

tidelines

Issue 48 Spring 2018

newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



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Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCMI



Changes in Board and staff membership have taken place during the period. Steve Hardy, who served as an independent Board member for three years, stood down in the Autumn. We thank Steve for his contributions to the Board. Meanwhile, a welcome is extended to Dr Ann Lackie who joined the Board as an independent member at the AGM in November. Ann, a writer and former research scientist at Glasgow University, runs a smallholding in sight of the Solway in North West Cumbria. Ann guides low-tide shore walks along Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone, for many years she has explored the Firth and its margins and has written about different aspects including tidal power, fishing, saltmarshes, ports and piloting.

Emma Baruah, who recently successfully completed her role in the SIMcelt project, was reappointed in January as project officer for the Solway Marine Information Learning and Environment Project (SMILE). SMILE is being supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) after a successful bid by SFP and will produce a State of the Solway Review essentially updating the Partnership's 1996 Solway Review. The project will employ innovative and traditional communication methods to gather evidence from stakeholders and this will include a series of workshop meetings. The 1996 Review has served to guide SFP's business aims and objectives over the intervening years since first published. However, an update is needed in light of new and increasing demands made on the Firth's resources as well as in the context of marine planning.

Staying with the subject of marine planning, SFP will provide local knowledge and expertise for the three-year Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement Project. The aim is to help identify stakeholders as well as promote and run events including cross-border workshops. So far, SFP has liaised with partners to facilitate a consultant led interview process on marine planning in the

North West for the MMO. In February, SFP assisted the MMO in running the latest stakeholder engagement workshop event for the North West plan area, Iteration 2 Options. The options workshop was held in Whitehaven where SFP provided a co-chair, a facilitator and a stakeholder.

Elsewhere, SFP has begun working with Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) to help to deliver Saving the Sparling Heritage project. The aim is to produce a short film, booklet and simple exhibition that celebrates the natural and cultural significance of sparling on the River Cree and Water of Fleet.

As mentioned, the SMILE project is benefitting from EU funding as have some earlier projects completed by SFP. However, as the result of Brexit, EU funding such as EMFF and LEADER will only remain available for a further year notwithstanding that the UK Government is committed to supporting ongoing EU funded projects until 2020. Currently though, there is no indication of the measures that will be taken to replace either LEADER or EMFF meaning that without new funding being made available by Spring 2019, the ability to develop new rural projects will most probably be severely hampered. Being largely rural, the Solway catchment has benefitted considerably from EU funding by assisting organisations such as SFP to achieve objectives, infrastructure has been put in place and jobs have been created. It is imperative that alternative sources of funding are implemented to coincide with the demise of EU funding lest organisations and communities around the Solway Firth may struggle to meet planned objectives.

Finally, a date for your diaries. The joint SFP/Solway Coast AONB 2018 conference will take place on Friday 2 November at The Halston Hotel, Carlisle where the guest speaker will be Doug Allan. Doug is a well-known wildlife photographer who has contributed to many television programmes including The Blue Planet.



Doug Allan swims beside Humpback Whale and her calf, Tonga, South Pacific

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FOCUS ON Crossscanonby Carr Nature Reserve

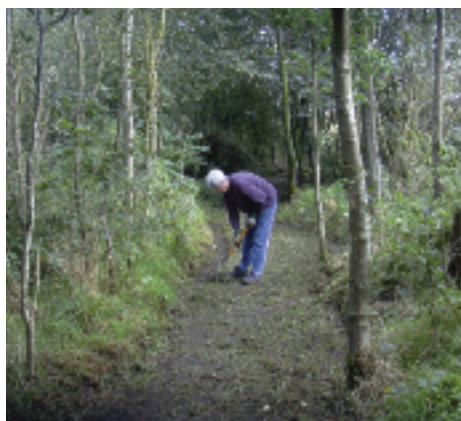
A new occasional series highlighting the unique qualities of the Solway Coast, places to visit, things to see and seasonal highlights from the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

This compact nature reserve is located between Maryport and Allonby about 4.5km north of Maryport.

What the reserve lacks in size it makes up for with the rich diversity of habitats it offers to wildlife. Around half of the reserve is made up of summer meadow – this is unimproved grassland which has not been drained or treated with herbicides or fertiliser. This makes it a haven for wild flowers, which in turn attract the insects that support many different types of bird and mammal.

The reserve was created on the site of a disused car park. The Solway Coast AONB took on the site in 1995 and with the help of many hours of volunteer work it was transformed with new paths, bridges and a picnic area. The nature reserve as we see it today was opened in 1999.

Whilst the reserve may be most alive during the summer months the recent exceptional winter weather saw the unusual sight of snow on the South Solway coast.



Crossscanonby Carr Nature Reserve is popular with nature lovers, dog walkers and casual visitors, particularly those using the Maryport to Allonby cycle track which runs right past the reserve. Within walking distance is the Roman site of Milefortlet 21 and the Crossscanonby Salt pans, which will be a focus of a later issue of Tidelines.

If you are visiting with your dog please keep it on a lead and scoop the poop!



Improve your nature identification skills with Solway Nature Networks

The AONB Team were really excited in January to receive news that a funding bid to the Cumbria Community Foundation had been successful for the Solway Nature Networks Project. This is a partnership between the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC) based at Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery in Carlisle and the Solway Coast AONB. The Project aims to bring local people together to establish a network of natural history volunteers who will map, identify and record the habitats and species of the Solway Plain.

A series of drop in events and wildlife training days will run throughout the spring, summer and autumn at different locations around



the Solway. These events will help people develop the expertise to understand the different habitats and identify the types of wildlife that are found there as well as providing them with the skills to record them. The sessions will provide an enjoyable and sociable way to learn more about the natural world but just as importantly the project will ensure that new wildlife records will be generated for the Solway, an area that is under-recorded, and are able to be used for the conservation of this special area into the future.

Keep an eye on our website at www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk for details of upcoming Solway Nature Networks sessions.

New Team at the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

In December 2017, we were sad to say goodbye to Dr Brian Irving who had been Solway Coast AONB Manager for the past 23 years. His retirement saw the final departure of a longstanding team, including Graeme Proud, Rose Wolfe and Sue McMillan, all who took well earned retirements at various points in 2016 and 2017. Their legacy will be a hard act to follow.

A new AONB team is now in place and we would like to take the opportunity to introduce them to you!

The new team can be contacted at info@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk or on 016973 33055. See www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk for more details.



Naomi Hewitt: AONB Manager



Chris Spencer: AONB Public Engagement Manager



Michelle Irving: AONB Communications & Admin Officer



Refill D&G

Refill D&G has been running since October 2017. The aim of the campaign and of Refill across the UK is to reduce single use plastic water bottles and encourage a culture where refilling is the norm.



We approached businesses to sign up to become Refill points, a place where you can fill up your refillable water bottle for free. Then we encouraged the public to download the Refill app (Refill Beta) to find these businesses in D&G and across the UK. When we started in October, there were hardly any Refill points in Scotland.

We have fantastic tap water in Scotland and by reducing our consumption of single use plastics, we could make a huge difference to plastic pollution on land and in the sea. Unfortunately, our coastline is covered in plastic waste but the efforts of the local communities to clean up beaches and protect our wildlife and marine life is inspiring. The Blue Planet has played a huge part in raising

awareness around plastic waste and plastic pollution and we have seen a massive increase, even in the last few months, of people wanting to reduce their consumption, especially in single use plastics.

