

Dumfries and Galloway

Wildlife Festival



www.wildlifefestival.org.uk

2 April - 25 April 2011

Dumfries and Galloway Wildlife Festival

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Welcome to the eight Dumfries & Galloway Wildlife Festival. The festival is going from strength to strength. This year is the biggest ever with over 90 events included in the programme! Look out for events with species such as geese, badgers, salmon and of course red kites! New additions to the 2011 programme are the geology excursions including a trip to an open cast coal mine, a wildlife photography exhibition at Mersehead where you can submit your own photographs for judging, storytelling and poetry workshops for children and adults and a canoe safari on the River Nith for the more energetic! Popular activities held again this year include the Stars and Stripes badger watches at WWT Caerlaverock, guides in the hides at Wigtown Harbour to point out the wildfowl and waders and a whole range of family activities for Easter. So something for everyone to enjoy!

Peter Norman
Biodiversity Officer

Booking Information: Not all events require booking – simply turn up at the meeting place at the time indicated. Where 'booking recommended' is shown next to an event we cannot guarantee that you will be able to join the event without booking in advance, although this may be possible. It is essential that you book in advance for all events where this is indicated.

Costs: Unless otherwise indicated, all events are free to attend.

Where to eat: Unless otherwise stated, food and drink is not provided for any event, including full day events. Local catering facilities are often available close-by, but you may wish to bring a packed lunch or snack for some events.

Accommodation: Please contact Visit Scotland Dumfries & Galloway on 01387 253862 or www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk for advice and assistance on where to stay, and for information about other attractions in Dumfries and Galloway.

*Marked events are particularly suitable for younger children (aged 5 – 12) and their families.



Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland



Dumfries
& Galloway



COUNCIL

Dumfries and Galloway
Biodiversity Partnership
The logo for Biodiversity Partnership, featuring five icons: a flower, a star, a leaf, a paw print, and a hand.

*Wildlife Photography Exhibition

Saturday 2 April – Thursday 21 April at 12.00noon, Mersehead

Photos can be submitted to Mersehead from 2nd April until the closing date of Thursday 21st April 12pm. Three different age groups - Children (up to 12), Teenagers (13-19) and Adults. Photos submitted should be of wildlife images captured in Dumfries and Galloway within the last year and should be no more than A4 size - date and location of photograph essential. Finalists' photos (Top 15 photos from each group) will be displayed over the weekend of 23rd and 24th April in the Sulwath Centre at Mersehead. The winners will be announced in the week beginning 25th April. Sorry, Photos cannot be returned.

Further information: All photos should be sent to Becky Jones, RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560. Tel: 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

*Woodlanders Exhibition

Saturday 2 April – 25 April, Logan Botanic Gardens

Come along and see an exhibition highlighting the role and use of woodlands ranging from horse logging to wood turning.

Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

Geology Excursion to Opencast Coal Mine

Saturday 2 April, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Kirkconnel

Join "GeoD", Dumfries and Galloway's Geo-conservation Group, for the day exploring 340 million year old Carboniferous fossils and a 50

million year old tunnel of Tertiary volcanic rock. Adult led School and Youth Groups welcome. Please note, this walk is not suitable for wheelchairs or children under 16.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day.

Further information and booking (essential): contact Diana Turner 01848 330814 or 07821 621 366, before 25/03/2011

Bin Your Bins

Saturday 2 April & Sunday 3 April, 11.00am – 4.00pm, Mersehead

Optics demonstration/sale weekend with craft activities for families. Spotting games to test those new binoculars!

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

*Red Kite Feeding Station Open Day

Saturday 2 April, 1.30pm - 4.00pm, Laurieston

RSPB staff will be on hand to show you these magnificent birds, provide information and answer questions.



Meet: Bellymack Hill Farm, DG7 2PT, NX 688652

Further information: Calum Murray 01556 670464

Birding for Beginners

Sunday 3 April, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Caerlaverock

Join the staff at WWT to find out about the essentials of birding for beginners. This is an adults only event.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre, NY051656

Further information & bookings (essential): Book 01387 770200

Mothers Day

Sunday 3 April, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Drumlanrig

Join the Buccleuch Rangers on a walk to discover how wildlife mums look after their young.

Cost: Country park admission applies

Meet: Drumlanrig Visitor Centre, NX852992

Further information & bookings (essential):
01848 331555 or rangerservice@buccleuch.com

*Stars & Stripes Badger Watch

Nightly from Monday 4 April to Sunday 17th April, 7.30pm, Caerlaverock

A unique opportunity to watch wild badgers feeding right outside our observatory windows.



