

# tidelines

Issue 41 Winter 2014

newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



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# Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCMI



Solway Firth Partnership was 20 years old in June and I would like to reflect on some of its achievements over two decades. Inaugurated by the late Magnus Magnusson in June 1994 the initial aim was to develop a cross border strategy for managing marine and coastal issues. Topic groups, supported by a steering group, gathered and collated information. The outcome, the Solway Firth Review, was launched at the Partnership's first standing conference in June 1996. The Review, complemented by a Solway Firth Issues Report highlighting points perceived to be affecting sustainable development, informed the creation of a management strategy.

Workshops, seminars, conferences, topic groups and a coordinating steering group engaged core partners and the wider community in the development of the strategy whilst the newsletter, Tidelines, kept the membership informed. In 1998 Solway Firth Strategy was published, providing a voluntary framework for everyone who owned, used or regulated the Firth. The Strategy's vision was:

'To secure an environmentally sustainable future for the Solway Firth Area which allows the economy to prosper while respecting the distinctive character, natural features, wildlife and habitats of the Firth'.

The first business plan in 1999 outlined objectives to deliver on the aims of the Strategy notwithstanding that diversification was already occurring. Publications including a Who's Who in the Solway, Setting the Scene and Sea Life Sea food were produced, while initiatives such as World Oceans Day, shark and mammal watch and various beach cleans were supported. A platform was provided to enable the Solway European Marine Site development, which culminated in a Management Scheme to meet regulations in respect of the Habitats Directive and Bird Directive under the Natura 2000 initiative.

In 2001, SFP received the prestigious Green Apple award for its contribution to environmental good practice. The conference in 2001, following the Foot & Mouth outbreak that adversely impacted Cumbria and Dumfries and Galloway, gave a stage to organisations to outline measures and packages to help recovery.

During 2003 SFP became a Limited Company with Charitable Status and a Board of Directors was established supported by an advisory group. Consolidating its role following an internal review the main functions were defined as facilitation, coordination and a catalyst for processes. SFP

coordinated Solway Fish, an industry forum and sustainable development initiative that sought to improve cross border management and economic development of the sector. Solway aquatic litter task (SALT) also began as an outcome of a workshop at the previous year's conference.

A cross border seminar on Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) was hosted in 2012, the outcomes of which included the development of a Solway Biosecurity Plan and an INNS identification guide. Making Most of the Coast, which encouraged people to care and discover more about the Dumfries and Galloway coastline, was completed this July. Separate guides including Solway Flowers, Good Beach, Solway Shell and Strandline emanated from the project.

During the development of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and Marine Scotland Act, respectively, SFP hosted a consultation seminar on behalf of the UK and Scottish governments. Once implemented, the Acts introduced new ways of Marine Planning on both sides of the Solway. New bodies were established to manage and sustain inshore fisheries up to 6 nautical miles. In 2011 North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) was created on the south side and the following year South West Inshore Fisheries Group (SWIFG) was established on the north Solway. The Partnership is involved with both of these bodies and is presently managing projects on behalf of SWIFG. These fisheries projects complement Out of the Blue, a project supporting and building on opportunities for economic development including current cockle fishery issues. The project supports sustainability initiatives by working in partnership with local fishermen, scientists and government.

Staff restructuring undertaken in the spring saw a smooth transition as people settled into new roles. Project work, mainly focused on fisheries, is progressing well while the traditional work of SFP continues. As marine planning on both sides of the border is realised, the vision and many of the Partnership's key objectives will fall within the remit of these new processes. Importantly, the two governments were prompted to agree cross border cooperation and SFP has been cited in a joint statement as a player in this context. Thus the prospects for SFP auger well and its ability to diversify as demands on the Solway's resources evolve means that the Partnership, with the support of its membership, will have the opportunity to flourish as marine management processes unfold.

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# Making the Most of the Coast – the final outcome

As the Making the Most of the Coast Project has come to an end we are delighted to look back at two years of action, learning and discovery of new opportunities to make good use of over 220 miles of coastline.

**A**s the Making the Most of the Coast Project has come to an end we are delighted to look back at two years of action, learning and discovery of new opportunities to make good use of over 220 miles of coastline.

A final project review booklet has been published to celebrate the wide range of community involvement and awareness-raising activities promoted by the Making the Most of the Coast Project. Nic Coombey, Coastal Ranger, says 'the project has achieved far more than we thought was possible

because so many people have wanted to get involved in exploring the coast and joining like-minded people to get actively engaged.'

An easy-to-use good beach guide to Scotland's southern coast for families and adventurers has been printed and also features as pages on the Solway Firth Partnership website. Beachcombers' guides to shells, wildflowers and the things you might find on the strandline were also produced during the project. Making the Most of the Coast Project engaged with 28 education providers, from nursery school visits to look at rock pool creatures to research on invasive species. Over 2,500 people have taken an active role in the project including volunteers who generated over £10,000 in volunteer time while taking part in 39 beach cleans and numerous habitat management works, wildlife recording and arts events. Highlighting the importance of collaboration and communication, Making the Most of the Coast worked with over 30 groups, organisations and businesses across Dumfries and Galloway and featured in 33 publications promoting the







coast as well as appearing on television and social media.

During the Making the Most of the Coast Project, film was used as a tool to engage with young people. Primary school children got involved with filming a documentary on seashore life as well as footage for an arts event called Liminal. Making the Most of the Coast also helped to facilitate the YES! Project which created three films to raise awareness of coastal issues



and identify positive action for young people on coastal heritage at risk, monitoring climate change and marine litter.

Four short films have also been produced to promote the variety and beauty of the Dumfries and Galloway Coast using impressive aerial photography and featuring activities from walking to kite buggies. The film maker Colin Tennant was really excited to be involved. "This video project used state-of-the-art 'quad copter' technology to capture stunning aerial video footage of the beaches and coastline of Dumfries & Galloway, providing a unique view of the region. The videos target a wide ranging audience across all ages from nature enthusiasts to adventure seekers".

The Making the Most of the Coast project won a prestigious Dumfries and Galloway LEADER good practice award and Solway Firth Partnership looks forward to managing new projects in the future.

The films and project review can be viewed on our website - <http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/making-the-most-of-the-coast>





# Looking back on a magnificent summer

in the Solway AONB

After the dreadful summer weather we have endured over the past decade, 2014 produced the goods at last. When long range weather forecasts predict good weather it is incredible how visitors increase; both holiday-makers and those on day visits have taken advantage.

A quality summer gives organisations like the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership a chance to take stock and enjoy watching people use the infrastructure we have provided. The newly built section of the Hadrian's Cycle Route between Allonby and Maryport has provided cyclists, walkers and families with pushchairs and prams a fantastic opportunity to leave the car and explore the coastline in safety and comfort. Access to the beaches at Mawbray and Wolsty dunes, that lie just south of Silloth, have had a real impact on visitors due to the interpretation panels that have been installed. Birds, toads, reptiles, butterflies and plants have been highlighted and families could be seen enjoying their creature hunts.

Our events programme of BioBlitzes, school education trips, volunteer days and guided walks have had huge attendance and we were able to add more as demand increased. The restoration work on the raised bogs and the new access provided visitors with a new perspective on the landscape. Open water pools on the bogs provided a spectacle of dragon and damselflies in vast numbers. They even attracted a 'hobby', a small falcon which chases and eats dragonflies on the wing.

