

# tidelines

Issue 49 Winter 2018

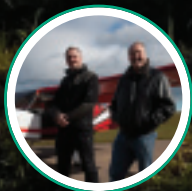
newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



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# Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCMI



**W**e live in times when there are increasing and often competing demands on the marine environment including the Solway Firth. SFP's key aim is to make a significant contribution to sustainable development and environment protection by supporting integrated marine and coastal planning. This continues to be achieved through the provision of transparent, balanced and respected practices that support objective, impartial, evidence-based mechanisms involving cooperation and consensus.

Marine planning, resulting from an EU Directive, introduced a process for maritime spatial planning on both sides of the Solway. In Scotland, the National Marine Plan sets out a framework to promote sustainable development and the sustainable use of marine resources. Currently, three geographic marine planning partnerships, Clyde, Shetland and more recently Orkney, are developing their respective local plans and objectives. It is understood that there remains an aim to roll out local marine planning to other regions of the Scottish coastline. The southern boundary of the Solway falls within the North West Plan Area under the jurisdiction of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and is one of 11 marine planning areas in England. SFP is participating in a three-year MMO Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement Project (north-west) providing local knowledge and expertise as well as identifying stakeholders and running events entailing cross border workshops. During the summer, a student, Jenny Forsyth, had a placement with SFP when she helped with some of the research in the MMO Engagement Project. Jenny also analysed photos for the local element of the SCRAPbook Project and we thank her for contributions made during the placement.

Through communications such as Tidelines and by undertaking various projects, SFP is successfully achieving its business plan aims and objectives. At the SFP Board's most recent meeting, members were updated on the Coastwise and SMILE projects, respectively. These projects are

progressing at pace and it is pleasing to note that Coastwise has received considerable promotion as the result of featuring on TV, newspapers and social media. The Coastwise Facebook page had over 1900 followers at the time of the Board's September meeting. The Solway Marine Information, Learning and Environment (SMILE) Project aims to identify gaps in existing data, will gather information and, share knowledge using innovative communications: it will update and supersede the Partnership's Solway Review of 1996. Activities undertaken thus far are ensuring the project is well

on its way to delivering its outcomes and, subject to successful bids for EMFF support, will potentially result in separate maritime socioeconomic studies on both the north and south Solway coastlines.

The Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) in partnership with others including SFP, has submitted an EMFF application to Marine Scotland for a Solway Cockle Relaying Project. If the EMFF bid is successful, the project is expected to commence later this year. Meanwhile, the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG) will begin working with consultants in the autumn to develop proposals for a Solway cockle trial led by the commercial sector. The aim is to produce a plan for a sustainable harvesting and management trial that will gain the support of the

Scottish Government and build upon earlier work undertaken by Marine Scotland. The cockle fishery has been closed to commercial harvesting since stock numbers fell dramatically in 2008. However, if a recovery in cockle numbers can be shown, the Scottish Government remains committed to reopening the fishery in a safe, controlled and sustainable way that will bring economic benefit to the local area. It is hoped that if both the aforementioned cockle projects proceed, their outcomes will help inform the Scottish Government on the present state of the Solway cockle fishery and may ultimately lead to the reinstatement of managed, sustainable commercial harvesting.



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**Photo Credits:** Front page: Wind sculpted hawthorn, Kirkcudbright Bay – Nic Coombey SFP; Page 3: clockwise from top left, Heughs of Barholm – Nic Coombey SFP; Bumblebee – Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography; Filling the tank – Annan Fisheries Trust; Pilots – SCRAPbook; Pages 4-5: All images, River Annan Trust; Pages 6-7: Bumblebee – Jon Hawkins, Surrey Hills Photography, all other images Cumbria Wildlife Trust; Pages 8-9: All images Solway Coast AONB; Pages 10-11: All images SCRAPbook; Pages 12-13: Barnacle Geese close up – Keith Kirk, all other images RSPB; Pages 14-15: All images, Nic Coombey SFP; Page 16: All images North West Dumfries Photography Group members, Grant McIntosh, Kirstin McEwan, Johnathan Pitcairn, Liam Templeton; Page 20: Whooper swan – Faith Hillier; Page 22: Swan feed – Alex Hillier; Page 23: Beach walk – Nic Coombey, SFP



# Eels in the Classroom

The River Annan Trust secured match funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and LEADER Dumfries and Galloway to run the Restoring Annan's Water Community Engagement Programme over 2 years, finishing in 2019. Eels in the Classroom is one of five projects being delivered through this programme.



## Eely Big Responsibility

Tanks of juvenile European eels, around 10cm long and known as elvers, were installed in Johnstonebridge, Beattock, St Mungo and Brydekirk primary schools in April 2018.

The children in the P4-7 classes were tasked with looking after the elvers. They had to check the water temperature, siphon out the poo, feed them twice a day and clean the water filter out 3 times a week.

The children quickly formed a bond with their slippery friends and they took the responsibility of looking after them very seriously. Each child seemed to be able to identify their very own elver, some pupils even went into school over the weekends to check on the tank! In Brydekirk Primary the largest elver was named Chunk and Beattock Primary boasted the Beattock Beast!

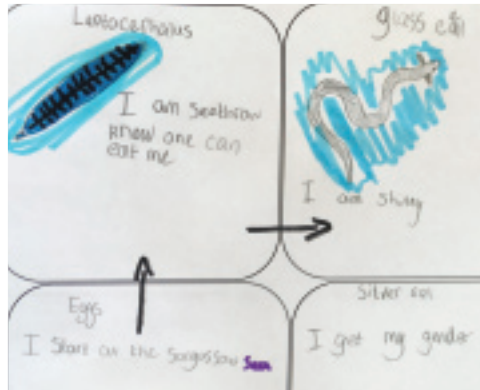
## Environmental Education

The fascinating life cycle of the critically endangered European eel, *Anguilla anguilla* was used as a focus for learning about the wider environment. Starting in the Sargasso Sea, the eels have a 6000km marine journey drifting in the Gulf Stream before entering our rivers, where they will spend between 8 and 20 years before migrating back to the Sargasso to spawn.

The children received 6 interactive sessions where they learned about:

- the many challenges the eel faces on their mammoth transatlantic journey
- wider issues facing the marine environment
- the life cycle of the European eel
- the water cycle
- river habitats and invertebrates
- importance of the freshwater-marine connection





## Connectivity with the Sea

After battling their way across the Atlantic to the Solway Firth, juvenile eels must then travel upstream. Unfortunately, and not unlike many rivers in Europe, there is a barrier on the River Annan in the form of the Milnbie Caul - a weir just upstream of the tidal limit. Juvenile eels find it very difficult to ascend the weir. The passage of eels and other fish is inhibited to such an extent that in 2015 the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency downgraded the entire catchment upstream of the weir to Poor Ecological Status. This project raises awareness of these issues and connects local school children to the river, highlights the many obstacles in the marine environment and fosters a respectful relationship to the often under-appreciated eels.