Response to the campaign has been overwhelmingly positive and we are approaching our one hundredth Refill Point. We have great coverage across the region, and a range of businesses who have signed up including: Mull of Galloway RSPB, Logan Botanic Garden, Loch Arthur, Laggan Outdoor and Galloway Activity Centre, Cream of Galloway and many more. Over the course of the campaign, we have also recruited eight pledge organisations; they are not Refill points but have pledged to reduce their plastic use. A few of these include Scottish





Enterprise, Solway Firth Partnership and The Hollywood Trust. Support and encouragement from all of these businesses, organisations and members of the public have made the campaign a great success. There has been much collaboration, engagement and discussion on and off social media.

We've been very fortunate to have amazing media coverage and continue to get lots of inquiries from the public and businesses on how to reduce their plastic consumption and what alternatives are available. Raising awareness around single use plastics has been key to the success of Refill D&G and Refill UK wide. It would be fantastic to see this initiative rolled out across the whole of Scotland with Refill points in every area. Hopefully this will be happening soon, as the number of Refill points across Scotland has increased considerably over the last few months.

Ditching the single use plastic is very important. Water

bottles are the first target but there are also so many other single use plastics we can reduce. The images and videos we have all seen show the devastation on our marine life, it's vital that we continue on this course of plastic reduction knowing that the little changes we make, collectively make a huge difference.

The active campaign is continuing until the end of April. We are promoting all of the Refill points that are signing up across D&G on social media. Moreover, after this time businesses will still be able to sign up and add themselves to the app to join the UK Refill movement.

The Crichton Carbon Centre are looking forward to the next chapter, reducing single use plastics in D&G and beyond.

If you would like to sign up or learn more about Refill D&G or The Crichton Carbon Centre's other projects visit us at www.carboncentre.org



Powfoot Bathing Pool

Discover our healthy beaches

Today a visit to the coast is considered a healthy activity. It is true that relaxing by the sea listening to the sound of waves can help revitalise your mind and your body.



With a coastline stretching for over 200 miles Dumfries and Galloway has no shortage of tranquil beaches, hidden bays and unexpected views, where the natural beauty is enough to invigorate you. The Solway Coastwise project managed by Solway Firth Partnership has published three guides to Scotland's southern coast: a 'Beach Guide' showing beaches to visit from secluded, barely accessible rocky shores to family friendly expanses of sand and rock pools; a 'Wildlife Guide' introducing creatures and plants that have inspired place names; and the most recent publication, a 'Caves and Graves Guide' revealing how place names help us find our way in both the physical and legendary seascape.

Some coastal place names have been christened after influential landowners or notable events, others refer to ordinary folk associated with a particular location. However, a small number are links to the old-world custom of healing wells. Belief in the properties of holy or healing water reminds us of a time when superstitions held an important influence on the lives of local people, who believed particular afflictions would be cured if they undertook bathing, washing or drinking rituals.

Confusingly locals know some coastal locations by different



Sandyhills



Rockcliffe

names to those shown on maps. For example, the secluded sandy bay north of Portpatrick called Port Mora is locally known as Sandeel Bay. Accessed from the cliff-top footpath at the start of the Southern Upland Way there are two small caves in the low cliffs surrounding the bay that are named on old maps. Dropping Cave, named after the water falling over the mouth of the cave, was believed to be an important place for curing disease. In the past, it was reputed to have kill or cure properties for children with whooping cough, who were held under the falling water before being dried within the cave. The adjacent cave, called Ouchtrimackin after the nearby farm, was believed to have been the retreat of a hermit. The cave is now more often known as Monks Cave.

Chapel Wells, near the Mull of Galloway, are near the sea close to a cave that housed St Medan's Chapel. The remains of the chapel are in ruins, but in medieval times it was a pilgrimage site. The wells are in fact three circular rock pools of different sizes filled by the sea at high tide. A dip in the well could apparently cure almost any ailment but particularly 'back-gane bairns' (sickly children). Certain days were said to be more effective than others; with the first Sunday in May being known as Co' Sunday (Cave Sunday), when most of the local

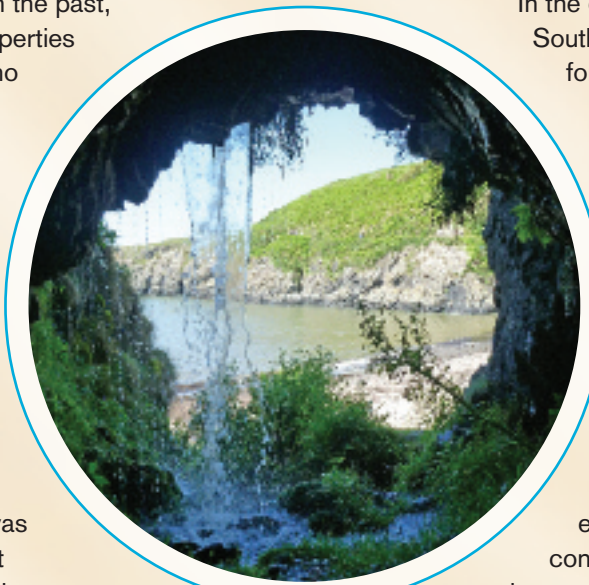
population would visit the wells and leave gifts in the chapel.

St Medan or Medana's influence also extends to the remarkable sandy beaches at Monreith. Somewhere below the remains of Kirkmaiden Kirk and the recently refurbished Maxwell Mausoleum is a spring called St Medana's Well. The spring was also known as Chincough Well and drinking the water was believed to be a cure for whooping cough.

In the early 1800s coastal villages including Southernness and Powfoot provided lodging for sea bathers seeking cures for their ills. The fad for visiting the coast for medical reasons was gradually replaced by the desire to admire picturesque landscapes.

Rockcliffe was christened by Victorian developers who constructed villas to attract the 'well to do' to the fashionable rugged coast. Powfoot became the location for an ambitious plan to create a new sea resort designed to be a rival to Blackpool. The enigmatic circular bathing pool was constructed after a group of girls had to be rescued from the incoming tide and the distinctive Edwardian red brick houses were the first stage of the development that was as halted by the outbreak of the First World War.

If you would like to know more please contact Nic on Coastwise@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk



St Medan's Cave and Chapel



Tidelines

Port Logan





Top: Garvellan Rocks, Mossyard Above: Richardson's Rock

The Scar

The ins and outs of a dynamic shoreline

The long and varied coast of Dumfries and Galloway is made even more interesting by the tidal rhythm of ebb and flood. The shallow seas in the Solway combined with a large tidal range means vast sand flats are concealed and then revealed twice a day and the sometime islands initially surrounded by sea become accessible on foot.

Garvellan Rocks are a group of small islands in Fleet Bay made up of several rugged islands poking up above the sea. The name is derived from Gaelic garbh eilean meaning rough rock. While some of these rocks are tidal islands and are surrounded by water every high tide, one of the islands is a tied island that is attached to the mainland by a strip of sand (except on the highest tides). Waves striking the island wash around it to meet on the landward side and deposit sand to create the causeway. This unusual feature is known as a tombolo, an Italian word, derived from the Latin tumulus, meaning mound.

The shallow waters, gently sloping seabed and a tidal range of up to 10 metres during big spring tides means tidal sand flats stretch off into the distance twice a day. Powerful tidal streams sculpt sediments into shifting sand banks and channels, making navigation treacherous. In the days of sailing ships many vessels were blown onto the hidden Mersehead Sands and the wrecks ended their days swallowed up by the notorious sand banks.

