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Issue 40 Spring/Summer 2014

newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership



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Chairman's Column

Alastair McNeill FCIWEM C.WEM MCMI



Having served four terms as Chairman of the Solway Firth Partnership, Gordon Mann stepped down from the role at the Board meeting on the 31 March 2014. Gordon took on the Chairmanship in 2003, when the Partnership became an Independent Company with Charitable status, though Gordon's involvement as a leading member of the forum goes back to its inception in 1994. During Gordon's time with the Partnership, the forum has evolved considerably in terms of the variety of work undertaken together with a corresponding increase in staff. However, the Partnership continues to adhere to its founding principles of taking a holistic and integrated approach to the sustainable management of the Solway involving partners from both the Scottish and English sides of the Firth. I would like to thank Gordon both personally and on behalf of the Partnership for the time and effort he has put into ensuring the successful operation of the forum and express best wishes to him for the future.

My own involvement with the Partnership also extends back to 1994 at which time I was a senior manager with the Solway River Purification Board. For a number of years I chaired the Partnership's advisory group until I left my management role with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency in 2010. Currently, I am the Chair of the South West Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG), one of six similar forums established in 2012 by Marine Scotland which aim to improve management of Scotland's inshore fisheries (out to six nautical miles) and give commercial inshore fishermen a strong voice in wider marine management developments. Since 2010 I have been an independent Director with the Solway Firth Partnership and look forward to taking up the reins as new Chair of the forum.

Changes on the Board are mirrored by restructuring within the Partnership's team. Increases in workload, driven mostly by local demand and the need for the team to meet partners' aims with regards to the sustainable use of the area as well as proactive engagement in initiatives supported by funding programmes, have resulted in a number of projects. To facilitate these developments and ensure that the Partnership continues to operate efficiently and effectively, two new posts have been created.

Pam Taylor, who has been Project Manager since 2009, has taken up a new role as Project Coordinator and will oversee and develop projects within the Partnership. Current projects

include: Out of the Blue, which seeks to provide support for the Galloway seafood industry to build on opportunities for economic development; two IFG projects aimed at improving sustainability of the creel fishery; and developments in the Solway cockle fishery. Out of the Blue has been enabled by support from the European Fisheries Fund awarded by Dumfries and Galloway Fisheries Local Action Group and Dumfries and Galloway Council. The sustainable creel fisheries projects are being supported by South West Inshore Fisheries Group through funding from Marine Scotland. Solway cockle fishery investigations are currently being led by Marine Scotland. Thanks are extended to Pam for successfully managing the Partnership for five years.

The Project Manager post has been renamed Partnership Manager to more accurately reflect the role and Clair McFarlan, who has been with the Partnership for three years as Project Officer, has been appointed to this position. The Partnership Manager will deal with the more traditional work of the forum including collaboration with partners, strategy, marine planning, European marine sites, financial planning and personnel. The Project Officer post vacated by Clair will be filled by external recruitment.

Other staff changes include the imminent departure of Nic Coombey, who has been working as Coastal Ranger for Making the Most of the Coast Project which is due to finish in the summer. Nic will be taking up a new role with the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Project and we wish him well in this new venture. Also leaving the Partnership is Graham Platt whose contract, supported by funding from work on the cockle fishery, ended in March.

The Partnership's mission is to support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of the marine and coastal area. As Solway Firth Partnership begins its 21st year of operation, restructuring offers the opportunity to move forward positively and allow the forum to continue to meet current diverse workload demands as well as cater for future developments such as Marine Planning. I look forward as Chair to working with the 17 corporate members of the forum from both sides of the Firth and with the broader membership of the Solway Firth Partnership to ensure that together we achieve our aims and objectives.

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Front Cover Image: Southernness Lighthouse, Nic Coombey, Solway Firth Partnership



Allonby Coast

Solway Coast AONB

Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Solway Coast in its present form has been part of the landscape for 10,000 years since the retreat of the last great ice sheet. Since then, man has settled in the area and has created a mosaic of habitats

some of which are relatively unspoilt and others which have been modified. The Romans, Vikings, Reivers and eventually we have shaped the Solway Coast into what it is today. There is a wide range of habitats, all of which are fragile, and need our help to conserve and enhance. They

include the sand dunes and salt marsh on the coast, the unique lowland raised mires and the agricultural land.

The Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in December 1964 in recognition of the quality of its landscape and its significant historic and scientific interest. It stretches from Rockcliffe

in the North to Maryport in the South, covering about 115 square kilometres of the Solway Plain. The primary purpose of this designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

It contains many locally, nationally and internationally important features, some centring on landscape and others on important wildlife and heritage. Many features are protected by designations and collectively they indicate the high value of the area and underpin the need to protect and enhance it for future generations.

The character of the Solway Coast is linked to its coastal setting and remains relatively unchanged and undisturbed which gives it a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary of designation in 2014, look out for events and activities throughout the year and join in with conserving this unique and special area. For details contact: info@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk or phone 016973 33055.





The Work of the Solway Coast AONB Community Volunteer Group

The Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group was set up to assist the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Team in managing their habitat restoration programme. Work takes place throughout the AONB on wetland areas such as Finglandrigg, Glasson Moss and Bowness on Solway reserve, as well as Crosscanonby reserve, which is situated closer to Maryport. Volunteers also assist with the protection of the natural dune system, which runs along the coastal fringe between Silloth and Maryport. Regular work parties take place under the supervision of the Ranger/Volunteer Co-ordinator Graeme Proud whose role it is to assess which tasks take priority, and to liaise with landowners, local authority and government bodies, as well as providing tools and equipment to carry out the tasks.