The Hadrian's Wall Trail and its accommodation providers have had a record year due to the extended good weather.

Finally, the flora and fauna of the Solway Coast enjoyed a fantastic breeding and growing season; there were no reports of ground nesting birds dying due to cold and rain or plants being water-logged and crops failing due to mould and dampness.

The Solway may have been named after the sun and if so this year it lived up to its title. Long may it last; our landscape looks fantastic in a golden frame!





Mandy Barker

# Penalty! paying the price for plastic debris

Following a social media call out, Nic Coombey, Coastal Ranger with Solway Firth Partnership's Making the Most of the Coast project, collected 228 footballs on beaches in Dumfries and Galloway. His efforts were featured in one of four images by photographer Mandy Barker called 'One Person'.

Inspired by the World Cup in Brazil, the artist used social media to send a request for footballs cast up on beaches around the world. Enthused by Mandy's idea, nearly 90 people from 41 different countries and 144 different beaches sent her a total of 769 footballs.

Her series of images called 'Penalty' refer to the penalty we are all paying for

the problem of plastic pollution which is a major risk to the diversity of life in our oceans. Nic Coombey explains, "many people think litter on our beaches comes from shipping but most of the debris has been washed down rivers from towns and villages to be collected by the Irish Sea and dumped on our shoreline causing an eyesore and, as it breaks down into tiny pieces, a threat to sea creatures which mistakenly eat the particles". Using washed up plastic debris to create beautiful images, Mandy aims to raise awareness of the need to keep our seas and oceans clean.

To find out more about Mandy and her work, visit her website: <http://mandy-barker.com>







# Cumbria's Marine Conservation Zones

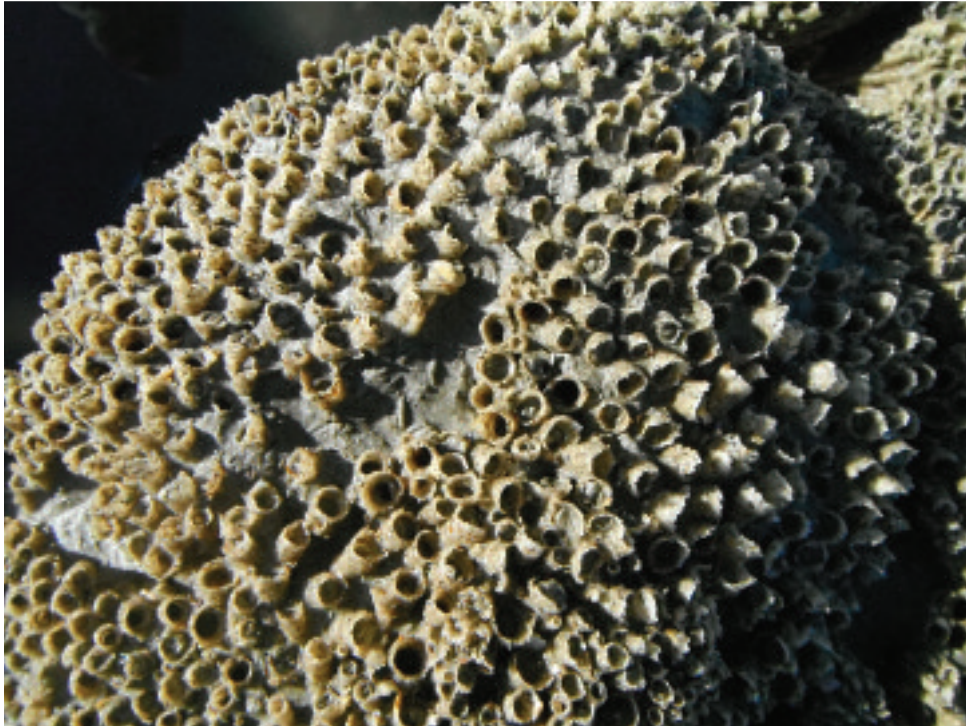


Since the creation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act in 2009, the UK Government has been tasked with setting up a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) called Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the UK's non-devolved seas. MPAs are a type of protected area at sea where human activity is restricted to conserve wildlife and habitats, representative of the biodiversity in our seas. This is vital as our seas are under pressure from multiple sources, suffering degradation and overexploitation. The network will be created in phases, the first of which happened nearly two years ago now. Following a public consultation, the first round of 27 MCZs were designated nationally. This was a huge step forward for the protection of our marine environment. However, this was just one of many that marine conservationists across the country hope to take in order to give our seas the best chance for recovery and protection.

So how did Cumbrian seas fare in this process? Out of the 27 sites designated in the first round, just one was in Cumbrian waters, the Cumbria Coast MCZ, stretching from the cliffs north of St Bees Head to the mouth of the Ravenglass Estuary. This site features one of the county's best examples of rocky shore habitat and is home to the last breeding colony of black guillemots in England. But we'd like to see more areas of our diverse seas given protected status.

Earlier this year, the Government listed a further 37 recommended MCZs that are under consideration for the second phase of the network. Allonby Bay is one of seven sites under consideration within the Irish Sea. This coastal site is situated just south of the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and includes two extremely important areas for biodiversity, Dubmill Scar and Maryport Roads. These areas are vital for a range





Jonathan Holt

of marine species such as breadcrumb sponges, crabs, lobsters, and an array of seaweeds. Allonby Bay is also home to the most northern extent of honeycomb worm reefs, a living reef made up of colonies of thousands of marine worms, as Ann Lingard explained in the last magazine.

These living reefs provide refuge and food for many marine species from shore crabs to anemones and sea squirts to sponges. At low tide it is possible to make your way down to observe this incredible habitat and see for yourself why this reef is considered

one of the UK's best.

As a coastal site, Allonby is particularly important to local people and to those visiting the area for recreation, from walking to rock pooling. Water sports such as kite surfing are also popular in the Bay as Caroline Davies captured in her delightful watercolour painting of the Allonby Bay seascape. During a Cumbria Wildlife Trust painting day event, keen artists joined our marine team to capture their view of our magnificent marine and coastal scenery. Designating Allonby Bay as an MCZ will lead to protection of the area not only for

precious marine life but also for the next generation to enjoy.

So what can we do to play our part in protecting such rich, diverse marine life? By signing up to become a friend of Allonby Bay recommended MCZ you will help us to persuade the Government to safeguard our special places at sea. Once signed up, we will keep you up-to-date on the MCZ process and let you know when the next consultation opens. You can find out more at

[www.irishsea.org](http://www.irishsea.org)







# A New Start at Manx Wildlife Trust



It has been a busy summer at the Manx Wildlife Trust for new Marine Officer, Lara Howe. The first few months in the new job were spent getting familiar with the area and with carrying out the usual tasks of a Marine Officer: digging for black lugworms, organising touch tanks for the Queenie Festival, visiting the Calf to monitor seal pupping sites, organising shark tagging and rock pooling.