The Tide Islands & Shifting Sands Guide is an introduction to some of the stories that have inspired place names on Scotland's southern coast. Explore the seashore and imagine what it would have been like to live on an island or discover the dramatic seascape revealed by the tides, but remember to take care on the Solway coast. Ask people who know the area where the good places are to visit or get a detailed Ordnance Survey map and tide timetables to plan your own adventure.





The Wordle shows the themes of 'cleanliness' and 'natural' are currently dominant

The SMILE Project gets underway



Even the WWF Pandas got involved in writing their Vision for the Solway!



The aim of the Solway Marine Information, Learning and Environment (SMILE) Project is to update the 1996 'State of the Solway Review', using innovative communication methods to gather pan-estuary information, learn from stakeholders and promote a better understanding of the Solway Firth ecosystem. The new Review will be created in an easy to use online format, suitable for all abilities to read.

This update is required in the light of new demands made on the estuary's resources and in the context of marine planning. The Review will provide some of the evidence by which a sustainable approach to planning and management can be achieved. It will also be a useful resource for anyone wanting to find out more about the Solway Firth.

Environment Fair 2018

The Vision for the Solway for the next ten years is starting to take shape! The SMILE Project engaged with over 100 people at the annual Dumfries and Galloway Environment Fair 2018 in the Rutherford/McCowan Building on the Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

The Project Officer, Emma Baruah will be continuing to engage with people throughout the year gathering more local visions on both sides of the border, at events such as World Oceans Day and the SFP/Solway Coast AONB Joint Conference.

Emma said, "I'll be giving the option for local people to add their Vision at a variety of events across the Solway. I think it's really important stakeholders have their voices represented in the new Review."

For now, the Wordle (above) shows the main visions starting to take shape already! It will be interesting to see how the Vision evolves during the course of the project as more views are gathered.

SMILE events coming up:

World Oceans Day

Join us at Logan Botanic Garden on Saturday 9 June for a fun filled day of ocean-themed activities. The SMILE project will have a stall with activities to suit all ages. Come along and have a chat to share your views on what the Vision for the Solway should be for the next ten years!

SFP/AONB Joint Conference

The SMILE Project will be running an interactive workshop and have a display for local people to get involved. The venue for this free one-day conference will be The Halston Hotel, Carlisle on Friday 2 November. Come and see what has been achieved during the first year of the project and our plans for the second year!



The original Solway Firth Review hasn't been updated in over 20 years!



Our Sparling Goes To School project in action

Saving the Sparling Project

My name is Jack Wootton and I started as a Sparling Project Officer for Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) in February 2018 for a five-month internship with a focus on the western Scottish population of sparling that reside in the River Cree.

I have a background in aquatic conservation, previously working as Coordinator for The Black Fish conservation groups. I studied at Reaseheath and The University of Chester gaining my FdSc, BSc (Hons) and MRes in a variety of animal sciences. I was also awarded a scholarship in 2015 to study behaviour in ornamental fish. My love of all things aquatic makes researching the sparling in Galloway an amazing job!

Sparling (*Osmerus eperlanus*), also known as European smelt, are anadromous which means they spend most of their life in estuarine and coastal waters but migrate into freshwater to breed once a year. They spawn in spring and as they are relatively weak swimmers, they use the high tide to push upstream, conserving energy. Spawning takes place at night and is heavily reliant on water temperature, tidal height and river flow. The Cree population is one of only three (Cree, Tay and Forth) inhabited rivers in Scotland. The sparling used to boast healthy populations across at least 15 Scottish rivers. Each population shows distinctive morphological traits unique to its population. The Cree sparling are the largest found in Scotland with females reaching up to 30 cm which results in a high number of eggs - up to 50,000 per female. This species has declined or died out across Scotland due to three major



A shoal of sparling fighting the current



A stranded sparling surrounded by eggs

contributing factors; pollution, migration barriers and a history of overfishing. This is the story of many species but all is not lost because repopulation after population collapse has occurred in some rivers in the UK such as the Thames and Forth. One strange fact regarding the sparling is that its fragrance resembles that of violets and cucumber.

The 'Saving the Sparling' project is split into three key segments; environmental data collection, sparling biological data collection and public engagement. Environmental data was gathered from 1 February 2018 to help predict the date of spawning. This data included daily temperature readings, predator observations, tidal monitoring and river flow. The date of spawning was forecast but I did not see my first sparling, despite being the Sparling Project Officer, until the 13 March when spawning actually began!

Biological data was successfully gathered from 200 adult sparling collected over the spawning period. The data collected consisted of length, weight, sex ratio and scale samples for age analysis.

As part of the public engagement element of the project,

I have visited four primary schools in the local area (Dalbeattie, Penninghame, Wigtown and Minnigaff) for the 'Sparling Goes To School' programme in which we hope to get young generations excited about sparling and aquatic conservation. There will also be two public events held soon in Newton Stewart and Gatehouse of Fleet for the local communities to come along and share their stories and memories of sparling. Information boards will also be created to help disseminate information about these fascinating fish to the public. As part of the project, I am involved in the creation of a short documentary following the spawning process and conservation efforts surrounding the sparling. GFT has also commissioned a life-size model of a sparling and artwork by local artist Robin Ade.

This two-year project is supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, The Scottish Government and The Holywood Trust.

For further information please visit GFT's website www.gallowayfisheriestrust or follow our updates on Facebook and twitter.

A large female resting on the second night of spawning





Feeling blue?

By Dr Lara Howe, Marine Officer, Manx Wildlife Trust

There is currently an increasing evidence base to show that exposure to the natural environment positively affects physical and mental wellbeing, such as improvements in mood and concentration. However, there are lots of examples given in the literature that relates to closeness to green spaces, such as meadows or forests, but as an island nation, what about the closeness to the blue stuff? Does that have the same benefits?

As a marine biologist I would say yes, but I suspect I might be slightly biased. For me a coastal walk, looking at the birds or seals, or going for a dive are great ways to improve my mood, my wellbeing and get some exercise. So, I know how great it feels to be outside in nature but why does it feel so good?

Evidence suggests that the smell of the salty sea has a similar effect to smelling salts, helping to clear the mind, arouse consciousness and alter our breathing patterns. Victorian doctors used to prescribe the 'sea air' as a cure for an assortment of ailments. Also, when immersed in or in contact with seawater, the magnesium in the water can help improve the physical appearance and maintenance of our skin as well as promoting 'skin moisture'. Cold water sea

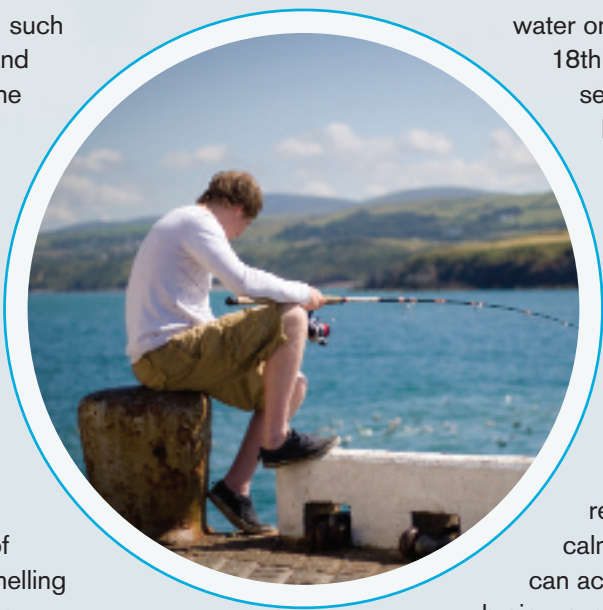
swimming also has other physical benefits such as boosting metabolism and blood circulation, and helps build and maintain a strong immune system. It is also thought to improve feelings of wellbeing by releasing endorphins. Well there

must be a reason why so many of us take to the water on the 1 January! Even as early as the 18th century doctors were prescribing sea swimming and this was aimed to help people who were depressed, moody or suffering from melancholy.

