

Birdbrook Parish News

Solar Storms

As we approach our sun's 2025 peak in its approximately eleven year cycle of sunspot activity, solar storms like last month's may become more common. Disturbances in the sun's magnetic field can result in solar flares, geomagnetic storms, or the ejection of large volumes of plasma. This plasma is a highly ionised gas of hydrogen ions, helium ions, electrons and electromagnetic radiation at all wavelengths across the spectrum, released from the sun's corona as a solar wind.

The earth's magnetic field and atmosphere shields us from the danger from solar storms, but they can damage satellites in space, also power grids and communications on the ground. The aurora, seen usually only in the arctic regions, can be seen further south under certain conditions at times of high solar activity.

Northern Lights seen from Camps End, 10th May 2024

Northern Lights photos by Joel Wood

Activity is difficult to predict despite close monitoring. The solar region emitting the eruption in early May has rotated away from Earth, but two new active regions are now coming into view.

There are phone apps which can alert us to high probability of seeing the aurora in our area.

More information:
www.esa.int/Space_Safety

<https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/heliophysics/how-nasa-tracked-the-most-intense-solar-storm-in-decades/>

For more links, see back page.



*Pearl-spotted owlet, South Africa.
Read about the latest of Barry Williams' bird ringing adventures p4.*

June 2024

D Day 6th June 1944

Just after 9.30 am Tuesday, 6th June, 1944 on the BBC Home Service, John Snagge announced the news⁽¹⁾ to the nation. Snagge's well modulated tones, as he read the news were very much in contrast to those of BBC colleague, Richard Dimbleby, who, in a recording made



the previous evening, had to shout to make himself heard over the thundering roar of aero engines, as he watched aircraft carrying the first of 20,000 airborne troops, who were to be dropped behind enemy lines ahead of the main invasion force takeoff.

The printed word cannot convey the drama and emotion of the scene, it has to be heard ⁽¹⁾ to be appreciated fully, as that first aircraft accelerates down the runway and claws its way into the night sky. Code named Overlord this was, as Dimbleby said, a mighty operation. The largest seaborne invasion in history, it involved 6,000 craft, which landed 156,000 men on the five Normandy beaches... Sword, Gold, Utah, Omaha and Juno... on that first day.

The landings were successful, but that success came at a heavy cost. By the end of day one, more than 10,000 men had been reported killed, wounded or missing. Many thousands more soldiers and

Commandos of 47 (RM) Commando coming ashore from LCAs (Landing Craft Assault) on Jig Green beach, Gold area, 6 June 1944. LCTs can be seen in the background unloading priority vehicles for 231st Brigade, 50th Division. IWM © (B 5246)

**BIRDBROOK CHURCH OPEN FOR D-DAY
COMMEMORATIVE FLORAL DISPLAYS -
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8TH/9TH JUNE
10AM-4PM**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
SPECIAL SERVICE ON SUNDAY 9TH JUNE AT 10:30AM
AS WE MARK THIS OCCASION**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



**SATURDAY 15th and
SUNDAY 16th JUNE 2024**

**D-Day inspired events
spread throughout the
benefice**

**(Steeple Bumpstead,
Helions Bumpstead,
Sturmer, Birdbrook,
Ridgewell and Ashen)**

**to include
LIVE BAND AND DANCING,
CHILDRENS' ENTERTAINER,
VINTAGE CAR EVENT, FLIP
REDMAN ENTERTAINER and
displays of memorabilia or
flowers in many of the
churches.**

civilians would die before Victory in Europe was finally declared in May 1945.

Five years ago, at a ceremony in Portsmouth to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the landings, the late Queen made a short, remarkably poignant address in which she praised the spirit of the generation, her generation as she called them, who took part in the landings... The late Queen's words remain relevant today and it is in the same spirit that people across the nation will gather this year, to give thanks for all those who took part in the operation.

A service of remembrance will be held at St Augustine's, Birdbrook on Sunday 9th June at 10:30. Please join us to honour the many thousands who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

⁽¹⁾ The recording is available on BBC Sounds. Search for Witness History, Broadcasting D-Day.

St Augustine, Birdbrook

Brush strokes

Johannes Vermeer, a Dutch artist from the seventeenth century, was a meticulous painter who used expensive materials to create his masterpieces. He often depicted domestic scenes of middle-class life.