With important Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation to manage, the work can be quite varied, and great thought goes in to the work procedures particularly with seasonal projects such as gorse cutting, grassland management, pond maintenance, hedge laying and replanting. The group also have regular beach litter picking sessions, which are usually well attended with at least two per month advertised in the newsletter.

However, it isn't all work for the volunteers as they are also encouraged to take part in survey work for creatures such as Natterjack toads, birds, butterflies etc.

The Volunteer Group are treated on occasion to BBQs and social events where they get the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the delights of fish, burgers, sausages and on occasion baked potatoes cooked in the bonfire.



Graeme Proud, AONB Ranger

The AONB team also invite the volunteers to an annual Christmas social, with guest speakers from all walks of life.

Graeme Proud is delighted to be associated with such a dedicated group of people, who care deeply for the Solway Coast AONB, its wetland habitats and reserves. Without the volunteers' commitment and determination to get the tasks done the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty wouldn't be the stunning place it is today.

Graeme is always keen to hear from people who wish to get involved in helping to protect such a unique area of the British Isles and can be contacted on 016973 33055 or email graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk

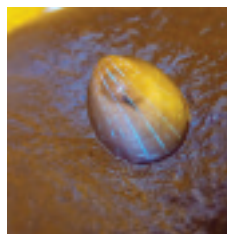


Bull huss egg case

Making the Most of the Coast

Look what the tide's brought in

Making the Most of the Coast project has published a beachcomber's guide to the Solway coast called 'Strandline' and has used the theme to develop a new exhibition which will tour Dumfries and Galloway.



Blue rayed limpet



Razorbill

Replenished with debris twice a day, the strandline marks the turning point of the last high tide and provides endless material for the curious beachcomber. It is here that the sea deposits seaweed and creatures torn up from below the waves as well as debris washed down from rivers or washed off storm tossed ships. Often several strandlines can be seen on the same beach, each one a strange collection of objects sorted and deposited by the sea.

Plastic debris on the beach is unsightly and because it is not bio-degradable it will always be with us. Slowly breaking up into small pieces, the micro plastic particles float in our seas and enter the marine food chain.

Natural objects found on the shore provide clues about creatures we rarely get a chance to see close up. A recent wreck of razorbills is a sad reminder of the death and destruction caused by rough seas but gives us a chance to get a close look at these birds with their striking bills.

Fronds of kelp tossed up on the strandline give us an opportunity to see the tiny blue rayed limpet. Usually hidden beneath the waves, its luminous stripes seem unnaturally gaudy as it clings to a frond in a tangle of kelp.

The 'Strandline' exhibition is open daily at The Mill on the Fleet, Gatehouse of Fleet, until 11th May. See 'Dates for your Diary' for details. The Strandline guide is available by e-mailing info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk or by visiting our website at www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk





Solway Sea Monster was Rubbish!

Auchencairn school children visited a mysterious Monster which had emerged at Red Haven beach. Created by Alice Francis as part of the 'Making the Most of the Coast' initiative the Monster was inspired by the issues of unsightly marine litter, particularly durable plastic. Washed up on the strandline, the plastics break up into smaller and smaller pieces which are then mistaken as particles of food by marine creatures.

Constructed from a frame or skeleton of driftwood bound together with discarded rope, it was covered by plastic of all shapes and sizes collected by volunteers along the 200 miles of coastline in Dumfries and Galloway. Drilled, knotted, netted and fastened, the plastic took on monstrous proportions over the weeks leading up to The Environmental Arts Festival Scotland. This huge Solway Sea Monster made from found plastics had a gaping mouth large enough to stand inside, and was a symbol of Consumerism consumed.

Alice Francis, the creator of the Sea Monster



The power of the winter storms returned the creature from the depths back into a tangled strandline of debris. A beach clean with the help of volunteers removed the litter which was sorted and sent to the plastic recycling facility operated by BPI in Dumfries.



Slipper limpet



Wireweed

Beware – Alien Invaders in the Solway

Non-native species are animals and plants that have been introduced by human actions to parts of the world outside their natural range. Most of these animals and plants do not cause any problems in Great Britain; however, a few species can cause serious and permanent problems by harming our native habitats and species. They can be bigger, faster growing or more competitive than native species, and may also have fewer natural predators to control their numbers. As a result, some native species are often unable to compete for space and food, which can lead to non-native species permanently taking over. These species are called invasive non-native species (INNS).

These species can devastate the local population of native species and change whole ecosystems through competing with and displacing native species, spreading disease, altering the local ecology and physically clogging and eroding waterways. Recreational facilities can also be adversely affected, for example, by reducing the population of fish, restricting navigation and reducing the habitats and water quality of our rivers and seas.

The Solway is an estuary with a variety of industry and activities taking place. There are important national and international commercial shipping routes to ports on the south Solway and fishing is an important industry on both sides of the estuary. Stranraer is a major ferry and shipping port with links to Ireland, England, Wales and further north in Scotland. Recreational boat users also use and visit the Solway with activities such as sea angling, scuba diving, sea kayaking, jet skiing, wind and kite surfing being popular. These factors mean that there is an increasing probability that certain INNS are likely to arrive in the Solway.

Solway Firth Partnership produced a Biosecurity Plan in 2013 which highlighted the need to develop a rigorous reporting, identification and recording system for marine INNS in the Solway. An identification guide, funded by Marine Scotland and the Environment Agency, has now also been produced. This waterproof pocket guide will help to identify the marine INNS of concern in the Solway that might be found in ports and harbours, on seashores, on boat hulls and fishing equipment.



