

tidelines

Spring/Summer 2012

Newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership

Issue 36



Making the Most of the Coast

Dumfries and Galloway's stunning coastline will get a well earned boost
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FLAG's First Project Takes Off

With help from world renowned chef,
Jean-Christophe Novelli
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2020Vision

Tidelines speaks to
Chris Gomersall
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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Gordon Mann OBE.
Chairman Solway Firth Partnership

The new year certainly seems to be heralding lots of new opportunities for the Solway Firth.

Roll out of the European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 programme continues to gather pace with the North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) having just elected its Board. Meanwhile, with a slightly different administrative system on the north Solway, work is underway to get the Dumfries and Galloway FLAG set up by early summer. We are delighted to be working with both FLAGs to help deliver community, industry and environmental benefits around the Solway.

Cumbria was allocated the highest Axis 4 award in England and Dumfries and Galloway the second highest award in Scotland (after Aberdeenshire). This is a terrific boost for the Solway area which will benefit from an additional £2.45M investment in it's fisheries and coastal communities over the next two years.

The area sees further investment with the launch our Making the Most of the Coast project. This will highlight the exceptional quality of the Dumfries and Galloway coastline and aim to ensure the region achieves the maximum benefit from its natural assets. Two additional staff will be employed by the Partnership and, over the following two years, their work will complement that of the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team based at Silloth. We are very grateful to the funders of this £200K project which you can find out more about on the following pages.

The natural environment underpins all the work Solway Firth Partnership does and, amongst many other things, we have been developing an Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) project. Non native species can wreak havoc with ecosystems, causing problems for the environment and for business. Preventing the spread of these aliens is very difficult but there are steps that can be taken, such as early detection, which can help minimise their impacts. With its Solway-wide remit, the Partnership is in a unique position to co-ordinate this work.

We have enjoyed working with many partners over recent months to develop a new recreational sea angling guide for the Solway. The booklet updates and expands a previous version and includes shore angling marks along the south Solway and Dumfries & Galloway coastlines as well as boat launch points and lots more useful information. Look out for the guide in local visitor centres in early summer.

Our events pages are full of opportunities to get out and about and enjoy the Solway. This year, co-ordination of World Oceans Week has returned to the Partnership and, as well as many of the old favourites like rockpooling excursions, we have a diverse range of other activities from kayaking to beach-casting. marine themed puppet theatre and poetry workshops on the beach. Community led Harbour Festivals are developing around the Firth with events at Annan, Whitehaven, Maryport and the Isle of Whithorn this summer. More information on these and lots more can be found on our events pages.

Wishing you a good summer on the Solway Firth.

Gordon

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Partnership **tidelines**



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CELEBRATING | The Solway Coast

Dumfries and Galloway's stunning coastline will get a well earned boost with the launch of a new project called Making the Most of the Coast. The project is the culmination of work by Solway Firth Partnership and Dumfries and Galloway Council that has attracted around £200,000 of funding support.

Enabled by funding from Dumfries and Galloway LEADER, Dumfries and Galloway Council, The Crown Estate and The Robertson Trust, the project will see the appointment of two staff based with Solway Firth Partnership in Dumfries: a Coastal Ranger and a supporting administrator. Over the next two years, this team will work closely with partners to develop events, activities and publications that support sustainable use, enjoyment and promotion of the Dumfries and Galloway coastline. This will reflect and complement the work of the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team on the opposite shore.

Pam Taylor of Solway Firth Partnership said: "We want to do something really special here. We have some of the best landscapes and seascapes in the UK, a tremendous variety of wildlife, historic coastal towns and villages, creative people and top quality fisheries. There's much more we can do to capitalise on the links between these things and raise the profile of what we have to offer here."

The project provides a great opportunity to promote the coast along with increasing understanding and care of the environment for the long term benefit of the region. Making the Most of the Coast will involve working with schools,

communities, volunteer groups and businesses as well as artists and other specialists on a wide ranging programme over the next two years.

Anna Johnson, Dumfries and Galloway Council's National Scenic Area Officer said: "Our coast and beaches are fantastic, and play an important part in making this such a wonderful place to live in and visit. This project will allow us to celebrate what makes our coastline so special, help to encourage new visitors and assist us in looking after it."

The project will include land art, building on the region's reputation in this field. The Tidelines cover photograph of local artist, Jim Buchanan, creating a labyrinth at Sandyhills on the Dumfries and Galloway coast gives an impression of the striking images this can generate. *The photograph was taken by Allan Pollok-Morris and features in the book: 'Close: Landscape Design and Land Art in Scotland' (Northfield Editions).*



NORTH AND WEST CUMBRIA FLAG'S FIRST SUPPORTED PROJECT TAKES OFF

It's a beautiful, unseasonably sunny morning in March on the West Cumbrian Coast, and world renowned chef, Jean-Christophe Novelli, is standing on Ravenglass Beach, discussing the excellent locally caught crab and lobster, and gaining valuable research for an exciting new project funded by North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG).



This will be the first of many projects supported by the FLAG following the allocation, in November 2011, of £1.35 million of European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Axis 4 Funding.

This funding stream is managed in England by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to develop small fishing communities. In the North and West Cumbria FLAG area, which covers the coastal strip from Silloth in the north to Ravenglass in the south, this funding will be used to support the existing fishing industry, create new businesses and jobs and provide educational opportunities in the FLAG area, as well as generally breathing new life into a neglected industry and region.

This first project sees Jean-Christophe back in west Cumbria working in collaboration with the Whitehaven Festival Company to research and develop ideas for a new cookery book featuring locally caught seafood and where to buy it. The Book Project team's wish is that the production of this book will raise demand for locally caught seafood, focus attention on the struggle of local fishermen and aid an industry in decline. With the involvement of Michelin Award winning Chef Jean-Christophe Novelli, his reputation and passion for the project, they have every chance of success.

Gerard Richardson, Chief Executive of Whitehaven Festival Company, is working closely with the talented chef, introducing him to a diverse range of locally sourced produce. "We want to use the recipes in the book to tell the story of how the seafood gets to our plates and explore the wonderful variety and quality of the local catch in Cumbria" he said.

With the species of fish featured in the book being carefully chosen to help create a market for previously underutilised, but equally delicious, varieties of seafood, it will try to encourage the public to be a little more adventurous when at the fish counter, and make the most of the fabulous variety of fish available from the local area.

FLAG members were invited to take part in and vote in the Annual General Meeting in Maryport in April where a new FLAG Board, elected from the membership, took over from the interim Board, whose excellent work to date set the foundations to take the work of the FLAG forward to new and exciting projects.

Membership of the FLAG is open to new members wishing to have a say in how the fund is spent and in building a sustainable future for the benefit of everyone in the coastal fishing communities. So, if you are interested in becoming a member, have a project idea you would like to discuss, or would just like to know more, please contact the FLAG office direct on 01946 67182 or download an application from the website www.cumbriaflag.org.uk



RIVER CREE RARE FISH PROJECT



SUPPORT FOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY'S FISHING COMMUNITIES

The recent allocation of £1.1 million of joint European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Axis 4 and Dumfries & Galloway Council funding is welcome news for the fishing communities of Dumfries and Galloway. The funds offer a great opportunity to boost economic regeneration by investing in businesses and communities across the region.

