2. Our research has shown that in Wales kites usually breed for the first time at 2 or 3 years of age and usually within about 20km of where they themselves were reared (hence the slow rates of re-colonisation observed in the past). They usually produce just a single chick although two is not unusual, even three on occasions.
3. Kites are largely scavengers feeding on dead animals and meat scraps but invertebrates (especially worms) are an important part of the diet. When feeding their young, kites will also take live prey such as frogs, voles, rats, squirrels, young rabbits and young crows.
4. Persecution is still a major factor in limiting the spread of Red Kites to other areas. Secondary poisoning by legal use of rodenticides is also an increasing problem.
5. Red Kite populations in most other parts of their world range are declining rapidly due to agricultural intensification and poorly controlled rodenticide use. Britain’s Red Kite population is increasingly important on an international level.
6. Kites may now be relatively common around feeding stations in mid Wales but in North and South Wales kites are still very rare breeders.
7. Whilst the Welsh Kite Trust maintains good working relations with all the major feeding stations in Wales we are not directly linked to any and receive no income from admission fees. Your support is therefore vital if we are to continue conserving and monitoring this beautiful and spectacular bird.



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