There are many non-native species to the UK, but some species of particular concern are:

Killer shrimp is a highly aggressive and voracious predator and is regarded as one of the most damaging invasive species in Western Europe.



Environment Agency

NSS Trevor Renals



Signal crayfish feed on fish and amphibian eggs, tadpoles, juvenile fish, aquatic invertebrates, detritus and aquatic vegetation and are partly blamed for amphibian declines.

Chinese Mitten Crabs are already present in Cumbria and may reach Dumfries and Galloway by natural migration.



Richard Sands

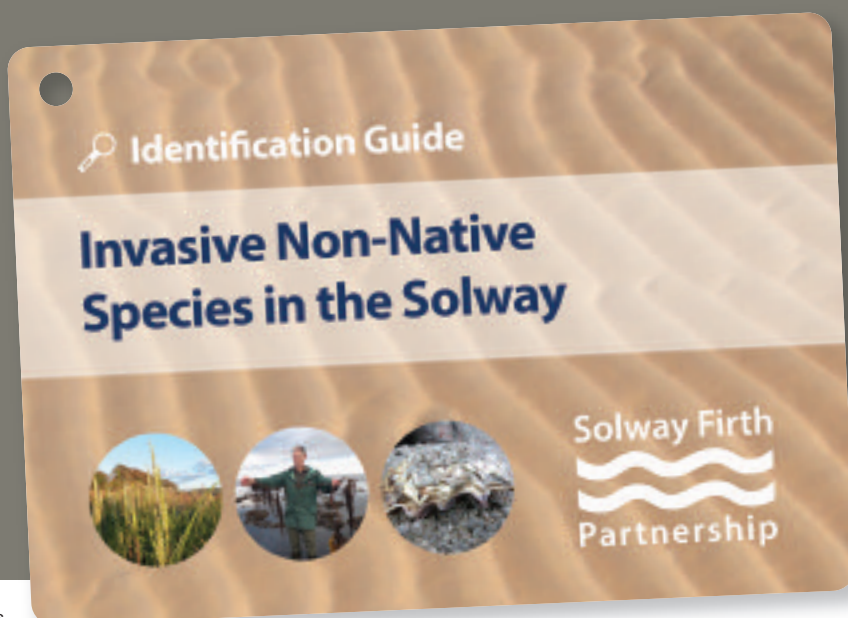
The potential introduction of the salmon fluke parasite (*Gyrodactylus salaris*) to the UK is a major concern to fishery managers.



Paul Beckwith, BWW

Zebra mussels can clog water pipes, filters and turbines, and have become a major pest in water treatment works and power station intakes.

If you would like a copy of the identification guide contact Solway Firth Partnership at info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk or download a copy from the website www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk



Dumfries & Galloway Check Clean Dry Campaign 2014

If you are out and about enjoying Dumfries & Galloway's lochs, rivers or coasts this summer, please support the Check, Clean, Dry campaign and prevent the spread of non-native species.



The aim of the campaign is to protect Scotland's fresh and marine waters from becoming threatened by the introduction of invasive animals and plants that don't belong here. Animals, eggs, plant seed and viable fragments can travel undetected by 'hitch hiking' with humans from one water to another, hiding undetected in damp conditions, such as on boats, fishing equipment and clothing. Although being promoted in Dumfries and Galloway the advice can be used wherever you live in the UK. For more information visit www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry

By following three simple steps when leaving or entering the water, we can help stop their spread:



Check your equipment and clothing for living organisms. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.



Clean and Wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the place on the coast you found them.



Dry all equipment and clothing as some species can live for many days in moist conditions.



Seashore survey

Exploring our Cumbrian shores

Have you ever been for a coastal walk, looked out at our not-so-blue sea and wondered is there anything in there? Most of us know about the wealth of marine wildlife that exists in the warm waters of the tropics but not so many of us realise that here in the Irish Sea we have reef systems, seagrass beds, mussel beds and other marine habitats that are also teeming with life.

The coastline of north-west England is hugely varied with many habitats and species of national and international importance. Extensive mudflats can be found at Morecambe Bay which are important for migrating wildfowl, and are home to the best example of honeycomb worm reefs in the UK. On the north Cumbrian coast the sea cliffs of St Bees Head are

home to breeding black guillemots and the rocky shorelines dotted along this stretch of coastline support rock pool communities including shore crabs, anemones, shrimps, gobies and a multitude of other creatures.

The North West Wildlife Trust's marine team recognised a lack of opportunities for local people to get out and enjoy these special places. As a result, they set up the North West Shoresearch Project. This volunteer led programme aims to get local people and communities out spending time on their coast and increasing their knowledge of local coastal environments. This helps us by creating a long-term dataset for rocky shores which will help to inform and influence conservation management efforts.

The project has been running since 2011 and our team of volunteers is still growing. The Cumbrian and Lancashire coasts make up a long stretch of coastline and we are always looking for more people to come and help us with our surveys. You don't need to be a wildlife or marine expert to join the team as full training is provided. This year we have run five training workshops for new volunteers. In these sessions you learn all about rocky shore creatures, how to identify them and the survey methodology that we use. Then you can come out on a survey to practise your new skills, explore new places and meet people with similar interests!

If the Shoresearch Project sounds like something you'd like to get involved with, check out the Wildlife Trust's website or contact the North West Shoresearch Project directly at shoresearchnw@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk Or why not come down to this year's Beached Art Festival at St Bee's Head on May 10th where there will be an opportunity to take part in a Shoresearch survey and see if you like it. Also at the Festival will be sand sculpture competitions, whale and dolphin watches, games and crafts for kids, kite displays, a mobile rock pool and much more to ensure a fun filled day for all the family!