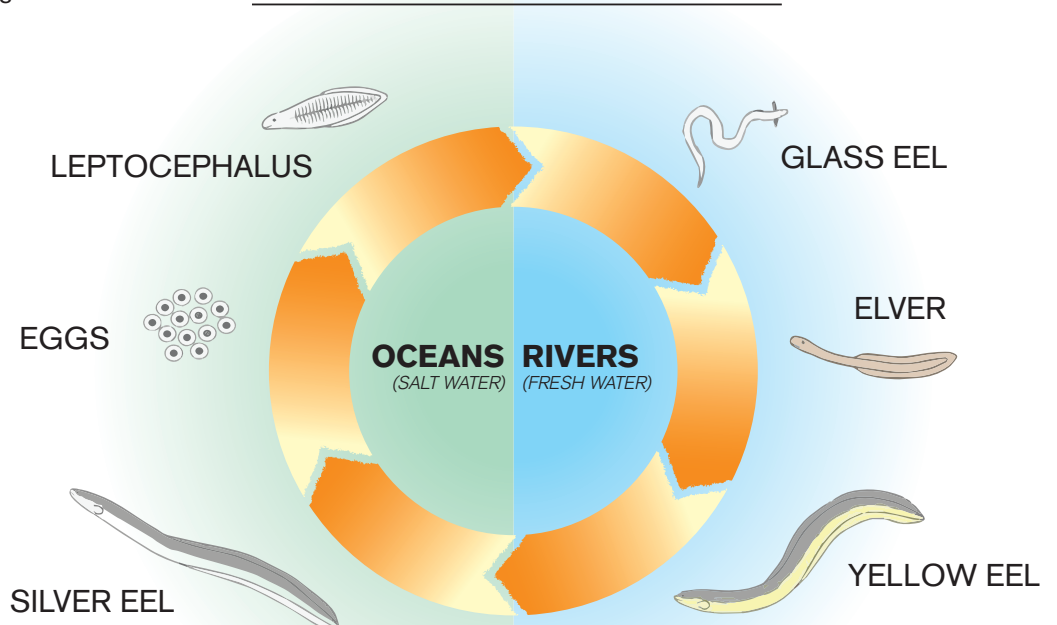
## Release the Eels!


At the end of the six-week project, each of the 137 children involved were able to release their very own elver into Castle Loch at Lochmaben. The enthusiasm for the project was

infectious and it was a joy to be able to foster such a deep connection with the river, the sea and the eel.

For more information or to get involved in spring 2019, email [abi@annanfisheryboard.uk](mailto:abi@annanfisheryboard.uk) and follow the River Annan Trust on Facebook.

## LIFE CYCLE OF THE EUROPEAN EEL





# Coastlines: The Cumbria Coast Pollinator Project

Did you know: one in every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollination taking place?

**B**ut what is pollination? Pollination is an important part of the life cycle of plants which pollinators (bees, moths, butterflies, wasps and hoverflies) make possible by taking pollen among flowering plants and helping them create seeds. Without pollinators most of our wild flowers, trees and agricultural crops would not reproduce, and the diversity of our flora, health of our eco-systems and food security would be threatened.

Around 1,500 different kinds of insect pollinate plants in the UK which, besides the well-known honeybee, includes wild species such as bumblebees, hoverflies and solitary bees. Sadly more than 75% of our wild pollinators are in decline. No fewer than 35 species of bees are facing extinction, mostly as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation. For example, 97% of species-rich grassland has been lost since 1940.

These declines are due to the loss of unmanaged green space, agricultural intensification and changes in how people garden. Climate change is also likely to be a factor. In order to prevent further decline the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership has developed a new project, 'The Cumbria Pollinator Project – Keep Cumbria Buzzing'. This ground-breaking project will be delivered by Cumbria Wildlife Trust and has been made possible thanks to National Lottery Players, through a £87,100 development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project aims to boost the number of bumblebees and other wild pollinators in west Cumbria.





In order to help target specific areas for restoration, the Local Nature Partnership carried out detailed ecological mapping to identify key pathways used by pollinating insects in Cumbria. These are called “B-Lines”, and are an innovative new approach developed by Buglife. These “B-Lines” provide the information for targeted restoration of nectar and pollen rich habitats. Using this information the project is working with Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils, Solway Coast AONB, The National Trust and Bug Life to improve local green spaces within an area that runs from Calder Bridge in the south, to Rockcliffe in the north, and inland from Workington to Papcastle near Cockermouth. The project is working closely with Highways England to improve habitat on roadside verges along important roads within the B-Line, the A595 heading north from Calder Bridge and the A66 between Workington and Penrith.

As well as completing restoration work, Cumbria Wildlife Trust will also work with communities in Whitehaven, Workington, Maryport and Silloth. The Trust will deliver events, as well as training and provide volunteering opportunities to the communities which aim to increase the understanding of the plight and needs of pollinators. Local people will have the opportunity to volunteer, record bumblebees, participate in events, and learn how to make their gardens friendly for wild

pollinators. One of these opportunities involves creating a nursery at Gosling Sike (Cumbria Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve), to encourage pollinator-friendly species. This will provide training opportunities for young disadvantaged people who can help create the nursery as well as providing learning opportunities around the importance of pollinators and pollinator friendly gardening.

Highways England is contributing £53,000 this financial year (2018/19) towards the development of this scheme, with potential further funding available for the delivery phase of the work. Tanya St. Pierre, Coastlines Development Manager at Cumbria Wildlife Trust said: “We are very grateful to HLF and Highways England for funding this project. Their support enables us to work closely with partners and local communities, to create, restore and connect wildflower-rich habitats along key pollinator corridors across Cumbria. These wildflower networks will provide food, shelter and nesting sites, and they will create roads of recovery for our wonderful wild pollinators.”

Members of the public are encouraged to get involved and keep Cumbria Buzzing by helping to create pollinator havens in their local green spaces. To find out more, contact Tanya St. Pierre at [tanyastp@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:tanyastp@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk) or 01228 829570.







## Volunteering with Solway Coast AONB

**V**olunteering with the AONB is a great way to contribute to looking after this very special place and it is also an opportunity to meet old and new friends whilst learning more about the Solway and acquiring new skills.

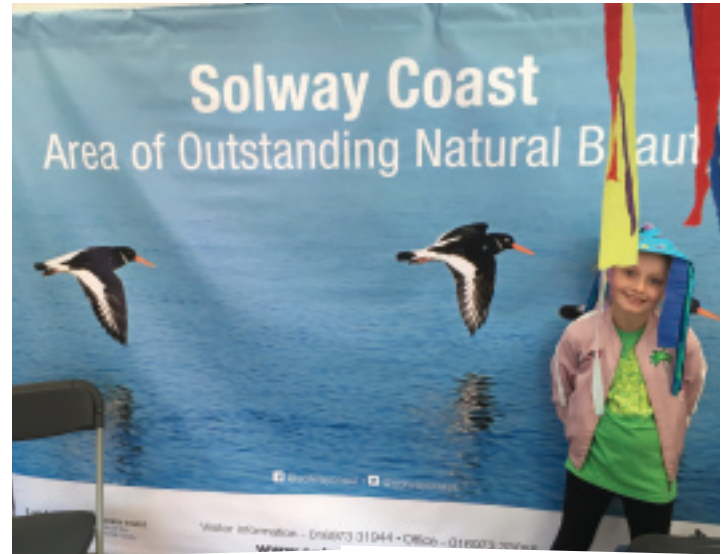
Over the next year or so we hope to:

- Involve more new volunteers of all ages, backgrounds and interests
- Offer volunteering tasks at different times and days of the week including weekends
- Offer a broader range of tasks including opportunities to develop new skills
- Develop new volunteering roles in addition to practical conservation

Why not get some dates in your diary for our volunteering events coming up over the winter:

- Sun 11/11/2018 - Mawbray Banks - Litter pick and general maintenance
- Thu 22/11/2018 - Crosscanonby Carr - Path repairs
- Thu 06/12/2018 - Beckfoot and Wolsty Dunes - Fence and path repairs
- Thu 17/01/2019 - Beckfoot and Wolsty Dunes - Litter pick
- Thu 31/01/2019 - Crosscanonby Carr - Path repairs and general maintenance
- Thu 14/02/2019 - Grune Point - Litter pick
- Sun 03/03/2019 - Mawbray Banks - Car park and fence repairs

More information will be sent out before each event but meanwhile if you have any questions or comments please contact Chris by email at [chris.spencer@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk](mailto:chris.spencer@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk) or phone on 016973 33055.