Running events was a major task over the summer with rock pooling proving to be by far the favourite activity for the public. Over 200 people attended the final session of the season at Scarlett, breaking an earlier record of 206 attendees at Port Mooar. The children and adults have been amazed by the

variety of species found around the coast, from the weird to the wonderful. Some of the rarer finds have included a Montagu's sea snail (actually a sucker fish); pipe fish (a relative of the seahorse); a nudibranch (sea slug) and star ascidians, otherwise known as sea squirts. There have been plenty of other





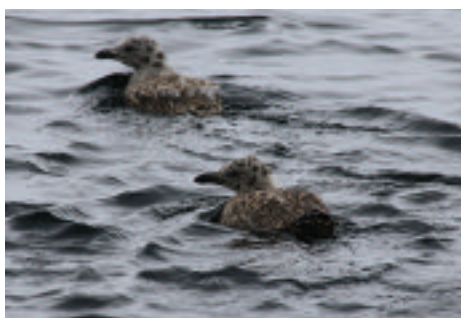


Did you know a grasshopper can hop 20 times its body length and a lizard can regrow its tail if it is pulled off!



species too; some of the favourites have included crabs, hermit crabs, anemones, prawns and shrimps. It has been great to see such diversity and abundance of species in Manx rock pools.

The BioBlitz event at Derbyhaven was rather wet this year but it did not deter the hardy volunteers who came, all experts in their field and covering all areas of wildlife from plants to mini beasts to birds and marine species. The aim of the BioBlitz was to identify as many species as possible to show the diversity of life on the Island and, as it was part of a national event, around the UK. The event gave the Trust a great opportunity to update the species list for the Langness, Derbyhaven and



Sandwich Area of Special Scientific Interest. The final count isn't in yet but it is expected to be over 200 species, a great result.

The lizard watch at the Ayres was another successful event, with six lizards spotted and four species of grasshoppers observed. The Bill Lockington Marshal wildlife viewing

platform was also made use of to observe the birds in the area including diving gannets and herring gulls. A seal was also spotted on the day although, unfortunately, there were no signs of basking sharks. Plenty of wild flowers were in bloom on the nature reserve including sea holly, sheep's bit, sea spurge and thyme.

If you have missed out on the summer events don't worry, there are plenty more planned for the autumn. Check out the Manx Wildlife Trust website and Facebook pages to find out more. If you would like to get your school or club to organise an event with the Biodiversity Education Officer, Dawn Dickens, call the Trust on 01624 844432 or email [dawn@manxwt.org.uk](mailto:dawn@manxwt.org.uk)







Ian Findlay

# The Cally Temple Project

Deep in the Cally Woods, on the outskirts of Gatehouse of Fleet, a project is currently underway to conserve the intriguing ruined building known as The Temple.

Built in 1779 by landowner James Murray, the Temple was one of many features designed to impress visitors approaching Cally House - now the Cally Palace Hotel. The Temple once looked out across the elegantly laid out parkland and could be seen from the House.

When it was first built, the Temple was the home of William Todd and his family, who looked after Murray's drove cattle which were driven each year to the growing towns of England. Today, set within the woods that have long since grown around it, the Temple has a hidden, mysterious quality. The years have taken their toll, however, and the

condition of the building has begun to deteriorate.

When surveying the site, the National Scenic Area volunteers found an Irish half penny of 1785 suggesting that the Temple may have been built by Irish labourers brought over from the owner's property in Donegal. Research has also uncovered the original invoice for quarrying the stone used for the structure, and during the project volunteers will be building on this research to help enhance the Cally woods for visitors and locals alike.

The Cally Temple Project, led by the Gatehouse Development Initiative in partnership with the landowner, Forestry Commission Scotland, will leave the





Mike Ashmore

## to the temple

*we are quarrying into our landscape  
digging into the past  
unearthing histories  
before they are lost*

*we are felling trees in the forest  
cutting our way through the growth  
telling stories and legends  
of people and times long ago*

*we are walking into the woods  
treading paths together and alone  
asking our curious questions  
seeking answers from silent stone*

Liz Niven

building in a sound physical condition. The structure of the building will be fully consolidated, preventing further deterioration and enabling future generations to enjoy it. Smiths Gore has been appointed to oversee the conservation work, which is being undertaken by Luce Bay group.

### Calling Cally Voices

A key part of the project is raising awareness of the historic designed landscape. Local groups and visitors will become an important part of interpreting the building and the surrounding landscape. Well-known writer/poet Liz Niven is gathering 'Cally

Voices' throughout the project and would like visitors and locals to join her at one of her creative writing workshops. News of these workshops can be found on the Gatehouse web site [www.gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk](http://www.gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk).

If you can't make it to a workshop just send a verse or express your thoughts about the Temple or other aspects of Cally Woods in words or with a photograph or drawing to [temple@gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk](mailto:temple@gatehouse-of-fleet.co.uk). The 'Voices' and images gathered throughout the project period will be used in new interpretation material encouraging more people to enjoy the woods and visit features like the Temple.

There will also be opportunities to become ambassadors for the Cally Woods, learning about the historic features in the development of the designed landscape so they can share and pass the knowledge on to others.

The Cally Temple Project, which will run until September 2015, is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, SWEAT Landfill Communities Fund, Solway Heritage Landfill Communities Fund, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Galloway Association of Glasgow, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Live Literature Funding, Scottish Book Trust, Murray Usher Foundation and the Galloway Preservation Society.





*Above: The Whitehaven customs collector reported in the mid-18th century that the surrounding area was "mostly supplied with brandy, rum, tea, tobacco, soap and other high-duty goods illegally imported."*  
*Below: Annan was a notorious landing point for smuggled goods: Burns captured a lugger aground in the sand here."*



# Solway Smugglers

To the average Briton, stories of smuggling bring to mind a taciturn Cornishman or a moonlit Channel crossing. Yet for much of the 18th century the Solway estuary was a magnet for smugglers, who supplied much of Cumbria and southern Scotland. Indeed, Walter Scott wrote that 'few people take more enthusiastically to the "Free Trade" than the men of the Solway Coast.'

For smugglers, the Solway had three advantages. It divided two nations, enabling smugglers to make money from differences in customs and excise duties. It had the natural benefit of any estuary: informed by signals from land-parties on both the north and south shores, a ship bearing contraband could steer for wherever "the coast was clear." But perhaps most important of all, the Solway was very close to the Isle of Man.

At the height of the smuggling era, the three-legged island was an almost feudal kingdom ruled by the Lords of Man. It became a smuggling entrepôt, importing (perfectly legally) enormous quantities of desirable Continental and American luxuries. Carefully repackaged, these were sold on to Solway traders, who flocked to the island in small boats. Under the cover of darkness, these smuggling fleets would return to the mainland, where they found an enthusiastic market for wine, brandy, coffee, sugar and tobacco. But besides these well-known contraband items, they also supplied an astonishing range of other goods, including salt, prunes, turps, fish-hooks, hair-powder, glue and feathers.



Anything, in fact, that was made costly by the imposition of onerous and unpopular government duties.

The smuggling commerce of the Solway was notorious, so much so that when landscape painter Clarkson Stanfield published his famous book of Britain's coastal scenery, he decorated his View on the Solway, Mouth of the Nith with a smuggling cutter and a waiting line of ponies. To the knowing eye, the small, easily-manhandled barrels in the foreground are a smugglers' hallmark: legal goods were always packed in much larger containers that needed a dock and a derrick to unload.

The volume of contraband that descended on the Solway was so vast that the officials charged with the suppression of smuggling were utterly overwhelmed. Though to be fair to the long-suffering excisemen, this situation prevailed on most of Britain's coastline. The staff of the customs service were underpaid, lacked resources, and if not actually corrupt then were at least divided in their sympathies.