Beadlet anemone



Flat periwinkle Ceran



Seashore Survey



Green Shore Crab

Paul Naylor www.marinephoto.co.uk

Paul Naylor www.marinephoto.co.uk

Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Jonathan Holt



Foraging for food around the Solway Coast

Foraging tutor and chef, Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods discusses some of the wild foods you can harvest for free around the Solway coast.

Most wild habitats are crammed with tasty, health-giving wild foods if you know what to look for. Hedgerows are rich with vibrant herbs in the spring and drip with fruit in the autumn. Woods are good hunting grounds for shade-loving edible plants like wild garlic and wood sorrel and come alive with fungi in the autumn. But the greatest abundance of wild ingredients is found around our coast.

This may seem surprising, as our shores take the brunt of hostile and salty winds. They are regularly pounded by storms and high tides can rip up all but the very deepest of roots.

But the very hostility of the habitat has forced coastal plants into some ingenious adaptations. To resist wind and

salt, many have become succulent – a fortuitous evolution for the human palate. Take sea beet for example – a coastal spinach that produces large, thick, glossy leaves all year round. It is the genetic origin of many cultivated crops including beetroot, sugar beet and chard, but tastes better and has a higher nutritional content than any of them. Where cultivated spinach disappears to virtually nothing when cooked, sea beet remains substantial and crunchy, with a rich iron flavour and salty tang. Look for it above the strand line on shingle beaches, clinging to sea cliffs and anchored to coastal defences.

Where exposed shingle gives way to muddy estuaries more nutritious, gourmet treats can be found. Most



people are aware of marsh samphire – another succulent plant that looks like a mini ‘cactus’ – from its presence in fishmongers. Less are aware that there are areas around the UK coast where it grows in large quantities and can be responsibly harvested for pickling or as a mouth-watering accompaniment to lamb. Salt marshes boast even greater succulent delicacies like sea aster (a member of the daisy family esteemed by top chefs) and sea arrowgrass, which looks like ordinary grass, but has a strong and surprising kick of coriander.

Even below the high tide line there is super-abundance of wild food resources for the mindful forager.

Seaweed is perhaps the single largest relatively untapped food

resource in the UK. When I mention this on my guided forays, the most common reaction used to be “Yes, I know it’s edible, but it’s like chewing a mouthful of salty rubber!” But this attitude is changing. Lost traditions of seaweed consumption in the UK are being revitalised by the esteem with which it is held in newly emerging eastern cuisines. Emerald green sea lettuce makes a vibrant addition to a stir-fry and laver is more or less the same species as the nori that you will find wrapped around sushi rolls.

While you are trimming seaweed from the rocks, you can also keep your eye out for shellfish. Mussels, winkles and razor clams are plentiful in many areas, though foragers should keep a keen eye

out for potential pollutants, avoid shellfish during their summer spawning period and be aware of legal restrictions (notably on the harvesting of cockles).

If all this weren’t enticing enough, the warming effect of the sea means even plants that aren’t specifically adapted for the coast can thrive in frost-free conditions. For the earliest, biggest, juiciest and tastiest blackberries and sloes – head for the coast!

Never eat a wild plant unless you are 100% sure of its identity and edibility.

To learn more about how to forage safely, legally and sustainably, visit www.gallowaywildfoods.com or book onto one of Mark’s regular guided forays (see ‘Dates for your diary’ pages, 20-23).

Ann Lingard, who writes the Solway Shore Stories about the people who live and work along the coast and on the Firth, will again be running her informal guided shore walks on the south side of the Firth



Explore the *Sabellaria* Reefs

with Ann Lingard

Depending on weather and tide, walks usually take in the submerged forest, the *Sabellaria* reefs, and look at the animals that live in the sand, in the pools, and cling onto hard surfaces – or that end up on the tidelines. Burrowing sea-anemones, mussel spat, green sponges, Roman 'loom-stones', even alien animals that have been cast up by the sea – you never know what you will find!

The *Sabellaria* Reefs

An eighth of a millimetre long, transparent, delicate, planktonic, the *Sabellaria* larva is being swirled to and fro by the currents in the sea. There may be tens of thousands of its peer group in the sea around it, all needing to touch down on solid ground. Larger animals in the plankton try to trap and eat them: mussels on the sea bed are pumping water across their gills, ready to filter them out and wrap them in sticky mucus; there are worms with outspread crowns of tentacles waiting to catch their prey: our larva unfurls its cluster of tiny spines to make itself prickly and unpalatable. It swims as strongly as it can to reach that safe haven where it can construct its permanent home.

Sabellaria is a honeycomb worm, related to earthworms, ragworms and lugworms but unlike them, is a tube dwelling animal that relies on food coming into contact with its tentacles that spread out around its mouth. The *Sabellaria* reefs are built by these worms, not by coral, and this is what makes *Sabellaria alveolata* so special to Cumbria and the south Solway coast.

Walkers interested in coming on a shore walk should book a place as there are a maximum of ten places on each walk. Wellies are required (not walking-boots, trainers or sandals) and warm clothes. Walking-poles are useful as the terrain at the bottom of the shore is always wet, mostly pebbly, and often muddy.

The walks are free, but voluntary donations towards the guide's travel and publicity expenses are always gratefully received!

For information about walks, booking details, dates and times, see 'dates for your diary' pages or go to www.solwayshorestories.co.uk/shore-walker, email enquiries@annlingard.com or phone Ann on 016973 21967.



