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Issue 45 Winter 2016

newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



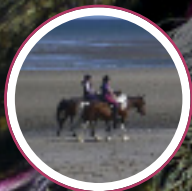
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Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCM



In the last Chair's column, I highlighted EU funding packages such as EMFF and LEADER. Whilst these currently remain available the decision in June that the UK should leave the EU has raised uncertainties with respect to future funding strategies. Though not solely dependent on EU funding, over the years Solway Firth Partnership has benefitted from numerous EU grants to support the successful completion of a variety of projects as well as employ members of staff. Indeed, by way of examples, the Solway Coastwise project which has just begun is partly supported by LEADER funding whilst Out of the Blue, completed last year, was almost fully funded from the EU fisheries fund. Though established for economic reasons, environmental issues evolved within the EU include those relating to air and water pollution, habitats loss and climate change. Many environmental laws in the UK together with strategies concerning sustainable development stem from the EU environmental programme which is the largest in the world and generally seen as a major success. It is important that once the UK departs from the EU, the environment continues to receive at least the same levels of support and attention from Government that there has been in recent years in order that organisations such as SFP may continue to deliver for local communities in line with its key strategy. Change generally brings with it challenges but also creates opportunities. As we move forwards it is important that the SFP continues to strive to meet its aims and objectives, a process that will involve seeking alternative sources of financial support. To facilitate this, it is imperative that Government implements measures which will match any

potential funding that SFP might have received from EU regional development programmes or fisheries funds.

During the summer, a number of staffing changes took place beginning in June when Pam Taylor took up a new position with Dumfries & Galloway Council. Pam began with SFP in 2005 and her main role for a number of years was as Partnership Manager. More recently, Pam took on the Project Coordinator role culminating in the successful completion of the well-received Out of the Blue Project. We thank Pam for her contributions to the Partnership and wish her all the best in her new role.

Joining the Team in August were Nic Coombey and Morag Walker. Nic is no stranger to the Partnership having been involved in a number of projects and most recently as Coastal Ranger on Making the Most of the Coast, which was successfully completed in 2014. Nic will fulfil the new role of Project Coordinator for the Solway Coastwise project and will be assisted by Morag. Morag is also well known locally for her environmental contributions and amongst other activities, for organising the Dumfries and Galloway Environment Fair. Another newcomer is Emma Baruah who also took up post in August as the EU funded SIMCelt Project Officer. The Solway Firth is being highlighted as a case study as part of this Celtic Seas project to look at cross-border governance.

We welcome Nic, Morag and Emma to the Team.

Finally, the next SFP conference will take place in Gretna on the 25 November 2016 and will be held jointly with the Solway Coast AONB. Featuring talks on marine planning, energy and marine biodiversity the conference's guest speaker will be top presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff.

Torrs Point, Kirkcudbright



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Nelson's Grave

Many walkers on the popular coastal path between Rockcliffe and Sandyhills are puzzled by the small walled enclosure containing a gravestone, just north of Castlehill Point.



Nelson's Grave on the path to Castlehill Point



Creating Solway Stories at Nelson's grave

The lettering on the stone has now become so weathered it is almost unreadable and so the history of the site remains a mystery to many passing visitors. The local Community Council are keen to share their knowledge of the site and are undertaking a project to improve this historic feature, funded through the Robin Rigg Windfarm Community Benefits monies, and support from the National Scenic Area programme, Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The grave marks the final resting place of Joseph Nelson of Whitehaven, who was on board a vessel wrecked at the mouth of the River Urr in January 1791. It is believed he was a crew member of *The Ann*, a brig registered on the Isle of Man, and although no one survived the accident Joseph Nelson's body was washed ashore six months later. His body was buried where it was found and where later his widow laid the gravestone.

This stretch of the Solway coast, part of the East Stewartry Coast National Scenic Area, is known locally as the Secret Coast due to its many hidden coves, secluded beaches and rocky caves. The proximity to the Isle of Man, which was free of taxation, made it a notorious area for smuggling in the 1700s. By the early 1800s, with import duties reduced, smuggling activity had almost stopped, however tales of the 'free trade' became romanticised and still provide great reading. 50 years after his death the fate of Joseph Nelson, and his lonely sailors' grave, inspired a long poem which was published in the Handbook of the United Parishes of Colvend and Southwick (1873).

Nelson's Gravestone



The stone reads:

In memory of Joseph Nelson who was lost on his passage from Whitehaven 2nd January 1791 and was buried here July 20 following. Aged 59 years. This stone is erected by his widow Ann Nelson in Whitehaven.

Colvend Primary School Children
Explore Colvend Parish Church



Headstone designed for the booklet

*Of all the men who sailed that ship,
The sea gave up but one,
When six months thence his bones were found
A-bleaching in the sun.
A bold free-trader known for years,
Joe Nelson named was he;
And they made his grave by the rock-grit wave,
Where he died on the raging sea.*

*They laid him not in the old kirkyard,
Where the peaceful landsmen lie,
But laid him on the craggy steep,
Where the sea-birds whirr and cry.*

The gravestone has recently inspired children from Colvend School, who were involved in a project to raise awareness about this historic feature and the maritime heritage of the area. A trip to examine the mariners' headstones at Colvend Parish Church revealed to them the extent of travel and trade in the 19th Century, and the perils of a life at sea. Back in class they wrote some wonderful Solway Stories, many featuring nail biting accounts of smuggling escapades. Most of the characters, like Joseph Nelson, came to an untimely end and they each designed a headstone connected to their stories which were collated into a leaflet.

The dry stone wall around the grave has now been rebuilt, with a small panel placed alongside the enclosure informing passers-by about Joseph Nelson. The work has been organised by Colvend and Southwick Community Council with financial assistance from E-ON and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Anna Johnson
National Scenic Area Officer

Poem extracts from: Handbook of the United Parishes of Colvend and Southwick by WR McDiarmid.