The most famous of them was of course Burns, who was employed in Dumfries from 1791. His superiors damned him with faint praise, writing that although he was not 'a bustling, active gauger ... he does pretty well.' Burns' finest hour came when he captured a smuggling lugger at Annan. While he waited for reinforcement to arrive, he composed a rhyme which calls into question his commitment to the suppression of smuggling...

*'We'll mak' our maut an' bre our drink,  
We'll dance, and sing, and rejoice, man  
An' monie thanks to the muckle black De'il  
That danced awa' wi' the Exciseman'*

Large-scale smuggling on the Solway was interrupted in 1756 when the British government bought the Isle of Man for £70,000 in a furtive deal, and stationed customs officers there. As a result, the people of Solway were briefly deprived of cheap foreign luxuries. The enterprising smugglers soon found other sources of contraband, and Solway smuggling continued in a smaller way. Smuggling finally ended in the mid-19th century when drastic reductions in import duties made the Free Trade uneconomic.

Richard Platt is the author of *Smuggling in the British Isles – a History* (The History Press; 224 pages; £12.99 paperback; ISBN 0752463594) which is available from his website, [www.smuggling.co.uk](http://www.smuggling.co.uk). He regularly appears on radio and TV talking about maritime topics.



In the early 18th century a Maryport customs man was transferred from his post when his over-zealous prosecution of smugglers made him deeply unpopular locally.



The authentic foreground detail of Stanfield's Criffel landscape suggests that he was drawing the smuggling run from life, rather than his imagination.



This image of Galloway shows a small land party awaiting a smuggling vessel.





# Drawing in a Large Outdoor Sketchbook

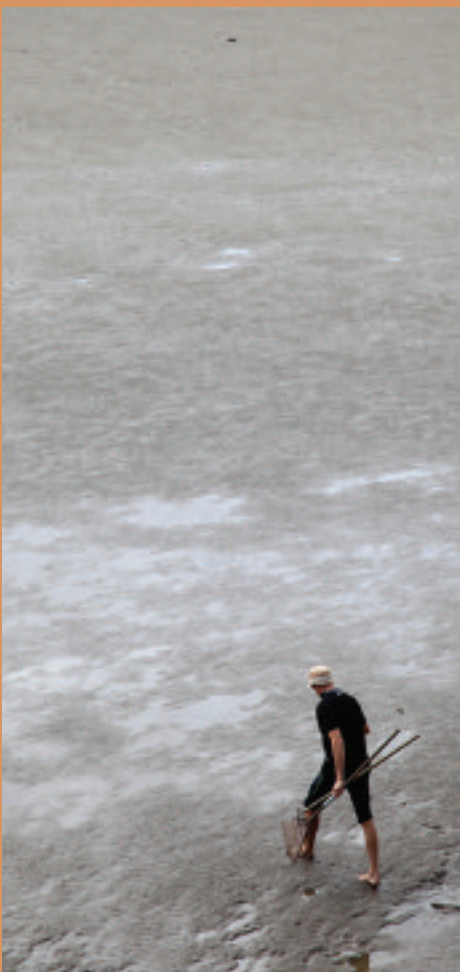
Jim Buchanan, local artist, is renowned for his outdoor artwork ranging from sculptural installations, landscape master planning to labyrinth designing.

In one of his most recent projects, Jim explored beaches along the Solway coast as outdoor studio space for monumental drawings. Inspired by shapes, dimensions and patterns of the sea's hidden life, Jim used sticks, rakes, his hands and feet to draw in Solway sands.

Growing up alongside the sea, Jim always appreciated the beach as a wide open space. He knows that using the beach as a large outdoor sketchbook means working against a deadline set by

the dramatically fast incoming tides. But rather than feeling sad, upset or disappointed by the prospect of watching the result of several hours of work being simply washed away, he sees the short-lived nature of a beach as a drawing space as liberating. "It's the ultimate liminal creative space, yours for a few hours before it is reclaimed by the tide" says Jim.

The motives of Jim's interest are the microscopic creatures and organisms of our oceans. Hidden from sight because







of their minute size of 0.1-0.2 mm in diameter, organisms such as plankton create half of the planet's oxygen and provide food for larger sea creatures. At the same time they are incredibly sensitive to changes in their natural environment and are thus under threat by global warming.



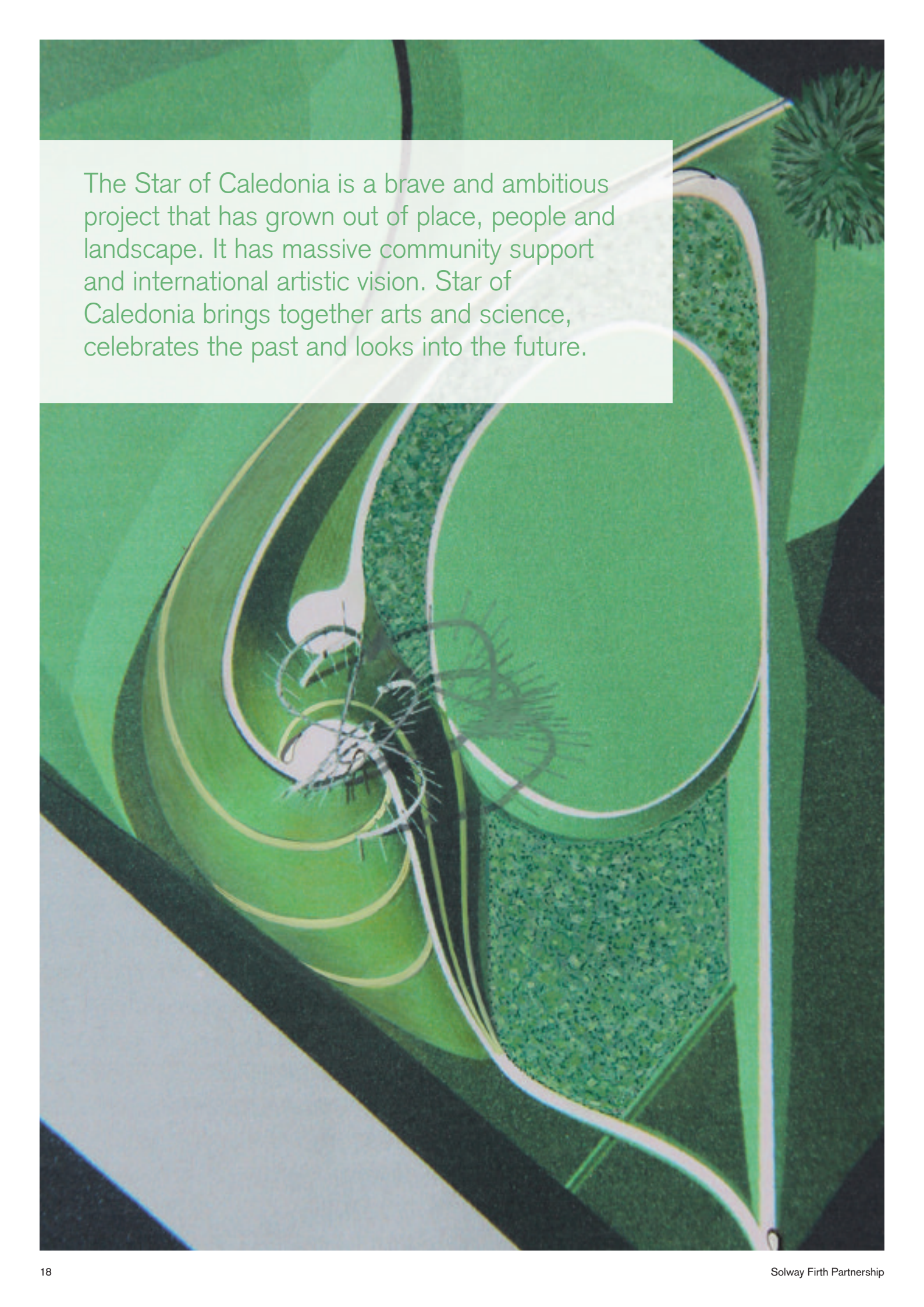
To manage the leap from microscopic to macroscopic and to raise awareness of the hidden life, Jim gave a lot of attention to shapes and patterns. The major challenge of his work was the variation in the make-up of the beach's surface which strongly determined the drawing technique. Setting off very early in the morning, he would often find the beach empty and the tides out. Whenever people did appear they reacted "rather surprised" as Jim says. He adds that "Everyone took care to walk around the artwork, though the dogs just don't care... Some people stop and enquire, but most recognise that you are at work and so give you space".

