

Nature at Rough Top

Spring is really here, at last and strangely we have our daffodils still out in full bloom and the swallows have arrived and taken up residence in the stables! The other birds are back in force with Lapwings and Curlews nesting in the surrounding fields.

- The curlews of course make a very unique sound. Listen courtesy of British Library
<http://sounds.bl.uk/Environment/British-wildlife-recordings/022M-W1CDR0001375-0600V0>
Easily recognised by their long curving bill they can be seen throughout the early summer around our fields.
- Curlews have declined drastically in numbers over recent years so it's really great to see them return to Rough Top every year. More info on Curlews at
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/c/curlew/>
- Lapwings are another bird on the RSPB red list of endangered birds. Commonly known as the peewit in imitation of its display calls, its proper name describes its wavering flight. Its black and white appearance and round-winged shape in flight make it distinctive, even without its splendid crest. I stumbled across this nest in the field below Rough Top Cottage, complete with 4 eggs. It seems to be surviving the horse's feet and hopefully the crows and magpies will be enticed away by the parent birds.



<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/l/lapwing/>

- Many of our nationally known artists are also keen wildlife supporters and here Robert E Fuller of Thixendale has wonderful prints available and I just love this lapwing chick. I have only once managed to see them in our fields before the parent birds ferry them away from open ground to the safety of the field wall sides.



- Visit Robert's wonderful gallery in Thixendale, North Yorkshire which is open every day including Sundays (except some bank holidays). Entrance to the gallery is free of charge and everyone is welcome. You'll be able to browse all Robert's wonderful original paintings, limited edition prints and giftware, which are all available to buy and take away on the day. In addition, you'll enjoy looking into Robert's working studio to see how he produces his paintings, as well as live nest cams, videos of Robert's wildlife adventures and displays of his photographs of different wildlife species with insights into animal and bird behaviour. https://www.robertfuller.com/acatalog/The_Gallery.html