This continued over the next two centuries with doctors even prescribing how long, how often and under what conditions they were to bathe.

Apparently, even merely glimpsing the ocean can coerce a physiological response to nature that involves feelings of pleasure and relaxed wakefulness and a sense of calm – almost a meditative state. This can actually change the frequency of your brain waves. Other research from Japan

showed that people who lived in a house with a view of the ocean were calmer than those who didn't. This is supported by other studies, where people were shown a number of landscape images with varying amounts of water, people showed a strong preference for images that contained more and more water. Another study even found that patients





at a dentist felt less pain when they viewed virtual images of a beach.

Remember when you take your shoes and socks off at the beach and feel the warm or cold sand between your toes? Doesn't it feel great? Without realising it you are 'grounding' yourself to the earth. Most of us have lost our direct physical contact with the earth. Historically we would have slept on the floor or walked barefoot. Research suggests that this disconnect may be a major contributor to physiological dysfunction and unwellness. Reconnection with the Earth's electrons has been found to promote physiological changes and reports of wellbeing. Benefits include better sleep, reduced pain and inflammation. Additionally, one study showed that living in a natural environment was associated with fewer

stress-related illnesses too, whilst another showed that the closer you live to the coast the healthier you were.

Of course as a nature conservation charity the benefits of being outside, besides your mental and physical wellbeing, is your engagement with nature and wildlife. Being more present and calm allows to appreciate what is around - the wildlife. Which of course means you are much more likely to protect it, if you see it and enjoy it every day.

However, the benefits felt by being near, in or on the water still need to be fully understood, but I think it's fair to say nothing beats a day at the beach, whatever the science says. So next time you go seal watching, walking or rockpooling with your children just remember you're not just aiding your physical health but also your mental health. Get outside and enjoy it.





Edward I Monument, Burgh Marsh

Secret Solway Stories

By Fiona Stoddart, Solway Connections



Fiona on the Solway

Secret Solway stories can be quirky and unexpected. For example, did you know Burgh marsh, near Burgh by Sands on the Cumbrian side of the Solway Firth, has a lonely monument marking the death in 1307 of the Plantagenet King Edward the first? Did you also know that the legendary racehorse Red Rum, three times winner of the Grand National race, once paid a visit to this isolated, windswept spot?

Burgh marsh has a long history of horse racing dating back to the 1690s. To raise money for Cancer Research and to celebrate the racing history of the area, the Burgh by Sands Cancer Research charity committee, in 1978, decided they would organize a commemorative race meet to take place once more on Burgh marsh. Somebody suggested Red Rum should be invited to the race meet as an equine celebrity. A plan was hatched. Ginger McCain who had trained Red Rum was duly contacted, and - much to everyone's surprise - he agreed (for the fee of £300) that he would transport his famous ward to Burgh marsh race meet. All went to plan and on 3 September Red Rum, who by this time was retired from racing, spent the day as the celebrity guest at Burgh marsh races.

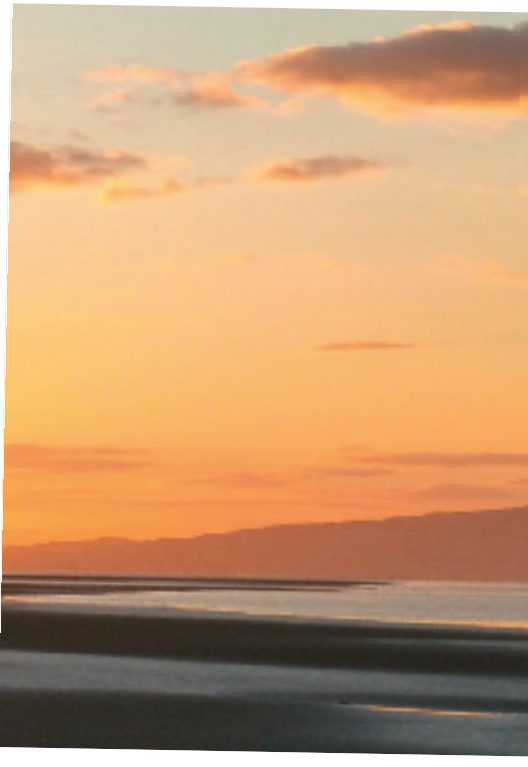
Have you seen the 1949 film 'Whisky Galore'? - when a cargo ship foundered on rocks off the coast of a Scottish



island and the locals are treated to 'bounties from the sea' in the form of bottles of whisky acquired from the sinking ship. In 1903, the story for the Solway people of the west Cumbrian village of Allonby was one of 'tinned salmon and peaches galore'. A ship named the Hougoumont, when sailing from America to Liverpool was blown off course by a storm, got caught on rocks and lost her load near the village of Allonby. Reports tell how local villagers were seen combing the beach, picking up tins and shaking them – the only way they could tell if they had peaches or salmon for tea, because the labels had washed off the tins.

A mystical tale linking horses and beaches is the folk story of the Solway ghost horses. These magical beasts are said to live beneath the waves and can be seen at certain times far out on the Solway

Criffel across the Solway



tideline. Children have been warned not to go on the beach after dusk because 'the ghost horses would take them'. Was this just a clever way for parents to scare wayward offspring away from dangerous places or something more mysterious?

Secret Solway guided tours share local stories with visitors. The tours take a journey through time visiting less well-known historic and natural sites on the scenic Cumbrian Solway coastal plains.

To find out more about Secret Solway Tours visit <http://solwayconnections.co.uk/secret-solway/> or if you have Solway stories to share please email Fiona@solwayconnections.co.uk

Ghost horses on the Solway





Cleaning up our act on Scotland's roadsides

By Keep Scotland Beautiful

As one of the premier tourist destinations in the world, Scotland is renowned for its pristine environment, scenic routes and green spaces. Allowing us to enjoy all that our country has on offer is a vast network of roads and motorways, which are increasingly being spoiled by litter. In fact, 50 tonnes of litter is abandoned on Scottish roadsides every month. Similarly, a whopping 82.8% of motorways and A road verges recorded a presence of litter last year.

So why is roadside litter such a big problem? As well as being an eyesore to everyone that uses Scotland's road network, litter is expensive for local authorities to clean up and presents a danger to wildlife. That is why we have been working, with funding from industry, to tackle the issue, partnering with government, the charity and public sector to drive forward Scotland-wide action and raise awareness of the impacts of roadside litter, as well as testing out innovative

solutions to help solve the ever-increasing problem.

We're asking all road users to take personal responsibility for their litter when on the move, by placing it in the nearest bin, or better still, holding on to it until they get home where it can be recycled. The message that we're asking people to share is simple: "Give your litter a lift, take it home".