Commissioned by the Making the Most of the Coast project, Jim drew across the beaches of Dumfries and

Galloway for nearly two years. His work has pointed out the significance and fragility of the very small things. Magnifying microscopic life forms to something monumental, Jim's drawings show a fascination for pattern and dimension that can be inspirational for every individual. So the message is clear: get out there, explore, the beach sketchbook is all yours!

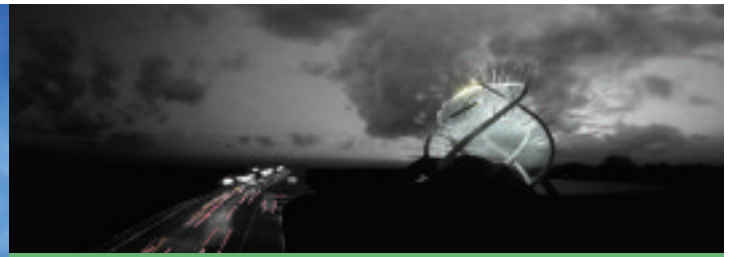
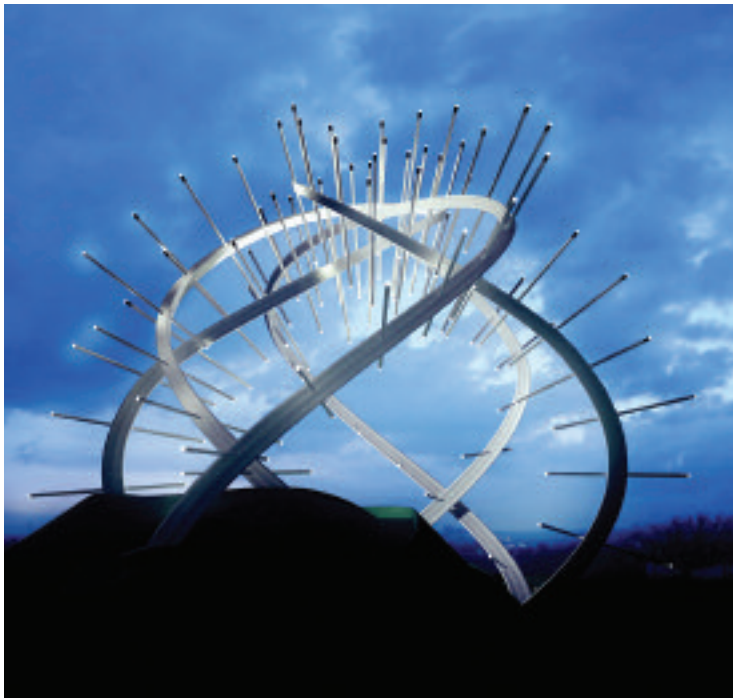




An abstract landscape illustration dominated by various shades of green. The composition features large, organic, flowing shapes that resemble stylized hills or water bodies. A prominent white rectangular text box is positioned in the upper left quadrant. In the lower center, there is a small, intricate, dark, spiky structure that looks like a stylized plant or a complex sculpture. The overall style is modern and artistic, with a focus on natural forms and textures.

The Star of Caledonia is a brave and ambitious project that has grown out of place, people and landscape. It has massive community support and international artistic vision. Star of Caledonia brings together arts and science, celebrates the past and looks into the future.





“ Crossing the border to Scotland, across the River Sark, is now a passage obscured under a bridge by cars travelling at speed. Instead of marking this with motorway signs we are using a landform and sculpture that pulls together the adjacent site, the distant hills and the Solway. ”

Charles Jencks

“ The Star of Caledonia is based on such inspiration and raises consciousness of further evolving discoveries – all energy bears the imprint of waves, even the recent discovery of gravitational waves at the outset of the universe. ”

Cecil Balmond



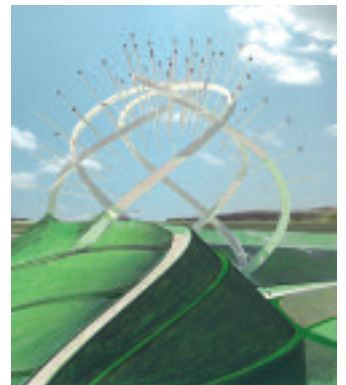
# The Star of Caledonia: Connecting Scotland's Border

The Star of Caledonia, which was originally known as the Gretna Landmark Project, lives in the heart of the community and originally grew out of the community's desire to help with regeneration after it was hit very badly by the 2001 foot and mouth crisis. Over the years the project has grown and evolved to become a regeneration project of national and international importance that will generate profile, recognition and community ownership for the south of Scotland that is unmatched in recent memory.

The Star of Caledonia is a landform and sculpture by Cecil Balmond and Charles Jencks who see this project as the result of a fully integrated collaborative effort. Located

near to the M74 Motorway and the West Coast main rail line, its grandeur and presence will welcome visitors from the South and announce arrival in Scotland. The work explores Scotland's cultural, environmental and natural identity, while acting as an example of Scottish achievements in design and science. This landform and sculpture will pull together both sides of the border, the distant hills and the Solway.

Working closely with the creative director and the creative team, the project is being developed by The Gretna Landmark Trust (group of local stakeholders) and managed by Wide Open, South Scotland. For more information visit [www.gretnalandmark.com](http://www.gretnalandmark.com)







# Out of the Blue: supporting a sustainable Solway seafood industry

Considerable quantities of top quality shellfish are landed and processed in Dumfries and Galloway yet the industry often goes almost unnoticed, with sea fishing taking place out of sight and therefore out of mind. Recent developments such as the establishment of South West Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG) and Dumfries and Galloway Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) have helped to enable a range of work to get underway aimed at supporting and promoting the local seafood sector. Solway Firth Partnership is delighted to be involved with a broad variety of these initiatives, acting as co-ordinator, partner or lead.

The Solway Firth Partnership Out of the Blue project has been enabled by support from the European Fisheries Fund and Dumfries and Galloway Council and aims include improving understanding of local sea fisheries. To this end, work is underway to develop interpretation at Kirkcudbright and Isle of Whithorn harbours which provides

information about the species landed, the seasonality of local fisheries and the working practices of the industry. Work has started too, on preparation of a mobile exhibition that can be displayed in local museums and visitor centres along the coast. A photographic commission has recently gone out to tender and will provide high quality images of people, boats and harbours to support a variety of interpretive and promotional work.

