



The Wildlife Centre of Wales Canolfan Byd Natur Cymru
www.rhayader.co.uk

Gigrin Farm

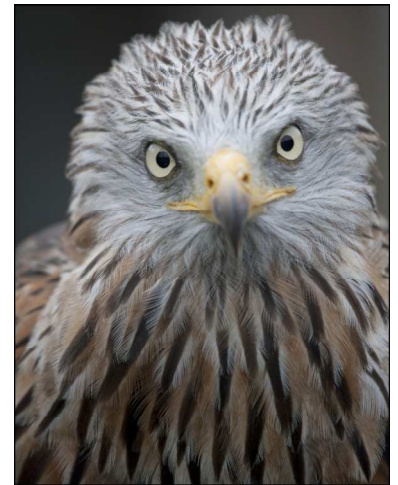
Gigrin Farm became the Official Red Kite Feeding Station in the winter 1992/93 following a request from the RSPB who had witnessed the late Mr. Powell feeding the kites as and when food (rabbit) was available.

The RSPB had noted this spectacle and came to the farm with a proposal - that we should open to the public as the red kite feeding station, as it would have an impact on the young kites that were being lost over the winter and would also draw people away from nesting sites where losses occurred due to disturbance.



We open from 1pm every day but for Christmas Day.

At the feeding station, the crows are first to turn up in trees around the feeding area and make it quite a noisy affair with the calls of jackdaws and carrion crows and the deep 'cronking' of ravens.



Buzzards and red kites circle overhead; buzzards are far more vocal than kites, their powerful 'mewing' carrying a long way.

As soon as the meat has been put out the crow family start emerging from the surrounding trees.

As the first crows land amongst the meat the kites go on the offensive.

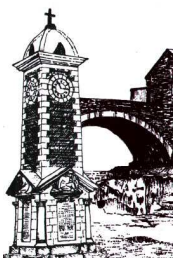
Kites watch and wait their chance to furl their wings and dive in, skimming the ground to snatch a scrap before rising suddenly to escape the beaks of the angry crows.

Many kites appear to miss their target by a wide margin but are actually intent on flushing meat-laden crows into the air from where they can be mugged by the very best in the business!

The meat we feed to the kites is beef - anything up to, and beyond, 800kg/week. This is fit for human consumption and can actually be too lean for beef burgers!

There is a rolling population of red kites during the week. And, on any day, there is a pecking order within the age groups the adults taking precedence over younger birds.

The Red Kite Feeding & Rehabilitation Centre www.gigrin.co.uk 01597 810243



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