The issue has become increasingly obvious across the country, with 88% of adults agreeing that "roadside litter creates a negative impression of Scotland". Moreover, 52% of adults have seen someone throw litter from a vehicle and not pick it up". This has encouraged us to coordinate a national Week of Action on roadside litter. We're inviting communities, businesses, schools and local authorities to sign up and help raise awareness in the build up to, and during, the week of 12-20 May.

We've already worked with fourteen local authorities, 23



campaign partners, and 10 service stations and retail parks to raise awareness of the issue across the country. Smith Anderson have provided us with car litter bags, and these have been distributed at Enterprise Rent-a-Car branches in the central belt. We partnered with The National Trust for Scotland to provide visitors with cigarette mini-bins, and to highlight that 80% of marine litter comes from land-based sources. We have partnered with Caledonian MacBrayne and Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited and carried out surveys of drivers on the ferries.

In Autumn 2017 we had the opportunity to bring the campaign to the Dumfries and Galloway area with a view to addressing roadside litter in the region. The Council has committed to undertaking a trial of layby interventions to test the theory that layby bins attract flytipping and litter. This can occur when people expect that someone will always come

along and clear up litter from these bins, which is not always the case. Overflowing bins due to servicing challenges can also present a significant problem. Similar trials have already taken place elsewhere in the country, and particularly in South Ayrshire, removing bins from laybys along the A77 and A78 showed signs of reducing layby litter. In Angus, similar trials pointed to a slight re-education when bins were removed, and signage reminded passers-by to take their litter home.

Through our public perception work we have also spoken to ferry passengers, to develop a targeted intervention for engaging them with the issue as part of our Week of Action.

To keep up to date with the campaign, hear about these initiatives as they develop, and to get involved visit www.KeepScotlandBeautiful.com/roadsidelitter.



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Handing on the legacy

By Glyn Freeman, Borderlines

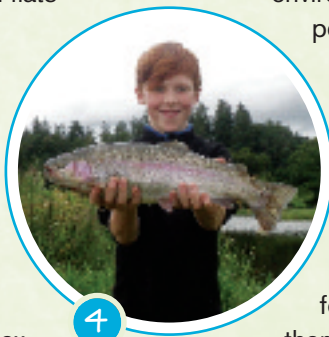
Fishing in its many forms has always been woven into the fabric of the Solway Estuary – a place of beauty and a great vista from whichever side of the water you find yourself. The silt ferried down by many rivers such as the Nith, Annan, Border Esk and Eden, to name but a few, create such rich feeding grounds in the mud flats for the wildlife that thrives there. Just reading about the area and its tributaries can be informative. However, it is necessary to experience the Solway in order to understand how it works and to be able to take care of the future of this unique, complex and yet unspoilt area.

Borderlines, a not-for-profit organisation formed in 2005, has been doing just that. Working with schools, clubs, various Trusts, Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), River Eden and District Fisheries Association (REDFA), the

Environment Agency and many more from the English and the Scottish side of the Solway, have introduced thousands of young people to fishing here.

Besides investing in the future caretakers of the Solway and surrounding catchments, there are other benefits. The study of their own local environment can motivate young people to enjoy practising skills of writing, reading, drawing, measuring, calculating, designing and public speaking through approaches that make learning relevant and applied. To learn a skill for life like angling helps them to be confident, sociable and caring towards others.

There is a lot of research that shows the importance of environmental experience. Contact with nature in childhood promotes children's physical and mental health and well-being. This is something that past generations appreciated pre-computer days.



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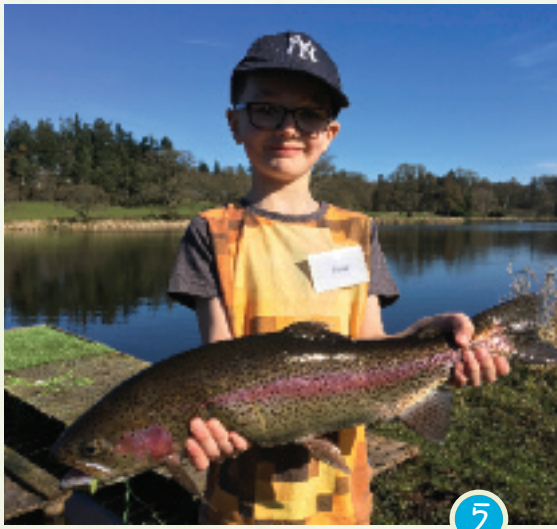


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So, who is helping and who have Borderlines worked with?

The Environment Agency have funded worthwhile projects to get young people into fishing with good effect. They have also given a free rod license to children under sixteen. The Salmon and Trout association have also been great contributors. REDFA ran very successful junior days to encourage young people to go fishing, as have many other clubs on rivers over the years, investing in their sustainability. The Solway AONB was one of the first organisations to help the cause and Borderlines has since worked with many organisations including charities such as MacMillan Cancer. In addition, Borderlines has worked with many schools and helps run the Fishing Island at Lowther Game Fair that has a constant theme of getting both families and children to take up this fine "pastime".

The latest and current project is with the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. We have been working with the Trust for some years now. Last year saw the



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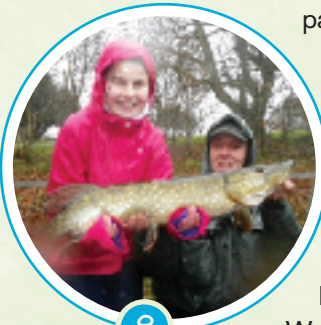


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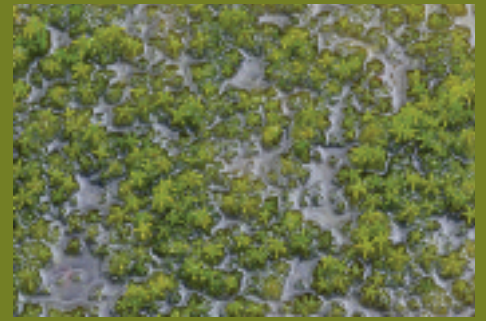
inception of the Nith Young Anglers Club. This has been a very successful project which has given young anglers the chance to have a go at every aspect of angling; fishing on the Solway beaches, fly-fishing the river for brown/sea trout and salmon, fly-fishing lakes for rainbow trout and coarse fishing lakes for many species. It worked very well with a core of young



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people that turned up for every event! The unseen bonus was that the parents of which only a couple had fished before were encouraged to take up angling. Fishing has helped bonding between parent and child and new friends were made! It has been a long but happy road for Borderlines. We have seen what works and what does not work and we have seen people's lives changed for the good.

1. Common carp from Crofton lake | 2. Flounder from the Solway (Barnardo's session)
3. Brown trout - Greystoke school | 4. Rainbow trout - Drum Loch | 5. Rainbow trout - Drum Loch
6. Perch - school fishing session | 7. Rainbow trout - Drum Loch | 8. Pike - Small loch near Annan



Sphagnum

Peatland Poems from the Scottish Solway

Barbara Mearns takes a refreshing peek at the world of bogs on the Solway coast through poetry and photography by considering the evolving fate of peatland from raised bog to raised bog. Words and images provide a fascinating perspective from a knowledgeable naturalist and add the aesthetic sensibilities of an accomplished poet. A beautifully produced book, it brings into sharp focus an often-overlooked habitat but does not shy away from the issues surrounding the loss of peatlands by providing a commentary on our changing attitudes with style and humour.