Sponge at low tide, Dubmill



Sabellaria tubes at Allonby



Oyster lines at Dubmill Point

All photos Ann Lingard



Alan Devlin - www.allan-devlin.photoshelter.com

Region wide projects benefit from European cash

The Dumfries and Galloway European Fisheries Fund (DGEFF) Axis 4, formally launched in June 2012, awards grants to fisheries-related projects which demonstrate innovation, increased community capacity and improved economic output in Dumfries and Galloway's fisheries areas. The budget of around £1.1million was financed 50/50 by the European Commission and Dumfries and Galloway Council. The fund is administered locally by the FLAG partnership, a collective group of fisheries, public, private and voluntary sector organisations, of which Dumfries and Galloway Council is the lead partner.

Over a dozen projects have received assistance from the fund and they represent a wide sector of the community. There is a wide geographical spread and projects ranging from Stranraer to Annan have received assistance. Projects include a

church restoration and maritime heritage centre in the Isle of Whithorn; fish conservation and environmental education projects for the region's young people conducted by Nith Catchment Fisheries Trust; Harbour improvement works around Annan Harbour; installation of a public pontoon at Dalbeattie; Inshore rescue boat and shed in Port William; a salmon hatchery on the River Cree; and a contribution towards the redevelopment of Stranraer harbour to aid in the regeneration of the town. The region's two smokehouses 'Galloway Smokehouse' and 'Marrbury Smokehouse' have also received assistance to upgrade food preparation and eating areas and these will make a much welcome addition to the region's dining options, as well as creating employment and a demand for locally sourced seafood.

Marrbury Smokehouse is one example of a local project which would not have been possible if it were not for

the funding available from the EFF. The result has been an upgraded bistro and the creation of three jobs, with an expected increase in demand for locally sourced seafood.

The scheme has generated a lot of interest from around the region, with over 50 expressions of interest received over the course of the project. The current funding round is now closed and the next round of funding is currently being finalised by the European Commission with an expected UK rollout tentatively scheduled for early 2015, with the scheme expected to run until 2020. Once details are confirmed there will be a formal launch of the new EMFF scheme in Dumfries and Galloway.

Anyone interested in finding out more, should contact the EFF Project Administrator, Dumfries and Galloway Council on 01387 260513 or 07775 032249. Visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11472 or e-mail fisheriesfund@dumgal.gov.uk



Maryport Harbour

An Update from EFF North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group

In the third year of administering a £1.35 million fund from the European Fisheries Fund EFF Axis 4, North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) are calling for local businesses and community groups in the FLAG area, along the coastal strip from Bowness in Solway to Millom, to come forward with any projects that they think could be funded by the FLAG. The deadline for the funding of new projects through this round of EFF funding is drawing to a close in June 2014, and any groups which have not yet benefited from this funding have only a short time left to do so. FLAG Programme Manager Paul Crooks said: "We would urge any community groups or businesses within the FLAG area, which have a project which fits with our core themes and values of supporting the fishing industry and its

communities, to apply for funding as soon as possible".

One of the recent projects supported by the FLAG is the Fishermen's Apprentice Documentary Film being produced by Quondam Arts from Penrith, Cumbria. This project involves making a documentary film about West Cumbrian Apprentices as they embark on their Sea Fishing Industry Training Course in Whitby. For some of these young people, it will be their first time away from home, and this film aims to show the apprentices progress as they navigate their way through the many challenges to be faced before becoming qualified to take up a place on a fishing boat. The film will be used to as an educational tool to give students in local schools and colleges an insight into the fishing industry and the determination required to achieve success

in this challenging but rewarding career.

Andy Booth, Director and producer of the film for Quondam said, "We are delighted to be working with the FLAG to boost the fishing industry in west Cumbria. All industries need young people to energise them and help them grow, and we are excited to be helping to achieve that."

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 our website www.cumbriaflag.org.uk



Gatehouse in the Dark Ages

Dates for your Diary

May – September 2014

MAY

Daily to 11 May

Strandline Exhibition
(Mill on the Fleet)
10.00am to 5.00pm
Booking: Not required

The strandline marks the turning point of the last high tide providing endless material for the curious beachcomber. Find out what is cast up on the Solway shore in this exhibition from Solway Firth Partnership. Suitable for all ages.

Contact: Mill on the Fleet,
01557 814099 or visit website
www.millonthefleet.co.uk

Meet: Mill on the Fleet, Gatehouse of Fleet,
DG7 2HS

Cost: FREE

Friday 2 May

Crosscanonby Salt Pans:
Restoration Work
(Solway AONB)
10.30am start
Booking: Essential

Solway AONB staff will be carrying on with the scrub clearance and weed removal in and around the historic salt pans area. All tools will be provided but bring a packed lunch and wear suitable clothing.

Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre,
016973 33055 or
graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk

Meet: Crosscanonby Road End
Car Park on the B5300

Monday 5 May

Dumfries Forage & Talk
(Robert Burns Centre)
1.00pm to 5.00pm
Booking: Essential

Join expert forager Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods for an eye-opening afternoon discovering the edible landscape. Short presentation followed by a stroll along the Nith to find and harvest spring wild food and then return to the RBC to cook and eat it!

Contact: RBC Box Office, 01387 264808

Meet: Robert Burns Centre,
Mill Road, Dumfries

Cost: Contact the RBC Box Office for
details

Tuesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 May

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
1.00pm Start
Booking: Not required

Join the warden for a guided tour around the Mull, a stunning location at all times of the year. Seabirds, flowers, butterflies and bugs during Spring and Summer with migrating birds during Autumn. Bring binoculars and wear warm clothing and stout footwear.