Cost: Adults £7.50, Concessions £5, Children £2.50

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetlands Centre, NY051656

Further information & bookings (essential):

Due to the limited places available this event must be prepaid & tickets will be issued, 01387 770200

Water Wonders

Monday 4 April, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Eskrigg

Investigate the pond life at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Find out how the breeding season has gone for the frogs, toads and newts this year.

Wellies and waterproofs advisable. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: LWT members £1.00, non-members £2.00

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk



*Nest Building

Tuesday 5 April, 10.30am – 11.30am, Dumfries

Do you think you could build a nest as well as the birds can? Come along and find out how, why and where birds build their nests and then have a go at building your own, and protecting it from predators! Games and activities for children from 5 years.

Meet: Dumfries Museum, NX970757

Further information and booking (essential):
Dumfries Museum 01387 253374

Eskrigg Film Night

Tuesday 5 April, 7.00pm, Eskrigg

Come and watch wildlife movies at Eskrigg Centre.

Cost: LWT members £1.00, non-members £2.00

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk

Black Grouse

Wednesday 6 April, 4.30am start, Carrick Forest Drive

As part of Dumfries and Galloway Wildlife Festival join Forestry Commission Scotland and RSPB in search of Black Grouse. We will travel along the Carrick Forest Drive in pursuit of a glimpse of this rare bird.

Cost: Free

Meet: Details will be given on booking

Further information and booking (essential):

Forestry Commission 01671 402 420



Tony's Tall Tales

Wednesday 6 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Mersehead

A guided walk around Mersehead reserve with

one of our experienced volunteers. This walk is suitable for Adults and Children over 12 years.

Meet: Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential):

Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

***Wild Wednesdays**

**Wednesday 6 April, 11.00am – 4.00pm,
Mersehead**

A family fun day at Mersehead reserve, with paper plant-pot making and games for all the family to enjoy. Themed workshops throughout the day focusing on different wildlife.

Meet: Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential for workshops but not for other activities):

Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

***Hatchery Open Day**

**Wednesday 6 April, 10.00am
-12noon, Auldgirth**



Come and see the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust hatchery where Salmon fry can be seen feeding and the whole hatchery process will be explained. You can then join us on a field visit to see and hear how some of our riverside habitat improvement work is helping improve biodiversity within our catchments and increasing fish numbers. Bring outdoor clothes and wellies.

Meet: Auldgirth Inn car park, Auldgirth NX913868

Further Information and booking (essential):

Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, 01387 740043
NDSFB@salmonfishery.demon.co.uk. Please note that a minimum number is required to run this event.

Gaggles of Geese

Wednesday 6 April, anytime from 6.00pm until dusk, Wigtown

Goose Guides will be on hand between 6 pm and dusk to help you identify the geese and swans of Wigtown Bay LNR which are passing through

on their journey north to the Arctic. There will be binoculars, a telescope and identification books as well as the guide in the hide at Wigtown Harbour.

Meet: Wigtown Harbour hide, NX440548

Further information: Elizabeth Tindal (DGC Ranger) 01988 402401, wblnr@dumgal.gov.uk



***Terrific Tree Trail**

**Thursday 7 April, 10.00 am – 12.00noon,
Allanton**

A wander through the woodland at Allanton peace sanctuary looking at the weird and wonderful things that trees can do.

Meet: Allanton Peace Sanctuary, NX912849

Further Information and booking (essential):

Tom Henry 07702 250958

***Nature Trail SNH**

Thursday 7 April anytime between 10.30am – 2.00pm, Caerlaverock NNR

If you fancy trying your hand at being a nature detective come along to Scotland's largest wetland National Nature Reserve to explore the flooders nature trail. A keen pair of eyes will be needed to find all the clues on this 1.5 mile circular trail. Wellies and waterproof clothing advisable.

Meet: Caerlaverock NNR Reserve Office, Hollands Farm Road, Caerlaverock, Dumfries, DG1 4RT.

Further Information: Reserve staff 01387 770275

Archaeology Walk

Thursday 7 April 11.00am, RSPB Barclye Farm

A guided walk around the Barclye extension to RSPB's Wood of Cree reserve looking at the wealth of archaeological features.

Cost: £1.00 RSPB members, £2.00 non-members

Meet: Barclye car park, DG8 6SN, NX386694

Further Information and booking (essential):

Paul Tarling 01776 840539

*Paper Making

Thursday 7 April, 11.00am – 12.30pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

Make your own paper, the essential ingredient of any artists book – paper. We will help you to make your own art paper not just out of wood pulp but, flowers, leaves, grass, fungi and other interesting stuff, go on give it a go!

Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

*Bird box building SNH

Thursday 7 April 11.00am – 2.00pm, Caerlaverock NNR

With spring in the air, garden birds will be turning their attentions to nesting, so come along and make a free nest box to take home. A camera installed in a nest box at the reserve office and linked to the visitor room will hopefully provide close up views of its inhabitants in the process of nesting. This event is suitable for children aged 5-10 years old.

Meet: Caerlaverock NNR Reserve Office, Hollands Farm Road, Caerlaverock, Dumfries, DG1 4RT

Further Information and booking (essential):

Reserve staff 01387 770275



*Bugs and Beasties

Thursday 7 April, 2.00pm – 3.30pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

A fun filled event for all the family. Join staff in a minibeast hunt and make a deluxe "Bug Hotel" for the garden's minibeast to stay in.



Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

Champion Tree Walk

Thursday 7 April, 2.00pm, Castle Kennedy & Gardens

An opportunity to see and learn about some spectacular trees, which are the tallest or largest of their species. There are 6 British Champions, 11 Scottish and 25 for Dumfries and Galloway at Castle Kennedy & Gardens. They include the tallest Himalayan Rhododendron arboreum which is an original specimen, the tallest Eucryphia cordifolia standing at approximately 22 metres in height and a remarkable Griselinia which has girth of over 4 metres. Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

Cost: Normal Gardens Admission plus £2.00 which includes a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake

Meet: Castle Kennedy & Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer DG9 8SJ (3 miles east of Stranraer)

Further information: marketing@castlekennedygardens.co.uk or 01776 702024

***Family Friday**

Friday 8 April 10.00am – 5.00pm, Mersehead

Treasure trails, beach art competition, face painting and more fun for families at RSPB Mersehead reserve.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

***Wildlife Story Time**

Friday 8 April, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm, Eskrigg

Opportunity for primary children to listen to, tell, read and illustrate their favourite Wildlife Tales. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk



Martin's Meanders

Saturday 9 April 10.30am – 12.30pm, Mersehead

A guided walk around the reserve with one of our experienced volunteers.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

Geology Excursion to the Langholm Hills

Sunday 10 April, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Langholm Hills

Join "GeoD", Dumfries and Galloway's Geo-conservation Group, for the day, walking and exploring 400 million year old explosive gas pockets of the Birnswark Lava Formation. Adult led School and Youth Groups welcome. Own transport required. Please note that this walk is not suitable for wheelchairs or children under 16.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day.

Further Information and booking (essential): contact Diana Turner 01848 330814 or 07821 621366, before 25/03/2011

*Wild Wetlands

Sunday 10 April, 11.00am – 3.00pm, Threave Nature Reserve

Discover why wetlands are so important and meet some of the amazing creatures that live on Threave Nature Reserve. If all is well our ospreys should be back from their winter home in Africa and preparing for the breeding season ahead. Find out what happens on the estate after dark and catch up with some weird and wonderful aquatic bugs and beasts!

Meet: Threave Castle car park, NX746617

Further information: NTS ranger service 01556 503702

*Spring at Eskrigg

Sunday 10 April, 1.00pm – 3.30pm, Eskrigg

Guided walk around Eskrigg Nature Reserve and nearby woodland trails. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and sturdy shoes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential): Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk



Bird calls for beginners

Sunday 10 April, 2.00pm – 3.00pm, Clatteringshaws

As part of international Year of Forests join our Recreation Ranger for an introduction to bird identification and song. This is aimed at complete beginners.

Cost: £5.00 per person includes tea/coffee upon return

Meet: Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre

Further information and booking (essential): FCS 01671 402420

Drumlanrigs Red Squirrels

Sunday 10 April 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Drumlanrig

Red Squirrels are under threat, how are the Squirrels at Drumlanrig doing? Join the Buccleuch Rangers to find out.

Cost: Country park admission applies

Meet: Drumlanrig Visitor Centre, NX852992

Further information & bookings (essential): 01848 331555 or rangerservice@buccleuch.com



***A Walk on the Wildside**

Monday 11 April 1.30pm – 3.00pm, Powfoot
Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Service, in partnership with Active Schools, are putting on a fun filled afternoon of nature activities and outdoor workouts aimed to keep children busy over the Easter Holidays



Meet: Powfoot Beech, Powfoot. More details given on booking.

Further information and booking (essential):
Ross Gemmell 07834567893

***Transformers: Bugs & Butterflies**

Tuesday 12 April, 10.30am - 11.30am, Dumfries
Everyone knows that caterpillars turn into butterflies, but how many other things are there out there that can change themselves into a completely different creature? Come along and find out. Games and activities for children from 5 years.