Raised bogs: creation trinity

Just three things are needed.
Sphagnum and water and time.
But the greatest of these – is time.

Water under the bridge

Waterfalls always make a splash
river eddies go against the flow
sea lochs are troubled waters
Solway tides can be a bore
floods in Dumfries make waves
but draining our ancient bog pools
raised barely a ripple.

All information on Borderlines can be found in the links below.

www.borderlines.org.uk
www.edenfishing.co.uk
www.river-nith.com/sea-trout-fishing-with-the-nith-young-anglers/
www.lowthershow.co.uk/whats-on/fishing
www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk/
www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence



Email barbaracmearns@gmail.com
to order for £6.50 plus P&P.

Dates for your Diary

May - September 18

MAY

Throughout May until
Saturday 16 June

**'Artful Migration' Exhibition
(WWT Caerlaverock)**

10.00am to 5.00pm

Booking: Not Essential

Angela is the Artist in Residence on the pilot residency programme developed with Upland, Moving Souls Dance and WWT. She is researching and observing whooper swans, as well as engaging with visitors, volunteers and staff. Angela will create and exhibit her new work at the reserve.

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

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

Cost: Entry to the exhibition is free,
Normal admission charges to the reserve

**Wednesdays
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 May**

**Seabird Spectacular
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)**

1.00pm to 3.00pm

Booking: Not Essential

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join the warden for a guided walk to find out more about seabird ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50,
Under 5's Free. RSPB members 20% off



Saturdays 5 and 12 May

**Natterjack Nights
(RSPB Mersehead)**

8.30pm to 10.30pm

Booking: Essential

Visit the reserve at dusk to hear the natterjack toad chorus as the male toads come down to the shallow pools to sing to the females to encourage them to spawn. Come along and see if you can spot a toad. Bring a torch and wellies.

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

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

Cost: £5 Adult, £2 Child, £3 Adult
Members, £1.50 Child Members; Car
parking charges apply for non-members

Sunday 6 May

**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

Monday 7 May

**Warbler Walk
(WWT Caerlaverock)**

8.00am to 10.00am

Booking: Essential

Take the opportunity to go on an early morning walk with an experienced warden, who will help identify a number of different warblers by their songs and calls. Learn the differences between willow warblers, chiffchaffs, blackcaps, garden warblers and sedge warblers.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Monday 7 May

**Mull of Galloway – Scotland's Most
Southerly Point
(Logan Botanic Garden)**

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Booking: Not Essential

Find out more about the RSPB and the Mull of Galloway at this exciting talk at Logan Botanic Garden. Learn about thousands of nesting seabirds, the history of the Mull and the Lighthouse which is still in use today.

Contact: 01776 860231 or
logan@rbge.org.uk

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan,
Nr. Stranraer, DG9 9ND

Cost: Free with normal garden entry

Saturday 12 May

**Almerness Coastal Walk
(Newton Stewart WalkFest 2-2)**

8.00am start

Booking: Essential

Join Newton Stewart Walking Festival on this coastal gem of a walk along the Solway. The route starts at the quaint fishing village of Palnackie and goes in a clockwise circuit of the Almerness peninsula following a series of roads and paths through a varied landscape with enchanting sea views evoking the smuggling history of the Solway. The highest point Moyl, provides a panorama including Hestan Island and the Lakeland Fells while the woodlands and the fields are home to an abundance of wildlife.

Contact: c/o Creetown Initiative
on 07421 312 056 or book online at
<http://www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com/ab-out-walkfest.php>

Meet: Palnackie Village, NX821569

Cost: £11/adult or accompanied child



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

Saturday 12 May

Glasserton Church to Isle of Whithorn - Archaeology (Newton Stewart WalkFest 2-6)
10.00am start
Booking: Essential

Join Newton Stewart Walking Festival on a walk from Glasserton Church to the Isle of Whithorn. This walk, accompanied by an archaeologist, explores the southernmost tip of the Machars.

Contact: c/o Creetown Initiative on 07421 312 056 or book online at <http://www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com/ab-out-walkfest.php>

Meet: Glasserton Church, NX430383

Cost: £11/adult or accompanied child

Sunday 13 May

Solway Rocks (Newton Stewart WalkFest 3-4)
10.00am start
Booking: Essential

Join Newton Stewart Walking Festival on a route which follows the coast around Borgue in the company of two expert geologists. It follows an attractive section of the Solway coast between Gull Craig and Brighthouse and will be taken at a gentle pace so as to provide the opportunity for the experts to explain the various features along the way.

Contact: c/o Creetown Initiative on 07421 312 056 or book online at <http://www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com/ab-out-walkfest.php>

Meet: The Dhoon, NX657488

Cost: £11/adult or accompanied child

Monday 14 May

Wigtown's Story (Supper Walk) (Newton Stewart WalkFest 4-3)
2.30pm start
Booking: Essential

Join Newton Stewart Walking Festival for a walk to Wigtown. Starting at the RSPB reserve at the Crook of Baldoon the route crosses the old wartime airfield and onwards as far as Wigtown to visit the site of the Martyrs' Stake and hear about their horrific story before moving onto the nearby churchyard to see their graves. Supper will be at Cobwebs, Wigtown.

Contact: c/o Creetown Initiative on 07421 312 056 or book online at <http://www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com/ab-out-walkfest.php>

Meet: RSPB Crook of Baldoon, NX446531

Cost: £11/adult or accompanied child not including dinner costs

Wednesday 16 May

Cruggleton Haughs (Newton Stewart WalkFest 6-3)
11.15am start
Booking: Essential

Join Newton Stewart Walking Festival for a walk along a coastal route that links two of the areas most picturesque harbour villages, Isle of Whithorn and Garlieston, and promises plenty of wildlife and history along the way. A coastal expert will accompany the walk.

Contact: c/o Creetown Initiative on 07421 312 056 or book online at <http://www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com/ab-out-walkfest.php>

Meet: Isle of Whithorn, NX479361

Cost: £11/adult or accompanied child

Friday 18 May

Stories in the Yurt (WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Sit in the cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story told by one of WWT's engaging storytellers. Then take a short walk around the reserve to look for some wildlife.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges, WWT members free

Saturday 19 May

'A sense of place' Writing Workshop (RSPB Campfield Marsh)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential

The well-known Solway writer, Ann Lingard is running a workshop for aspiring and practising writers, on behalf of Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Part of the day will be spent out on the saltmarsh, and the remainder indoors in the Solway Wetlands Centre. Full details are on Ann's blog, www.solwayshorewalker.wordpress.com

Contact: Cumbria Wildlife Trust tel: 01539 816300

www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

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

Cost: Minimum donation of £5 recommended

Friday 26 May to Sunday 28 May

Meet the Artist in Residence (WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

As part of Spring Fling, our Artist in Residence, Angela Alexander Lloyd, will be on the reserve, meeting the public and talking about her Artful Migration exhibition.

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

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

Cost: Free entry

Wednesday 30 May

Port Logan Beach Clean (Port Logan Beach)
10.00am to 3.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

Join the RSPB and Logan Botanic Garden staff on a beach clean at Port Logan. Help to clear up the beach and prevent rubbish from washing into the sea, damaging our marine wildlife. Bring gloves and litter picks if you have them.