## Solway Coast AONB in Manchester

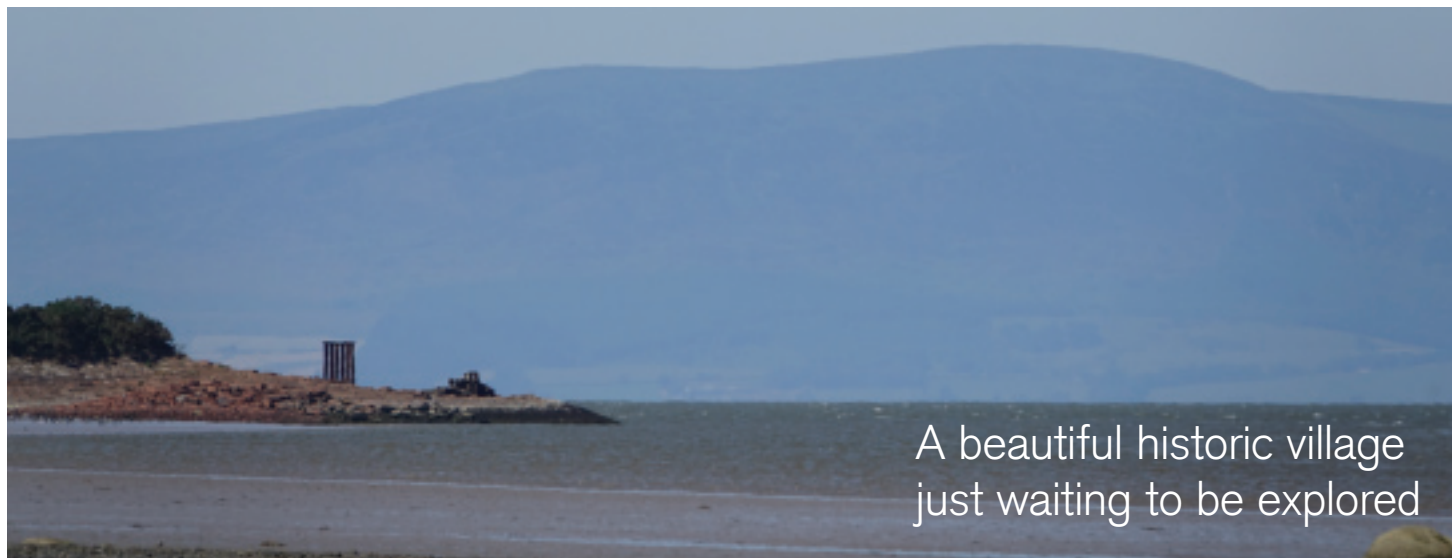
**O**n 10th - 11th August Solway Coast AONB joined Allerdale Borough Council in the city's famous Albert Square along with many local businesses, organizations, music bands and exhibitions plus many more!

The event was part of Allerdale Borough Council's Business Growth Strategy and the AONB were delighted to join in this exciting event and showcase the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with all it has to offer.

With our new communication material and displays, Naomi and Chris from Solway Coast AONB, and Colin, Sillioth's Tourist Information Officer, set to work promoting the unique qualities of the Solway Coast, places to visit, things to see and do. We also had the Solway Coast's very own Roman soldier, and for the younger audience (and the young at heart!) there were AONB craft activities to enjoy.

A successful event thoroughly enjoyed by all.





A beautiful historic village just waiting to be explored

## FOCUS ON – Bowness on Solway

After the last Ice Age, the Solway Plain was half sea, half land – a water-saturated landscape of salt marshes, peat bogs, raised mires and mud flats interspersed with low, sandy hills.

The Romans were the first to address the challenges presented by the environment. In AD 122, Hadrian's Wall was under construction, taking the shortest route across northern England between Wallsend in the east and Bowness on Solway in the west.

Forts were established along the line of the wall and one location was named 'Maia'. Over time Maia attracted an adjacent civilian settlement which eventually expanded over the remains of the fort and this became the village of Bowness on Solway.

Bowness on Solway is steeped in history; interesting, narrow, winding roads take you through this beautiful Solway village at the northern end of the Solway

Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which lies on an estuary governed by the twice daily ebb and flow of the tide.

Bring your binoculars and enjoy the view across to Annan and Eastriggs on the Scottish side of the Solway or maybe a spot of bird watching.

You may even catch a glimpse of the local haaf-netters fishing the traditional way.

This is an area to sit and relax, watch the cyclists pass by on Route 72 or put your walking boots on and join in Hadrian's Wall Path following 84 miles of the Wall between Bowness and Wallsend.

Bring a picnic or enjoy a bite to eat in the local pub or tea rooms. Take a walk on the beach or build your own stone stack. You must check out 'The

Banks'...if you can find it! This is a hidden gem in the heart of the village, a community established space to sit, reflect, enjoy the wild flowers and herbs and find out about the history of Bowness on Solway.







Crew one, left to right: David Brown, Paul Horth, Peter Macintosh



Crew two, left to right: Archie Liggat, Peter Gilmour

# SCRAPbook Pilots

All sorts of litter ends up polluting our beaches and coasts, from plastic bottles to oil drums, fishing boxes to takeaway packaging, plastic shopping bags to industrial strapping bands, the list goes on... It washes up due to the influence of people, the movements of the ocean's tide and currents, and the shape of the coastline. The presence of litter on our beaches and coasts is not new, but it is growing. Recent publicity and policy actions have highlighted the issue and are helping drive initiatives to understand the distribution of coastal litter and target cleaning operations. Clean, safe and healthy coastal environments are critical for a variety of reasons from maintaining ecosystem diversity to contributing revenue to the economy through attracting businesses and tourism.

One such initiative is the SCRAPbook project (Scottish Coastal Rubbish from Aerial Photography). A consortium of three charities – Moray Firth Partnership, The Marine Conservation Society and Sky Watch - the UK Civil Air Patrol (UKCAP), coordinates the project. By using light aircraft owned and flown by volunteers, it is possible to photograph the coast at a cost of only around £1 per mile.

Images contain geo-referencing information so that they can be accurately located. The photographs are then reviewed, and the litter classified on a scale from zero to five, dependent on the amount of litter and how it is distributed in the field of view. The higher category classifications are then displayed as an online map, with selected images. This allows beach clean operations to be targeted where appropriate.

All the pilots and observers participate on a voluntary basis, spending hours in cramped, often cold conditions to deliver high quality images. All the survey aircraft are of high wing configuration to enable an uninterrupted view of the ground. Photographs are taken when litter is seen or suspected. As the aircraft usually fly at around 65mph ground speed, intense concentration and quick reactions are essential from the observer if all litter is to be captured.

The coast is divided into sectors around 30 miles long and 3 sectors are often surveyed in a single sortie, without a break. A continuous video recording is taken during the flight, as is a full GPS trace of the aircraft's track. The pilot must follow the coast with exact lateral and vertical positioning as observer and pilot continuously communicate to get the very best results. The crews come from different bases and backgrounds.

## Crew One are based in Inverness

The crew includes four team members and two aircraft.

**Peter Macintosh:** Peter learned to fly in the RAF and was operational on both fast jet and transport types. After a tour as an instructor, he joined the Red Arrows, flying as Red 10 then as Red 8. After leaving the RAF Peter was involved in Formula 1 racing and has been a long time member of the UKCAP. Peter is part owner of the Jabiru aircraft pictured.

**Paul Horth:** Paul is a retired RAF engineer and another co-owner of the Jabiru. He is an expert in technical matters including aerial photography and is a long time member of the UKCAP. Paul flies regularly as pilot in the Jabiru and as observer in the gyrocopter where, due to the exposed seating position, organisation of equipment is key.

**David Brown:** David retired from the RAF as a senior Wing Commander specialising in reconnaissance. He is another part owner of the Jabiru and flies regularly as both pilot and observer. David brings a wealth of operational experience to the UKCAP, both in flying and planning which is put to good effect within project SCRAPbook.