Ewan Green, Head of Economic Development at Dumfries and Galloway Council said, "It is important that we support Dumfries and Galloway's fishing communities to diversify and prosper. The social and economic factors affecting these communities are, of course, closely aligned to the fishing industry."

The EFF Axis 4 funding will be allocated to projects that help drive the sustainable development of Dumfries and Galloway's fishing communities based on the key themes:

- Creative economic development
- Sustainable fisheries
- Thriving communities

The fund aims to increase the capacity of local communities and business networks to build knowledge and skills, innovate and co-operate. In particular, Axis 4 supports:

- Strengthening the competitiveness of fisheries and coastal areas
- Restructuring and redirecting economic activities
- Diversifying and value adding activities
- Supporting small fisheries and tourism related infrastructure and services for the benefit of small fisheries and coastal communities

- Protecting the environment in fisheries and coastal areas
- Inter-regional and transnational co-operation

Beneficiaries will include micro, small and medium sized enterprises, third sector organisations and public sector organisations. Funding allocations will be assessed by a Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) following a similar delivery model to the existing LEADER programme. The FLAG will include a balanced mix of representatives including local individuals, local organisations and enterprises of the fishing sector, local associations and public bodies. The FLAG will decide on funding allocations based on projects which have the greatest local benefit.

To improve understanding of what EFF Axis 4 aims to achieve and the type of projects that could be eligible for support, an awareness-raising programme will be rolled out in Dumfries and Galloway in early summer 2012. This will include a seminar which will be open to everyone interested in finding out more about this funding opportunity. Look out for further details on the Dumfries and Galloway Council and Solway Firth Partnership websites as well as in local press.

The Solway Firth is known for a number of sensitive fish species that are protected at national and international levels. The only population of sparring (*Osmerus eperlanus*) left on the west coast of Scotland is found in the River Cree, and the lower River Cree and Cree Estuary have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for this reason. The River Bladnoch is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), and the Solway Firth is designated an SAC for a number of species including sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) and river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*). However, in addition to these important fish species, numbers of extremely rare allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) and twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*) are captured in the Solway Firth each year. These fish are all 'anadromous' meaning they spend much of their adult life at sea, but spawn in the river and spend all or some of their juvenile stages in freshwater. This life history can make these species particularly vulnerable. They use a number of different habitats throughout their life cycle, all of which must be available and in good condition. They are also vulnerable to barriers to migration and pass through areas such as lower rivers and estuaries, areas that are often where towns are built and the human impact on the environment can be at its greatest.

The Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) is an environmental charity set up in 1988, which works across many of Dumfries and Galloway's rivers and still waters aiming to restore and maintain aquatic biodiversity in the area, using management based on sound science. As part of this work from 2009 to 2012 GFT has been operating the River Cree Rare Fish Project to look at the rare fish in the Solway, particularly those that use the River Cree. This project is funded by The Tubney Charitable Trust, The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, GFT, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Scottish Government, SWEAT and the Crown Estate.

THIS PROJECT WORKS ON FOUR GROUPS OF RARE FISH SPECIES:

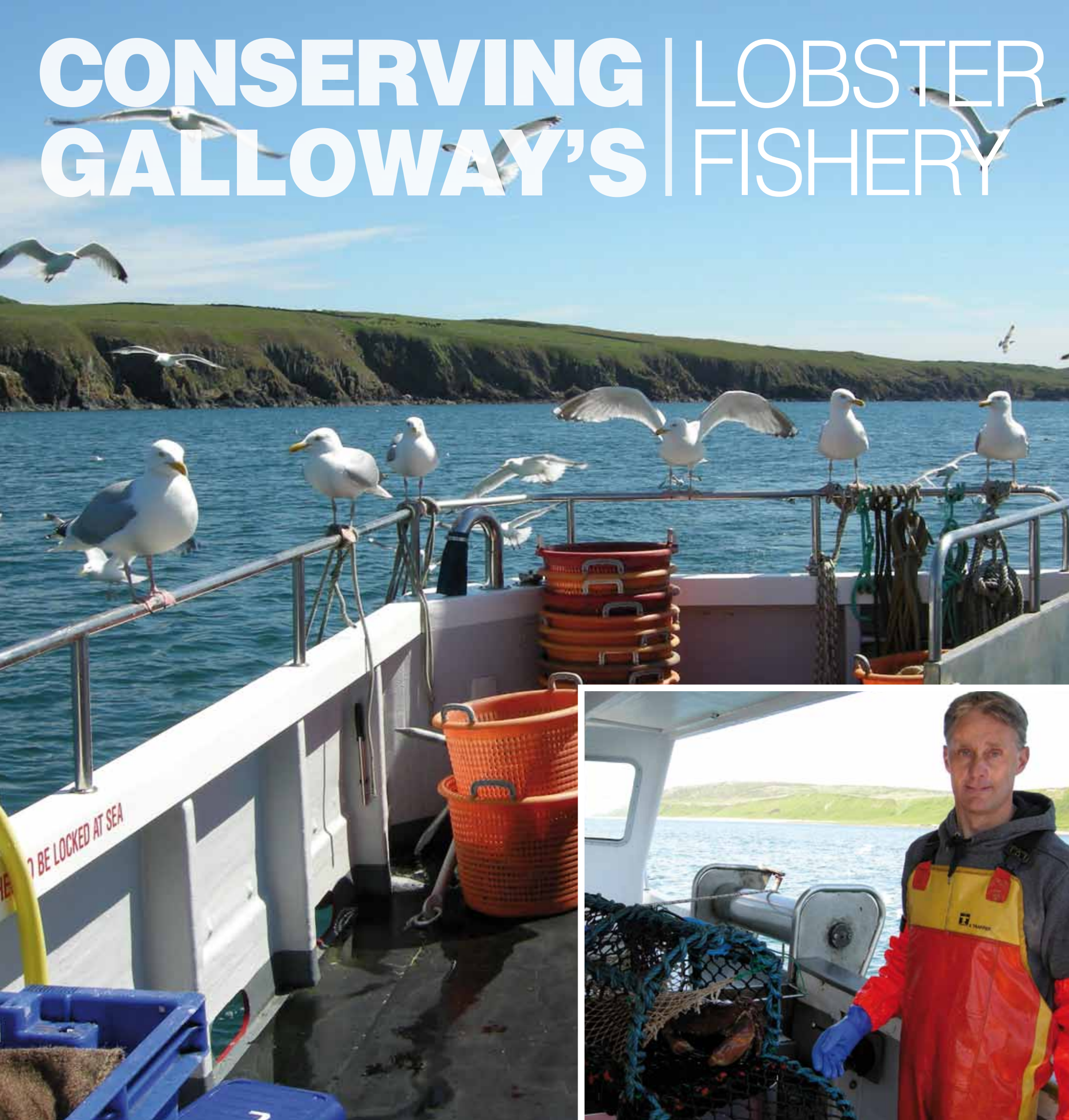
SPARLING (or smelt), also known as the 'cucumber fish' due to their strong smell, were present in nine rivers in the Solway, but due to overfishing, pollution and barriers to migration, only the River Cree population is known to remain. Due to concerns about the vulnerability of this single population, the project conducts annual monitoring and is attempting a re-introduction of sparring to Water of Fleet, a river in which this fish used to occur.