Despite being ignored for more than 200 years after his death, his reputation began to grow in the nineteenth century. He's now regarded as a significant figure among the painters of the Dutch Golden Age.

One of his most popular paintings is 'The Guitar Player,' which portrays a young girl, possibly one of Vermeer's daughters, donning a green dress, a yellow fur-trimmed shawl, and holding a finely crafted guitar.

Musical instruments are a common subject in art. Whether it's a painting of Bruce Springsteen holding a guitar by contemporary American painter Amy Belonio or a marble statue of an early Bronze Age harp player from over 4000 years ago, the place of music in culture is reflected in the artwork that culture produces.

David, the shepherd boy turned King from the book of Samuel in the Bible, was an accomplished musician. When he was young, he was such a skilled player of the lyre that he was asked to play for the Royal Household, specifically for King Saul. Saul suffered from what the Bible describes as "the tormenting of an evil spirit", which was calmed when David played his lyre.

Later on, David turned his talent to song writing. Many of the psalms in the Bible are attributed to him, with as many as half of the 150 in the Bible bearing his name.

St Augustine, Birdbrook and other Services:

**Sat/Sun 8/9 June: 10am-4pm Church open
for commemorative floral displays**

**Sunday 9th June: 10.30am Morning Worship with D-Day
Commemoration**

**Sunday 16th June: 10:00 am Two Rivers Festival Service
at Ridgewell Village Hall**

Sunday 14th July: 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 28th July: 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion

Please check dates in August, usually:

Sunday 11th Aug: 10:30am Morning Worship

Sunday 25 Aug: 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion

Church Warden: Judi Price 01440 730506

David drew on songs to express his feelings, whether it was to celebrate, give thanks, or express his struggles and shortcomings. Similarly, when we gather together in church, music is an essential aspect of Christian worship, as it touches our souls and helps us connect with God.

Blessings,
Jonathan
vicar@2rivers.faith

From our Bird Ringing Expert in Birdbrook Barry Williams

Part 4 – South Africa – Little and Large!

Hopefully there are still a few bird-lovers left in Birdbrook who haven't tired of my tales of bird-ringing around the world!! I was planning to make this the final episode but I'm afraid there were too many tales to fit on 2 pages!! I promise the next one will be the final one unless I win the lottery and fly off somewhere exotic in the next couple of months!!

In 2002, Malcolm Wilson, my pal who had introduced me to African birds with an invite to visit him in Uganda in 1996, announced that he was getting married to a South African lady and would be moving to Johannesburg. He had started a travel company there and would be organising bird ringing trips around South Africa catching and ringing all species of birds, specialising in birds of prey. I was sorry to hear he was leaving Uganda, I had some of my best birding experiences during my six visits to that country but I knew very little about South Africa or its birdlife. So it seemed silly not to pay him a visit in his new homeland. He had already whetted my appetite with photos on his travel company web-site of some of the birds of prey he had been catching using a method he called "road-trapping". I just had to go there and witness it myself. Apart from numerous hawks and falcons, South Africa is also home to many large eagles including one of the most powerful eagles in the world, the Martial Eagle. I really wanted to get to grips with one of those monsters. It was also home to one of the smallest birds of prey, the Pygmy Falcon, a bird not much larger than a budgie!

So how do you catch a large eagle I hear you ask! Firstly you construct a specially designed trap called a Bal-chatri. This is basically a small cage covered in nooses made from strong fishing line. Into the trap you put some tasty bait, namely a live mouse, rat or hamster, so when the eagle (or other bird of prey) comes down to catch the mouse, his talons get caught in the nooses. The trap is suitably weighted so that the bird is unable to fly off and you quickly untangle the bird from the trap, being very careful not to get snared by its talons, ring, measure and weigh the bird (as we do with all birds) and move on to your next customer! It's called "road-trapping" because you basically drive around country roads looking for birds to trap.

We would usually head north out of Jo'burg towards the Zimbabwe border; the Limpopo River region is our favourite spot. The roads are pretty quiet and there are lots of electric pylons and telegraph poles for hawks and eagles to sit on. We would just drive around until we would find a suitable bird sitting on a telegraph pole, electricity pylon or tree. You drop the trap nearby without scaring the bird, often without even stopping the car and rely on your friendly rodent to scamper about inside the trap thus attracting the bird down. You drive a safe distance away, turn the car round and wait for the action.



