

Winter Exhibition 2011
29th October – 13th November

Red Kites flourish on the Wolds

Celebrate the success of red kites on the Yorkshire Wolds at my Winter Exhibition.

I'll be handing out glasses of mulled wine and mince pies as I unveil a new series



of paintings featuring this magnificent bird of prey.

Once on the brink of extinction, red kites are now a common sight soaring above the Wolds. Their luxurious rust-coloured tails are a joy to paint.

Also on exhibit will be my photographic studies, taken over months of study, and stories of watching red kites in the wild.

Take a look too at the wonderful wildlife events that we are holding during the exhibition.

Make a date with nature and combine a visit to the exhibition with a special event.

Latest Releases

My painting Barn Owl at Burdale is now available as a print.

Priced at £127.50 for the framed print.

It is one of four new releases out for Christmas.



Calendar of Events

Sat 29th October

1.30pm-4.30pm Short Eared Owl safari
At a secret location nr Humber Bridge
Tickets £10

7pm-9pm Wolds Author Mike Pannett
A fun talk by ex-wildlife police officer in North Yorkshire Tickets £7.50

Sun 30th October

10am-12.30pm Winter Migrants
Discover the new migrants that have just flown into the UK Tickets £10

2pm-4.30pm Red Kites on the Wolds
Watch a flourishing population of red kites come into roost Tickets £10

Sat 5th November

1.30pm-4.30pm Short Eared Owl safari
At a secret location nr Humber Bridge
Tickets £10

Sun 6th November

2pm-4.30pm Special Tophill Low Safari
Watch as thousands of birds come to roost and seek out others Tickets £7.50

2pm-4.30pm Red Kites on the Wolds
Watch a flourishing population of red kites come into roost Tickets £10

Mon 7th November

1.30pm-4.30pm Short Eared Owl Safari
At a secret location nr Humber Bridge
Tickets £10

Fri 11th November

7pm-9pm Cooking for Christmas
With expert chef Ali Bilton of Yorkshire Wolds Cookery School Tickets £7.50

Sat 12th November

2pm-4.30pm Special Tophill Low Safari
Watch as thousands of birds come to roost and seek out others Tickets £7.50

2pm-4.30pm Red Kites on the Wolds
Watch a flourishing population of red kites come into roost Tickets £10

Sun 13th November

10am-12.30pm Winter Migrants
Discover the new migrants that have just flown into the UK Tickets £10

To book your place:

Ring: 01759 368355

Book on-line: www.RobertEFuller.com

Events start at gallery except for the Short Eared Owl safari and Tophill Low safari



The Robert Fuller Gallery

Winter News 2011

Issue 8

Warm up this winter with wildlife tales from the searing African plains to the beating heart of the Yorkshire Wolds. Happy reading! Robert E Fuller.



What's on the Easel

I associate waxwings with Christmas when they flock in to feast on our rowan berries if the berry harvest fails in Scandinavia.



Best Sighting

Lions detest water so it was astonishing to see this handsome male cross a river in front of me in Kenya's Masai Mara in August.

Latest News

Last year's Winter Exhibition was dogged by heavy snows so I've brought it forward this year to October 29th to November 13th.



I met HRH Princess Anne at an event about conservation in South Georgia at the House of Lords.



Eight of my photographs made it to the semi-finals of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

Hurry if you want to buy one of my calendars and diaries for 2012 there are only a few left.



I've signed a deal with a British bone china manufacturer. Watch out for mugs featuring my paintings next year.

Wildlife Tales



I'm keeping a close eye on the Wolds barn owl population. Last year 80% of local owls perished in the cold winter. Thankfully most of the remaining owls bred well this year.



Lapwings can struggle on arable fields. But I studied a set-a-side scheme which was a great success.



I counted four badger cubs at the sett near me but they have had a hard time of it due to the dry spring.



I watched a family of kestrels raise its brood in an old sycamore stump close to the studio.

Wildlife Watch: Red Kite Success Story



IN FLIGHT: Red kites will chase after ravens and pinch food



COMING IN TO ROOST: Red kites roost communally in the winter months.



FUN TO WATCH: They chase each other to pinch a scrap of meat



AT THE EASEL: I've enjoyed painting this original of a red kite soaring above the Wolds.

Flying the kite for fork-tailed survivor

Robert writes about the return of the red kite to his home territory on the Yorkshire Wolds.

THE RETURN of red kites to the Yorkshire Wolds is a local example of one of this century's great conservation success stories.

I remember my first ever sighting of a pair in 1989 when there were just isolated populations left. I was driving through mid-Wales with my mother on my way to visit an art college in Camarthen. I spotted them out of the car window. Their distinctive angular wings and deeply forked tail made them easy to identify.

In the middle ages red kites were a common sight, especially in big cities like London where they scavenged on the streets. By the 1950s this magnificent bird was nearly extinct. Now, thanks to a countrywide conservation scheme, the

red kite has made a healthy comeback. In fact the UK is now a world stronghold for them. The bird's success on the Yorkshire Wolds is noteworthy since there was no release programme here. The birds here have settled of their own accord. The colony began after 68 birds were released at Harewood House in West Yorkshire in 1999. Two of these birds moved to the Wolds and by 2000 seven pairs had settled here, successfully raising 12 young. There are now 40 to 50 kites in this area using communal roosts near Pocklington. My latest paintings of red kites are the result of watching them at Grigin Farm in mid-Wales which is host to a large feeding station. I watched up to 400 kites

swirl and swoop as they came in to feed. They dove to snatch at food from the crows, ravens and buzzards that were vying for the scraps alongside them.

Their flight is acrobatic and appears effortless. They have deep, distinctive wing beats and their tails swivel allowing them to perform breakneck turns in mid-air.

Red kites are gregarious birds and their outgoing, brazen characters make them fun to watch. Last winter I studied one of the local roosts. I photographed at least 30 birds soar in the sky

"I thought I would never see red kites on the Wolds in my lifetime."

Trip Report: Masai Mara



I took these photographs during my latest trip.

I took a group to Kenya in August. It was so successful I've decided to guide another group next year.

The exclusive safari is timed to coincide with the world's greatest migration, when more than a million wildebeest, gazelle and zebra cross these vast plains in search of greener pasture. Our camp will be ideally placed to see the dramatic river crossings when these herds plunge into the crocodile infested rivers.

This year our party saw an exceptional river-crossing. A lion braved the swollen torrents right before our eyes. And we saw some of the stars from TV's Big Cat Diary, including chief pride male Notch.

We saw cheetah hunt, leopard slink through the shadows, black

rhino lumber across plains and elephant herd their young through groups of wildebeest. We woke to hear hyenas whoop and hippos grunting as they lowered themselves back into the water.

In the words of one of our guests, "the Mara is a very special place. Having a lovely group of people with lots of shared laughter added special memories to the holiday." And a second guest had this to say, "to see it from a small camp with guiding from acknowledged international experts is the way to experience it."

The all-inclusive trip costs US\$6,200 each, excluding flights and is limited to 12 guests on August 17-24th. For more info see: www.robertefuller.com



Follow Robert's wildlife antics on his blog www.robertefuller.blogspot.com, on Facebook Robert E Fuller or on Twitter @RobertEFuller