SEA, RIVER AND BROOK LAMPREY are the three species of lamprey that occur in the UK with all three being found in this area. This group of animals are among the oldest living vertebrates, and play an important role in the ecology of a healthy river system. The adults build redds like salmon in gravel areas while the larvae spend several years in sandy and silty areas filter feeding. The project aims to map important lamprey habitat in the river to enable protection.

ALLIS AND TWAITE SHAD are silver fish closely related to herring, although they can reach lengths of 40 or 50cm. One spawning population of allis shad is known in the UK in the River Tamar on the south coast of England with only a handful of spawning populations of twaite shad found in England and Wales. In Scotland, they are found in the Tay and Forth Estuaries and also the Solway where they are believed to spawn, although the location is not known. This project aims to locate potential spawning areas of this extremely rare fish.

SPRING SPAWNING ATLANTIC SALMON has been affected by the acidification of their headwater spawning and nursery grounds. The Rare Fish Project has been conducting trials of limestone gravel addition in recovering areas where salmon are known to be attempting to spawn, but where this is often unsuccessful. This trial aims to provide a spawning substrate that will protect the acid-sensitive eggs and newly hatched fish until they leave the gravel as more robust fry enabling salmon to re-colonise these recovering areas.

CONSERVING GALLOWAY'S LOBSTER FISHERY



The Galloway Static Gear Fishermen's Association was set up on 29 July 2003 after a large boat (super crabber) was encountered fishing in local inshore waters. This was a wake-up call to the local inshore creel fishermen who had fished these waters for many years. Reality hit home and a way to protect a sustainable way of life had to be found. This came in the form of an Association, run by local fishermen with dedication to the job and the will to succeed.

Local papers took up the fight as did local MSPs, Councillors and organisations including Solway Firth Partnership (SFP) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Scottish Government was lobbied as a solution was sought; the objective was to keep the local inshore grounds sustainable. After consultation, a compromise was found: prohibition of fishing by over 40ft static gear vessels inshore of a line from Mull of Galloway to Burrow Head and from Burrow Head to Abbey Head.

The Association had achieved a significant goal in a short time but this was just the beginning. Members have since taken part in many meetings throughout Scotland, working with SNH, SFP and the Scottish Government. The Association has been consulted on many fisheries issues and has contributed to many initiatives including the World Oceans event in Port William.

In the winter of 2004, the Association sprang into action again in response to a greater than usual number of scallop boats fishing the inshore waters of Drummore. It was quickly agreed that a Code of Conduct would be the way forward allowing both parties to work together.

In 2010 the Association helped support the fight against the proposed Wigtown Bay wind farm. Thankfully, after consultation and the hard work of local people it was put on the back burner. This year, yet again, the Association voices concern over the sustainability of the fishery and of all fisheries in the local area. There is growing concern about the proposed wind farm in the Outer Solway which the Association strongly oppose. The fight for survival is ever stronger and the wish to have a future in fishing stronger still. Fishermen are told repeatedly about conservation and the need for Marine Protected Areas and Special Areas of Conservation; where does the fisherman fit into all of this? Will there be enough sea left?

Inshore fishing has changed for the better over the past 10 to 20 years with the modernisation of fishing gear from wooden hand-made creels to factory made steel creels capable of standing up to the harsh elements of the sea. Inshore boats are changing too, the emphasis on safety a big factor. They range from the small Coble to the more modern Catamaran with speeds of 20 knots and capable of transporting 300 creels. There are also

displacement boats: slower steadier boats which also work inshore waters.

New boats favour the roller (winch) system making life a little easier (less back breaking) for the fisherman. They also have self-shooting doors which allow the creels to shoot out the stern of the boat literally unaided allowing the fisherman to stay in the safety of the wheelhouse well away from the coils of shifting creel rope. These larger boats still have to be capable of working close to the shore in shallow water and close to the rocks.

Another change has been the raising of the minimum landing size (MLS) for lobsters. In 2002, to improve species conservation, it became illegal to land any lobster under 87mm. Previous legislation had already altered MLS from 83mm to 85mm. These changes have helped give the lobster a chance to spawn before being landed. Unfortunately, there are those who ignore the law and make things harder for responsible fishermen.

The attitude of committed fishermen to their environment has shifted over the years and there is a realisation that sustaining the fishery for future generations must be foremost in their agenda. Methods tried in other areas include the establishment of lobster hatcheries. This allows eggs to be taken from berried (egg carrying) lobsters and fostered until they reach a viable size for release back into the sea with a good chance of survival. Another way of supporting healthy populations is by V-Notching berried lobsters. This is done with the use of a tool which snips a V shape out of the lobster's tail thus making that lobster illegal to land and allowing her to continue to breed for the time it takes to grow the V-Notch completely out of her tail.

Pot (creel) escape hatches can also be used which allow undersized lobsters to escape the pot giving a better chance of survival than being captive with larger lobsters or crabs and being crushed and eaten. All of these things can, will and are making a difference to the ever growing lobster fishery. However, along with these changes, greater help is needed in policing the fishery to ensure that all this work to make a sustainable fishery for the future is worthwhile. This is the job of Marine Scotland.

*June Lochhead - Secretary
Galloway Static Gear Fishermen's
Association*



GONE FISHING

The Solway Firth is one of the best places to go sea angling in the UK. Big tides and complex currents help supply lots of nutrients, which in turn support a rich diversity of marine life. The chance to catch everything from a flattie to a shark from both boat and shore, along with some of the best tope, ray and pollock fishing in Britain, make the area a popular sea angling destination. All this takes place in an exceptional landscape, with much of the Cumbrian coastline designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Dumfries and Galloway coastline carrying no less than three National Scenic Area designations.

Angling tends to be a 'hidden' activity, taking place in out of the way places. However, a recent report, Fishing for Answers, which is the result of three years' national research, has concluded that it has as many, if not more, participants than football, cricket or rugby. If that seems surprising, take a look at the number of angling magazines on display the next time you visit the newsagents. The study highlights the value of angling to the national economy (an estimated £3bn), its importance to tourism and the quality of life of many people.

Solway Firth Partnership is currently finalising work on a new recreational sea angling guide for the local area. The aim is to raise the profile of sea angling locally, encourage locals and visitors to take part and help look after the natural environment as well. The work has been part funded by Solway Coast Area of Outstanding