Contact: Contact: 01776 860231 or logan@rbge.org.uk

Meet: Port Logan village hall

Cost: Free

JUNE

Sunday 3 June

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

Bring along your camera and learn how to take fantastic macro photographs of the variety of insects, minibeasts and wild flowers on this wonderful wetland reserve.

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

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

Cost: £75 (includes admission)

Tuesday 5 June

Mull of Galloway Wildflower Walk (Mull of Galloway)
2.00pm to 3.30pm
Booking: Not Essential

Join Richard Baines, Curator of Logan Botanic Garden on a guided walk around the RSPB Mull of Galloway Reserve. Wildflowers are in full bloom so learn all about their ecology and importance to our native wildlife. Meet at the Mull of Galloway Reserve.

Contact: 01776 860231 or logan@rbge.org.uk

Meet: Mull of Galloway

Cost: Free



Wednesdays
6, 13, 20, 27 June

Seabird Spectacular
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join the warden for a guided walk to find out more about seabird ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50, Under 5's
Free. RSPB members 20% off

Saturday 9 June

World Oceans Day Event
(Logan Botanic Gardens)
10.00am to 5.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

Celebrate World Oceans Day to honour, protect and conserve the World's Oceans. Come along for a fun filled day of live music, demonstrations and food celebrating ocean life!

Contact: 01776 860231 or
logan@rbge.org.uk

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan,
Nr. Stranraer, DG9 9ND

Cost: Free with normal garden entry

Friday 15 June

Stories in the Yurt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Sit in the cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story told by one of WWT's engaging storytellers. Then take a short walk around the reserve to look for some wildlife.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Friday 15 June

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
12.00noon to 2.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

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

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

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

Cost: £3 Members, £4 Non-members,
Children half price

Sunday 17 June

Low Tide Shore Walk
(Allonby Bay)
9.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Join Ann Lingard on her popular low-tide walks to look at the creatures in the sand, on the rocks, and in the Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone. Dogs and children are of course most welcome but booking is essential as there is a limit on numbers.

Contact: 016973 21967 or visit
www.solwayshoresstories.co.uk under
'Shorewalker'

Meet: Details will be provided on booking

Cost: Free

Sun 17 June to
Saturday 28 July

'Swans, Gannets and Starlings'
Exhibition
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 5.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

The exhibition will feature Fine Art images of Swans, Gannets and Starlings by local photographer, Roger Lever.

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

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

Cost: Entry to the exhibition is free,
Normal admission charges to the reserve

Friday 22 June

Evening Wildlife Safari
(WWT Caerlaverock)
7.00pm to 9.30pm
Booking: Essential

Discover the wildlife that emerges after dark, on our walking safari around the reserve. We may encounter wildlife such as badgers, moths, hares, owls or otters!

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

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

Cost: Adult £10, Concession £7.50, Child
£5. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

JULY

Sunday 1 July

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

Tuesdays 3, 10, 24, 31 July

Bug Hunt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am to 12.00noon
Booking: Not Essential

Join the warden on a bug hunt around the wetland reserve, to find bugs living in dead wood, in the undergrowth, in trees, on flowers or flying around! You could find butterflies, dragonflies, bees, spiders, worms, beetles, ladybirds and much more!

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Wednesdays
4, 11, 18, 25 July

Pond Dipping
(WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

Discover the amazing creatures living underwater in the pond. Use pond-dipping nets, trays, bug pots, identification guides and aqua scopes to find and identify the different animals.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free





Wednesdays 4, 11 July

**Seabird Spectacular
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not Essential**

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join the warden for a guided walk to find out more about seabird ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50, Under 5's
Free. RSPB members 20% off

Friday 13 July

**Stories in the Yurt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential**

Sit in the cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story told by one of WWT's engaging storytellers. Then take a short walk around the reserve to look for some wildlife.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Tuesday 17 July

**Chris Packham
Caerlaverock Bioblitz
10.00am to 7.00pm
Booking: Not Essential**

Chris Packham will be visiting the reserve to help find as many different species of birds, mammals, insects, amphibians, reptiles, plants, trees, fungi, bryophytes and fish as possible in a day. Find and identify the different species with the help of experts and there will be lots of walks and activities for both adults and families. Come along to learn more about the wildlife at WWT Caerlaverock!

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Wednesdays 18, 25 July

**Wednesday Wildlife Walk
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not Essential**

The Mull of Galloway is a hive of activity with buzzing bees, fluttering butterflies and birds a plenty. Join the warden for a guided walk to learn more about the wonderful wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have some, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50, Under 5's
Free. RSPB members 20% off

Thursday 19 July

**Wildlife Gardening for Kids
(WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking: Essential**

Do some gardening to help nature in the Wildlife Garden at WWT Caerlaverock. This family event will include weeding, planting seeds, watering and taking part in interactive activities and games to learn about plants and gardening for wildlife.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Thursday 26 July

**Wildlife Art Morning
(WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am-1.00pm**

Come to see the fantastic wildlife on the wetland reserve, such as swallows and house martins, ospreys, wildflower meadows with bees, butterflies and dragonflies. Then create some beautiful artwork using inspiration from nature at this family event.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free



Friday 27 July

**Evening Wildlife Safari
(WWT Caerlaverock)
6.30pm to 8.30pm
Booking: Essential**

Discover the wildlife that emerges after dark, on our walking safari around the reserve. We may encounter wildlife such as badgers, moths, hares, owls or otters!

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

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

Cost: Adult £10, Concession £7.50, Child
£5. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

Monday 30 July

**High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not Essential**

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

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

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

Cost: £3 Members, £4 Non-members,
Children half price

AUGUST

Wednesday 1 August to Thurs 15 Nov

**Solway Coastwise Exhibition
(Logan Botanic Garden)
10.00am to 4.00pm Every Day**

A fabulous exhibition highlighting the amazing coastal plant and wildlife in our rural region. In conjunction with World Oceans Day to protect, conserve and honour the World's oceans.

Contact: 01776 860231 or
logan@rbge.org.uk

Meet: Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan,
Nr. Stranraer, DG9 9ND

Cost: Free with normal garden entry

Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August

**Pond Dipping
(WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking: Not Essential**

Discover the amazing creatures living underwater in the pond. Use pond-dipping nets, trays, bug pots, identification guides and aqua scopes to find and identify the different animals.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free



Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August

Wednesday Wildlife Walk (RSPB Mull of Galloway) 1.00pm start Booking: Not Essential

The Mull of Galloway is a hive of activity with buzzing bees, fluttering butterflies and birds a plenty. Join the warden for a guided walk to learn more about the wonderful wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have some, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50, Under 5's
Free. RSPB members 20% off

Thursday 2 August

Small Mammal Trapping (WWT Caerlaverock) 10.00am to 11.00am Booking: Essential

Find out what mammals have been caught overnight in the small mammal traps and learn more about mammals such as voles and mice that live on the 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,
WWT members free

Tuesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 August

Bug Hunt (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am to 12.00noon Booking: Not Essential

Join the warden on a bug hunt around the wetland reserve, to find bugs living in dead wood, in the undergrowth, in trees, on flowers or flying around! You could find butterflies, dragonflies, bees, spiders, worms, beetles, ladybirds and much more!

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free



Wednesdays 8, 15, 22, 29 August

Pond Dipping (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am to 1.00pm Booking: Not Essential

Discover the amazing creatures living underwater in the pond. Use pond-dipping nets, trays, bug pots, identification guides and aqua scopes to find and identify the different animals.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Wednesday 8 August

Mud Walk (RSPB Crook of Baldoon) 1.00pm to 3.00pm Booking: Not Essential

A Guided walk out onto the mud and sand of the Crook of Baldoon from the car park looking for foraging birds and evidence of their feeding. Wellies and binoculars are essential. We will be following the tide out and back before it turns.