The Out of the Blue project has also enabled better links to be established between the local area and national initiatives such as Seafood Scotland - the national body working to support the seafood sector. Local roll-out of the Seafood in Schools project is planned for early in the new year and will help teach school children about Scottish seafood - where it comes from, how it reaches our plates and why eating seafood is good for us.

The importance of ensuring that local businesses are fully engaged with the

Out of the Blue project and are able to influence the work programme is fully recognised and, to enable this, interviews are being conducted with local business people to develop a better understanding of issues including the supply chain and marketing opportunities.

A partnership between local fishermen, scientists and the South West IFG is being supported by the Out of the Blue project to deliver two pieces of work to help protect the long-term sustainability and profitability of the Solway creel fishery. Additional funding obtained through the IFG is enabling a lobster v-notching study and a trial introduction of creel escape panels. The projects are aimed at conserving valuable commercial stocks and helping to ensure the long term sustainability of the local crab and lobster fisheries.

If you would like to get in touch to find out more about any of this work, please contact Pam Taylor on 01387 251991 [pam@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](mailto:pam@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)



# European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 Projects Begin to Bear Fruit

The Dumfries and Galloway European Fisheries Fund (DGEFF) Axis 4, formally launched in June 2012, awards grants to fisheries-related projects which demonstrate innovation, increased community capacity and improved economic output in Dumfries and Galloway's fisheries areas.

The budget of around £1.1million was financed 50/50 by the European Commission and Dumfries and Galloway Council. The fund is administered locally by the FLAG partnership, a collective group of fisheries, public, private and voluntary sector organisations, of which Dumfries and Galloway Council is the lead partner.

One project which demonstrates the community benefits of this fund is the

construction of the new pontoon at Kippford. The pontoon is free to use by all water users and will greatly increase access to and from the Solway. The pontoon was constructed by Intermarine Engineering using the latest technology and so far has proved to be a great success. The pontoon was officially opened on September 27th 2014, and the facility is proving popular with locals and visitors alike.

Further down the coast, another



Dumfries & Galloway Council



project to benefit from Axis 4 funding is the Isle of Whithorn Church. This B Listed church, dating from 1844, is benefiting from internal improvements to incorporate a marine heritage exhibition, which will reflect the local seafaring tradition with artefacts, artworks and items of maritime interest donated and accumulated down the years. Admission to the heritage museum will be free and this project has the potential to be of benefit to the Isle of Whithorn, with an additional place of interest for visitors and locals alike to visit and enjoy.

This current funding round is now closed with the scheme having generated over 50 expressions of interest from around the region over the course of the project. The next round of funding is currently being finalised by the European Commission with an expected UK rollout tentatively scheduled for early 2016, with the scheme expected to run until 2020. Once details are confirmed there will be formal launch of the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund scheme in Dumfries and Galloway.

Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the EFF Project Administrator, Dumfries and Galloway Council on 01387 260513 or 07775032249 Visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11472](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11472) or e-mail [fisheriesfund@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:fisheriesfund@dumgal.gov.uk)







## North and West Cumbria Grants Top £1.4 Million



With the recent offer of grants to The Wave Centre, Maryport, and the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Museum, the total issue of grants by North & West Cumbria FLAG from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Axis 4 has topped £1.4 million.

The grant to the Wave Centre in Maryport will fund an indoor caving experience, "Cave at The Wave", to complement the already successful and popular "Clip 'n Climb" facility. Visitors to the innovative, indoor caving system will be able to explore up to 75 linear metres of caves, climbs, slides, ball pools and chambers which replicate a caving or pot holing experience in safety.

Bob Metcalfe, Chair of North & West Cumbria FLAG said: "We are delighted to be able to support The Wave Centre in their plans to enhance the visitor experience to West Cumbria through this inventive new project. With this grant allocation we have now managed to exceed our original allocation and our support has helped to bring in additional funding of over £1.9 million to the Coastal communities of north & west Cumbria."

It is expected that as well as significantly increasing visitor numbers to the area the new development will create 3 full time jobs by the opening date, and strengthen the Wave Centre's position as a premier visitor attraction in Maryport.



The award to Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway Museum will assist with the refurbishment of the museum's exhibition space to include interactive experiences, displays and additional space to accommodate educational workshops. The upgraded facilities will also make a significant contribution towards improving the visitor experience to the Western Lake District.

Over in Whitehaven, the Beacon Museum's "Gone Fishing" Project continues to go from strength to strength with an exhibition in the museum's gallery space educating visitors about the rich fishing heritage of west Cumbria, whilst simultaneously showcasing the work of school children from Maryport in another FLAG supported project, "The Fisherman's Tale" managed by Maryport Extended Schools Partnership.

The Beacon's educational programme and activities for local schools has reached over 2000 school children and, with demand still high, the project continues to develop and implement an inspiring and entertaining educational programme to change perceptions of the fishing industry throughout schools in the area.

Top chef John Crouch has also been



engaged to demonstrate to pupils how to cook healthy and nutritious meals using fresh locally sourced fish and seafood. He also ran a cookery demonstration and workshop using locally sourced fish at the Beacon recently.

The specially commissioned video diary of the life of a local fisherman can still be seen at the exhibition and is available to view via a link on the Museum's website.

The Fisherman's Tale project educated children within Maryport Extended Schools Partnership about their fishing heritage and the industry today, providing harbour talks and visits,

storytelling sessions, cookery demonstrations, aquarium trips and a display of artwork, currently in the exhibition space at the Beacon.

Nicola Woolley of Maryport Extended Schools Partnership said: "This funding has enabled us to further extend our educational work with schools in and around Maryport and engage pupils in a really exciting and worthwhile programme of activities. They have all thoroughly enjoyed the different elements and look forward to the exciting prospect of the publication of their very own stories."

Renowned Cumbrian Storyteller Ian Douglas has led workshops with the children to enable them to create their own Fisherman's Tale to reflect their experiences during this project. Each child will receive a copy of the published book which will also be on display in the library and local museums.

The FLAG Board are no longer actively seeking applications for this round of funding through the EFF, but are delighted with the participation of the local community and that so many diverse organisations and communities across the FLAG area have benefited from this fund over the last 3 years.







# SEPA Updates River Basin Management Plan for the Solway Tweed



Nearly five years ago, in December 2009, the first river basin management plan for the Solway Tweed river basin district was published. This set out targets for the condition of rivers, lochs, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater and established a programme of measures designed to achieve them.

A new, updated river basin management plan is to be published towards the end of

2015 and over the coming months SEPA are seeking views on proposals for that second plan. In the consultation SEPA present how they can target their efforts to improve the water environment for the greatest benefits and set out any proposed changes to the programmes of measures. In particular SEPA have looked at how to address the challenges identified whilst implementing the first plan: rural diffuse pollution, physical condition of the water environment, toxic substances and urban diffuse pollution. Your views on these proposals are important as they will help to shape the second river basin management plan and contribute to the protection and improvement of the water environment.

The consultation will start from December 2014 and is being run in conjunction with a wider engagement process. For this, SEPA and the Environment Agency will work with key stakeholders, including the Solway Firth Partnership, as appropriate. More information can be found at [http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river\\_basin\\_planning/solway\\_tweed.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/solway_tweed.aspx)





# Accounts to March 2014

## Solway Firth Partnership

Solway 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.