Barry with a Verreaux's Eagle-owl, South Africa, 2016

It is incredibly exciting waiting for the bird to strike the trap and whilst some larger birds can sometimes take ages to come down, other species (Pale-chanted Goshawks and Black-winged Kites especially) may have hit the trap and be caught before you've even had a chance to turn the car round! It can also be incredibly frustrating because some birds will fly down to the trap, walk round it, hop on and off a few times, walk round it again and then just fly away for no apparent reason, while others will just sit on their pylon, look at the trap for 20 minutes and then fly off in the other direction. But when it works it's amazing and to have the opportunity to see these stunning birds close up is a great privilege.

This method also works for owls, some shrikes and rollers and whilst it seems quite dangerous for the bird I have never seen a bird injured in several hundred capture attempts. I have seen a few mice come to a sticky end but also know ringers who are still using hamsters they have had for over two years. Unfortunately the use of live prey is not allowed in the UK or many of our local Buzzards, Red Kites and Kestrels would be wearing my rings!



Pygmy Falcon, South Africa, 2016

I visited South Africa five times between 2003 and 2018 and every time I went there we had great success ringing lots of Brown and Black-chested Snake-eagles, Wahlberg's, Long-crested and African hawk-eagles, three species of Kestrel, Black winged kites, Pale and Dark-chanting, African and Gabar Goshawks, Steppe, Forest and Lizard Buzzards. We also trapped several species of owls including one of Africa's largest, the Verreaux's eagle-owl and one of the smallest the Pearl-spotted owl but to date the elusive Martial Eagle has escaped me....hopefully one day I'll ring one!!!

As well as the birds of prey south Africa boasts a varied list of species from jewel-like sunbirds, multi-coloured bee-eaters and stunning rollers. I got to ring birds I had never dreamt of even seeing, with such wonderful names

as Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Acacia Pied Barbet and what about Burnt-necked Eremomela? – what a name! Did I enjoy South Africa?.....I think the jury's still out. It has some outstanding scenery, the wildlife is stunning but there is a funny atmosphere about the place. I didn't find the white South Africans that friendly, quite a surly bunch in fact. Johannesburg where we stayed on a couple of the trips is a pretty scary place, armed robberies are common and

Continued over page

Zanna Newton PILATES



Zanna has been leading her 'highly recommended' Pilates classes since 2004.

Classes are available live on Zoom and also in Ridgewell, Stotfold and Melbourn (near Royston).

Please check the website where you can see class availability and book your place online.

www.zannanewton.co.uk

even I nearly got into a bar-fight with a drunken Irishman on my last visit. As anyone who knows me knows, I am not a violent man but after a tiring nine hour flight I was not in the mood to be harassed. Thankfully my pal Malcolm showed him the door before things got nasty. I found driving through the townships quite unsettling, the poverty was horrendous but nearly every town ship had a mountain of empty beer bottles on its outskirts...and I do mean a "mountain". Even away from the towns, everywhere we went seemed to be fenced off and a lot of the so-called nature-reserves were actually hunting reserves.

Would I go back?.....of course, there's a Martial eagle to be ringed!! My next (and final) article deals with my most recent trips to Canada and Mexico....I bet you cant wait!

You can catch up with Barry's earlier exploits in previous editions of the Birdbrook Parish News:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/birdbrook-parish-news/>

Kedington Community Association in association with Banger Town Classics and Outcasts Elite present

The 3rd Annual Vehicle Show

West Suffolk CLASSIC

Sunday 28th July 2024
10.30am - 4pm

The Great Meadow,
Arms Lane, Kedington CB9 7QQ

Free to enter:
Classic or Modified Car, Motorcycle,
Light Commercial, Tractor, Off road Vehicles

Bar, Café & Toilets onsite
PLUS Local Pub at entrance & well stocked shop 100 metres from entrance

PLEASE NOTE
All vehicles MUST BE PRE-BOOKED
via email

In the first instance please email Kirk Pearson
bangertownclassics@gmail.com
kedington-community-association.org.uk Registered Charity No: 304906

From Birdbrook Parish Council

Facebook Page

At the last PC meeting it was agreed to take down the FB page because BPC doesn't currently have the resources to maintain/moderate it. If you find the social media alerts useful and could help out with postings, please let Debbie know.