Cuning Hill, Solway Coast AONB

Join the Solway Coast AONB Community Volunteer Group



AONB annual BBQ

Over the years as Ranger / Volunteer Coordinator, I have had the privilege of working alongside the Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group, a dedicated group of people who assist the AONB team with the management of dune systems and reserves on the English side of the Solway Coast, stretching between Silloth and Maryport.

Volunteers also assist the Solway Wetlands Partnership in managing wetland areas such as Bowness Common National Nature Reserve, Campfield Marsh RSPB Reserve as well

as land owned by Natural England. Not to mention getting involved in a variety of projects such as beach litter picks, maintaining footpaths, grassland management, gorse cutting and burning. We also carry out lots of survey work involving birds, bats, moths and butterflies; and have a dedicated group of people responsible for annual monitoring of various Natterjack toad sites as well as creating pond scrapes. And we cannot forget our group of ladies from Causeway Head Women's Institute who look after the garden at the Solway Coast Discovery Centre who



Volunteer students and
Causwayhead WI group



AONB volunteers at
Annual BBQ

have recently been recognised for their work with a Cumbria in Bloom award.

Volunteers come from all walks of life; we have paramedics, vets, zoologists, vicars, nurses, and joiners - all people who commit their spare time to maintaining and enhancing our amazing coast. With numerous important designated sites along the Solway Coast, we have to liaise with many landowners, Local Authorities and Parish Councils. We also encourage community groups, schools and colleges from far and wide to get involved.

It's not all work though, as we have a number of BBQs each year as well as a social evening usually around the festive season. These are a chance for us all to let our hair down, have a lot of fun and

get to know each other better. Over the years I have had the privilege of watching groups of people gel and create friendships that last forever. That should be encouragement enough to get involved.

Our work in the Solway Coast AONB could not continue without our team of warriors who battle through all weathers to help us manage this beautiful area of Britain.

If you would like to get involved and become part of our volunteer group contact the AONB Offices in Silloth on 01697 333055 or info@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk

Graeme Proud
Solway Coast AONB Ranger /
Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers working on a new natterjack scrape pond



Dr Brian Irving receiving his award

Solway Coast AONB Manager receives award

At the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) this year, Dr Brian Irving MBE was delighted to receive a special award. The award is for an individual recognised as having given long and exceptional services to AONBs. Brian was nominated and all nominations went through a judging panel. The Award was presented by the Chairman of the Board of the NAAONB.

Brian said "I was one of the founders of the NAAONBs in 2001 and was extremely active in its development from 1998 to 2004. Since then I have supported it and underpinned its broad range of outputs.

I am naturally honoured to get the award - any award which celebrates your long term commitment and successes is naturally precious. But these things are never achieved in isolation from others. My various staff members over the past 20 years have certainly provided their contributions to the success of Solway Coast AONB. So it is also on their behalf that the honour is received and accepted. The award also highlights achievement for Allerdale Borough Council, without them and their continued support the Solway Coast AONB would be a far less attractive place to live, work and visit."



The Clay Dabbin at various stages during construction

Clay Dabbin Makes a Comeback



The Solway is home to a unique earth built local architecture called the Clay Dabbin. This summer the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership engaged in an exciting project to build the first new clay dabbin for over 150 years, learning more about this distinctive building technique and raising awareness of these buildings.

The clay dabbin was once the predominant building style of the Solway on both the English and Scottish sides. While it is thought that around 300 buildings are still standing on the English side there is only one remaining in Scotland. However, the clay dabbins are at risk, with around ten buildings a year being lost, in part due to inappropriate maintenance including the use of modern building materials in repairs.

The Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership dabbin has been constructed at the RSPB Campfield Reserve, Bowness-on-Solway. This adds to the many things to see and do on the new Discovery Field at the reserve.

The clay dabbin building technique has developed out of the distinct historical challenges of building on the Solway. The Solway Plain offers very little in the way of stone or trees, however we do have an abundance of glacial clay ... and rain! The dabbin technique differs from other clay building techniques found across the UK, for instance the cob buildings of the South West, in that it uses shallow lifts of clay (approx. 10cm) separated by a thin layer of straw enabling a continuous building process without the need for an extended period of drying between lifts. Cob buildings have lifts of over half a meter, each of which may require up to two weeks of drying before a further lift is applied. Heavy rainfall on the Solway makes this technique a washout!

The clay builder's saying is that a long lasting building requires a "good pair of boots and wide brimmed hat." The first stage of building is to build a drystone wall plinth onto which the clay walls will sit; the good pair of boots. The clay walls are constructed using the dabbin technique with clay, straw, sand and



water being mixed and then forked onto the walls; it is a heavy, dirty but really satisfying job as the walls steadily increase in height. Our five metres by four metres building has used around 200 tonnes of clay. Finally, the roof structure sits on top of the clay walls. We have built a green oak roof frame topped with heather thatch; the wide brimmed hat.

Hundreds of people have been involved in the clay dabbins build from school children helping with the walls and local people joining in workshops at each stage of the build to hosting the Earth Building UK and Ireland "Clayfest" conference, which saw clay builders from all over the world helping out.

The building is now almost complete. Half of the roof is thatched, we will shortly be applying the earth and lime render inside and outside and with the addition of a door and window it will be finished. The building will house an exhibition telling the story of the build and what has been learned, the history and significance of the Solway dabbins and information about caring for the remaining dabbins through good maintenance techniques.

For more information see www.solwaywetlands.org.uk or contact info@solwaywetlands.org.uk



Community heritage drop in day

Remembering the Solway

As part of the Heritage Lottery funded Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership, the Solway Coast AONB is working on an exciting community history project, *Remembering the Solway*. The main aim of this project is to capture and record the memories of local people about life on the Solway over the years and to create a lasting oral history archive for the future.

We started the project in 2015 by talking to some key local people keen to see the project develop. We then employed a local community history practitioner, Susan Child, to develop the project and train up the volunteers. We procured some recording equipment, recruited and trained a group of great volunteers and started identifying and recording interviewees.