**Will Roomes:** Will retired from a career in the Army and is now a gyrocopter pilot and gyrocopter instructor. His MTO Sport gyro is a superb slow flying platform with unprecedented visibility, making it highly suited to SCRAPbook observation and photography. Will is a recent member of the UKCAP and brings very valuable experience in gyro matters.



Crew one, left to right: Will Roomes, Paul Horth



## Crew Two are a two man team

**Peter Gilmour:** Peter flew in the RAF as aircrew on the Shackleton fleet and then several tours on the Phantom air defence fighter. After leaving the RAF Peter became a civil pilot, eventually joining First Choice Airlines (later Thomson) where he rose to become a senior manager and Chief Pilot. Peter now flies a Piper L18C observation aircraft which is ideal for SCRAPbook photography.

**Archie Liggat:** Archie learned to fly in the RAF, completing a first tour as an instructor and then further tours as a fighter pilot on the Phantom. He completed his RAF career with a tour as a fast jet squadron commander before going on to become a pilot with British Airways on the 747 fleet. Archie is currently UKCAP Chairman and flies a Rallye aircraft although usually acts as observer in the Cub.

## Crew Three are another two man team

**Jim Watt:** Jim is currently the Managing Director of Tayside Aviation Ltd, a flight training and engineering facility based at Dundee Airport. Jim flies a large variety of types and owns a classic Vietnam-era Cessna L19/O-1 Bird Dog observation aircraft which is absolutely perfect for SCRAPbook survey duties.

**Bruce Thomson:** Bruce recently retired as a Police Inspector having worked in Response/Community Policing, Traffic and the Force Control Room. He obtained a flying licence many years ago and trained as a Civil Defence Air Observer whilst serving with the police. Bruce brings valuable experience in air observation and operational matters.

## Crew Six are based in Edinburgh

**Ian Forrest:** Ian is a pilot, retired teacher and a drummer with a successful band. Ian's aeroplane is a high wing 2-seat Skyranger which offers excellent visibility and slow flying ability that makes it ideal for SCRAPbook survey. Ian is a long-term member of the UKCAP and has been flying microlights, often with Colin Maclean, his observer, since 1990.

**Colin Maclean:** Colin is currently a cameraman with STV and, as a pilot, is also well used to the demands of aerial photography – at which he is a complete expert. Ian and Colin make an ideal team with Colin acting mainly as observer and offering his expertise to the SCRAPbook project.



Crew six, left to right: Colin Maclean, Ian Forrest

Much of the Solway area has been flown and classified, revealing, in places, very significant accumulations of litter from a variety of sources. Efforts are underway to carry out beach cleans in the area.



Crew three, left to right: Bruce Thomson, Jim Watt

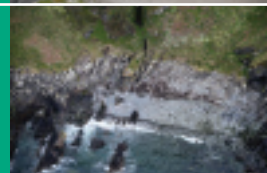
No litter present, or negligible amounts; single items, no accumulations

0 No symbol



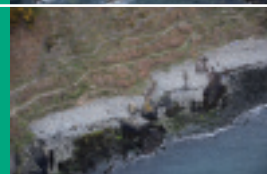
Litter present in low densities; single items or minor accumulations

1 No symbol



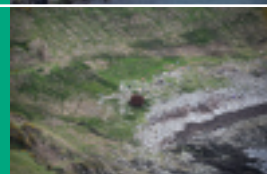
Litter present in medium densities; significant accumulations in localised areas

2



Litter present, appearing widespread with significant accumulations

3



Litter present as major accumulations, in localised areas

4



Litter present as major, and widespread accumulations

5



## Be a Scrapbook Volunteer

We need your help to make our vision of a litter and pollution free Scottish coastline a reality. You can get involved as much as you like and support us in a variety of ways depending on what appeals to you. Check the website at [www.scrapbook.org.uk](http://www.scrapbook.org.uk) or contact us at [info@scrapbook.org.uk](mailto:info@scrapbook.org.uk)

More information about local organised beach cleans can be found at [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/marine-litter](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/marine-litter)



# Autumn arrives at RSPB Campfield Marsh

By Mhairi Maclauchlan RSPB Cumbria Coast Warden

The first pink-footed geese overhead signal the changing of seasons here at Campfield and on the Solway.

Anyone who lives or spends any time around the Solway will know the distinct call of pink-footed geese which often floats over the water on a still autumn day. The excitement at first as you aren't quite sure whether you really heard geese or your mind is playing tricks on you as you try to pin down where the sound is coming from. Then, finally, you track down the sound and hone in on the flock or skein as it flies over head – autumn is here!

We had the first large skeins fly over the reserve last weekend making their way back from arctic breeding grounds to the Solway. Travelling many miles to arrive here every autumn they will be soon followed by barnacle geese making a similar journey. It will not be long before we help our colleagues at The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust with barnacle goose counts which takes place throughout both the Scottish and English side of

the Solway and involves some very dedicated counters going out regularly at the same time to count the population. This allows us to get an accurate number of birds throughout the Solway. The 2017/2018 total was 42,600 birds and is slightly more than the 2016/2017 population count of 41,700.



September is also a good time to reflect on the past year here on the reserve as we review our breeding season and see how the breeding bird numbers stack up compared to last year. 'The Beast from the East' followed by a very dry summer appears to have taken its toll on our smaller birds on the reserve. The numbers of some of the more common breeding birds have gone down particularly wrens and blue tits which may have perished in the sub-zero temperatures we experienced earlier in the year. It will be an interesting RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch in





January – the more people that participate the better so please have a look for more details on our website [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).

Another sign that autumn has arrived is the change in what we do around the reserve. During the breeding season we stay away from much of the more invasive conservation work and surveying becomes the focus for staff. Come September however it's all hands on deck with gorse cutting, rush cutting and tree work. We are setting about doing the work to keep the habitat in tip top shape for wintering birds as well as breeding birds come next year. With some new funding starting in October and our new Countryside Stewardship Scheme coming into effect next year we will be extremely busy. There will be some pretty big changes to habitats around Campfield... all for the good of nature – watch this space!

RSPB Campfield Marsh is a great place to visit with a family discovery zone, nice circular walks and great views over the Solway. The Solway Wetlands Centre is normally open every day with toilet facilities and self service tea/coffee. If you would like to visit, the website has more information <https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/campfield-marsh>.





Heughs of Barholm

# Where every name tells a story: Three Caves

Wherever there are cliffs along the rugged coast of Dumfries and Galloway you are likely to discover caves. Stories associated with caves and illegal or clandestine activities have inspired place names that no longer appear on modern maps but can be traced in archives and old books.

**T**hree caves in the Heughs of Barholm are recorded in 'Unique Traditions of Scotland' by John Gordon Barbour. First published in 1833 Barbour describes the caves as being in a bold and beautiful coast that is remarkable for its scenery and antiquity. The caves he identifies are the Cove of Barholm, Kaa's Cave and Whigs' Hole.

Cove of Barholm is now shown on maps as Meg Merrilees or Dirk Hatteraick's Cave and the cave was rechristened to link it with characters in a novel. Smuggling was a way of life for people living on the Dumfries and Galloway coast during the 1700s. In the early 1800s the novelist Sir Walter Scott wrote 'Guy Mannering' a tale of ruthless smugglers in a lawless Galloway. The popularity of his book quickly led to local people identifying local landmarks with fictitious characters, incidents and scenery. In Scott's romantic vision of Scotland isolated caves became ideal places for smuggling





Meg Merrilees or Dirk Hatteraick's Cave



Whigs' Hole

activities. Meg Merrilees or Dirk Hatteraick's Cave is named after a fortune teller and smuggler in the novel.