Meet: Dumfries Museum, NX970757

Further information and booking (essential):
Dumfries Museum 01387 253374

The Arrival of Spring

Tuesday 12 April, 10.30am – 12.00noon, Logan Botanic Gardens

Come along and enjoy a tour around the garden to discover the flush of emerging foliage and floral displays from plants such as Magnolia, Camellia, and Rhododendrons to name but a few.

Cost: Adults £5, Concessions £4, Children £1

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

***A Walk on the Wildside**

Tuesday 12 April 1.30pm - 3.30pm, Castle Loch
Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Service,

in partnership with Active Schools, are putting on a fun filled afternoon of nature activities and woodland workouts aimed to keep children busy over the Easter Holidays



Meet: Castle Loch, Lochmaben. More details given on booking.

Further information and booking (essential):
Ross Gemmell 07834567893

***Bird Box Making**

Tuesday 12 April, 2.00pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

Make your own bird nesting box to take away with you to put in your garden.

Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

***Hatchery Open Day**

Wednesday 13 April, 10.00am -12noon, Auldgirth

Come and see the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust hatchery where Salmon fry can be seen feeding and the whole hatchery process will be explained. You can then join us on a field visit to see and hear how some of our riverside habitat improvement work is helping improve biodiversity within our catchments and increasing fish numbers. Bring outdoor clothes and wellies.

Meet: Auldgirth Inn car park, Auldgirth, NX913868

Further Information and booking (essential):
Nith Catchment Fishery Trust, 01387 740043
NDSFB@salmonfishery.demon.co.uk. Please note that a minimum number is required to run this event.

Tony's Tall Tales

Wednesday 13 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Mersehead

A guided walk around the reserve with one of our experienced volunteers.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560



Further information and booking (essential):

Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

*Wild Wednesdays

Wednesday 13 April, 11.00am – 4.00pm, Mersehead

A family fun day at Mersehead reserve, with paper plant-pot making and games for all the family to enjoy. Themed workshops throughout the day focusing on different wildlife.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential for workshops but not for other activities):

Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

*Orienteering for beginners

Wednesday 13 April, 2.00pm start, Kirroughtree

A fun way to explore Kirroughtree, ideal for beginners. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Cost: £2.00 per orienteering pack

Meet: Just turn up at Kirroughtree visitor centre, NX451646

Further information: FCS 01671 402 420

Gaggles of Geese

Wednesday 13 April, anytime from 6.00pm until dusk, Wigtown

Goose Guides will be on hand between 6 pm and dusk to help you identify the geese and swans of Wigtown Bay



LNR which are passing through on their journey north to the Arctic. There will be binoculars, a telescope and identification books as well as the guide in the hide at Wigtown Harbour.

Meet: Wigtown Harbour hide, NX440548

Further information: Elizabeth Tindal (DGC Ranger) 01988 402401, wblnr@dumgal.gov.uk

Eskrigg Film Night

Wednesday 13 April, 7.00 pm, Eskrigg

Come and watch wildlife movies at Eskrigg Centre.

Cost: LWT members £1.00, non-members £2.00

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk

Mossdale to Secret Cages walk

Thursday 14 April, 9.45am – 1.00pm, Mossdale

Join the RSPB Community Liaison Officer on a 5km walk from Mossdale to the Secret Cages, taking in views of wildlife along the old railway line and the Raiders Road and returning via Mossdale Loch. Not suitable for wheelchair or buggy access. Sorry no dogs.

Meet: Galloway Kite Trail car park in Mossdale, DG7 2NF, NX 662705

Further information: Calum Murray 01556 670464

*Brilliant Bugs and Deluxe Hotels

Thursday 14 April, 11.00am-12.30pm and 2.00pm-3.30pm, Castle Kennedy & Gardens

Explore the wonderful gardens at Castle Kennedy and join the hunt for bugs and beasties with the Bugs in Gardens project. Find out where invertebrates hide and how they help to keep our ecosystems healthy. Then in the afternoon

join Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Elizabeth Tindal to make a deluxe "Bug Hotel" for all the garden's brilliant bugs to stay in.



Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear.

Cost: Included in entrance fee to Gardens (£4.00 adults, £3.00 Concessions, £1.00 children)

Meet: Castle Kennedy & Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, NX 109608 (entrance 3 miles east of Stranraer on A75)

Further information: Lisa Ferguson, Bugs in Gardens, DGERC, Solway Heritage, 01387 249207

Water Wonders

Thursday 14 April, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Eskrigg

Investigate the pond life at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Find out how the breeding season has gone for the frogs, toads and newts this year. Wellies and waterproofs advisable. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



Cost: LWT members £1.00, non-members £2.00

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk

*Bird Feeder Making

Thursday 14 April, 2.00pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

Make your own bird feeder to take away with you to put in your garden.



Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

Carsethorn to Powillimount

Thursday 14 April, 2.00pm – 5.00pm, Carsethorn

A circular walk looking at the wildlife of the Nith Estuary from John Paul Jones museum, inland to Carsethorn and then back along the beach, past the thirlstone and up to the museum.

Meet: John Paul Jones Cottage, Arbigland, NX988572

Further Information and booking (essential):

Tom Henry 07702 250958

Places & Poetry Postcards

Friday 15 April, 10.00am – 12.00noon, Mersehead

A workshop about what makes a place special and ways to write about it. You'll emerge with your own poem on a decorated Poetry Postcard. The workshop is 2 hours long, with a walk outside to gather ideas followed by time indoors to do some writing, printing and drawing to create your Poetry Postcard. Suitable for 10 to 14 year olds. The workshop will be led by Dumfries & Galloway-based poet, Jean Atkin.

Cost: Free, but donations please to RSPB

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Jean Atkin, Marketing Officer, dgArts 01387 253383

*Fish Up Close

Friday 15 April, 11.00am -12.30pm, Wigtown

A guided tour of Galloway Fisheries Trust hatchery, giving a close up view of wild trout and salmon before they are released into their native river. Other species that may also be on show include Pike, Perch, lampreys, Roach and salmon smolts. To finish there will be a tour of Torhouse Trout, a fully operational Rainbow Trout Farm that is situated within the same site.

Meet: Torhouse Trout Farm car park, NX 399554

Further information and booking

(essential): Galloway Fisheries Trust 01671 403011 mail@gallowayfisheriestrust.org www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org

***Family Friday**

Friday 15 April 10.00am – 5.00pm, Mersehead

Treasure trails, beach art competition, face painting and more fun for families at RSPB Mersehead reserve.



Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

Springtime's Sproutin' up Wamphray Glen

Friday 15 April 2.00pm – 3.30pm, Wamphray

Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Service will take you on a walk up the Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland of Wamphray Glen which is owned by The Crown Estate, examining the signs that show us that spring is finally on its way. Bring Boots and Binoculars if owned

Meet: Wamphray Glen, Newton Wamphray, Lockerbie. More details given on booking.

Further information and booking (essential): Ross Gemmell 07834567893

'Writing Ground.'

Friday 15 April, 7.00pm, Dumfries

A reading exploring the power of particular places in the work of four award-winning poets based in Dumfries and Galloway. This event is jointly supported by Dumfries and Galloway Arts and University of Glasgow Dumfries Campus.

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Meet: The Midsteeple, High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2BH

Further information: dgArts 01387 253383

Martin's Meanders

Saturday 16 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Mersehead

A guided walk around the reserve with one of our experienced volunteers.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

***RSPB Wigtown Bay Open Day**

Saturday 16 April, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Wigtown

Wigtown Bay is a great place to look for geese, ducks, waders and raptors. RSPB staff and other local experts will be on hand to show you the wealth of wetland wildlife.

Meet: Wigtown Harbour

Further information: Paul Tarling 01988 402130

Ospreys are back in Galloway

Saturday 16th April, anytime from 10.00am – 4.00pm, Wigtown

This is your chance to welcome Ospreys back to Galloway. We will be looking at footage from the previous successful seasons and preparing for the New Year.



Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, County Buildings, Wigtown DG8 9JH, NX434554

Further information: Elizabeth Tindal (DGC Ranger) 01988 402401



***Selkies, Kelpies and Watery Tales**

**Saturday 16 April, 10.00am - 4.00pm,
Cairnmore of Fleet NNR**

Experience the magic of storytelling that will bring the landscape to life, with tales of fairy folk and mythological creatures, and explore one of south west Scotland's wildest places - Cairnmore of Fleet. A collaborative event between SNH and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Bring suitable outdoor clothing. Suitable for 'children' of all ages!

Meet: Dromore Farm, Cairnmore of Fleet NNR, off the B746, NX 554637

Further information and booking (preferred but not essential): The Reserve Office, 01557 814435

Spring at Eskrigg

Saturday 16 April, 1.00pm – 3.30pm, Eskrigg

Guided walk around Eskrigg Nature Reserve and nearby woodland trails. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and sturdy shoes.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day



Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk

Early Moths

Sunday 17 April, 10.30 am – 12 noon, Eskrigg

Learn about moth trapping and identification with Peter Norman. Find out which species of moth are out and about at Eskrigg Nature Reserve in April.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Contact Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or at jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk

***South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital Open Day**

Sunday 17 April, anytime from 12noon – 4.00pm, Parkgate

Come along and visit your local wildlife hospital. You will have the opportunity to find out what exactly we do, look round our facilities and observe fantastic CCTV footage of patients past and present!