The project is going from strength to strength, with over 20 people interviewed, and a list of at least

another 20 still to interview. With the volunteers, we identified several key themes:

- The Solway Mosses (peat bogs)
- The railways
- Childhood
- Farming and livelihood
- Pastimes

Many of the interviews will eventually be available on the web and we will be producing a booklet and holding a celebration event. The recordings will be archived at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle and will form part of their social history collection. We will soon start to make a short film featuring the recordings and some of the places talked about in the interviews.

For more information about the project, contact Naomi Hewitt, Solway Coast AONB Assistant Manager by email at naomi.hewitt@allerdale.gov.uk or by telephone on 016973 33055.



Malcolm getting to grips with the technology



Volunteers being trained to use recording equipment



Left to right: Trumpet tubeworm, *Ficopotamus enigmaticus*, creates thick reefs that cause huge fouling problems on vessel hulls (Cumbria; Rapid Assessment Survey used for INNS in marinas across NW England; Trumpet tubeworm, *Ficopotamus enigmaticus*)

Marine Aliens Still Spreading in the Solway!

The introduction of invasive and non-native species (INNS) beyond their natural range is well documented throughout the world. Virtually all introductions have occurred (intentionally or accidentally) with the help of humans, including well known cases such as American mink, *Neovision vison* escaping from fur farms, or Japanese rose, *Rosa rugosa* being introduced to beautify our gardens.

The biology of invasive species has subsequently become an advanced science in its own right. However, until relatively recently, most research has focused on terrestrial species, despite the fact that marine INNS are spreading across our seas at an alarming rate.

Fouling invertebrates such as sea squirts, barnacles and molluscs dominate the marine INNS line-up, as they can be accidentally transported around the world on ship hulls, or in ballast water as planktonic larvae. Ports and harbours act as perfect stepping stones as creatures hop from boat to pontoon to boat, and so the spread continues. Typically, only the toughest and most adaptable species can survive and persist in new

environments, and so they dominate. Once established in an ecosystem, INNS frequently out-compete their native counterparts, posing a serious threat to local biodiversity.

In my role as Marine and Coastal Conservation Officer Trainee with the North West Wildlife Trusts, I have been monitoring the spread of these beasties throughout Lancashire and Cumbria. We have surveyed marina pontoons across the region, and also deployed settlement panels (squares of plastic) within the same marinas to see what grows on them. These panels will give an indication of which non-native species are currently reproducing and therefore spreading.

So far the surveys have identified around a dozen marine INNS, but unfortunately we may find more yet. Some species have spread to locations where they have not been recorded previously, showing that the invasion continues. I am currently processing the last of our specimens in the lab. When I finish, the findings will be submitted to Natural England, and ultimately the data should help inform management plans. Let's hope it's not too late!

Hayden Hurst

Left: Leathery sea squirt, *Styela clava*
Right: Identifying INNS growing on pontoons, Lancashire NW England; Orange cloak sea squirt, *Botrylloides violaceus* a non-native colonial ascidian growing on a rope - South of Solway (Lancashire)





Stranraer Marina



Identifying seaweeds, Stranraer marina

Marine INNS have also been identified on the Scottish side of the Solway in recent years. Most notable has been the Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, several of which have been found along the rocky Stewartry coast. However, Common cord grass, *Spartina anglica*; Japanese wireweed, *Sargassum muticum*; Darwin barnacle, *Elminius modestus* and Green sea fingers, *Codium fragile* have also been recorded over the last few years in or near our waters and may be spreading.

Reflecting the work being carried out by the North West Wildlife Trusts, Solway Firth Partnership also deployed settlement panels this spring / summer within Stranraer Marina and Harbour to see if any marine INNS could be recorded. After immersion for 10 weeks the panels were assessed individually for species present and percentage cover. Despite evidence that there are several INNS present in Stranraer marina, only Darwin's barnacle, *Elminius modestus* was found attached to three of the panels in clusters of up to 50 individuals.

To ensure a full assessment of the marina this work was followed up with a full site survey including a thorough examination of the underside of pontoons and buoys. This proved valuable with more species being discovered. As expected, Japanese wireweed and Green sea fingers were both recorded but the most interesting find was two colonies of Japanese skeleton shrimp, *Caprella mutica*, on the submerged underside of buoys. This is a very aggressive skeleton shrimp originally from NE Asia which can clog equipment and nets and out-compete native species. It had been recorded previously from the marina but the survey showed that this tiny predator has become established here. It demonstrates the importance of all boat users following the Check-Clean-Dry campaign to try and stop the spread of aquatic invaders.

Visit the Solway Firth Partnership website for more information on the survey and to learn more about the Check-Clean-Dry campaign - www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/invasive-non-native-species

Japanese skeleton shrimp, *Caprella mutica*, growing on submerged buoys





What's in a name?

The dramatic coastline of Dumfries and Galloway will be put under the spotlight with the launch of Solway Coastwise. This is an initiative developed by Solway Firth Partnership, in order to show how coastal place names are an important component of our cultural heritage. As well as helping us find our way in the world, place names provide clues about the people who lived there in the past and continue to use the coast today, as well as its environment, history, and geography.

The three-year Solway Coastwise project will begin by collecting names recorded on 19th century maps, along with those held within our current oral tradition. We then plan to discover and reveal the meaning of names used for coastal places, from rocky cliffs and caves to sandy bays and muddy creeks. By taking a closer look at the cultural

heritage of the shoreline we hope to add to our awareness and appreciation of the Dumfries and Galloway coast.

The edge, where the land meets the sea, is always changing. This is reflected by both the names on maps, and those used by local people. Some names have ancient origins, whilst others are a modern phenomenon. Our shoreline has an extraordinary range of landmarks which have been christened and shared by those who know the area. Names, usually only using one or two words, provide a unique identity. Although full of meaning, the significance of these has often been lost in the mists of time. Sometimes, it is the names themselves which have been forgotten, only to be replaced by another, more relevant name. We hope that by discovering the origins of place names and the stories behind them we

will help reveal a broad social interest in the Solway coast promoting the value of this precious landscape and strengthening regional identity.