The second cave was known as Kaa's Cave and refers to birds nesting on the cliffs. Kaa is Scots for jackdaw but may also have referred to the 'red legged jackdaw' or chough that habitually nested in caves on the Galloway coast but are now extinct in the area.

In 'Unique Traditions of Scotland' by Barbour it was Whigs' Hole that was the locally celebrated cave because of its association with history and tradition. Appearing on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, Whigs' Hole was believed to be a hideout for Covenanters, also known as Whigs, during religious persecution in the 1600s.

Covenanters were Scottish Presbyterians who signed the 'National Covenant' to uphold the Presbyterian religion and so refused to accept the King as the head of the church. When the persecution of the

Covenanters was at its peak it became known as the 'killing times'. At more than 30 metres long the cave is close to the high water mark and quickly reduces to a small entrance hole large enough to crawl through but small enough to easily close up using a boulder. In 'Unique Traditions of Scotland' local stories are told of soldiers repeatedly searching for the hiding place on the coast but failing to capture the Covenanters who used the cave.

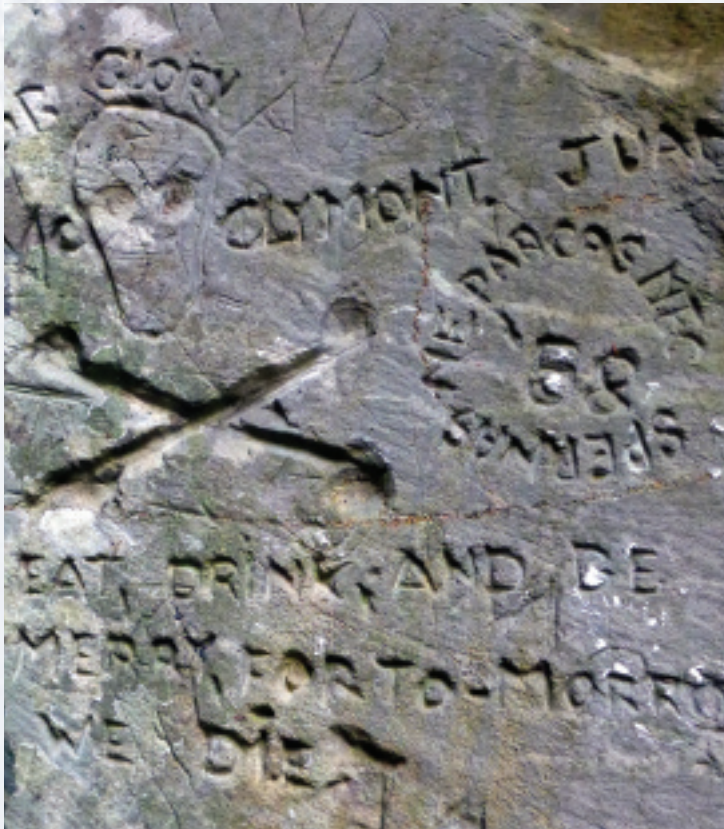
**Heughs:** a crag, precipice, cliff or steep bank – particularly overhanging the sea

**Cove:** a cave or cavern

**Hole:** a cave or shaft

**Whig:** a nickname for the Covenanters of South-West Scotland

Carving in Meg Merrilees Cave



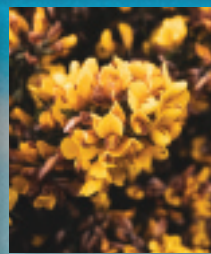
## Become a Coastwise Ambassador

Over the next few months we will be organising events and activities for individuals, groups and businesses who want to know more about the Dumfries and Galloway coast.

If you are a business and would like to entice your customers to our beaches you can join one of our events to discover what the region has to offer. Solway Coastwise will be teaming up with Lets Go Dumfries and Galloway to show you our amazing coastline so you can become more informed about places to visit and things to do.

If you would like to know more please contact Nic on [Coastwise@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:Coastwise@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)





# North West Photography Group

The North West Dumfries Photography Group has been going on outings with Solway Coastwise over the last few months to find out more about different places in Dumfries & Galloway and capture the beautiful views. Our trips have taken us to the shore at Glencaple and Portling, where we had the opportunity to find out about the nature and wildlife that can be found in these places and about the history of the area as well.

Our first trip to Glencaple was a great opportunity to be able to travel to a new place without having to go too far. We learned about the nature in the area and what we might expect to see growing in these places over the summer months. We particularly enjoyed finding out about the myth surrounding the old fire place and chimney that was in the middle of the wooded area!

Our next trip was to Portling where we learned more about the area and explored the many caves on the beaches, as well as finding out more about the stake nets which made for beautiful pictures!

Taking part in these trips has given the group the opportunity to discover new places they may have not had access to before and share their photos with others. We've also been able to develop our skills in landscape photography including using natural light, portraiture and macro photography.

If you are interested in joining the North West Dumfries Photography Group, you can get in touch with Kirstin by emailing her at [kirstin@thestove.org](mailto:kirstin@thestove.org) or contacting the Creative Futures L+L Facebook Page.







# Accounts to March 2018

**S**olway Firth Partnership aims to undertake activities in line with our mission statement: *To support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area.*

Our accounts for the financial year end 31 March 2018 show an income of £111,361 of Restricted and Unrestricted funds (£184,594 in the previous financial year) giving us a surplus of £5,388 in our Unrestricted funds. An Unrestricted Reserve of £63,021 is carried forward into the next financial year.

Projects completed this year included the SIMCelt Project, the production of a Solway Firth Bird Guide and the reproduction of the Solway Shell Guide. The Solway Marine Information Learning and Environment Project started this year and Solway Coastwise continues to reach all its targets. You can read more about those projects on previous pages.