Parking

A complaint about various matters was sent erroneously to a former parish Cllr who forwarded it to Cllr Alan Cook. Mr Cook has passed the information to the Parochial Church Council who will address the parking issues as best they can.

Concerns?

If Parishioners have comments or concerns they should address them to appointed Cllr's or to Debbie, our Parish Clerk. Alternatively you have the opportunity to address the Cllr's at their meetings which are open to the public. Next meeting Tuesday 9th July 7pm in the Community House.

The Birdbrook Parish News welcomes pieces on general topics of interest to readers: please send to Val / Katie: birdbrook2021@gmail.com

Cllr Steve Rhenius: chair@birdbrook.org.uk
Debbie, Parish Clerk: parishclerk@birdbrook.org.uk



Gemma's Footcare

Foot Health Practitioner
SAC Dip RFHP

- Toe Nail Cutting
- Callus/Corn Removal
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Ingrown Toe Nail Removal
- Fungal Nail Treatment

Telephone/Text: 07498 386648
Email: gemmasfootcare@gmail.com

Foot Care in the comfort of your own home

Or you can come to my home in Steeple Bumpstead

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Fact: In an average lifetime we walk around the world 3 times



Stambourne

Chapel Care

Do you have a few hours to spare?
Would you like to make a difference to your community?

We have vacancies for:

Befriending, both in person and telephone
Transport to appointments or social events,
Help and Support with outings, lunch club and more.

We also need **Administrative Support** and a **Treasurer** and support for **fund raising** and **writing grant proposals**.

If you feel this is for you please get in touch:
stambournechapelcare@gmail.com
or Tel: 07883 423528



M81 Bode's Galaxy, a beautiful grand design spiral galaxy about 12 Million light years away, with a diameter of 90,000 light years, in the constellation Ursa Major. It is about the diameter of our Milky Way galaxy.

Photo by Martina McGovern from her garden in Birdbrook

Spot the Difference



Can you spot the 12 differences between the two pictures?

Telephone Landline Analogue Switchoff

As you probably know, landlines in the UK are going digital. The existing analogue technology (the PSTN - Public Switched Telephone Network) is reaching the end of its life, being retired and switched off. The vast majority of customers will be provided with a broadband line, making calls the same as they do today, but using 'Voice over IP' technology that uses an internet connection. Making landline calls in the future will therefore depend on an internet connection and will not function in a power cut.

Any other devices connected to a phone line, such as alarm systems, telecare devices or fax machines, will need steps to ensure they continue to function correctly following the migration to a digital phone line. Check any new devices you purchase are compatible with a digital phone line.

The BT switchover, originally scheduled for completion in 2025, has been delayed to 2027.

For more information including help for vulnerable customers visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines>:

Hello from your District Councillor

Anglian Water & Road Closures

AW are installing 3.3km of new, larger water pipes in a project which will start on the 20th May and if all goes to plan, they expect to finish in early November. They are working in 3 separate phases and need to implement some temporary road closures while they work. Please see details below:

Location	Dates
Bumpstead Road	20 th May – 13 th September
Claywall Bridge / Haverhill Road	16 th September – 8 th November
Haverhill industrial area	To be confirmed (<i>likely Sept – Nov</i>)

Diversion routes can be seen at: <https://www.essexhighways.org/interactive-maps-and-live-travel-information/live-traffic-map>