All names begin as a way of describing a place to another person or group of people. As time passes, this name is accepted, and then adopted as a term for a particular location. Some place names may have existed for thousands of years and are regarded as a definitive name, whilst others may be more exclusive, perhaps used to identify a picnic site within only one family or group of friends. A name may have been used by generations of sailors to identify a safe haven or have been recently coined by fishermen in an angling club to locate a good fishing mark.

Place names may have been inspired by a whole range of factors, such as the occurrence of notable wildlife or a



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Dumfries
& Galloway





Needles Eye near Sandyhills

particular industrial use from the past such as salt making, whilst others are named after a significant person or remarkable event like a ship wreck.

The project includes a newly appointed Coastal Coordinator and Assistant. They will help individuals, communities and businesses to get involved through a range of workshops, talks, visits and resources.

If you would like to be involved or can help identify place names and the stories behind them please contact Solway Firth Partnership.

E-mail: coastwise@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk Tel: 01387 702363

Funding for Solway Coastwise is provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Government and the European Union – LEADER 2014-2020 programme and Dumfries & Galloway Council.



Castle Douglas High School Enterprise Team with Solway Coastwise Coordinator, Nic Coombe

Coast to home enterprise

The beauty of the Solway seashore will be the inspiration for Castle Douglas High School S6 Young Enterprise Company. Re-using material scavenged from the strandline the team is working together to create a distinctive seaside themed product.

Castle Douglas High School has great ambitions to once again reach the Scottish finals of the Young Enterprise Competition, by developing a covetable product that will appeal to the buying public as well as impress the judges at the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Stage in March 2017.

Megan Forsyth, the Managing Director who leads the Company,

says “everyone knows that we have fantastic beaches and we aim to remind people of their seaside experiences by bringing coastal styling to their home”.

The 17 strong Young Enterprise Company is working on their design and is expecting to be in production and marketing their product well before Christmas. The task will be to sell to a wide audience starting with a stall at the school and local markets to raise funds for charity.

The competition is run by Young Enterprise Scotland which works to inspire and equip young people to learn and succeed through enterprise in Scotland.

Find out more on Facebook @CoastoHome



Whelk shell on Cardoness beach



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



The Scottish
Government



Johnnie Logie's cave

Johnnie Logie - miner, hermit and cave-dweller

Johnnie Logie's is a place name on the Monreith shore that has entered our oral tradition, but does not appear on any map. As part of the Coastwise project we are keen to discover the names you use for places on our amazing coastline. Occasionally, names fall out of use and have been replaced by a different name that is more relevant for the time and place.

Johnnie Logie worked as a miner, however during the 1920s he suffered an underground accident, which left him permanently deaf and blind in one eye. He left the village of Sorn in Ayrshire and tramped down the coast, eventually to set up home in a cave on the east side of Luce Bay, near Monreith.

The cave he selected to live in had been known as Sheep Cave. It was described by the Ordnance Survey surveyor in 1848 as 'a pretty large cave extending a considerable distance underground. In it cattle and particularly sheep take refuge'.

Johnnie Logie claimed to have found the perfect way to live.

For 35 years he led a life of solitude on the windswept shore. He used timbers washed up on the strandline to build and warm his home. Only twice during this time did he leave his cave, and then only to seek medical help. In 1958 Johnnie left his bunk to spend several weeks in Newton Stewart hospital, recovering from pneumonia. However, he returned to live in the cave again until 1961, when he finally abandoned the cave, giving up his simple life as a hermit to move in with relatives in Ayrshire. Johnnie died the following year aged 72.

There are numerous caves on the coast of Dumfries & Galloway where there is archaeological evidence of habitation. Several bear the name of a person who lived or sheltered within the cave.

If you know of any caves with a special story please contact the Solway Coastwise Team at Solway Firth Partnership.

E-mail: coastwise@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Tel: 01387 702363



Group of Wind Turbines on Cumbrian Coast & Riders on Sandhead Beach



The SIMCelt Project Starts

Supporting Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Celtic Seas (SIMCelt Project)

The Solway Firth Partnership appointed Emma Baruah to the post of SIMCelt Project Officer in August 2016. The SIMCelt Project which runs to December 2017 is funded by the European Union and aims to support the implementation of maritime spatial planning. The outputs from SIMCelt will be key to the introduction of the new EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning.

The project will be a joint collaboration between organisations within the UK, France and Ireland. Cross-border marine planning will be introduced and launched between Member-States of the EU within the North-eastern Atlantic. The Project will do this by including a number of themes and specific case studies designed to:

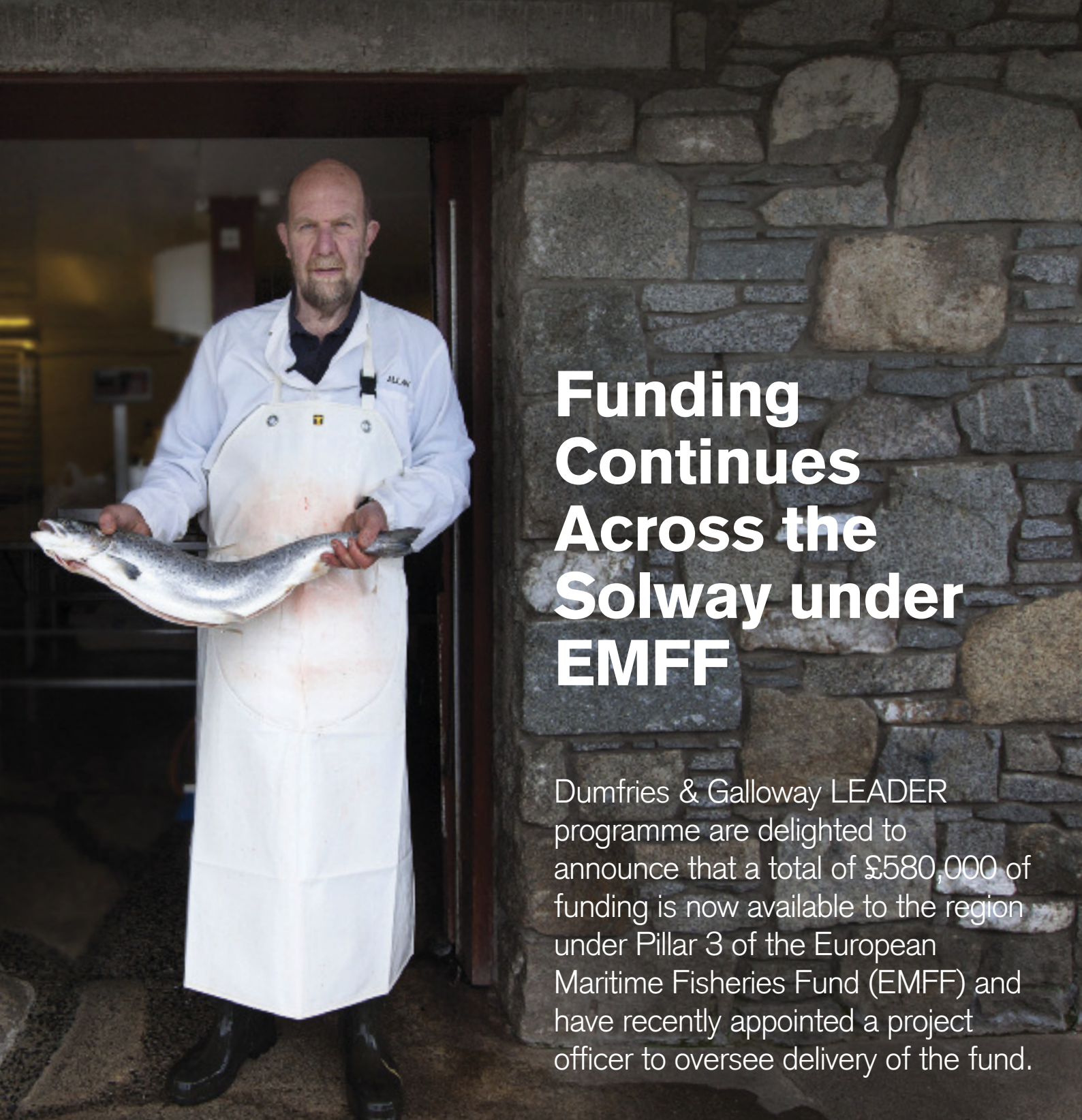
- Assess current and future potential demands
- Look at transboundary areas and issues
- Explore potential impact and interaction of maritime sectoral activities and analysis of marine conservation demands across marine area boundaries
- Assess data-specific barriers
- Increase data access and opportunities for sharing
- Develop and test stakeholder engagement within the marine planning process
- Consider potential options for transboundary cooperation in preparing maritime spatial plans

Transboundary planning in the Solway Firth will be a key case study for the Project. This is because the Solway is a unique single marine ecosystem that is governed by both Scottish and English marine legislation, with a lateral border division through the middle. To the north of the England/Scotland border, the Solway is governed by the Marine Scotland Act 2010, which requires the development of Scotland's National Marine Plan 2015. To the south of the border, the coast forms part of the English Marine Management Organisation's Northwest Marine Planning Area.

Identifying opportunities and challenges that may arise during the project will be crucial to implementing the EU Directive. This is because marine planning must seamlessly cover geographic borders. Ecosystems, including interests such as fish stocks, do not stay within defined borders on a map. Collaborative marine planning is good practice and will also help to achieve the target of having Good Environmental Status in UK Seas. Both Scotland and England must follow the overarching UK Marine Policy Statement 2011, which requires coordinated marine planning across administrative boundaries.

The Solway Firth Partnership will facilitate the delivery of the Solway case study for the SIMCelt Project by building upon its established cross-border relationships with organisations relevant to marine and coastal management. New connections will be made with a wide range of stakeholders across both the Scottish and English borders to aid in this long-term marine planning collaboration.

For more information on the SIMCelt Project visit the website <http://simcelt.eu/> or contact Emma on info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk



Funding Continues Across the Solway under EMFF

Dumfries & Galloway LEADER programme are delighted to announce that a total of £580,000 of funding is now available to the region under Pillar 3 of the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and have recently appointed a project officer to oversee delivery of the fund.

Galloway Smokehouse: The Galloway Smokehouse received funding under the previous EFF to setup a café style eatery using locally sourced materials. The project has proven to be a great success and has resulted in the employment of 7 full time jobs.

The EMFF is the fund to deliver the objectives of the European Union's Marine Fisheries Policy and Integral Maritime Policy. The fund has been structured around 4 Pillars which aim to help the fishing industry become more sustainable and to remain profitable.

Pillar 3 funding aims to support local fisheries communities develop more sustainable futures, assist them to diversify to other sectors of the marine economy and support projects which add more value to fishing, and fishing related activities.

The revised Pillar 3 EMFF has a much greater focus on economic development and job creation than the previous

European Fisheries Fund. Funding is available for up to 50% of project cost, with total public funding capped at 50%. There is currently no upper limit an applicant can request, although there is a minimum threshold of £3,000.

Dumfries and Galloway's Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) is responsible for reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations to Marine Scotland. The FLAG is a balanced group comprising a mix of fishing industry community and agency representatives.

The FLAG will review applications against priorities outlined in Dumfries and Galloway's Local Development Strategy



Smoking salmon at Galloway Smokehouse

(LDS) which was commissioned in partnership by the FLAG and the regions Local Action Group (LAG) to quantify the socio-economic challenges which face the region. With regards to inshore fisheries the LDS was informed by the South West Fisheries Group, which identified the following priorities for the region:

1. Activities to support the opening of new and/or closed fisheries, including the collection of baseline information.
2. Improved data collection and management information.
3. Fisheries Management Measures.
4. Conflicting resolution mechanisms e.g. codes of conduct.
5. Economic activities e.g. marketing, labelling, sustainable fisheries accreditation and measures to support fisheries diversification.