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

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

Cost: £1.50 members, £3 non-members,
children free

Wednesday 7 May

RSPB Wetlands Management Day
(RSPB Campfield Marsh)
10.30am start
Booking: Essential

Join Norman Holton, RSPB Campfield Site Manager, for an interesting look at how the team manage the wetland habitats on site. Buffet lunch will be provided at the Solway Wetlands Centre on site. Please wear suitable clothing and bring binoculars if you have them.

Contact: Solway AONB Unit on 016973
33055, to book a place

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

Wednesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 May

Wildlife at Wigtown Bay
(D & G Council Ranger Service)
1.00pm to 3.00pm
Booking: Not essential

Meet Ranger Elizabeth Tindal who will guide you through the wildlife in the area. There will be binoculars, telescopes and books to help you see and identify birds and other wildlife in Wigtown Bay.

Contact: 07702212728 or
elizabeth.tindal@dumgal.gov.uk or visit
website at www.wildseasons.co.uk

Meet: Wigtown Harbour Hide, DG9 9ED

Cost: FREE

Thursdays 8, 15, 22, 29 May

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Friday 9 May

Bring a Friend Litter Picking Event
(Solway AONB)
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)

Saturday 10 May

Beached Art
(St Bees Beach)
12.00noon to 5.00pm
Booking: Required

Enjoy a great family day out at our sand sculpture competition at St Bees Beach near Whitehaven. Includes rockpool rambles, shore surveys, arts and crafts, guided walks, cetacean watching and much more.

Contact: 01539 816300 or
www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Meet: St Bees Beach, nr Whitehaven

Cost: £3 per plot or watch for free



Ian Findlay

Saturday 10 May

Wildlife Taster Day: Mosses
(Solway Wetlands Partnership
Scheme)
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential

Become an expert in a day and join botanist Keith Watson for a crash course into the world of moss. Learn what makes these plants special and how to identify them. Come face to face with all different types and find out why they are so important to the Solway. This is the first in a series of Wildlife Taster Days running through the year. The days is suitable for complete beginners and novices alike, and are ideal for adults and older young people interested in delving deeper into the wildlife of the Solway and North Cumbria. Bring a packed lunch, a drink and wear layers, a waterproof coat and wellies. The day involves both indoor sessions and outdoor fieldwork.

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

Contact: Solway Wetlands team on 016973
33055 or info@solwaywetlands.org.uk to
book your place

Cost: FREE

Sunday 11 May

**Reptiles of the Solway (Solway
Wetlands Partnership Scheme)**
10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking: Not required

The Solway mosses are ideal habitats for some of the UK's most beautiful and fascinating creatures: reptiles. Join Nicola Evans from Natural England on a walk to look for shy and elusive adders and common lizards on Glasson Moss. Bring warm and waterproof clothing and wear wellies as the route terrain can be wet and peaty.

Meet: Glasson Moss, contact the Solway
Wetlands team for meeting place details

Contact: Solway Wetlands team on 016973
33055 or info@solwaywetlands.org.uk to
book your place

Cost: FREE

Monday 12 & 19 May

**Crosscanonby Carr Reserve Work
Day (Solway AONB)**
10.30am start
Booking: Essential

As part of our on-going management of this reserve we will be painting the benches and picnic tables as well as on-going maintenance. 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

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.

Tuesday 13 May

Our Edible Landscape (The Belted Galloway Visitor Centre, Newton Stewart)

8.00pm to 9.30pm
Booking: Essential

Join Mark Williams, Scotland's only full time foraging guide, for a fascinating look at the edible and useful plants and fungi that can be gathered for free. Plants that cure blisters, mushrooms that sterilise wounds, weeds that quench thirst and much more.

Contact: www.newtonstewartwalkfest.co.uk to book

Meet: The Belted Galloway Visitor Centre, Newton Stewart

Cost: £3 per head

Wednesday 14 May

Bird Survey – Allonby to Mawbray (Solway AONB)

Booking: Essential
10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Come along and spend an hour or two observing and noting the bird species present at this busy time of year. Please bring binoculars and suitable clothing. Roughly 4 miles in length.

Contact: Solway Coast Discovery Centre, 016973 33055 or graeme.proud@allerdale.gov.uk

Meet: Car Park opposite North Lodge in Allonby (North end of the village)

Thursday 15 May

Mocha and Moths (RSPB Mersehead)

9.30am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

Not all moths are dull brown and boring! With the help of our moth trap you can see moths of all different shapes and sizes and find out a bit more about how they live. Enjoy a hot or cold drink while we look through our catch.

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

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

Cost: Adult £5, Child £2, half price to members

Saturday 17 May

Natterjack Night (WWT Caerlaverock)

8.30pm start
Booking: Essential

A walk out onto the reserve to find the rarest amphibian in Britain, the Natterjack Toad. If we are lucky we may hear the toad chorus as the male toads come to the shallow pools to encourage the females to spawn.

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

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

Cost: Adult £7.50, Child £2.50, concessions £5, includes admission, members FREE

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 May

Wildlife Photography Weekend Course (WWT Caerlaverock)

Booking: Essential

Wildlife Photography Weekend Course at WWT Caerlaverock with experienced wildlife photographers, Tom Langlands and Bob Fitzsimmons. This course will deal with macro and general subjects.

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

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

Cost: £170 per head

Wednesday 21 May

Off the Beaten Track (RSPB Mersehead)

9.30am to 11.00am
Booking: Essential

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

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

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

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, half price to members

Saturday 24 to Monday 26 May

Maryport Harbour Festival

Booking: Essential for music events

An expanded 3 day Harbour festival in the charming harbour town of Maryport. Incorporates annual trawler race, family funfair and live music covering all decades and featuring rock legends Wishbone Ash.