Cost: Free but donations appreciated

Meet: Wildlife Hospital car park, Barony College, NY023871

Further information: South of Scotland Wildlife Hospital, 01387 860461, psmith@barony.ac.uk www.soswh.org.uk

***Wood is Great!**

Sunday 17 April, drop in between 2.00pm – 3.00pm, Kirroghtree

Join forestry Commission Scotland staff at Kirroghtree for this drop in session to make your very own wooden pencil holder and necklace to take home.

Cost: £2.00 per child

Meet: Kirroghtree visitor centre, NX451646

Further information: FCS 01671 402 420



Exploration for Otters

Sunday 17th April, 3.00pm - 5.00pm, Drumlanrig

Search the waterways on the Estate with the Buccleuch Rangers for signs of the elusive Otter.

Cost: Country park admission applies

Meet: Drumlanrig Visitor Centre, NX852992

Further information & bookings (essential):
01848 331555 or rangerservice@buccleuch.com





Canoe Safari

Tuesday 19 April, 10.00am - 12.00pm, Dumfries

Wildlife watching from a canoe. Join the Nithsdale canoe club and the Dumfries and Galloway Council Ranger Service for a trip down the River Nith looking for otter, wildfowl and kingfisher.

Meet: Dumfries (details given upon booking)

Further information and booking (essential):

Tom Henry 07702 250958

*Bird Box Making

Tuesday 19 April, 2.00pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

Make your own bird nesting box to take away with you to put in your garden.

Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

Signs of Spring Walk

19th April 2011 – 2.00pm, Castle Kennedy and Gardens

The gardens are famous for their display of rhododendrons and azaleas. See these in their early glory together with the



spring bulbs, especially the daffodils in all their shades of yellow, and other signs of spring in the Gardens. Bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

Cost: Normal Gardens Admission plus £2.00 which includes a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake.

Meet: Castle Kennedy & Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer DG9 8SJ (3 miles east of Stranraer)

Further information: marketing@castlekennedygardens.co.uk or 01776 702024

Mossdale to Secret Cages walk

Wednesday 20 April, 9.45am – 1.00pm, Mossdale

Join the RSPB Community Liaison Officer on a 5km walk from Mossdale to the Secret Cages, taking in views of wildlife along the old railway line and the Raiders Road and returning via Mossdale Loch. Not suitable for wheelchair or buggy access. Sorry no dogs.

Meet: Galloway Kite Trail car park in Mossdale, DG7 2NF, NX 662705

Further information: Calum Murray 01556 670464

Reptile Ramble

Wednesday 20 April, 10.00am – 1.00pm, Kirkconnell Flow NNR

Join DGERC and SNH staff for a walk around the National Nature Reserve looking for some of Dumfries and Galloway's most shy and elusive animals

Meet: Kirkconnell Flow car park NX963701. Access to the reserve is from the A710 Dumfries to New Abbey road. The 372 bus runs from Dumfries.

Further information and booking (essential): Mark Pollitt, DGERC, Solway Heritage, 01387 249207

Tony's Tall Tales

Wednesday 20 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Mersehead

A guided walk around the reserve with one of our experienced volunteers.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential):

Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

*Wild Wednesdays

Wednesday 20 April, 11.00am – 4.00pm, Mersehead

A family fun day at Mersehead reserve, with paper plant-pot making and games for all the family to enjoy. Themed workshops throughout the day focusing on different wildlife.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential for workshops but not for other activities):

Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

Spring Colour Photography

Wednesday 20 April, 1.30pm – 4.00pm, Glentool

As part of International Year of Forests join our very own photography enthusiasts Andrew Jarrott and Lucy Hadley on a walk through the Glentool Oakwoods looking for signs of spring.

Cost: £10 per person includes a tea/coffee upon return to visitor centre

Meet: Glentool Visitor Centre

Further information and booking (essential):

FCS 01671 402420

Gaggles of Geese

Wednesday 20 April, anytime from 6.00pm until dusk, Wigtown

Goose Guides will be on hand between 6 pm and dusk to help you identify the geese and swans of Wigtown Bay LNR which are passing through

on their journey north to the Arctic. There will be binoculars, a telescope and identification books as well as the guide in the hide at Wigtown Harbour.

Meet: Wigtown Harbour hide, NX440548

Further information: Elizabeth Tindal (DGC Ranger) 01988 402401, wblnr@dumgal.gov.uk

Otter exploration

Thursday 21 April, 10.00am – 12.00noon, Newbridge

Search for signs of otter along the River Cairn from Newbridge.