The FLAG group will ensure that these priorities are addressed through reviewing applications to Pillar 3 of the EMFF.

The deadline for the next round of Expressions of Interest is the 4th of December. For more information on how to apply for funding, or to request an Expression of Interest form, please contact the LEADER team's EMFF Development Officer: Rowan Lloyd, email: Rowan.Lloyd@dumgal.gov.uk

Kippford pontoon: Kippford pontoon was sponsored through the previous EFF project. The pontoon was opened in September 2014, and the facility has proven popular with locals and visitors alike.



Tidelines



Whitehaven Harbour

In Cumbria the EMFF is managed and delivered through the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) rather than a local FLAG.

The EMFF scheme in England opened for applications in January 2016 with a budget of €92.1million. The aims of the EMFF are structured around 6 priorities:-

- Promoting sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based fisheries
- Fostering sustainable, resource efficient, innovative, competitive and knowledge based aquaculture
- Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policies
- Increasing employment and territorial cohesion
- Fostering marketing and processing
- Fostering the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy

Each of the priorities has several specific objectives, all of which are supported by specific measures. In addition, funding rates are different for each type of project and so the relevant guidance notes for the proposed project type need to be referred to for more advice.

For more information contact the European Grants Team on 0208 026 5539 or emff.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

marinescotland



Great British Beach Clean 2016

From the Beach to Parliament - you have all made a difference!

From the 16 - 19 September hundreds of incredible volunteers headed out to beaches across Scotland to take part in this year's Great British Beach Clean. Last year Scotland hosted 75 events which gathered and submitted beach litter data. With over 100 events registered online before this year's weekend kicked off, we are hoping 2016 will be another record breaking year!

Beachwatch is the Marine Conservation Society's UK-wide beach cleaning and litter surveying programme and runs the Great British Beach Clean as the flagship event. Our fantastic volunteer Organisers choose a 100m stretch of their local beach and up to four times a year clean and survey all the litter from the high tide mark up to the back of the beach. This data is then used to shape our Pollution campaigns such as our successful call for a carrier bag charge and the recent Microbead ban; which all aim to stop different types of litter from ever reaching the sea in the first place.

Last year in Scotland we found almost 80 bottles per kilometre marking a 21% increase on 2014. We have then used this data together with The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) and others to support the 'Have You Got The Bottle Campaign'. This campaign is using our Beachwatch data to push the Scottish Government to establish a Deposit Return System (DRS) which will increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of bottles and cans on our beaches and in our seas.

The other Pollution campaign running on the back of Beachwatch data is Wet Wipes Turn Nasty! What many people don't realise is that anything we flush down the toilet has the potential to still end up in our seas and on our beaches. Therefore we can all help by only flushing the three P's – Pee, Poo and Paper! Or as I was corrected by a pupil – we should allow the four P's and include Puke!



However retailers and producers are confusing the game by advertising 'flushable' wipes which has led to our petition calling for clearer labelling – you can join the fight back and sign our petition at www.wetwipesturnnasty.com

Great British Beach Clean events are fantastic ways to get everyone out onto the beach to not only tackle the problem that they can see at their feet, but to also contribute to tackling litter right back at its source through the data collected. Not only did we have schools, community councils, boat clubs, rangers, scouts and guides take part but MSPs up and down the country headed out to their local beaches too. By the end

of the long weekend we had two Parliamentary Motions tabled by attending MSPs recognising what amazing work MCS volunteers were doing and how important the data they were collecting was to them and their work.

So from the beach to Parliament I want to thank everyone who took part in this years Great British Beach Clean and watch this space for the 2016 results – lets see what we can achieve together in 2017!

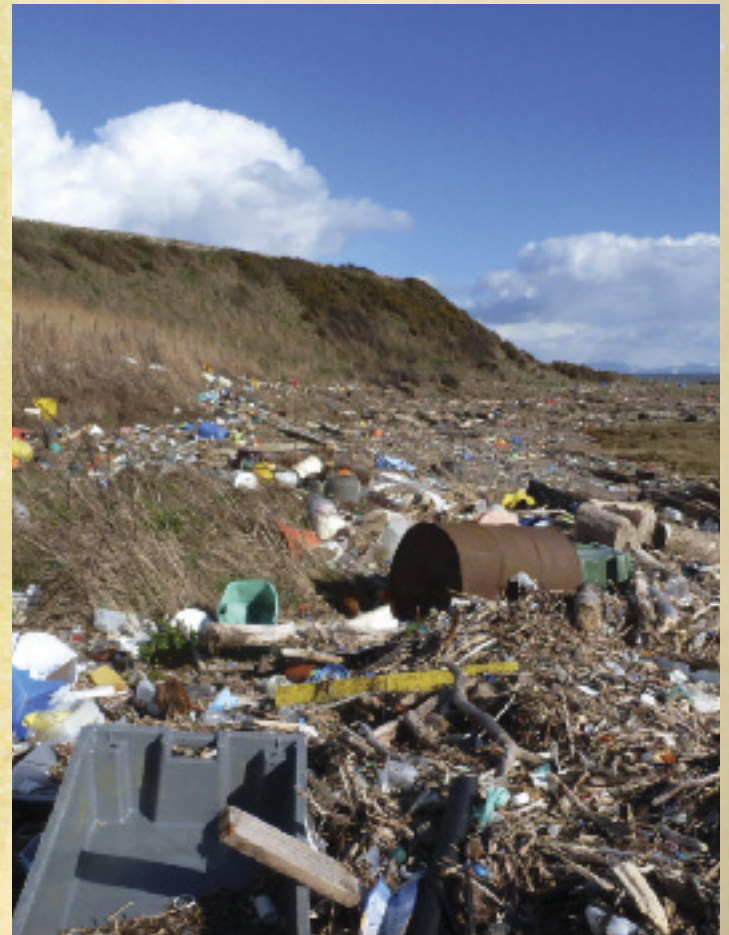
For more information and to sign up to take part please go to www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch. Contact: Catherine Gemmell: catherine.gemmell@mcsuk.org

Plastic Beach at Barlocco Bay



Carrick Beach Clean

Local Primary Schools have taken part in the Great British Beach Clean over the last three years. The School Eco Groups from Gatehouse and Twynholm went down to Carrick beach for one of their regular clean ups in 2016. Altogether the children picked up 948 pieces of rubbish.