Our thanks go to the staff team who have worked hard to

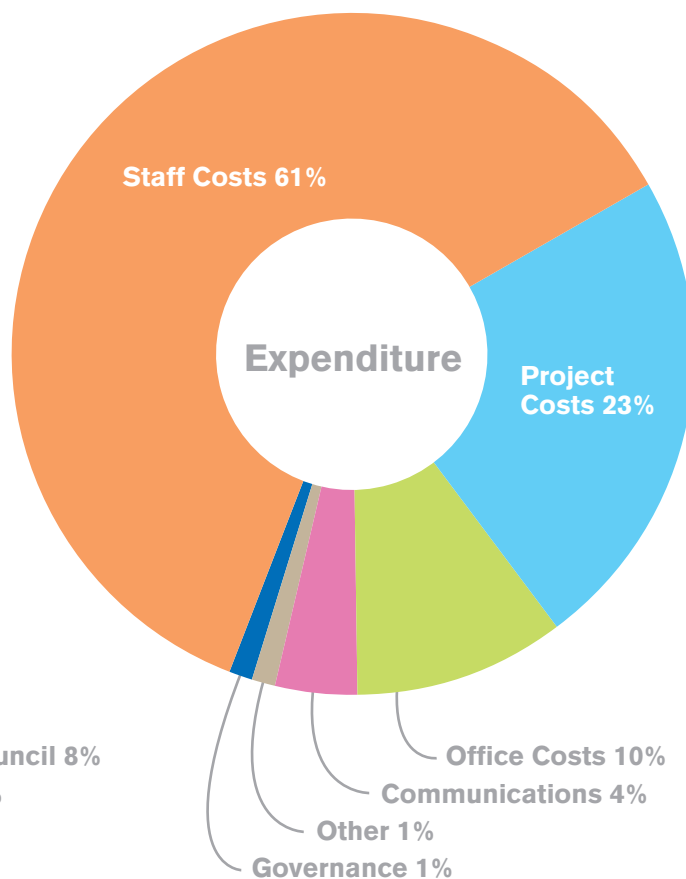
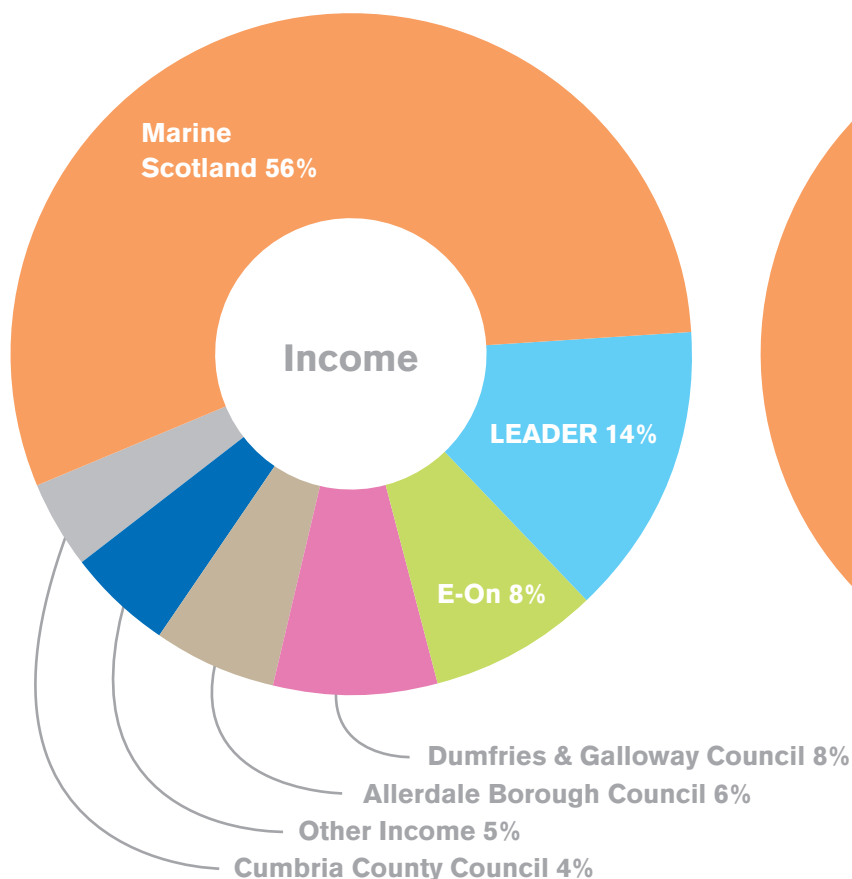
make the projects a success during the year.

We are very grateful to all the organisations that have provided funding in the last financial year: Marine Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Council, EON, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme, EU DG Mare and the European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

We would also like to thank all the people who have given in-kind support in many ways, thereby enabling our core activities to continue as well as allowing a wide range of projects to go ahead. We appreciate that Solway Firth Partnership relies on the goodwill and expertise of many people and organisations in order to be able to carry out the work we do.

Our full accounts for the last financial year are available on our website: [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)

*Clair McFarlan: Solway Firth Partnership*





# Marine Planning

Calling all those with an interest in the North West marine area



## What is Marine Planning?

Marine planning is a new approach to the management of our seas. It aims to ensure a sustainable future for coastal and offshore waters through managing and balancing the many activities, resources and natural features of our marine environment.

Marine planning follows a similar approach to terrestrial planning – setting the direction for policies at a local level. These plans are used by public authorities as part of the decision making process for all new activities and developments affecting the marine area.

## Marine Planning in the Solway

There are two marine plans which cover the Solway Firth; the North West Marine Plan and Scotland's National Marine Plan. In the North West, this is managed by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The North West Marine Plan covers the area from the Scottish border to the Welsh border.

## Why Does Marine Planning Matter to You?

Anyone who values our unique north west coastline or sea should engage with the marine planning process. This is your chance to shape policies on issues to do with marine activities that really matter.

We encourage anyone who knows the opportunities and threats facing our marine and coastal area to get in touch and be a voice for the future.

Local knowledge, thoughts and opinions from those who live, work and play alongside the Solway are vital in evaluating authority and industry-led initiatives. It is therefore essential that those who use and have an interest in the marine and coastal area are aware of, and understand, the implications of the new North West Marine Plan as it is developed.

## How Can You Get Involved?

Visit the Solway Firth Partnership website to find out more on Marine Planning in the Solway Firth:  
[solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)

We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to have their voices heard. To play your part in the development of the North West Marine Plan, you can join in on a series of events that will be held in Spring 2019.

If you want to find out more information in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact the MMO team at:  
[planning@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:planning@marinemanagement.org.uk)



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

## Who are the Solway Firth Partnership?

We work with all stakeholders to promote a sustainable approach to the planning, management and development of the Solway Firth for those who live and work here, and for our future generations. Find out more about what we do at: [info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)

Solway Firth  
  
Partnership



# Dates for your Diary

November 2018 – March 2019

## NOVEMBER

### Daily throughout November

**Wild Swan Feeds**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**11.00am and 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,  
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,  
NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,  
WWT members free.

### Daily throughout November

**Wild Goose Trail**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Find out about the different species of geese we get in Dumfries and Galloway, including barnacle, bean and brent! See how many you can spot on your visit! After your walk, visit the yurt to learn more about wild geese and take part in family activities.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,  
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,  
NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,  
WWT members free.

### Daily throughout November

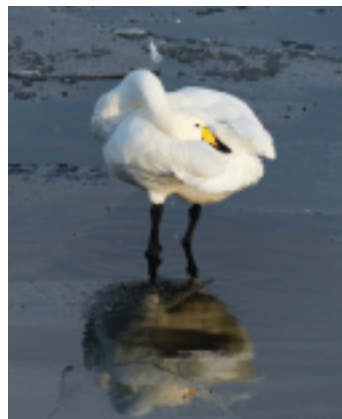
**Exhibition by Sarah Keast**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Sarah is a print maker and mixed media artist based in Moniaive in SW Scotland. Her work is motivated by her lifelong involvement with the natural environment. She uses lots of different printmaking techniques including screen printing, collograph, etching and relief printing and mixed media working on both a large and small scale. She will be visiting WWT Caerlaverock during summer 2018 to develop some new works in response to the unique setting and wildlife.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,  
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,  
NY052657

Cost: Free



Fair Hiller

### Thursday 1 November

**Secret Solway Winter Wonders – 3-hour minibus tour**  
(Solway Connections)  
**10.00am-1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

The Solway estuary has international significance as a rich habitat for migrating birds in the winter months, in particular barnacle geese and whooper swans. This tour takes a journey along the Cumbrian Solway coastline stopping at different viewpoints to look out for winter wildlife (Binoculars, warm clothes and walking boots recommended).

Contact: Carlisle Tourist Information Centre  
(TIC) on 01228 598596

Meet: 5 minutes before the start of the tour  
at the red pillar box, outside Carlisle TIC

Cost: £33 per person from Carlisle TIC

### Saturday 3 November

**Lamp Making Workshop**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 4.30pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Come along for a day of creativity to design and print your own lampshade and make a cylinder table lamp. Working with Sarah Keast you will prepare your own screen design, screen print onto fabric, then make up your own table lamp. Places are limited to 6. Participants can buy refreshments and lunch from the Cathan Coffee Shop.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm,  
Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland,  
DG1 4RS

Cost: Tuition £60 and materials £40

### Saturday 3 November

**Mawbray Banks Beach Clean**  
(Fix the Firth)  
**10.00am to 12noon**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Take part in a beach clean with John Gorrill at Mawbray Banks.

Contact: 016974 77092 or  
nicholasjohnng@yahoo.co.uk for more details

Meet: At free car park, reached by a short track off the B5300 coast road opposite Mawbray village.

