

# SPIRIT OF SUTTERBY

## Bird ringing the 2016 Sutterby Barn Owl Chicks

Sutterby Church 1130am Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016



Garry Steele and his assistant, Andy, arrived in his van at the church with all the equipment required to put on leg rings and record the 2016 Sutterby Barn Owl Chicks. The first task is to block up the entrance hole to the owl box built into the west wall of the church, this is stop the birds in the box escaping. Next taking a ladder into the church, the access door is removed in the ceiling, this gives access to the back of the owl box. The owl box door is opened. The owl chicks are then placed in a soft cotton bag, this keeps them in the dark and quiet while they brought down for ringing.



Garry then carefully removes the chicks from the cotton bag and lies them on a hessian sack on the floor, placing a glove over their heads to keep out the light and keep the chicks calm. He measures part of the wing and is then able to estimate the age of the chicks, he also looks at the feathers on the underside of the wing and can ascertain the sex of the chick. He then placed the leg rings on the chicks and recorded the numbers.







Examining the leg ring before fitment



Fitting the leg rings



An owl pellet dislodged from the owl box





The latest three members to be sign up for the Sutterby Horde showing off their leg rings