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

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

Cost: £3 Members, £4 Non-members,
Children half price

Thursday 9 August

Dragons and Damsels (WWT Caerlaverock) 11.00am to 1.00pm Booking: Not Essential

Get out and about on the reserve to find and identify different species of damselflies and dragonflies. Go pond dipping to find larvae and learn about the fascinating lifecycle of dragonflies. Search for the adults flying around the wildflower meadow, avenues and around the ponds, and learn the difference between dragonflies and damselflies and the habitats they prefer on this family event.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Friday 10 August

Evening Wildlife Safari (WWT Caerlaverock) 6.30pm to 8.30pm Booking: Essential

Discover the wildlife that emerges after dark, on our walking safari around the reserve. We may encounter wildlife such as badgers, moths, hares, owls or otters!

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

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

Cost: Adult £10, Concession £7.50, Child
£5. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

Sunday 12 August

Low Tide Shore Walk (Allonby Bay) 7.15am to 9.15am Booking: Essential

Join Ann Lingard on her popular low-tide walks to look at the creatures in the sand, on the rocks, and in the Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone. This event is being run on behalf of Cumbria Wildlife Trust as part of National Marine Week. Dogs and children are of course most welcome but booking is essential as there is a limit on numbers.

Contact: 01539 816300 or
mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Meet: Details will be provided on booking
Cost: Adult £3, children half-price

Tuesday 14 August

Low Tide Shore Walk (Allonby Bay) 8.30am to 10.30am Booking: Essential

Join Ann Lingard on her popular low-tide walks to look at the creatures in the sand, on the rocks, and in the Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone. Dogs and children are of course most welcome but booking is essential as there is a limit on numbers.

Contact: 016973 21967 or visit
www.solwayshorestories.co.uk under
'Shorewalker'

Meet: Details will be provided on booking
Cost: Free



Friday 17 August

Stories in the Yurt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Sit in the cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story told by one of WWT's engaging storytellers. Then take a short walk around the reserve to look for some wildlife.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Thursday 23 August

Messy Play
(WWT Caerlaverock)
11.00am to 12.00noon
Booking: Essential

Get outdoors on our wetland and take part in some messy play. Please come dressed appropriately. Suitable for children aged 5 and under.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

Tuesday 28 August

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

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

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

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

Cost: £3 Members, £4 Non-members,
Children half price

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 2 September

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

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 September

Wednesday Wildlife Walk
(RSPB Mull of Galloway)
1.00pm start
Booking: Not Essential

The Mull of Galloway is a hive of activity with buzzing bees, fluttering butterflies and birds a plenty. Join the warden for a guided walk to learn more about the wonderful wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have some, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50, Under 5's
Free. RSPB members 20% off

Monday 10 September

High Tide Perambulation
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
12.00noon to 2.00pm
Booking: Not Essential

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

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

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

Cost: £3 Members, £4 Non-members,
Children half price

Wednesday 12 September

Low Tide Shore Walk
(Allonby Bay)
8.30am to 10.30am
Booking: Essential

Join Ann Lingard on her popular low-tide walks to look at the creatures in the sand, on the rocks, and in the Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone. Dogs and children are of course most welcome but booking is essential as there is a limit on numbers.

Contact: 016973 21967 or visit
www.solwayshorestories.co.uk under
'Shorewalker'

Meet: Details will be provided on booking

Cost: Free

Friday 14 September

Stories in the Yurt
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Sit in the cosy yurt and listen to a nature related story told by one of WWT's engaging storytellers. Then take a short walk around the reserve to look for some wildlife.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission charges,
WWT members free

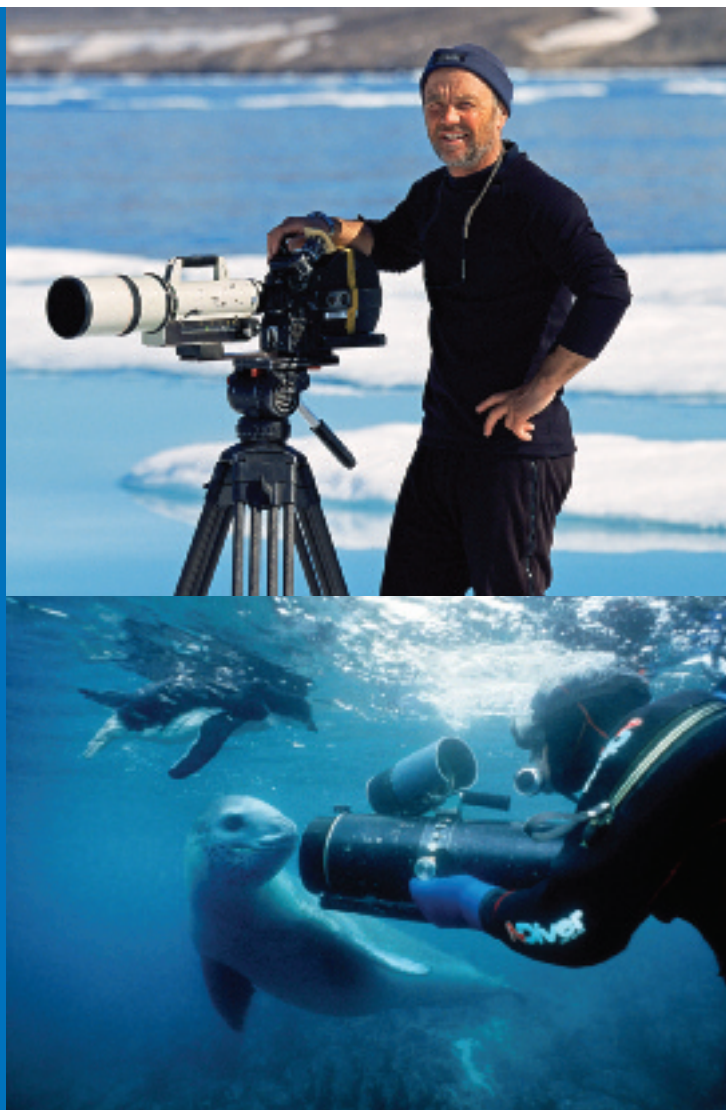
Save the Date

**Guest Speaker -
Doug Allan, Wildlife Cameraman**

Friday 2 November
Solway Firth Partnership / Solway Coast AONB
FREE Joint Conference, The Halston Hotel, Carlisle

The programme is still in draft but you can be sure that the guest speaker, Doug Allan, will be a big hit. Doug Allan is a freelance wildlife and documentary cameraman who films both topside and underwater. Although Doug has a degree in Marine Biology from Stirling University and then worked on various marine expeditions, his big break came in 1976 when he first went to the Antarctic. He worked as a research diver on the British Antarctic Survey station at Signy Island in the South Orkneys. The job entailed helping the scientists to carry out their underwater studies, from boats in the summer and beneath the ice in the winter. It was the start of an affair with ice that lasts to this day.

Save the date, Friday 2 November 2018, and come along to the joint SFP / Solway Coast AONB conference in Carlisle to find out more about Doug's intriguing story and meet him at his book signing. More details will be available in the summer with bookings being taken at that time.





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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