The Braintree District – Some Interesting Facts

The Braintree District is 236 square miles of predominantly rural area. However, 50% of the population live in the three market towns of Braintree, Halstead and Witham. There is an estimated 155,300 residents (census 2021). The population has grown by 5.5% since 2011. Like most of the UK, we have an ageing society with the over 65's making up 20.5% of our populations; up by nearly 30% since 2011. The average life expectancy for males at birth is 80.2 years and for females at birth is 83.5 years. 69% of households in the district own their home (2021), with 15% living in privately rented properties and 13% of households living in socially rented properties. Over 60% of residents are employed or self-employed with around 70% of working residents working more than 31 hours a week. Just under 30% of residents in the district travelled more than 10 kilometres to work with 48% of residents having more than two cars or van in their household. Just under 14% of residents use public transport, cycle or walk to work. An estimated 17% of the population were disabled in 2021, with just under 7% stating their day-to-day activities were limited a lot. Just under 26% of residents aged 16 years and over indicated their highest level of qualification was Level 4 or above (2021), lower than the England average of 33.9%. 18.4% had no qualifications, which is on par with the England average of 18.1%. Gross weekly pay in the district averages £695.20 which is the lowest in Essex. There are pockets of higher deprivation within the district but most areas have relatively low levels, as measured by the 2019 Indices of Deprivation. Four wards in the district fall within 20% of the most deprived areas within England. In 2021, most of the district's residents described their health as 'good' or 'very good' (83%), around 13% described their health as 'fair', with the remaining 4% of the population describing themselves as having 'bad' or 'very bad' health.



Wethersfield Prison Proposals Update

The Programme Director for New Prisons has written: 'MoJ are currently delivering 20,000 additional, modern prison places, the largest prison build programme since the Victorian era, ensuring the right conditions are in place to rehabilitate prisoners, helping to cut crime and protect the public. Of these, 10,000 places will be provided at six new prisons. HMP Five Wells and HMP Fosse Way are now open and HMP Millsike is under construction. We have recently secured outline planning permission for two new prisons in Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire and one, in Lancashire, is subject to an ongoing planning appeal.

We are cognisant that the Home Office plan to use parts of the Wethersfield site for the foreseeable future and we do not anticipate progressing a prison scheme whilst they have a presence on the site. However, we will continue to maintain an interest in Wethersfield as part of our long-term pipeline strategy'.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Roger Hirst has been re-elected as Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex for a third successive term with a promise for more local, visible and accessible policing to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour.

He has also pledged to reduce knife crime, protect young people and improve road safety to reduce road death in Essex to zero. Protecting women and girls from violence and domestic abuse and ensuring vulnerable people are protected were also included in his election manifesto.

New Chairman of Braintree District Council

Braintree District Council has announced Cllr Lyn Walters as its new Chairman for 2024-25 at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, 22 April 2024. Cllr Lyn Walters is the ward member for Bocking Blackwater, has been a councillor since 2011. Any organisations, community groups or businesses that would like to invite the Chairman to attend an event should visit www.braintree.gov.uk/invitethechairman.

My new role is Deputy Cabinet Member to the Deputy Leader of BDC & Cabinet Member Cllr. Tom Cunningham; the Cabinet Member for Transformation, the Environment & Customer Services. I will also be the lead member for Climate Change and Sustainability.

With best wishes to all,

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor for the Bumpstead Ward

Below: Summer poppies in Haverhill



Birdbrook Parish News

brought to you by Birdbrook Parish Council

<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/>

The views expressed in Birdbrook News do not necessarily reflect those of the Parish Council.

Copy and images may be subject to copyright.

Acceptance of, and subsequent publication of any advertisement does not in any way constitute any endorsement by Birdbrook Parish News or Birdbrook Parish Council of the goods or services being offered.

Latest and previous editions:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/birdbrook-parish-news/>

Next edition:

News and adverts by 15 August for the September BPN

Editors Val and Katie: birdbrook2021@gmail.com

Birdbrook Ladies Group

March

This month was a crafting session which eight members attended. As



Easter was just around the corner we focussed on a seasonal decoration. Sue brought along several examples which members could choose to make. Templates, felt and patterned paper were provided along with other decorations and, of course, the trusty glue gun.

By the end of the evening a few decorations had been produced but a lot of fun had been had. As a nod to the Easter festival, we had hot cross buns with our tea or coffee.



April

Hilary introduced the group to Mindful Drawing. She brought along a variety of mark making tools and some large paper. We did some warming up exercises for our hands and arms, then listened to music whilst with eyes closed we drew with charcoal or pastel the infinity symbol. It was all very

relaxing. We were then able to use colours to improve what had been done. Some of the members showed their artistic talents, good enough to frame and hang on a wall. We also learnt the art of folding paper to make a booklet and at least one member was so enthused, she finished hers at home. We would definitely do this activity again!