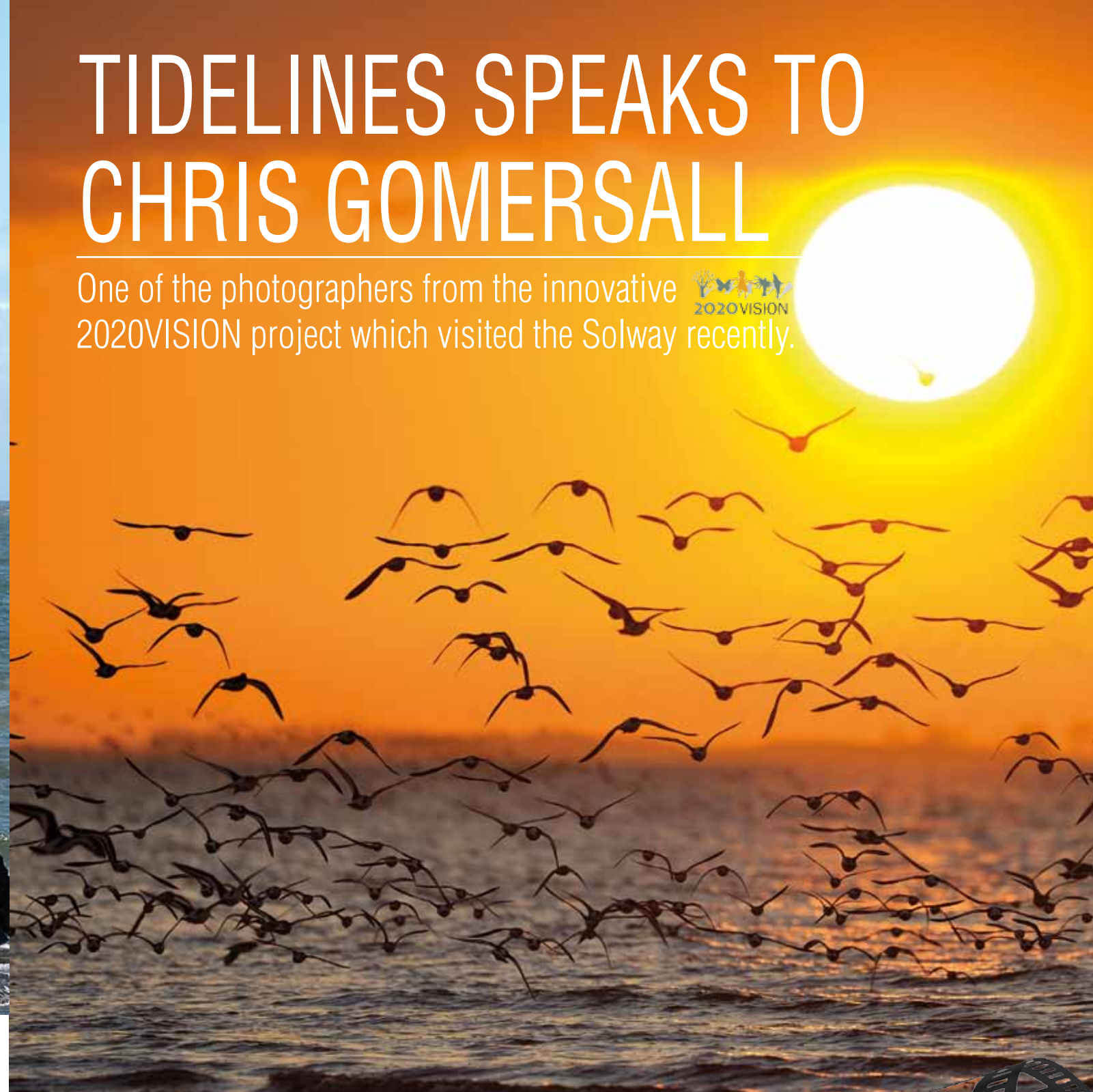
Natural Beauty and takes in both the south Solway and Dumfries and Galloway coastlines. The guide includes information about shore marks and boat launch points, as well as good practice in handling fish, safety advice and details of local tackle shops and charter boat operators.

Solway Firth Partnership would like to thank everyone who has kindly provided the information, advice and photographs to make this possible. Look out for the new guide this summer in local information centres including the Solway Coast AONB Discovery Centre at Silloth. Or check it out online at the Solway Firth Partnership and Solway Coast AONB websites:

www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk and
www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk

TIDELINES SPEAKS TO CHRIS GOMERSALL

One of the photographers from the innovative  2020VISION project which visited the Solway recently.



WHAT IS 2020VISION ABOUT?

It's essentially a mammoth photography and multimedia project to highlight the importance of rebuilding and re-connecting our natural systems, and how crucial that is to our own wellbeing. We want to tell stories about many of the great initiatives that are taking place all over the country - not to nag folk about what they're doing wrong.

WHY 2020?

The boring answer is that the project arose in response to the UK's biodiversity action plan targets, which were recalibrated to the year 2020. Then we have twenty photographers, twenty assignments, and twenty months in which to complete the photography. Catchy, huh?

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THIS TAKE PLACE?

It's already happening. All over the UK. In fact, the photo assignments are all but completed. Four of our photographers were recently in the Solway Firth documenting its special qualities.



WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT 2020VISION?

Certainly nothing on this scale has ever been attempted before. Wildlife photographers normally plough their own furrows – and while many of us have our hearts in the right place, organising ourselves as a co-operative is quite novel. Meanwhile, many of the conservation charities are great at the science, but sometimes fall short on the mass communication front. We reckon that needs turning around, putting imagery first to engage with people emotionally and spark their imaginations. But it's not just about pretty pictures; we'll also be involving writers, film-makers, musicians, sound recordists, graphic designers, and all sorts of other creative talents.

WHO IS BEHIND THE PROJECT?

It's important to say that we're not part of government, and not aligned to any political party or pressure group. Basically the project is owned by the consortium of photographers, through a social enterprise company called the Wild Media Foundation.

WHAT WILL THE PUBLIC SEE OUT OF THIS?

Well, you won't be surprised to hear there's a book. But there will also be street exhibitions and multimedia outdoor projections as well as a theatre show – from London to Llandudno, and from Sheffield to Shetland, beginning in Edinburgh in July 2012. If you want us to do something in your region, please let us know.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH THE PROJECT?

We want to reach out beyond the core conservation memberships and try to introduce fresh thinking about nature to a wider audience, and to make the issue of environmental health much more mainstream. That means presenting these messages in ways that are neither elitist nor intimidating; so our displays will appear in shopping centres rather than art galleries, and our AV shows screened in public places rather than at select conferences.

I'M NOT REALLY A "NATURE AND WILDLIFE" PERSON. WHY SHOULD I CARE?

If you've ever walked the dog in the park, fished in the canal, paddled in the sea or enjoyed a day on the beach with the kids, then you know the value of a little breathing space. And if you want clean air, fresh water, wholesome affordable food, and a home protected from flooding, then you really have no choice but to get interested. 2020VISION is not a conservation message; it's a message for society at large.

"It's not just about pretty pictures"



"2020VISION is not a conservation message; it's a message for society at large."

ISLE OF MAN

The European Hot Spot for Basking Sharks

The Isle of Man, in the middle of the Irish Sea, has plenty of interesting wildlife. Perhaps none is more interesting than the enormous, enigmatic visitors that appear off the coastline during the summer. Dark, triangular fins cut through the water, sometimes just a few metres from the shore, reminiscent of a certain shark movie. However, instead of causing panic, people squeal with delight at witnessing the second largest fish in the world; the basking shark. Manx waters are becoming renowned as a European hot spot for these fascinating fish and every year, hundreds of sightings are reported to the Manx Basking Shark Watch's website.

The Manx Basking Shark Watch (MBSW) www.manxbaskingsharkwatch.com was started in 2005, as a means for people to report their sightings. It is run as a project of the Manx Wildlife Trust and has grown over the years into a comprehensive research and education venture. The three main aims of the MBSW are to raise public awareness, to carry out research and to work with other scientists, all with the goal of better protection and conservation for this endangered species. The website is the easiest way of getting the public involved in the project, by reporting their sightings and reading up to date news articles.

