

UPDATE

on the Peregrine Falcons of Salisbury Cathedral

The chicks of 2020 have taken flight!



KATHERINE



ELA

ALL FOUR PEREGRINE CHICKS HAVE NOW FLEDGED!

Currently the whole family is still using the tower as their base so do not forget to keep a look out when you are near the Cathedral. There could be up to 6 peregrine falcons flying around... and making lots of noise!

The 2020 Peregrine Falcons have been named...

...the names were chosen by a public vote!



OSMUND



HONOR

→ ELA



Ela is named after Ela Longspee – Countess of Salisbury and Abbess of Lacock. She laid one of the Cathedral foundation stones in 1220.

HONOR



Honor is named after Pope Honorius III who played a key role in the Cathedral being moved from Old Sarum to where it stands now.

KATHERINE



Katherine is named after Lady Katherine Grey, countess of Hertford whose memorial is in the Cathedral.

OSMUND



Osmund is named after St Osmund who was Bishop of Salisbury in the 11th Century at the Cathedral in Old Sarum.

Fluffy Chicks to Fierce Peregrine Falcons



FLEDGING

Chicks normally fledge about 6 weeks after hatching.

Osmund was the first peregrine to fledge this year on 10th June.

Chicks are dependent on their parents for food for up to 2 months after they have fledged. They have a lot to learn- especially when it comes to mastering flying and hunting.



After breeding, peregrines can travel far and wide. Our peregrine parents will probably stay in the local area to maintain their territory.

We hope that they will return to Salisbury Cathedral to roost and raise another family here next year.



TOP TIPS FOR SPOTTING THE PEREGRINES:

Peregrine falcons like to hunt at dawn and dusk – making it a good time to spot them!



When you are next at the Cathedral listen out for their distinctive cry and look up to spot them!



Don't forget to look at our peregrine activity sheet and share your peregrine pictures and creations on social media using #SalisburyPeregrines



The Peregrine Falcons of Salisbury Cathedral



Did you know?

- There are stories of birds of prey living at Salisbury Cathedral since the 1600's!
- Since 2014 15 Peregrine chicks have been born at Salisbury Cathedral!



SO FAR THIS YEAR

The first egg was laid on Mother's Day, 23rd March 2020.

THERE HAVE BEEN 4 EGGS LAID IN TOTAL

The first egg hatched on 29th April 2020.

ALL 4 EGGS HAVE NOW HATCHED

You can keep up to date with all the latest news and information on the peregrines and even watch the live webcam by going to our website:

www.salisburycathedral.org.uk

THE CHICKS ARE GROWING SUPER FAST!

Phil Sheldrake is the Cathedral's Nature Conservation Adviser and he has supported the Cathedral in the development of the peregrine project.

The Story of the Peregrine Falcons

at Salisbury Cathedral



GRUESOME HISTORY

Since 1670 there are records that mention the Cathedral buying meat for two eagles. We do not what bird of prey they were but Falconry was extremely popular at this time and perhaps they helped keep the population of pigeons low!

HOME SWEET HOME

A nest box was made for the peregrines in 2012 and placed on the south side of the tower. In 2014 3 peregrine chicks fledged from the Cathedral for the first time since 1953.



HOW TO IDENTIFY A PEREGRINE FROM SALISBURY CATHEDRAL



All of the Salisbury Cathedral chicks are ringed with a wide blue leg ring to help them be identified in the future. Keep a look out for them when you are out in the Wiltshire countryside.



SALLY

A female peregrine known as Sally was fitted with a GPS tracker and for two years we followed her journey. She was last detected in Coombe Bissett in 2019.

Sally adopted an orphaned peregrine chick in 2017 whilst she was a resident in Salisbury Cathedral.



In 2019 there was a big fight to win the nest box, and sadly Sally lost. The un-ringed pair who took over raised 4 chicks last year – Sky, Pansy, Petunia and Perry.