Meet: Newbridge, NX948791

Further information and booking (essential):

Tom Henry 07702 250958

*Fun with Botanical Art

Thursday 21 April, 11.00am – 12.30pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

Have a go at environmental art; combine textures and colours from the garden to make you own piece of art, possibly something to take away or to leave for others to enjoy.

Cost: Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £1.00

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

Water Wonders

Thursday 21 April, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Eskrigg

Investigate the pond life at Eskrigg Nature Reserve. Find out how the breeding season has gone for the frogs, toads and newts this year.



Wellies and waterproofs advisable. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cost: LWT members £1.00, non-members £2.00

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, 10 minute walk from car park at Dryfesdale Lodge Visitor's Centre, NY126805

Further information and booking (essential):

Jim Rae 07739 987 009 or jim_rae2000@yahoo.co.uk



Bumblebee Walk

Thursday 21 April, 1.30pm - 3.30pm, Kirkcudbright

An average garden will be visited by at least six different species of bumblebee, so why not join the Bugs in Gardens project to find out more about these quintessential summer visitors. As well as searching for the different species and learning how to recognise them we will be looking at tips for making your garden more wildlife friendly.

Meet: Elizabeth Macgregor’s Nursery, Ellenbank, Tongland Road, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4UU, NX691524

Further information and booking (essential):

Lisa Ferguson, Bugs in Gardens DGERC, Solway Heritage, 01387 249207

***Bugs and Beasties**

Thursday 21 April, 2.00pm – 3.30pm, Logan Botanic Gardens

A fun filled event for all the family. Join staff in a minibeast hunt and make a deluxe “Bug Hotel” for the garden’s minibeast to stay in.

Cost: Adults £5, Concessions £4, Children £1

Meet: Logan Botanic Gardens, Port Logan, DG9 9ND, NX095424

Further information: Logan Botanic Gardens 01776 860231

***Easter Egg Bonanza**

Thursday 21 to Tuesday 26 April, Castle Kennedy and Gardens

Explore the gardens and follow the Easter Egg Trail to complete your Bonanza form and win a special Easter prize. Everyone welcome.

Cost: £1.50 per entry form (in addition to normal Gardens Admission)

Meet: Castle Kennedy & Gardens, Castle Kennedy,

Stranraer DG9 8SJ (3 miles east of Stranraer)

Further information: [marketing@](mailto:marketing@castlekennedygardens.co.uk)

castlekennedygardens.co.uk or 01776 702024

***Fish Up Close**

Friday 22 April, 11.00am -12.30pm, Wigtown

A guided tour of Galloway Fisheries Trust hatchery, giving a close up view of wild trout and salmon before they are released into their native river. Other species that may also be on show include Pike, Perch, lampreys, Roach and salmon smolts. To finish there will be a tour of Torhouse Trout, a fully operational Rainbow Trout Farm that is situated within the same site.

Meet: Torhouse Trout Farm car park, NX 399554

Further information and booking (essential):

Galloway Fisheries Trust, 01671 403011 or mail@gallowayfisheriestrust.org www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org

***Family Friday**

Friday 22 April 10.00am – 5.00pm, Mersehead

Treasure trails, beach art competition, face painting and more fun for families at RSPB Mersehead reserve.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk

Friday 22 April, 1.00pm, Mull of Galloway

A guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and fauna of this reserve. Also opportunities to view the returning seabirds and look for harbour porpoises along the tidal race. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and sturdy shoes.

Meet: Mull of Galloway RSPB reserve, Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, Drummore, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Further information and booking (essential):

Paul Tarling 01776 840539



***Cycling Treasure Hunt**

Friday 22 April, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Ae Forest

A fun family easter treasure hunt - with a twist! The quest must be taken using a bike to reach the locations on the treasure map (but don't worry as they will all be easy to get to on the green/easy grade family trail).

Cost: Free event but charges apply for bike hire if required.

Meet: Ae Cafe and Bike Shop, Ae Forest, off the A701, NY985894

Further information: FCS 01387 860247

***Wildlife Photography Exhibition Final**

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 April, 10.00am – 5.00pm, Mersehead

Come along and enjoy an exhibition of the Top 15 in the 3 categories of our Wildlife Photography Competition and cast your votes!

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

Martin's Meanders

Saturday 23 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm, Mersehead

A guided walk around the reserve with one of our experienced volunteers.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

***Easter Treasure Hunt**

Saturday 23 April, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Dalbeattie

A fun afternoon for the family, in search of tasty treasure!