### Sunday 4 November

**Wader Watch**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**9.00am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Take part in the World Wader Watch, to contribute to research on waders and see waders flocking in on the high tide. You will look out for waders such as curlews, lapwings, knot, dunlin, golden plover and oystercatchers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,  
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,  
NY052657

Cost: Normal Admission charges apply,  
WWT members free

### Sunday 4 November

**In Focus**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Try before you buy the latest binoculars and telescopes from the huge range available today. In Focus experts on hand all day to give advice. WWT Caerlaverock benefits from every sale.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre,  
Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS,  
NY052657

Cost: Free

### Wednesday 7 November

**Conservation & Policy Makers Talk**  
(Scottish Wildlife Trust – Galloway Group)  
**7.30pm to 9.30pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

How do we make prime ministers think about conservation? A talk by the Trust Chief Executive Jonny Hughes, on communicating the importance of environmental matters to our decision-makers.

Contact: Graham Smith on 01644 420881

Meet: St Ninians Church Hall, Whitepark Road, Castle Douglas, DG7 1EX

Cost: Free, donations Welcome

### Thursday 8 November

**Mersehead Discovery Walk**  
(RSPB Mersehead)  
**11.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Discover some of the amazing wildlife looked after on this farm. As the seasons change, so too do the habitats and special creatures found here. These walks will give you a chance to see it all close-up and learn how we manage this important place for nature in our fields and on the wetlands. There is a wild challenge for kids to take on too.

Contact: 01387 780579 or  
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve, Mersehead,  
DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, £3 for members.  
Car parking charges apply for non-members

### Thursday 8 November

**Allonby North Beach Clean**  
(Fix the Firth)  
**1.30pm to 3.30pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Take part in a beach clean with John Gorrill at Allonby North Beach.

Contact: 016974 77092 or  
nicholasjohnng@yahoo.co.uk for more details

Meet: At free northern car park beside the B5300 coast road just within Allonby's 30mph zone. This is an afternoon event to avoid the morning high tide.

Whilst every effort is made to check the accuracy of the information given, Solway Firth Partnership cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or wrong information contained here and strongly recommends that you confirm details/arrangements/charges beforehand.



## Saturday 10 November

**Secret Solway Winter Wonders – 3-hour minibus tour (Solway Connections)**  
**10.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

The Solway estuary has international significance as a rich habitat for migrating birds in the winter months, in particular barnacle geese and whooper swans. This tour takes a journey along the Cumbrian Solway coastline stopping at different viewpoints to look out for winter wildlife (Binoculars, warm clothes and walking boots recommended).

Contact: Carlisle Tourist Information Centre (TIC) on 01228 598596

Meet: 5 minutes before the start of the tour at the red pillar box, outside Carlisle TIC

Cost: £33 per person from Carlisle TIC

## Saturday 10 November

**Wildlife Recorders Conference (CBDC)**  
**10.00am to 4.30pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

This year's Cumbrian Recorders Conference is again hosted by Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. The Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre aim to make it exciting, inspiring and educational, with a line-up of top-class speakers, covering a range of subjects with local, regional and national emphases.

Contact: Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre at [info@cbdc.org.uk](mailto:info@cbdc.org.uk)

Meet: Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, Castle Street, Carlisle, CA3 8TP

Cost: Free

## Sunday 11 November

**Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**6.30am Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese flighting in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk) to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Monday 12 November

**Heritage Group Meeting (Isle of Whithorn)**  
**2.00pm to 4.00pm**

The Heritage Group are trying to trace the history of the Village, Farms & Families. Anyone interested is welcome to join and pass on any information, old photographs, etc. There are folders in the church with updates and spare pages at the end of each section for participant's additional information.

Contact: Through the website, [www.isleofwhithorn.com/hall.asp](http://www.isleofwhithorn.com/hall.asp)

Meet: Whithorn Village Hall, Conference Room

Cost: £2.00

## Tuesday 13 November

**Secret Solway Winter Wonders – 3-hour minibus tour (Solway Connections)**  
**10.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

The Solway estuary has international significance as a rich habitat for migrating birds in the winter months, in particular barnacle geese and whooper swans. This tour takes a journey along the Cumbrian Solway coastline stopping at different viewpoints to look out for winter wildlife (Binoculars, warm clothes and walking boots recommended).

Contact: Carlisle Tourist Information Centre (TIC) on 01228 598596

Meet: 5 minutes before the start of the tour at the red pillar box, outside Carlisle TIC

Cost: £33 per person from Carlisle TIC

## Friday 16 November

**Storytelling in the Yurt (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story, told by one of our excellent storytellers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve and see the swan feed. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk) to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Saturday 17 November

**Reserve's Last Piece of the Jigsaw (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**10.00am to 3.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

With many interested in seeing the new land acquisition, RSPB are offering guided walks to see Preston Merse. Guided by staff, you will learn about the land's history and the story of how we aim to change this landscape to give nature a home. Please be prepared for a strenuous, exposed walk, wet and muddy in places. Waterproofs, sturdy footwear and packed lunch required.

Contact: 01387 780579 or [mersehead@rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@rspb.org.uk)

Meet: RSPB Reserve, Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: Individuals £25 (RSPB members £20). Car parking charges apply for non-members

## Saturday 17 November

**Wildlife Photography Workshop (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Wildlife photography workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn how to take fantastic shots of the swans, geese and ducks on this wonderful wetland reserve. All abilities welcome - suitable for beginners to more experienced photographers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk) to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, DG1 4RS

Cost: £75 per person (gift vouchers are available)

## Thursday 22 November

**Secret Solway Winter Wonders – 3-hour minibus tour (Solway Connections)**  
**10.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

The Solway estuary has international significance as a rich habitat for migrating birds in the winter months, in particular barnacle geese and whooper swans. This tour takes a journey along the Cumbrian Solway coastline stopping at different viewpoints to look out for winter wildlife (Binoculars, warm clothes and walking boots recommended).

Contact: Carlisle Tourist Information Centre (TIC) on 01228 598596

Meet: 5 minutes before the start of the tour at the red pillar box, outside Carlisle TIC

Cost: £33 per person from Carlisle TIC

## Thursday 22 November

**Mersehead Discovery Walk (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Discover some of the amazing wildlife looked after on this farm. As the season's change, so too do the habitats and special creatures found here. These walks will give you a chance to see it all close-up and learn how we manage this important place for nature in our fields and on the wetlands. There is a wild challenge for kids to take on too.

Contact: 01387 780579 or [mersehead@rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@rspb.org.uk)

Meet: RSPB Reserve, Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, £3 for members. Car parking charges apply for non-members

## Sunday 25 November

**Dusk Flight (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**3.30pm Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Watch the fantastic wildlife spectacle of thousands of wild geese flighting out to the Solway mudflats to roost. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk) to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Sunday 25 November

**High Tide Perambulation (RSPB Crook of Baldoon)**  
**12.00noon to 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home, watching for wildlife that use the muds and saltmarsh to feed being evicted by the advancing tide. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

Contact: 01988 402130 or [crookofbaldoon@rspb.org.uk](mailto:crookofbaldoon@rspb.org.uk)

Meet: Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve, Wigtown, DG8 9AG, NX445530

Cost: Adults £4 (RSPB members £3), Children half price

## Tuesday 27 November

**Conservation Day (CWT Bowness-on-Solway Nature Reserve)**  
**10.00am to 3.30pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Bowness-on-Solway is an old gravel pit that has become a wonderful site for wildlife. Cumbria Wildlife Trust will be carrying out some scrub clearance and other maintenance works.

Contact: 01539 816300 or [events@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:events@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk)

Meet: Reserve entrance gate, West Mead, Bowness-on-Solway, Wigtown CA7 5AG, NY206617

Cost: Free

# DECEMBER

## Daily throughout December (apart from Christmas Day)

**Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**11.00am and 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

## Daily throughout December (apart from Christmas Day)

**Robin Trail (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre) 10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Can you find the wooden robins hiding in the hedges along the avenue? You might spot some wild robins too! After your walk, visit the yurt to make some natural Christmas crafts!