Stripping the fish to collect eggs & night time fishing for Sparling on the River Cree



Smelt or sparring on the River Cree

Smelt in the Solway

You rise before dawn, just as the tide is turning. By the time you have made it to the shore, the water has started to ebb away and you are ready to catch some salmon. You check your net—a large rectangular frame spanned with netting and a long central leg with which you manoeuvre the whole thing—and move into position, chest deep in the running water. Positioning the net in front, you wait for the tell-tale pull of a fish colliding with your gear. When you feel it, you tighten your grip on the leg and heave the net up, straining against the weight of water and fish. Your anticipation rises as the frame clears the water, bringing the net dripping behind it, but instead of a single fat salmon, you see a collection of smaller silver fish, touched with hints of iridescent pink and green. They slip through the net, leaving you with only the incongruous smell of cucumber.

The fish responsible for that cucumber smell are European smelt, *Osmerus eperlanus*, known as sparring in Scotland, and experiences such as this led to the species being considered a nuisance fish by haaf net fishermen in times when that fishery was extensive in the Solway Firth. Both haaf netting and smelt appear to be much rarer now. More than just a nuisance, smelt are something of an enigmatic fish.

A distant cousin of the Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*, they were once fished commercially in a number of fisheries in the UK, but little of this activity remains today and the populations of smelt seem to have declined as well. Once found in most of the rivers of the Solway Firth, the River Cree hosts the best studied remaining spawning population of smelt in the area. Like salmon, smelt are anadromous. That means they spawn

in freshwater but spend a significant portion of their lives feeding at sea. Unlike salmon, you're unlikely to see smelt leaping up rapids to spawn in high burns and becks, for they have a reputation as weak or lazy swimmers, instead preferring to spawn en-masse in the first bit of suitable stony ground once they reach freshwater. This tendency means that, once spawning grounds have been located, they can be relatively easily studied. Assuming you can time your efforts to coincide with the few dark nights (for these things always happen at night) on spring tides that they run all the way up to their spawning grounds. The River Cree rare fish project, which was run by the Galloway Fisheries Trust, achieved this and was able to retrieve eggs from spawning smelt for translocation into the water of Fleet. In doing so, the future of smelt in the Solway Firth may have been made a little brighter. Returning the species to its former range will provide resilience to any single river impacts to which the population may be subjected. A further boon to the species could come from the English side of the Solway Firth, in the form of a Marine Conservation Zone recommendation. Originally recommended by the Irish Sea Conservation Zones regional stakeholder group in 2011, this site, were it to be designated in the final tranche of MCZ designations, would provide protection for smelt in the Solway Firth. This little known fish could once again find its way back into some of the rivers it formerly occupied, although as a part of the rich natural heritage of the Solway Firth, rather than a nuisance!

Laurence Browning, Marine Advisor, Natural England

Accounts to March 2016

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.*

Our accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2016 show an income of £200,964 of Restricted and Unrestricted funds (£256,611 in the previous financial year) giving us a deficit of £9,873 in our Unrestricted funds (draft until signed at AGM). A healthy Unrestricted Reserve of £47,200 is carried forward into the next financial year.

Several projects, including Out of the Blue, Loch Ryan improvements and Bringing Burns Back to the Brow Well, ran throughout this financial year, bringing in additional grants. The exhibition on heritage fisheries continued its tour of local libraries, work was completed around Loch Ryan included production of a WW2 themed booklet and launch of the renovated lookout post at the Wig (west Loch Ryan), and the