The research side of the project has really taken off since 2009, with strands being added to the programme as further questions are raised. Their behaviour, especially what appears to be social behaviour, is being studied – strange swimming patterns, with sharks circling or following each other for hours. Whether this is merely feeding in a good patch of plankton, or an indication of courting sharks, are questions which are hoped to be answered. One of the better known aspects of the research is satellite tagging which gives information about where the sharks go when they leave Manx waters. They nearly all head south for the winter, going as far as the Scilly Isles, before turning round and heading back up towards Manx waters. However, one intrepid female crossed the Atlantic Ocean, in only 86 days, a world first in terms of knowledge of basking shark migration!

Sharks are also being looked at as individuals, creating 'basking shark passports' with as much information as possible being gathered about each shark, including its size and gender. 'Slime', collected on an oven scourer from the basking shark's body, contains DNA, allowing a genetic fingerprint for each shark sampled to be identified. Photographs of the dorsal fins tell the different individuals apart and recognise that some sharks come back to Manx waters year after year. There are also plans to compare the photos with those of sharks seen elsewhere in Britain, as another way to track their movement patterns.

Any good photos of sharks seen in the Solway would be really useful to the project, helping to build up the bigger picture. Hopefully, by fitting together all these small pieces of the jigsaw, the campaign for better protection for basking sharks and the outlook for their conservation will be improved.

Eleanor Stone, Marine Officer, Manx Wildlife Trust



FAIR WIND FOR ANNAN HARBOUR

The Annan Harbour Action Group were down at the quayside reviewing what to do next to regenerate Annan's much underused asset, when a grateful lady approached the group, "I can't believe what you've achieved already. You've made such a difference. I so enjoy coming here now and if I win the lottery, you'll be the first to get a cheque".

It's amazing the change that has taken place since the Action Group got together last spring to take the initiative. There was little enthusiasm for doing any development down at the port: a hulking wreck inhabited the quayside and the harbour was an eyesore which shamed the town. Annan had just published a Master Plan in which the harbour was just a bit player when the people who formed the Action Group knew it should have a starring role.

A year on, the group has turned things around. The water area has been transformed by a number of community clean-ups. The first venture in March 2011 saw intrepid volunteers venture into the deep mud of the harbour armed with grappling hooks



and a robust risk assessment. Under the watchful eye of the Coastguard they filled a skip with old bicycles, shopping trolleys and the odd discarded anchor. The metal scrap raised £161, the group's first fundraising effort. The next successful project was to tow the abandoned boat from the harbour out of sight behind the historic warehouses of Port Street, which had seen the rise and fall of Annan's historic exporting, boatbuilding and fishing past. Then when the group hired a digger to make environmental improvements, they knew that the public were on their side. People, unknown to the group, dug deep into their pockets for tenners and twenties to pay the driver.

Over the year the harbour has been at the centre of the community. The first Annan Harbour Festival drew big crowds in September and showed that large boats could easily negotiate the channel into Annan. The quayside then established itself as a space for public performance when the 'Tide Machine', a spectacular show, rolled the waves into town.



Now People Power has changed the perspective of the harbour. There are plans to provide a slipway to allow small boats and the Nith Inshore Rescue to access the river and the Solway. The harbour is now one of Annan's Master Plan top priorities and the group has the support of a project officer to complete a business plan. This will help find funds to achieve the ambitious vision for the harbour's future.

There is a long sail ahead but the voyage has been embarked on. There's hope that the kind lady, who met the group last year, will win the Lottery and set the project on its way with a fair wind behind it.



Richard Brodie
Chairman, Annan Harbour Action Group



THE HARBOUR FESTIVAL AND ANNUAL TRAWLER RACE, MARYPORT

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June 2012

Making the most of Maryport's beautiful harbour and strong maritime tradition, this new summer festival really will offer fun for all the family.

Much of the excitement will be provided by the trawler race (a very popular event that has taken place in Maryport for many years). The trawlers will set off at 1pm from the harbour side, following a new course that will be in view at all times from the harbour, the piers and the promenade. Other water-based thrills will include a yacht race (organised by Maryport Yachting Club), displays and demonstrations from Maryport Inshore Rescue independent lifeboat and the Coast Guard. There will also be the chance to go aqua zorbing (walking on water inside a giant bubble) with Splash Aquazorbing and for the energetic there will be the rodeo bull and quad bikes.

Sunday morning will feature an inter-forces tug of war, and for those who prefer shopping to fighting there will be a Saturday morning car coot sale, a Continental market, organic food stall, fisherman's jumble and boating jumble and jewellery stall as well as a Steam Exhibition and representatives from several local charities giving information about their activities.

Younger members of the family will be kept thoroughly entertained all weekend with a children's fair, bouncy castles and a children's marquee with art workshops, storytelling, face-painting and exhibitions from the Model Club, not to mention meeting Oscar the Robot. Children will also love the chance to touch the sea creatures in Maryport Aquarium's touch pool.

In the main marquee, festival-goers can enjoy hearing live music from a range of top local bands, including Collision, Decadian, AWOL, Mingos Locker, Broken English, Sarah and the Stormchasers, Secure Unit, Black Wolf Run, Double D, and Plastic Paddy. Beer enthusiasts will be delighted to hear that the marquee bar will be selling a great selection of Cumbrian real ales.

Organised by not-for-profit community group the Solway Trust, this festival is definitely not to be missed. Get yourself over to Maryport for a weekend of non-stop seaside fun!

Tickets for the main marquee are only £5 per day, available from The Lifeboat Inn and The Maritime Museum at Maryport, with free entry to the children's tent.



For further details, visit: www.thesolwaytrust.com or find us on facebook



OFFSHORE WIND POTENTIAL IN OUTER SOLWAY

Last year, The Crown Estate granted Danish company, DONG Energy, an exclusivity agreement for a new search area in the Outer Solway Firth for a potential offshore wind farm. The project developer, Vanessa O'Connell, tells Tidelines what DONG Energy has been doing so far to investigate the potential options.

An offshore wind farm in the Outer Solway would directly support the Scottish Government's desire to see further and faster development of offshore wind and it would make a significant contribution to the Scottish target of incorporating 100% of electricity demand from renewables by 2020. As a major engineering project, it would also deliver significant economic benefits.

DONG Energy is one of the biggest offshore wind farm investors and developers in the UK. The company has several projects under development, construction and in operation and that experience has taught them that engaging with the communities around potential projects early on and understanding their views is one of the most important parts of any wind farm.