*Left: seasonal decorations in March.
Above: Mindful Drawings in April*

May

This month was our AGM. Not the most inspiring meeting but a necessary one. Sue recapped our programme from last year picking out a few of the highlights. The accounts were available for the members to scrutinise and ask questions. Everyone was satisfied and both Sue King and Hilary Hoye were both re-elected as Chair and Treasurer.

After the conclusion of business, the members played a rather competitive word game with a lot of hilarity and stretching of the rules.

We look forward to another successful and interesting year.

Can you help?

We need a volunteer to deliver copies of the quarterly Birdbrook Parish News to houses from the village centre along to Finkle Green.

Contact Alan: cook734@btinternet.com

Birdbrook Bowls Club



A View from the Green: Looking Good

St David's Day... the photograph left, taken during an all too short sunny spell between heavy downpours, shows the green looking rich and verdant. A little damp in

places thanks to the unrelenting February deluge but, fingers crossed Spring will bring an improvement in the weather and an increase in the sunshine quotient, to dry out the playing surface and have it in pristine condition for our first home game against Castle Hedingham.

Annual Open Day Fast forward to the club's annual open day at the end of April... and... I really should have known better than to make predictions about the English weather. On the day, the rain gremlins decided it would be fun to play havoc with our plans and send down a drop more of the wet stuff... like we needed it!

Not exactly ideal conditions for a BBQ or a quick roll-up, but undaunted, club members and their guests adjourned to the Bowlers Arms for a few shandies and some excellent food. In the end, despite the best efforts of the grumpy gremlins the event was a great success, with several guests expressing an interest in joining the club.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day a great success.

STOP PRESS! President's Day 2024... after a very damp bank holiday weekend at the start of May and with the threat of thunder storms to come in the week ahead, the weather for this years event was glorious.

Teams from Castle Camps, Castle Hedingham, Cavendish, Clavering, Duxford, Great Cornard, Haverhill, Quendon and Steeple Bumpstead joined the Birdbrook Kingfishers for a great day's competition. Plus some excellent food, provided by Big Ben's Breakfast, Brunch and Lunch.



Results and full report in the next issue.

Want to try your hand with the woods? Then come along to any of our Wednesday evening roll-up nights at 6:00 PM... weather permitting... where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Don't worry if you don't have a set of bowls. We have spares you can use to get a feel for the game and get your eye in. We look forward to seeing you soon.



If you would like to join us either as a bowler or just as a non-playing member or if you just want to come along & support the club in whatever way you see fit, you would be most welcome.

To find out more about membership contact the club secretary Ben Allen on - 07778 225272 or email: birdbrookbowlsclub2024@gmail.com

Left and above: President's Day 2024

From the Green Man
with a touch of the Blarney



Above: Bowls Club Open Day April 2024

Birdbrook Community House

For Community House events & information visit:
<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookcommunityhouse/>

The next social hub is postponed until June 8th.
Food and bar available from 6pm

Friday mornings Warm Hub, coffee and chat 10-12noon.
Bingo night and Pamper evening details coming soon.

Contacts:

Stephen Filbey steve.filbey@gmail.com
Matt Unwin matt@unwinestates.co.uk
Katie Gentry katie_owner@hotmail.com



GOV.UK: Dogs, Cats and Poultry

Get your Dog or Cat microchipped

You must make sure your dog is fitted with a microchip and registered on a database by the time it's 8 weeks old.

From 10 June 2024, cats in England will need to be microchipped and registered on a database by the time they're 20 weeks old.

www.gov.uk/get-your-dog-cat-microchipped

Poultry and other captive birds:

Registration is currently compulsory for 50 or more birds and voluntary for keeping 49 birds or less, including any kept as pets.

From 1st October 2024

Registration will be compulsory for keeping 1 or more birds, including any kept as pets. Keepers are encouraged to register their birds ahead of the legal deadline. *NB Allow time: a 'CPN' reference can take up to 10 working days*

By registering: APHA will be able to contact you if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area
You'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock

www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-help-protect-poultry-industry-from-bird-flu

More links for information on the solar cycle and tips on viewing aurora:

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/aurora-dashboard-experimental>
<https://www.gi.alaska.edu/monitors/aurora-forecast> Select the "Europe" chart.
<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression>
<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/content/tips-viewing-aurora>

Northern Lights seen from Camps End, 10th May 2024
Northern Lights photos by Joel Wood

