

Eagle eyed Argus readers might have noticed two weeks ago that 'For the Birds' was missing for the first time in 8 years and it's place taken by 'For the Wildlife', written by my friends at City Wildlife Care.

I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did, because, 'For the Birds' and 'For the Wildlife' will now appear alternately every fortnight.

Since I have been writing this column I have been amazed at the level of environmental interest that Argus readers have shown and I am pretty sure that you will find both columns to your liking.



Birdwatching Activities Coming Up...

GOS continue their excellent programme of illustrated talks tonight, Saturday 6th October with Mike Pi
enkowski's
'Promoting Biodiversity in the Overseas Territories'. Not the most alluring of titles – but don't be fooled, Mike has put together a fascinating talk about the wildlife of Pitcairn, Tristan de Cunha, South Georgia and a host of other Commonwealth Islands.

On Saturday 20th October, Paul Rogers will present 'Hungarian Rhapsody', a tale of birdwatching at

the renowned

Hortobagy

National Park. Stand by to be wowed with stories and photos of birds including long eared owl (pictured), common crane, white tailed eagle and

saker

falcon.

The venue is Goytre Village Hall (just off the A4042 Newport to Abergavenny road) and talks start at 7.30pm. Argus readers are very welcome and entry, including tea and biscuits, costs £2

Readers are also welcome on GOS guided birdwatching walks – The next one takes place on Saturday 13th October, when my good mate Andrew Baker will be leading an easy 2 – 3 hour stroll around Llanwenarth

. This is a smashing spot on the River

Usk

near

Abergavenny

and Andrew knows the area (and it's

birdlife

) like the back of his hand. Please meet him at

Abergavenny

Bus Station at 9.00am before moving on to a suitable local parking site.

If you fancy a full day of birding at a real hotspot, why not join in on a trip to the Somerset Levels on Saturday 27th October? Steve Butler is leading this tour of the area's prime locations, including Catcott Lows and Shapwick. The meeting place is Magor M4 Services at 7.00am.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear, bring refreshments and binoculars if you have them. For more details call Steve Butler on 07970 558583.

Keep in Touch

Thank you to all readers that have taken the time to get in touch.

I always enjoy hearing from you and can be contacted at