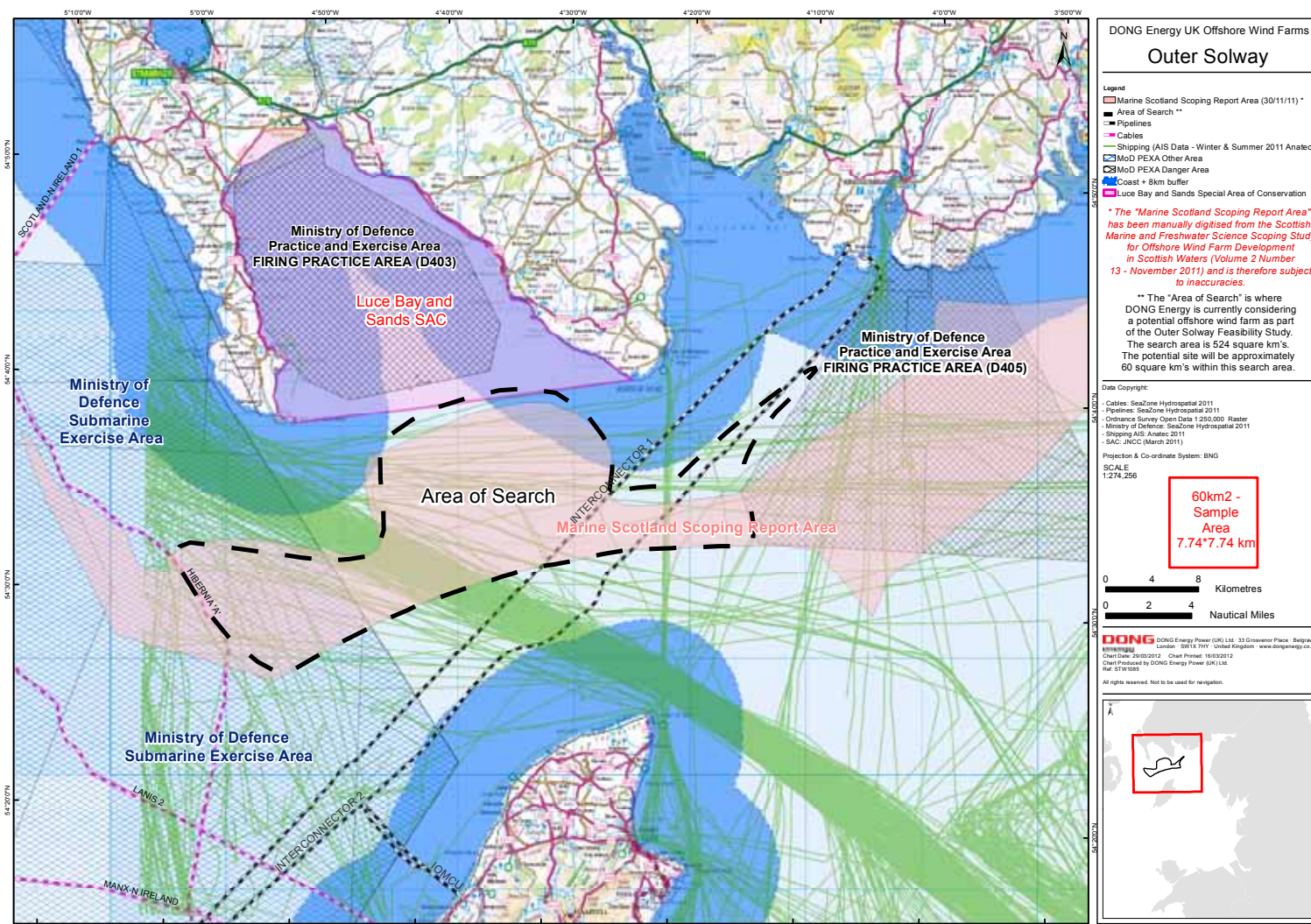
That's why, during the first quarter of 2012, engagement in early consultation with a wide range of stakeholders in the area took place, to establish views on the viability of an offshore wind farm site in the area of search. This included meetings with statutory consultees, community councils and other local groups, elected representatives and organisations with specific interests such as fisheries, shipping and ecology. During these meetings we've

been discussing the potential for around 300MW generation capacity, to be accommodated within 60km². At this early stage, it is also made clear that any wind turbines within this search area will be at least eight kilometres from the shore.

The location map shows the initial constraints in the area such as the Ministry of Defence Exercise Areas, shipping lanes and gas pipelines. The early consultation has helped to understand additional constraints in the area such as commercial fishing areas and bird reserves.

The results of this early consultation are now being evaluated and it is important to stress that no site specific details have been worked up at this stage. This is dependent on the outcome of the early consultation and the agreement of a lease from The Crown Estate. Additionally, this summer, Marine Scotland is consulting local stakeholders on their offshore wind development plans in the Solway region. Any proposals that do come forward in the future would be subject to full consultation with the local community, stakeholders, the Scottish Government, statutory consultees and The Crown Estate.

Further information available at www.dongenergy.com/outersolway



COASTAL ACCESS IN CUMBRIA

Work to create the new England Coast Path is now well underway in several locations around the country, including Cumbria. A public consultation for this stretch will open at the end of April.

Since April 2011, the Natural England Cumbria Coastal Access Team and Cumbria County Council have been working on proposals to create a footpath for coastal access between Allonby and Whitehaven. Over the last year, they have been speaking to different individuals and organisations to understand the key issues, concerns and opportunities for access along this stretch. They have also visited all the land where the route could go. Between September 2011 to end October 2011, they met with the people who own and manage that land to 'walk the course' and discuss where the trail and the margin around it – designed for people to rest, relax and admire the view – could go. This enabled them to raise any particular concerns or suggestions, which have been essential in shaping the route and identifying what infrastructure - like gates and signage – will be needed.

In the past few months, they have been reviewing all the information and preparing their draft proposals for where the coastal trail and its margin will go. These proposals will be published toward the end of April 2012 for a 12 week consultation, when they will invite comments from the public, landowners, interested organisations and businesses. The plans will be published on their website (www.naturalengland.org.uk), and comments can be submitted on-line, via email or letter. Paper copies will be made available to view at venues including libraries, Council offices and Tourist Information Centres.

After the consultation, Natural England will give careful consideration to all the comments before preparing a final report for the Secretary of State. After they have submitted this report, there will be an eight-week period during which any person may make representations to them. Owners and occupiers of affected land may submit a formal objection if they wish to. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will then make a decision about the report when all representations and objections have been considered. Establishment of the new access arrangements will not begin until that decision is made.

For further information please contact: Danny Moores – 01928 788481 or email – Cumbria.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk

May

Every Tuesday & Thursday	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Join RSPB for a guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and wildlife of the reserve. There will be opportunities to view the sea-birds, some of which will be nesting, and to look for harbour porpoise. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP, NX155304
Saturday 5 & Saturday 12	Dawn Chorus 6.00am – 9.00am Booking: Essential	Rise early and listen to the dawn chorus on the Crook with the warden. Learn to identify birds by sound. (Please bring your own binoculars if you have them). Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Saturday 5	Annan Harbour Festival 11.00am – 3.00pm Booking: Not required	For the second Annan Harbour Festival there is a full programme of music, a flotilla of boats arriving from Solway sailing clubs, team games, food stalls promoting the high quality local produce of the area and local craft stalls Contact: Caroline Brown, Treasurer Annan Harbour Group 01461 205818 Meet: Annan Harbour, DG12 6BT, NY187659
Sunday 6	Skylark Symphony 4.30am – 6.00am Booking: Essential	Come along and hear nature's symphony in the open countryside around Mersehead. The air will be alive with the sound of skylarks, warblers and finches. Join RSPB for a warm cuppa in the Visitor Centre after your walk. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Sunday 6	In Focus 10.00am - 5.00pm Booking: Not Required	Try before you buy the latest binoculars and telescopes from the huge range available. In Focus experts on hand all day to give advice. WWT Caerlaverock benefits from every sale. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 7	May Day - Look out for Lapwings 10.30am – 12.00noon Booking: Essential	Join RSPB for a guided walk looking for one of the UK's most threatened species. Find out more about how we manage the reserve for them and why they need our help more than ever. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Saturday 12	Natterjack Night 8.30pm – late Booking: Essential	A walk onto the reserve to find the rarest amphibian in Britain, the Natterjack Toad. At dusk, if very lucky, you may hear the toad chorus as the male toads come down to the shallow pools to sing to the females to encourage them to spawn. Bring warm clothing suitable for the evening and a torch. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Sunday 27	Natterjack Night 8.00pm – 10.00pm Booking: Essential	A guided walk to the Natterjack compounds to learn more about these amazing amphibians and see why Mersehead is rated as one of the best places for them in Southern Scotland. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Monday 28	May Day - Look out for Lapwings 10.30am – 12.00noon Booking: Essential	Join RSPB for a guided walk looking for one of the UK's most threatened species. Find out more about how the reserve is managed for them and why they need our help more than ever. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Friday 1 — Sunday 3	Whitehaven Diamond Jubilee Festival 2012 Booking: Some events require booking	The Queens Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated in style in Whitehaven with a weekend of activities and events. Katherine Jenkins will open the festival on the Friday. Contact: www.thewhitehavenfestival.c.uk/ Meet: Various locations around Whitehaven
Sunday 3	World Oceans Week Celebration, Rockcliffe 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Join in the fun in the marquees on the beach at Rockcliffe for a day celebrating our oceans and the creatures that live in them. Featuring walks, talks, activities and a chance to learn more about the fantastic marine environment of Dumfries & Galloway. A great fun-filled day for all the family. Contact: Solway Firth Partnership 01387 702362 or info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk Meet: Rockcliffe Beach, NX847537



June

June

Sunday 3	Merse Walk 2.00pm - 4.30pm Booking: Essential	A guided walk with the warden to experience the unique flora and fauna of the Caerlaverock merse. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 4	World Oceans Day Event in Wigtown 10.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and find out about the sea and its' amazing wildlife with family fun, games and activities. Contact: RSPB 01988 402130 Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, County Buildings, Wigtown, DG8 9JH, NX434553
Every Tuesday & Thursday	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Join RSPB for a guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and wildlife of the reserve. There will be opportunities to view the seabirds, some of which will be nesting, and to look for harbour porpoise. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP, NX155304
Wednesday 6	Wild Wednesday 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not required	A return of the popular event with themed workshops throughout the day focusing on different aspects of nature. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780 579 mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Friday 8	World's Ocean Day Beach Litter Pick 10.00am – 12.30pm Booking: Not required	To help celebrate this Worlds Ocean Week, there will be a beach litter pick at Allonby. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: North Lodge Car Park at the North end of Allonby.
Friday 8	Family Fun Friday 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	A return of the popular Family Fun Day. Treasure trails, beach art competition, pond dipping and more. Have fun with nature at RSPB Mersehead reserve. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Sunday 10	World Oceans Week Celebration, Port William 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Join in the fun in the marquees on the beach at Port William for a day celebrating our oceans and the creatures that live in them. Featuring walks, talks, activities and a chance to learn more about the fantastic marine environment of Dumfries & Galloway. A great fun-filled day for all the family. Contact: Solway Firth Partnership 01387 702362 or info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk Meet: Port William Beach, NX336443
Friday 15	Crosscanonby Salt Pans Restoration Work 10.30am Booking: Essential	Join in with the scrub clearance and weed removal in and around the historic salt pans area. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Crosscanonby Road End Car Park on the B5300
Tuesday 19	Guided Natterjack Toad Walk on Grune Point 1.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	A fascinating guided walk with Bill Shaw from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust. Please bring suitable footwear and refreshment. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, Liddell Street, Sillioth, CA7 4DD
Wednesday 20	Wildflower and Butterfly Guided Walk 10.30am – 12.30pm Booking: Essential	Join in a pleasant ramble along Mawbray Banks to discover the wildflowers and butterflies living in the dune habitat. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear. All identification books welcome! Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Mawbray Yard car park, off the B5300 at Mawbray village (seaward side)
Saturday 23 - Sunday 24	Maryport Festival 2012 – Dock Rock and Trawler Race Booking: Not Required	Live music and entertainment for all the family along with the annual trawler race, raising money for local charities such as Maryport Inshore Rescue. Contact: www.thesolwaytrust.com or check facebook Meet: Maryport Harbour



dates for your diary

July

Sunday 1	Merse Walk 2.00pm - 4.30pm Booking: Essential	A guided walk with the warden to experience the unique flora and fauna of the Caerlaverock merse. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 2 & Friday 27	Crosscanonby Carr Reserve Workday 10.30am Booking: Essential	As part of the on-going management of this Reserve routine maintenance of trees, paths, ponds and hedgerows will be carried out. All tools will be provided, please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: On site at 10.30am or on the beach front Car Park on the B5300
Every Tuesday & Thursday	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Join RSPB for a guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and wildlife of the reserve. There will be opportunities to view the sea-birds, some of which will be nesting, and to look for harbour porpoise. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP, NX155304
Wednesday 4	Volunteer Recruitment and Slide Show 3.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Not required	Come along and meet Graeme Proud, the AONB Volunteer Coordinator, who will give a talk about the work that the volunteer group get involved in within the Solway Coast AONB. With many projects on-going staff are always keen to talk to anyone who is interested in the conservation of this beautiful area. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD
Friday 6	Peatland Walk Bowness Reserve 10.30am – 1.00pm Booking: Essential	Dave Blackledge, RSPB Officer, will lead a fascinating walk through the reserve, looking at the teaming wildlife that lives in the Solway Mosses. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring a packed lunch. Some ground is uneven. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: North Plain Farm, near Bowness on Solway
Friday 6 & Monday 23	Walk on the Wild Side 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the Crook of Baldoon reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Sunday 8	Isle Hamefairin' at Isle of Whithorn 10.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not required	The Isle looks forward to welcoming you to its annual Hamefairin, a celebration of local food, crafts, and fun for the younger family members set against the magnificent backdrop of its picturesque harbour. Contact: More information at www.isleofwhithorn.com/hamefairin Meet: St Ninians Hall, Isle of Whithorn, NX476365
Monday 9	Wolsty to Silloth Coastal Walk and Bird Survey 10.30am – 1.00pm Booking: Essential	This one should clear out a few cobwebs! Come along and enjoy a picturesque coastal walk and meet people who enjoy the AONB, whatever the weather, you never know it could be a beautiful sunny day. Please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing. Vehicles will be arranged for the return journey. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Car park at Wolsty Banks Road end
Monday 9 - Friday 13	Things That Go Bump in the Night 8.00pm – 10.00pm, each evening Booking: Essential	An evening walk on Mersehead reserve looking for all the wildlife that comes out at night including Barn Owls, bats and moths. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Tuesday's 10, 17 & 24	Remarkable Raptors 10.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and find out about the amazing birds of prey with family fun, games, and activities. Contact: RSPB 01988 402130 or andrew.bielinski@rspb.org.uk Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, County Buildings, Wigtown, DG8 9JH, NX434553
Friday 13	Milefortlet 21 Footpath Maintenance 10.30am Booking: Essential	Join in with strimming and clearing the path up to the Roman Milefortlet 21. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. Meet: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Contact: Beach front Car Park on the B5300 near Crosscanonby turn off