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

## Sat 1 Dec to Sat 15 Dec

**Exhibition by Sarah Keast (WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Sarah is a print maker and mixed media artist based in Moniaive in SW Scotland. Her work is motivated by her lifelong involvement with the natural environment. She uses lots of different printmaking techniques including screen printing, collograph, etching and relief printing and mixed media working on both a large and small scale. She will be visiting WWT Caerlaverock during summer 2018 to develop some new works in response to the unique setting and wildlife.

Contact: 01387 770200 or [info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Free



## Sunday 2 December

**Dawn Flight**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**7.00am Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese flighting in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Thursday 6 December

**Mersehead Discovery Walk**  
**(RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Discover some of the amazing wildlife looked after on this farm. As the season's change, so too do the habitats and special creatures found here. These walks will give you a chance to see it all close-up and learn how we manage this important place for nature in our fields and on the wetlands. There is a wild challenge for kids to take on too.

Contact: 01387 780579 or  
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve, Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, £3 for members. Car parking charges apply for non-members

## Saturday 8 December

**Christmas Crafty Kids**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**1.00pm to 3.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Make your own Robin box, wooden reindeer or Christmas wreath and visit Santa in the yurt.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Monday 10 December

**Heritage Group Meeting**  
**(Isle of Whithorn)**  
**2.00pm to 4.00pm**

The Heritage Group are trying to trace the history of the Village, Farms & Families. Anyone interested is welcome to join and pass on any information, old photographs, etc. There are folders in the church with updates and spare pages at the end of each section for participant's additional information.

Contact: Through the website,  
www.isleofwhithorn.com/hall.asp

Meet: Whithorn Village Hall, Conference Room

Cost: £2.00

## Friday 14 December

**Storytelling in the Yurt**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story, told by one of our excellent storytellers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve and see the swan feed. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Sun 16 to Sat 26 December

**Orkney Exhibition by Lucy Hadley**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Exhibition of illustrations depicting the birds and landscapes of Orkney, by local Dumfries and Galloway artist, Lucy Hadley.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Free

## Thursday 20 December

**Mersehead Discovery Walk**  
**(RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Discover some of the amazing wildlife looked after on this farm. As the season's change, so too do the habitats and special creatures found here. These walks will give you a chance to see it all close-up and learn how we manage this important place for nature in our fields and on the wetlands. There is a wild challenge for kids to take on too.

Contact: 01387 780579 or  
mersehead@rspb.org.uk

Meet: RSPB Reserve, Mersehead, DG2 8AH, NX925561

Cost: £4 Adult, £2 Child, £3 for members. Car parking charges apply for non-members

## Wednesday 26 December

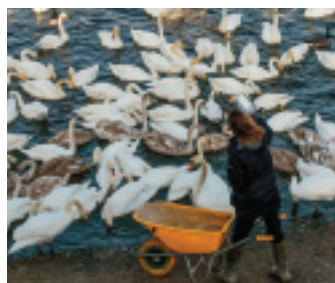
**Boxing Day Walk**  
**(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)**  
**2.00pm to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home. Walk off the excesses of Christmas Day. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

Contact: 01988 402130 or  
crookofbaldoon@rspb.org.uk

Meet: Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve, Wigtown, DG8 9AG, NX445530

Cost: Adults £4 (RSPB members £3), Children half price



# JANUARY

## Daily throughout January

**Wild Swan Feeds**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**11.00am and 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

## Daily throughout January

**Orkney Exhibition by Lucy Hadley**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Exhibition of illustrations depicting the birds and landscapes of Orkney, by local Dumfries and Galloway artist, Lucy Hadley.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Free

## Daily throughout January

**Wetland Raptors Trail**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Discover the amazing raptors that make wetlands their home at different times of the year.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges, WWT members free.

## Tuesday 1 January

**New Year's Day Bird Race**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Start the year by challenging the warden to see how many bird species you can spot in a day!

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges, WWT members free.

## Wednesday 2 January

**New Year Walk**  
**(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)**  
**2.00pm to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home, watching for wildlife that use the muds and saltmarsh to feed being evicted by the advancing tide. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

Contact: 01988 402130 or  
crookofbaldoon@rspb.org.uk

Meet: Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve, Wigtown, DG8 9AG, NX445530

Cost: Adults £4 (RSPB members £3), Children half price

## Sunday 6 December

**Dawn Flight**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**7.15am Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese flighting in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Sunday 6 January

**In Focus**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Try before you buy the latest binoculars and telescopes from the huge range available today. In Focus experts are available all day to give advice. WWT Caerlaverock benefits directly from every sale.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Free

## Friday 11 January

**Storytelling in the Yurt**  
**(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)**  
**10.00am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story, told by one of our excellent storytellers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve and see the swan feed. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free



## Sunday 13 January

**Dusk Flight**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**3.30pm Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Watch the fantastic wildlife spectacle of thousands of wild geese flying out to the Solway mudflats to roost. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Saturday 26 January

**Wildlife Photography Workshop**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Wildlife photography workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn how to take fantastic shots of the swans, geese and ducks on this wonderful wetland reserve. All abilities welcome - suitable for beginners to more experienced photographers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, DG1 4RS

Cost: £75 per person (gift vouchers are available)

# FEBRUARY

## Daily throughout February

**Farmland Birds Trail**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Learn which birds need farmland to survive and why they are declining.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

## Daily throughout February

**Wild Swan Feeds**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**11.00am and 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free.

## Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 February

**Wader Weekend**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

This weekend of special wader-focussed events will include talks, walks, workshops and lots of opportunities to see waders close up from a hide, or in their thousands, wheeling on the high tide. For more information, please see the website.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Sunday 3 February

**Dawn Flight**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**7.00am Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Join the wardens as they open early to experience the wild geese flying in against the dawn sky. The Coffee Shop will also be open early to provide hot drinks and bacon rolls. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Friday 8 February

**Storytelling in the Yurt**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story, told by one of our excellent storytellers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve and see the swan feed. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Sunday 17 February

**Dusk Flight**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**4.30pm Start**  
**Booking: Essential**

Watch the fantastic wildlife spectacle of thousands of wild geese flying out to the Solway mudflats to roost. Bring warm, waterproof clothing, binoculars and a torch.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Monday 18 to Friday 22 February

**WWT Scottish Puddle Jumping Championships**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**12.00noon to 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

How good are you at puddle jumping? As a wetland habitat, we have plenty of fantastic puddles! Come and show us your skills at the WWT Scottish Puddle Jumping Championships.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

# MARCH

## Daily throughout March

**Ducking and Diving Trail**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Find out about the different species of ducks that spend the winter at Caerlaverock and where they go in summer.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Daily throughout March

**Wild Swan Feeds**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**11.00am and 2.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary by the warden.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

## Saturday 2 March

**Wildlife Photography Workshop**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Wildlife photography workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn how to take fantastic shots of the swans, geese and ducks on this wonderful wetland reserve. All abilities welcome - suitable for beginners to more experienced photographers.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, DG1 4RS

Cost: £75 per person (gift vouchers are available)

## Sunday 3 March

**In Focus**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Not Essential**

Try before you buy the latest binoculars and telescopes from the huge range available today. In Focus experts are available all day to give advice. WWT Caerlaverock benefits directly from every sale.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Free

## Friday 15 March

**Storytelling in the Yurt**  
(WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre)  
**10.00am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Sit in our cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story, told by one of our excellent storytellers. Then go on a short walk to explore the reserve and see the swan feed. Suitable for children aged 4 and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact: 01387 770200 or  
info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk to book a place

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free







For further information, to submit an article or to join the SFP mailing list please contact:  
Solway Firth Partnership, Campbell House, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4UQ  
t: 01387 702161 e: [info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk) [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)  
To subscribe to the Solway Firth Partnership Newsletter please visit: [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)

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