### Income

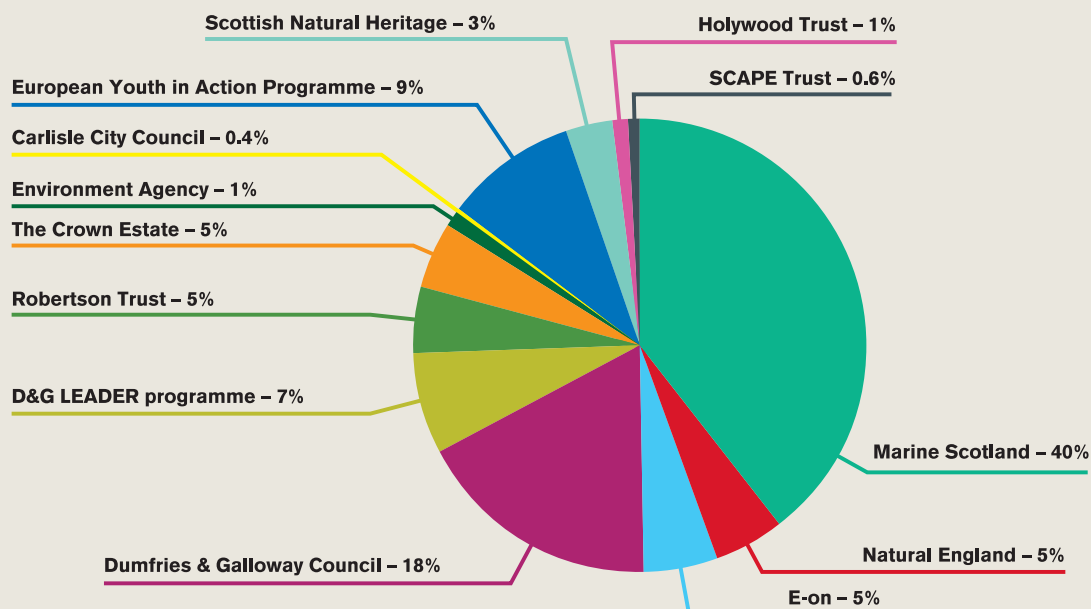
Although we are a charity we have to run the organisation in the same way that any small business does. Accounts must be balanced and reserves have to be in place for a rainy day.

Our accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2014 show an income of £204,920 of Reserved and Unreserved funds (£190,831 in the previous financial year) giving us a small surplus of £3,288 in our Unrestricted funds (draft until signed at AGM).

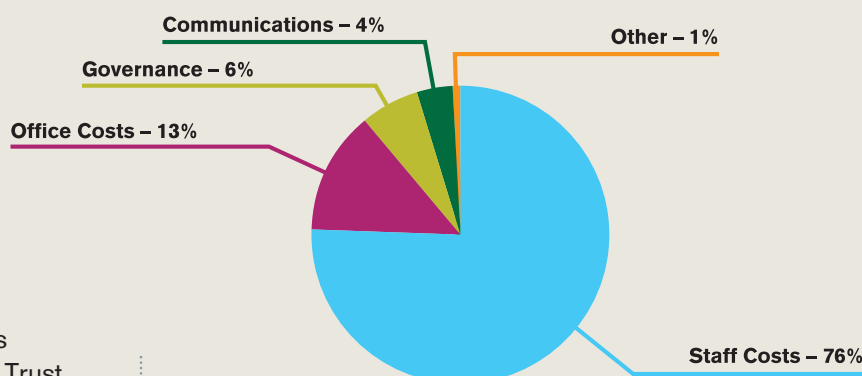
Several projects, including Making the Most of the Coast, ran throughout this financial year, bringing in additional grants and staff, a range of interesting publications; and also some great publicity for the coast. Our thanks go to the staff team who have worked hard to make the projects a success during the year.

We are very grateful to all the organisations that have provided funding in the last financial year: Marine Scotland, Natural England, Dumfries and Galloway Council, The Crown Estate, The Robertson Trust, EON, Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme, The Holywood Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, Environment Agency, SCAPE Trust and Carlisle City Council.

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.



### Expenditure



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 will soon be available on our website: [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk)



# Dates for your Diary

## November – April 2014

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.

## NOV

Every day from 1 November 2014 until 30 April 2015

**Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock)**  
**11.00am and 2.00pm for 30 minutes**  
**Booking: not required**

See wild whooper swans closer than anywhere in Britain from the new Sir Peter Scott Observatory, with live commentary from the warden (October to April).

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

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

Cost: Regular admission fee

### Saturday 1 November

**Duck and Geese Identification Training course (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 1.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Come and join us for a walk around our reserve and look at the different duck and geese. Learn how to identify the different ducks that visit us over winter and recognise their sounds.

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, half price to members

### Sunday 2 November

**In Focus (WWT Caerlaverock)**  
**10.00am to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Not required**

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](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

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

Cost: FREE

### Sunday 2 November

**Storytime with Barney (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Come and join us and Barney for a story about the barnacle geese. Find out what they get up to in the Arctic and their journey to Dumfries and Galloway. This story will include games and activities.

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

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

Cost: £2 per child

### Sunday 2 November

**What's that goose? (WWT Caerlaverock)**  
**1.00pm to 4.00pm**  
**Booking: Not required**

Join WWT experts to find and identify the geese and other wildfowl wintering at this world renowned wetland reserve.

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

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

Cost: Regular admission fee

### Wednesday 5 November

**Mawbray Banks Scrub Removal (Solway Coast AONB)**  
**10.30am**  
**Booking: Not required**

As part of the management of this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), we will be removing some of the invasive scrub and gorse over the next few months. All tools will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. We also hope to have baked 'tatties' when we burn the brash, so the day may last a little longer!

Contact: Graeme Proude at 016973 33055 or [graeme.proude@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.proude@allerdale.gov.uk)

Meet: Mawbray Yard Car Park off the B5300

Cost: FREE

### Wednesday 5, 19 November

**Off the Beaten Track (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**9.30am to 11.00am**  
**Booking: Essential**

Mersehead has toads, deer, otters, badgers and of course birds! Join our guided walk to see how many different things we can find and how we create homes for nature.

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, half price to members

### Saturday 8 November

**Creative Creatures (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 3.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Come and design your own creature using recycled materials. We will make animals and look at animals to see what makes them different.

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

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

Cost: £2 per child

### Saturday 8 November

**Learn to Digiscope (WWT Caerlaverock)**  
**11.00am to 3.00pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Join digiscoping expert and Caerlaverock senior reserve warden Mike Youdale for a hands-on introduction to digiscoping helping you to get the best shots with your kit.

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

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

Cost: Adult £20

### Sunday 9 November

**Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock)**  
**06.45am to 08.45am**  
**Booking: Not required**

Join the wardens as we 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.

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

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

Cost: Regular admission fee

### Sunday 9 November

**Little Rotters (RSPB Mersehead)**  
**11.00am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

It is autumn again and the woods are full of dead leaves and branches. But eventually it all disappears. Where does it go? We will be tracking down the weird and wonderful living things that keep the woods tidy.