July

Saturday 14	Community Event 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come along to this special event and find out about the history of Mersehead, meet some of the characters that have formed a part of Mersehead's story. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Tuesday 17	Yucky Mud 3.00pm – 5.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and join the creatures that live in the mud on Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve. Look into the saltmarsh pools and mud to see what lives there and how we fit in, be prepared to get a bit muddy. There might even be a change to do a bit of mud skating! Bring wellies and wear old clothes. Contact: Elizabeth Tindal 07702212728 or Rangers@dumgal.gov.uk Meet: Wigtown Harbour, Wigtown, NX438548
Wednesday 18	Bring a Friend Litter Picking Event 10.30am – 12.30pm Booking: Essential	Litter picking on Mawbray Banks, giving everyone the opportunity to encourage a friend to join in an environment awareness day. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Mawbray Yard Car Park (just off the B5300 on the seaward side in Mawbray village)
Friday 20 & Saturday 21	Friday Moth and Bat Night and Saturday Moth Morning Friday 9.00pm – 11.00pm and Saturday 10.00am – 12.00noon Booking: Essential for both events	RSPB will be putting out moth traps near the car park and using bat detectors will go for a stroll around the reserve to see what bats are hunting the area. A separate event will be held in the morning to unveil what has been caught during the night before. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Saturday 28 & Sunday 29	Beach Bonanza 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	A chance to come down to the beach at Mersehead and take part in lots of fun activities. Find out what lives on the beach, take part in some beach art and collect some super shells! Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Saturday 28 & Sunday 29	Summer Craft Fair 10.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and browse a selection of stalls of locally produced crafts and produce in and around our Sulwath Centre. Refreshments will be available. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Wednesday 1	Crosscanonby Salt Pans Restoration Work 10.30am Booking: Essential	Join in with the scrub clearance and weed removal in and around the historic salt pans area. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Crosscanonby Road End Car Park on the B5300
Wednesday's 1, 8, 15 & 22	Beachcomber Walk 11.00am – 12.00noon Booking: Not Required	Join a guided walk along the beach, and find out all about the seaweeds and shells along the shoreline Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 or hannah.doyle@rspb.org.uk Meet: New England Bay public car park, DG9 9NX, NX119420
Wednesday 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Wild Wednesday 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	A return of the popular event with themed workshops throughout the day focusing on different aspects of nature. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Thursday's 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	Badgers and a Brew 7.00pm – 9.00pm Booking: Essential	Come along on an evening stroll to see if you can see Mersehead's resident badgers. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Every Tuesday & Thursday	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Join RSPB for a guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and wildlife of the reserve. There will be opportunities to view the seabirds, some of which will be nesting, and to look for harbour porpoise. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP, NX155304
Friday 3 - Wednesday 22	Scottish Nature Photography Awards Exhibition 10.00am – 5.00pm Booking: Not Required	The Scottish Nature Photography Awards celebrates nature, wildlife and landscape photography in Scotland. Mersehead is proud to host this touring exhibition. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561



dates for your diary

August

August

Friday's 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31	Family Fun Friday 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	A return of the popular family fun day. Treasure trails, beach art competition, pond dipping and more. Have fun with nature at RSPB Mersehead reserve. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Sunday 5	Merse Walk 2.00pm - 4.30pm Booking: Essential	A guided walk with the warden to experience the unique flora and fauna of the Caerlaverock merse. Contact: WWT 01387 770200 Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Glencaple, DG1 4RS, NY052657
Monday 6	Beach Boogie 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come down to the beach with RSPB, search amongst the driftwood and see what musical instruments can be made. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Monday 6 & Monday 20	Walk on the Wild Side 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the Crook of Baldoon reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Tuesday's 7, 14 & 21	Remarkable Raptors 10.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and find out about the amazing birds of prey with family fun, games, and activities. Contact: RSPB 01988 402130 or andrew.bielinski@rspb.org.uk Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, County Buildings, Wigtown, DG8 9JH, NX434553
Wednesday 8	Volunteer Recruitment and Slide Show 3.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Not required	Come along and meet Graeme Proud, the AONB Volunteer Coordinator, who will give a talk about the work that the volunteer group get involved in within the Solway Coast AONB. With many projects on-going staff are always keen to talk to anyone who is interested in the conservation of this beautiful area. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Sunday 11 & Sunday 12	Mersehead Memories 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come along to this special event and find out about the history of Mersehead, meet some of the characters that have formed a part of Mersehead's story. Contact: Becky Jones 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Tuesday 21	Sea Shell Artists 10.00am – 12.00noon Booking: Not Required	Discover the lives of the creatures that lived in the shells washed up by the sea and create a sculpture for the sea to enjoy. Contact: Elizabeth Tindal 07702212728 or Rangers@dumgal.gov.uk Meet: Wig Bay Car Park, NX037677
Tuesday 21	Yucky Mud 6.00pm – 8.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and join the creatures that live in the mud on Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve. Look into the saltmarsh pools and mud to see what lives there and how we fit in, be prepared to get a bit muddy. There might even be a change to do a bit of mud skating! Bring wellies and wear old clothes. Contact: Elizabeth Tindal 07702212728 or Rangers@dumgal.gov.uk Meet: Wigtown Harbour, Wigtown, NX438548
Friday 24	Hay Making at Crosscanonby Carr Nature Reserve 10.30am Booking: Not Required	As part of the ongoing management of this Reserve haymaking of the cut grass will be carried out to allow the wildlife to flourish in this special small reserve. All equipment will be provided but please wear suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch. Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: On site at 10.30am or on the beach front Car Park on the B5300
Tuesday 28	Crook of Baldoon Mud Walk 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	See Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve from a different angle. Starting from the RSPB's Crook of Baldoon come and explore the mud, plants and wildlife set within the beautiful landscape of Wigtown Bay. You will need wellies as you will be going out onto the mud. Meet: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk Contact: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530

September

Monday 3 & Monday 17	Walk on the Wild Side 2.00pm – 4.00pm Booking: Essential	Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the Crook of Baldoon reserve. Learn about the resident wildlife and our ongoing conservation work. Bring binoculars and walking boots. Contact: Paul Tarling 01988 402130 or Paul.Tarling@rspb.org.uk Meet: Crook of Baldoon cark park, DG8 9AQ, NX445530
Every Tuesday & Thursday	Mull of Galloway RSPB Guided Walk 1.00pm – 2.00pm Booking: Not required	Join RSPB for a guided walk around the Mull of Galloway looking at the diverse flora and wildlife of the reserve. There will be opportunities to view the seabirds, some of which will be nesting, and to look for harbour porpoise. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear. Contact: The Warden 01776 840539 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, DG9 9HP, NX155304



dates for your diary

Dumfries & Galloway's World Oceans Week Celebrations 2012

Rockcliffe
Sunday 3 June, 11am-4pm

Port William
Sunday 10 June, 11am-4pm

Come and join us for great, *free* family fun days by the sea!

sea kayaking
guided walks
rock pooling
beach poetry
treasure hunts
become a carbon hero

and see the Great Marine Show
by Dragonfly Dreaming Puppet
Theatre!

For more information contact:
Solway Firth Partnership
t: 01387 702162
e: info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk
www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk





Cover Photograph by Allan Pollok-Morris

For further information, to submit an article or to join the SFP mailing list please contact:
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