



Organised by the WestNet U3A

(WestNet is a network of 5 U3As: Bradford, Craven, Ilkley and District, Keighley, Settle)

A one-off guest speaker on rural crime prevention.

North Yorkshire Police's – 'Operation Owl'

North Yorkshire Police is calling for the public to take part in 'Operation Owl' - a new initiative to prevent the persecution of birds of prey in our countryside. North Yorkshire is known for its wonderful countryside, which is home to many species of birds – including protected birds of prey (also known as raptors).

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take wild birds. Nevertheless, birds of prey are still shot, poisoned and trapped – especially in areas where the land is managed for driven grouse shooting. Sadly, as a county, North Yorkshire has more confirmed incidents of raptor persecution than any other county in England – a situation the police are determined to tackle.

However, Yorkshire is a huge county with insufficient police to monitor it all – they need the help of the public to be their eyes and ears. The talk will cover the nature of rural crime, the impact on wildlife conservation and what members of the public can do to support the police in their work

11.00 – 12.30 on Wed 3rd April in the Clarke Foley Centre, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley LS29 9DZ

Refreshments will be served. There will be a small charge of **£2.00** to cover the cost of hiring the venue. Payments will be taken at the door, but, as an aid to planning and knowing numbers, please register your intention to come along by e-mailing angiegrain@aol.com – preferably before mid-March.

If you are interested and would like to know more about raptor persecution and what we, the public, can do to help – then do come along if you can.