Cost: Free event

Meet: Dalbeattie Town Wood Car Park, NX837601

Further information: FCS 01387 860247

Flora, Fauna and Fossils

Saturday 23 April, 1.00pm – 4.00pm, Grey Mare's Tail

Join the National Trust for Scotland ranger on a 2 mile wildlife ramble in the Moffat Water Valley, including a visit to Dob's Linn, a renowned fossil site. This is a moderate walk. Please bring your own snack and suitable clothing/footwear.

Meet: Grey Mare's Tail car park, NT185145

Further information and booking (essential): 0844 493 2249 or greymare'stail@nts.org.uk

Catch a Movie

Saturday 23 April, 7.30pm, Mersehead

Come and watch a documentary movie in the Sulwath Centre at Mersehead. Film TBC. Fairtrade snacks and drinks will be available.

Cost: Free but donations welcome.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential):

Places are limited to 40 so book by contacting Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

Geology Excursion from Rockcliffe to Gutchers Isle

Sunday 24th April, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Rockcliffe

Join "GeoD", Dumfries and Galloway's Geo-conservation Group, for a days walking to explore a complex mix of Silurian, Palaeozoic, North Solway Faulted and Old Red Sandstone Igneous rocks. Adult led School and Youth Groups welcome. Please note that this walk is not suitable for wheelchairs or children under 16 and the venue is tide dependent.

Cost: Voluntary contribution on the day

Further information and booking (essential):

Diana Turner 01848 330814 or 07821 621 366, before 25/03/2011

*Easter at Kirroughtree

Sunday 24 April, anytime between 11.00am – 3.30pm, Kirroughtree

Trails, quizzes and games, lots of fun to be had at Kirroughtree visitor centre this Easter. Remember to bring your decorated boiled egg for the egg rolling competition at 3.15pm.

Cost: £3.00 per child

Meet: Kirroughtree Visitor Centre, NX451646

Further information: FCS 01671 402420

Has Spring Sprung (probably)?

Sunday 24 April, 3.00pm – 5.00pm, Drumlanrig

It may or may not have, join the Buccleuch Rangers to find out.

Cost: Country park admission applies

Meet: Drumlanrig Visitor Centre, NX852992

Further information & bookings (essential):

01848 331555 or rangerservice@buccleuch.com

Catch a Movie

Sunday 24 April, 7.30pm, Mersehead

Come and watch a documentary movie in the Sulwath Centre at Mersehead. Film TBC. Fairtrade snacks and drinks will be available.

Cost: Free but donations welcome.

Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX926560

Further information and booking (essential):

Places are limited to 40 so book by contacting Becky Jones 01387 780579 or 01387 780298

*Easter in the Forest

Monday 25 April, 12noon – 3.00pm, Mable Forest

An afternoon of seasonal activities. Bring a painted egg for the rolling competition and try our woodland treasure hunt!

Cost: Free event

Meet: Mable Forest Car Park, NX950709

Further information: FCS 01387 860247

Mammals, Amphibians & Reptiles

Monday 25 April, 9.00am - 11.00am, Earshaigs

A joint Mammal Society and Amphibian & Reptile Group event.

We plan on taking a closer look at some of Earshaig's mammals and learning to identify the signs of their presence. We will also be keeping our eyes peeled for basking reptiles in the springtime sun! We will round it off with a spot of pond dipping to examine the amphibians and insects lurking in the depths of the lochans.

Meet: Earshaig Car Park NT050025

Further information and booking (essential): Andy

Riches 07792 142446 slioch69@aol.com

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk

Monday 25 April, 1.00pm, Mull of Galloway

A guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and fauna of this reserve. Also opportunities to view the returning seabirds and look for harbour porpoises along the tidal race. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and sturdy shoes.

Meet: Mull of Galloway RSPB reserve, Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, Drummole, DG9 9HP, NX155304

Further information and booking (essential):

Paul Tarling 01776 840539



Find out more:-

For more information on wildlife in Dumfries & Galloway, check out the following publications, which are available from Tourist Information Centres as well as the addresses below:

Welcome to Wildlife (Free) Available from: Scottish Natural Heritage, Carmont House, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4ZF. Telephone 01387 247010.

Birdwatching in Dumfries and Galloway (£2.50 including p&p)

and

Countryside Events 2011 (Free) - Available from Ina Marshall on 01387 260032.

The Dumfries and Galloway Local Biodiversity Action Plan describes all the important habitats and species found in the region, and outlines the actions needed to safeguard and enhance them. For more information check out www.dumgal.gov.uk/biodiversity.

Look out for.....

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Photographs: Mark Pollitt, Paul McLaughlin, Keith Kirk, Derek Carmichael, Ian S Byrne, SNH, Solway Heritage, Rebecca Johnson

Dates for next year's Wildlife Festival: Sat 30 March - Sun 15 April 2012