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

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

Cost: £2 per child

### Sunday 9 November

**Wildlife Taster Day: Birds for Beginners (Solway Wetlands Project and RSPB Campfield Marsh)**  
**10.30am to 3.30pm**  
**Booking: Essential**

Join the RSPB and the Solway Wetlands Project for this one day guided bird watching event across RSPB Campfield Marsh Nature Reserve. Please bring binoculars and bird guide books if you have them. Bring a packed lunch and dress for all weathers with a waterproof coat and wellies.

Contact: Solway Wetlands team on 016973 33055 or [info@solwaywetlands.org.uk](mailto:info@solwaywetlands.org.uk)

Meet: RSPB Campfield Marsh, near Bowness-on-Solway, CA7 5AG

Cost: FREE



## Monday 10 November

**Hawthorn and scrub removal  
Wolsty Banks  
(Solway Coast AONB)  
10.00am  
Booking: Not required**

As part of the management of this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), we will be removing some of the invasive scrub and hawthorn over the next few months. Please meet at Wolsty Road End Car Park (opposite the sign for Wolsty) at 10.30am off the B5300. All tools will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch.

Contact: Graeme Proude at 016973 33055 or [graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk)

Meet: Mawbray Yard Car Park off the B5300

Cost: FREE

## Wednesday 12 November

**It's a Dog's Life  
(RSPB Merehead)  
10.00am to 12.00noon  
Booking: Essential**

Responsible dog walkers are always welcome on our reserves! Bring your dog along for a guided walk, and discover how we're creating homes for nature. Leads are essential!

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, half price to members

## Saturday 15 November

**Photography Workshop  
(Solway Wetlands Partnership Scheme)  
10.00am to 4.00pm  
Booking: Essential**

Learn how to set up your camera to capture stunning wildlife photographs. Using the meadows and mosses of the Solway as a backdrop this practical outdoor workshop will be led by photographer Steve Blake. This is the second of two workshops this summer which will teach you the tricks of landscape and wildlife photography.

Contact: Solway Wetlands team on 016973 33055 or [info@solwaywetlands.org.uk](mailto:info@solwaywetlands.org.uk)

Meet: RSPB Campfield Marsh Reserve, CA7 5AG, 1.5 miles west of Bowness-on-Solway

Cost: FREE

## Thursday 20 November

**The Wild Bunch – Monthly Meeting  
(Eastriggs Natural History Group)  
7.00pm to 9.00pm  
Booking: Not required**

The Wild Bunch monthly meeting features "Anyone for Crickets? The Natural History of crickets and grasshoppers" with Mark Pollitt. Entry fee covers refreshments and ticket for the raffle. New members and visitors always welcome.

See [www.wildbunch.org.uk](http://www.wildbunch.org.uk) for further details of this group.

Contact: Peter Russell on [PeterRSL@netscape.net](mailto:PeterRSL@netscape.net)

Meet: Nelson House, Melbourne Avenue, Eastriggs, DG12 6PJ

Cost: £2

## Friday 21 November

**Beach Litter Pick: Allonby  
(Solway Firth AONB)  
10.30am to 12.30pm  
Booking: not required**

Join the AONB Volunteers for a beach litter pick. We will be litter picking towards Dubmill Point. All equipment will be provided, but please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Approximately 2 hours.

Contact: Graeme Proude on 016973 33055 or [graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk)

Meet: Car Park opposite Twentyman's Shop in Allonby

Cost: FREE

## Sunday 23 November

**Walk on the Wildside  
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)  
11.00am to 1.00pm  
Booking: Not required**

Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn how the RSPB is 'Giving Nature a Home'. 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: members £1.50; non-members £3; children free

## Monday 24 November

**Gorse Cutting at Mawbray Banks  
(Solway Coast AONB)  
10.30am  
Booking: Not required**

We will be cutting and removing some of the encroaching gorse on Mawbray Banks SSSI, in order to improve the overall vegetation there. Hopefully, we can work for a few hours, so please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing and footwear.

Contact: Graeme Proude on 016973 33055 or [graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk)

Meet: Car Park at Mawbray Yard (on the beach side of the B5300 in Mawbray village)

Cost: FREE

## Friday 28 November

**Walk through the Solway Coast AONB  
(Solway Coast AONB)  
10.30am  
Booking: Essential**

Join us in a healthy walk before the winter sets in! The walk will be approximately 3 hours, but there is the option of catching the local coastal bus in either direction. Please bring a packed lunch and appropriate clothing and walking gear. All welcome!

Contact: Graeme Proude on 016973 33055 or [graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk)

Meet: Meet at the Car Park at Maryport Promenade

Cost: FREE

## Friday 28 November

**Geese Hamecoming  
(RSPB Ken-Dee Marshes)  
10.00am to 12.00noon  
Booking: Essential**

Join the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work.

Contact: Calum Murray on 01556 670464 or [calum.murray@rspb.org.uk](mailto:calum.murray@rspb.org.uk)

Meet: RSPB Ken-Dee Marshes Reserve, Mains of Duchrae, Castle Douglas

Cost: Adult £4; Child £2; members half price; Family (2 adult 2 child) £10

## Saturday 29 to Sunday 30 November

**Wildlife Photography Weekend Course  
(WWT Caerlaverock)  
All day Saturday and Sunday  
Booking: Essential**

One to one tuition with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons, suitable for beginners to experienced photographers. This course will deal with macro and general subjects. Course fee includes morning/afternoon coffee and lunch on both days.

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

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

Cost: £170

## Sunday 30 November

**Christmas Crafts  
(RSPB Mersehead)  
11.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 4.00pm  
Booking: Essential**

Come and Join us and make some animal themed Christmas crafts including table decoration, tree decorations and Christmas crackers.

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

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

Cost: £2 per child

## Sunday 30 November

**Festive Feathered Friends  
(WWT Caerlaverock)  
12.00noon to 2.00pm  
Booking: Essential**

Come and create Christmas treats for the birds in your garden.

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

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

Cost: Regular admission fee

# DEC

## Sunday 7 December

**Dawn Flight  
(WWT Caerlaverock)**

Details as previous

## Wednesday 10 December

**Off the Beaten Track  
(RSPB Mersehead)**

Details as previous

## Saturday 13 and Wednesday 17 December

**Mulled Wine and Geese  
(RSPB Mersehead)  
1.00pm to 3.00pm  
Booking: Essential**

Join us for a festive walk around the reserve looking at the geese and other wildfowl onsite. Join us after the walk for a glass of mulled wine to celebrate the festive season.

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

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

Cost: £7 for adults, £2.50 for children, half price to members

## Sunday 14 December

**Festive Feathered Friends  
WWT Caerlaverock)**

Details as previous

## Friday 26 December

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

Need a walk after your festivities? Join the warden for a stroll along the shore and get some fresh Wigtownshire air. Spot the residents of our reserve and learn how we can all encourage wildlife in our own wild spaces. Bring binoculars and walking boots/ wellies.

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

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

Cost: members £1; non-members £2

# JAN

## Thursday 1 January

**New Year Walk  
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)  
2.00pm to 4.00pm  
Booking: Not required**

Need a walk after your festivities join the warden for a stroll along the shore and get some fresh Wigtownshire air. Bring binoculars and walking boots/wellies.

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

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

Cost: Members £1.50; non-members £3.00; children free

## Thursday 1 January

**New Year's Day Bird Race  
(WWT Caerlaverock)  
10.00am to 5.00pm  
Booking: to required**

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

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

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

Cost: Regular admission fee





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  
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