Contact: www.thefestivalcalendar.co.uk

Venue: Maryport Harbour, Cumbria

Cost: see website for details

Monday 26 May

Songs of Spring (WWT Caerlaverock)

10.00am to 2.00pm
Booking: Not required

Come and hear the wide variety of bird calls and songs at Caerlaverock. Learn about bird songs through games and activities. Family event.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission prices apply

Friday 30 May

Unveiling of 'The Big Issue' (Crichton University Campus)

12.00noon to 1.00pm
Booking: Essential

The Solway Centre for Environment & Culture invites you to attend the unveiling of 'The Big Issue', a new work by Ed Slater. Prof Anne Anderson will formally welcome this work, which the artist has kindly donated to the Solway Centre, into the Henry Duncan Building. Light refreshments will be served.

Meet: Henry Duncan Building, The Crichton.

Contact: E-mail Katie.naim@glasgow.ac.uk to book

Cost: FREE

Saturday 31 May

Moth Morning (RSPB Crook of Baldoon)

Start 10.00am
Booking: Essential

Join the Warden to identify the moths that have been attracted to the moth trap the night before.

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

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

Cost: £1.50 members, £3 non-members, children free

JUNE

Tuesdays 3, 10, 17, 24 June

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk

Details as previous

Wednesdays 4, 18 June

Off the Beaten Track (RSPB Mersehead)

Details as previous

Thursday 5 June

Business Conversations (Tourism)

Booking: Essential as places limited

One of a series of events organised by the Crichton Institute to bring together local businesses, leading academics and researchers to discuss the issues and challenges that face our local communities.

Venue: Crichton Institute, Dumfries

Contact: E-mail eva.gilroy@glasgow.ac.uk for details and booking

Thursdays 5, 19 June

Mocha and Moths (RSPB Mersehead)

Details as previous

Thursdays 5, 12, 19, 26 June

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk

Details as previous

Friday 6 June to Saturday 7 June

Bioblitz! (Solway Wetlands Partnership Scheme)

Friday 7.00pm to Saturday 7.00pm
Booking: Not required

Save the date! The great Solway Bioblitz is taking place this summer. A Bioblitz is a race against time to record as much wildlife as possible within 24 hours. Wildlife experts and the public will be joining forces to explore and investigate the area west of Bowness-on-Solway on the shores of the South Solway, with basecamp at RSPB Campfield Marsh and the Solway Wetlands Centre. The event brings together the combined forces of Natural England, the RSPB, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership and takes in saltmarsh, grassland, gravel pits and Bowness Common peat bog. It is part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Contact: Solway Wetlands team on 016973 33055 or info@solwaywetlands.org.uk for more details

Cost: FREE

Friday 6 June

Bug Explorers (RSPB Crook of Baldoon)

2.00pm to 4.00pm
Booking: Preferred

Can you spot a shiny leaf beetle? Do you know your bugs from your bees? Discover the fascinating world of invertebrates in this bug hunt around Wigtown.

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

Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, Wigtown County Buildings, DG8 9JH, NX434553

Cost: £5 per family, £3 members

Friday 6 to Sunday 8 June

Sharkatag Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network (SSACN)

Now in its sixth year, SSACN's Sharkatag event will take place at Drummure, Sandhead, Isle of Whithorn and Brighouse Bay. A friendly angling event, the aim of which is to tag and collect data on shark species through the Scottish Shark Tagging programme, with a particular focus this year on ray species. Boat, kayak and shore anglers can all get involved.

Contact: For further information visit: www.tagsharks.com

Sunday 8 June

Marsh Fritillaries at Finglandrigg Wood (Solway Wetlands Partnership Scheme)

11.00am to 2.00pm
Booking: Not required

Join Steve Doyle from Butterfly Conservation on this walk to see Cumbria's rarest butterfly on the wing at Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve.

Contact: 016973 33055 or info@solwaywetlands.org.uk

Meet: Finglandrigg Wood NNR parking layby, on the B5307 between Kirkbampton and Kirkbride

Cost: FREE

Sunday 8 June

Bioblitz Day (Rockcliffe, Dumfries & Galloway)

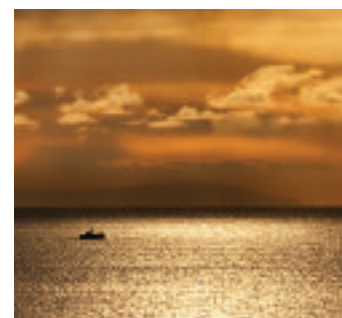
10.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Not required

Come and help record wildlife at Rockcliffe. A day festival of biodiversity bringing together wildlife recorders, both experts and beginners, to find, identify and learn about as many plant and animal species as possible – all in a day.

Contact: DGERC on 01387 760274 or info@dgerc.org.uk

Meet: Rockcliffe, Dumfries & Galloway, NX847537

Cost: Free



Ian Findlay

Saturday 14 June

Ken Dee Guided Walk
(RSPB Ken Dee Marshes)
10.00am to 12.00noon
Booking: Essential

Join the warden for a leisurely walk around the reserve to learn how our on-going work on site is giving nature a home.

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

Meet: Ken Dee Marshes Reserve, Castle Douglas, DG7 2LY

Cost: Adult £4, child £2 for non-members;
Adult £2, Child £1, Family ticket £10 for members

Sunday 15 June

A Walk on the South Solway Shore
with Ann Lingard, writer of *Solway Shore Stories* (Mawbray Banks)
8.15am start
Booking: Essential
(Maximum 10 places)

Depending on weather and tide, walks take in the submerged forest, the Honeycomb worm, *Sabellaria* reefs, and look at the animals that live in the sand, in the pools and cling onto hard surfaces. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothing.