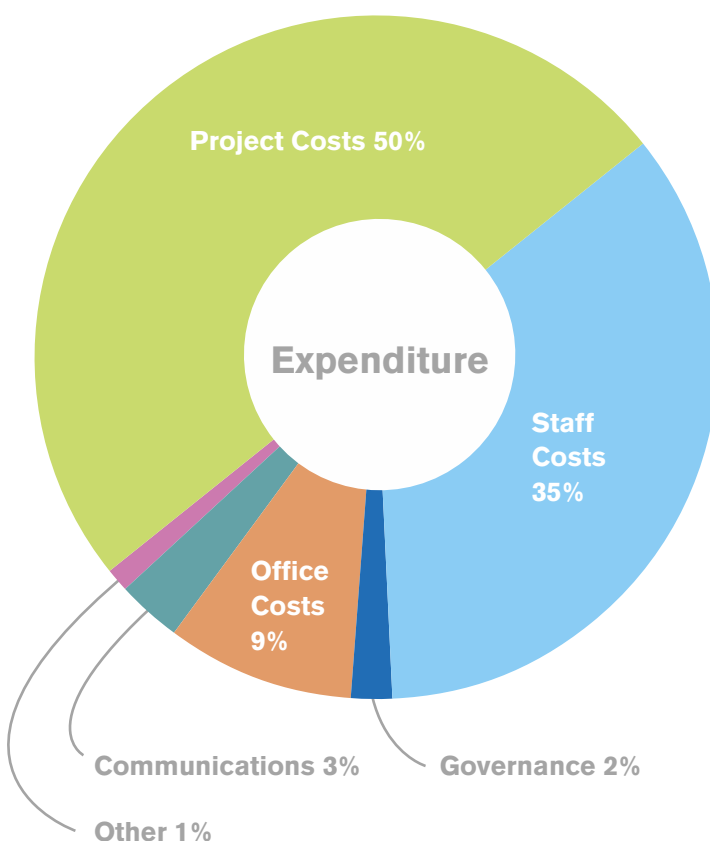
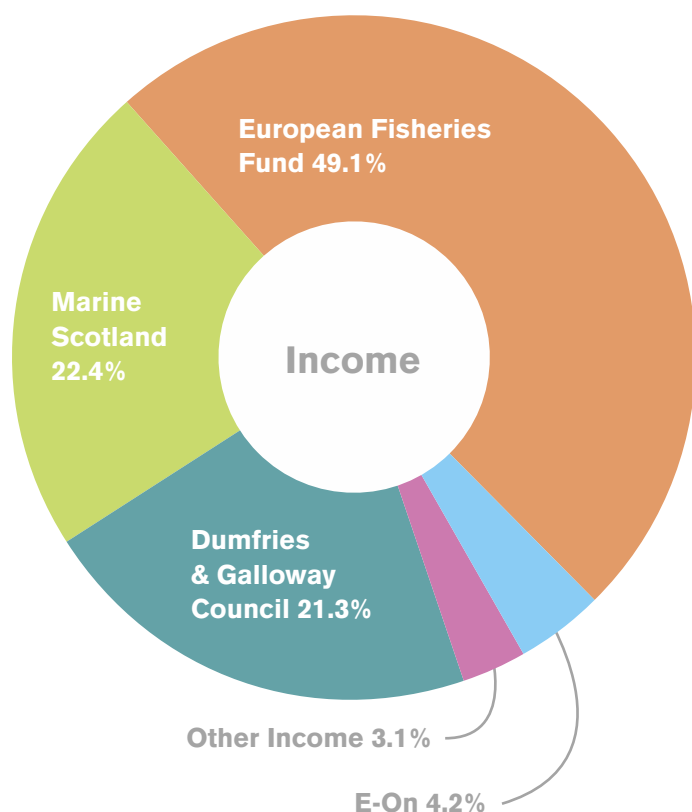
Brow Well was upgraded and interpretation installed in time for the annual Robert Burns Memorial Service. Our thanks go to the staff team who have worked hard to make the projects a success during the year.

We are very grateful to all the organisations that have provided funding in the last financial year: Marine Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Council, EON, European Fisheries Fund, Natural England, Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council 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. 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 now available on our website: www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

Clair McFarlan: Solway Firth Partnership



Dates for your Diary

November 2016 – February 2017

NOV

Daily throughout November

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am and 2.00pm

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.

Sunday 6 November

In Focus (WWT Caerlaverock) 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

Sunday 13 November

Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock) 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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply,
WWT members free

Wednesday 16 November

Return of the Geese (RSPB Ken Dee Marshes) 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Take a walk through the tranquil Ken-Dee Marshes with an RSPB warden and learn about the wildlife and the society's conservation work. Join the warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn about the wildlife and our ongoing conservation work.

Contact 01988 402130 or
crystal.maw@rspb.org.uk

Meet: Reserve Car Park.

Cost: Child Price: £2 per ticket. Family
Price: £10 per ticket. Full Price: £4 per
ticket

Wednesday 16 November

High Tide Perambulation (RSPB Crook of Baldoon) 12.00noon to 2.00pm

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: Adult members £3; Child members
£1.50; Adult non-members £4; Children
non-members £2

Saturday 19 November

Wild at Night (RSPB Mersehead) 4.30pm to 6pm Booking: Essential

At night, different creatures come out to play. Come along and see if we can spot the owl or the bats in the trees. Bring a torch so you don't get scared.

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

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

Cost: £3 Child, Car parking charges apply
for non-members

Solway Firth Partnership



© Jim Lennon



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Notice is hereby given of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Partnership

To be held Friday 25 November 2016 at
Smiths at Gretna Green Hotel, Gretna Green

This will be followed by the SFP / Solway AONB
Joint conference with guest speaker

Miranda Krestovnikoff

The event is Free but booking is essential as
numbers are limited

Anyone interested in becoming a Member of Solway Firth
Partnership and therefore eligible to vote at the AGM should
contact: The Company Secretary or Partnership Manager on
01387 702161 or e-mail info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP
Scottish Company No: SC250012 Scottish Charity No: SC034376

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.



Rock formation at Kirkandrews



Shell workshop on Kirkandrews Beach

Saturday 19 November

Wildlife Photography for Beginners (WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential

Special beginners workshop with Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. Learn photography techniques to take great photographs of geese and swans at Caerlaverock.

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

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

Cost: £60 per person (includes admission)

Sunday 20 November

Walk with a Warden (WWT Caerlaverock)
1.00pm to 2.00pm
Booking: Essential

Join the warden on a walk around the reserve to see the geese, swans and other wildfowl wintering at this world-renowned wetland reserve.

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

Barnacle Geese



DEC

Daily throughout December

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am and 2.00pm

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.

Sunday 4 December

Dawn Flight (WWT Caerlaverock)
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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

Sunday 4 December

Caerlaverock Christmas Fayre (WWT Caerlaverock)
1.00pm to 4.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

Visit a wide range of festive craft and food stalls. Look out for Santa as he may visit Caerlaverock Wetland Centre too!

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

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

Cost: Free

Saturday 10 December

Wild at Night (RSPB Mersehead)
4.30pm to 6pm
Booking: Essential

At night, different creatures come out to play. Come along and see if we can spot the owl or the bats in the trees. Bring a torch so you don't get scared.

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

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

Cost: £3 Child, Car parking charges apply for non-members

Thursday 15 December

High Tide Perambulation (RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
11.00am to 1.00pm

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: Adult members £3; Child members £1.50; Adult non-members £4; Children non-members £2

JAN

Daily throughout January

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am and 2.00pm

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.

Sunday 1 January

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

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges apply, WWT members free

FEB

Daily throughout February

Wild Swan Feeds (WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am and 2.00pm

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.



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 www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

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Registered office: Campbell House, The Crichton, Dumfries DG1 4UQ