Contact: Ann Lingard 016973 21967 or
visit www.solwayshortstories.co.uk

Meet: Mawbray Banks, opposite Banks Hill Nursery and café

Cost: FREE but donations welcomed

Thursday 19 June

Wildflowers of Dumfriesshire
(Eastriggs Natural History Group)
7.00pm to 9.00pm
Booking: Not required

Join Dr Chris Miles of Scottish Natural Heritage and Plant Recorder for Dumfriesshire to hear about the wide variety of wildflowers to be found in the area.

Contact: www.dgwgo.com

Venue: Nelson House, Melbourne Ave, Eastriggs

Cost: £2 (includes refreshments)

Tuesday 24 June

Devil Screamers
(RSPB Wigtown County Buildings)
3.00pm to 5.00pm
Booking: Preferred

Swifts screaming through our towns and cities invoke images of warm sultry summer evenings. But this could all be just a memory if we don't act soon. Find out what is causing the decline in swifts and what you can do to help these enigmatic summer migrants.

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

Meet: Wigtown Bay Visitor Centre, Wigtown County Buildings, DG8 9JH

Cost: Adults £4, members and children free

Sunday 29 June

Bug Bonanza
(WWT Caerlaverock)
10.00am to 2.00pm
Booking: Not required

See how many different kinds of bugs you can discover at Caerlaverock on this family event.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission prices apply

JULY

Tuesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 July

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Wednesday 2 July

The Moths of Annan
(Gretna General Interest Group)
7.00pm to 9.00pm
Booking: Not required

Peter and Val Russell have been moth trapping for two years so come along and find out more about the variety of fascinating moths they have caught in the Annan area.

Contact: www.dgwgo.com

Venue: Richard Greenhow Centre, Gretna

Cost: Members Free, visitors £2 (includes refreshments)

Wednesdays 2, 16 July

Off the Beaten Track
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Thursdays 3, 17 July

Mocha and Moths
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 July

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Friday 4 July

Moth and Bat night
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
9.30pm to 11.30pm
Booking: Essential

On National Moth Night we will be putting out a couple of moth traps near to the car park and using bat detectors we will go for a stroll around the reserve to see what bats are hunting the area.

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

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

Cost: Non Members £3, Members £1.50, children free

Friday 4 & Saturday 5 July

Whitehaven Live
Booking: Essential

No Whitehaven Maritime Festival this year, but 2 days of live music featuring Bob Geldof & the Boomtown Rats, the Stranglers and Big Country.

Contact: see website

www.whitehavenlive.co.uk for details of events, venues and tickets.

Saturday 5 July

Moth Morning
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
10.00am start
Booking: Essential

For those that could not make the moth and bat night we will be unveiling what was caught during the night before.

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

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

Cost: Non Members £3, Members £1.50, children free

Wednesday 9 July

A Walk on the South Solway Shore
with Ann Lingard, writer of *Solway Shore Stories* (Mawbray Banks)
4.00pm start
Booking: Essential
(Maximum 10 places)

Depending on weather and tide, walks take in the submerged forest, the Honeycomb worm, *Sabellaria* reefs, and look at the animals that live in the sand, in the pools and cling onto hard surfaces. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothing.

Contact: Ann Lingard 016973 21967 or go to
www.solwayshortstories.co.uk

Meet: Mawbray Banks, opposite Bank Mill Nursery and café

Cost: FREE but donations welcomed

Wednesdays 9, 23 July

Bug Explorers
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
Details as previous

Thursdays 10, 24 July

Walk to Rough Island
(NTS Rockcliffe)
2.00pm to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential

Join the Rangers for a walk across the mudflats to Rough Island at low tide. Discover some of the islands' special wildlife and enjoy the coastal views from the heart of the National Scenic Area. Wear suitable footwear.

Contact: Linda Marshall 0844 4932245 or
lmarshall@nts.org.uk

Meet: Rockcliffe public car park, NX847537

Cost: Adults £2, Children £1

Thursdays 10, 24 July

Sunset on the Solway
(RSPB Mersehead)
8.00pm to 10.00pm
Booking: Essential

Join us for a guided walk and see what wildlife use the reserve at dusk. If we are lucky we might catch a glimpse of the barn owl and bats hunting or hear the natterjack toads croaking. Please bring a torch and midge spray.

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

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

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, members half price

Fridays 11, 25 July

A Grand Day Out
(RSPB Mersehead)
10.30am to 12.30pm
Booking: Essential

Join the Field teachers for a grandparent's day out. Bring your grandchildren along and find out what activities you can do in your own garden.

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

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

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, members half price

Wednesday 16 July

Rockpool Ramble
(RSPB at Monreith)
10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking: Essential

Discover the world beneath the waves exploring one of the most diverse beaches in the Machars. Identify common shells, seaweeds and other treasures from the sea.

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

Meet: St Medan's Bay, Monreith, DG8 9LJ

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, members half price

Friday 25 July

Mystery Moths
(RSPB Ken Dee Marshes)
10.00am to 12.00 noon
Booking: Essential

Join the warden for an easy walk to discover what turns up after a night's insect trapping at Ken Dee Marshes.

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

Meet: Ken Dee Marshes Reserve car park, Castle Douglas, DG7 2LY

Cost: Members £1.50, non-members £3, children FREE

Friday 25 to Sunday 27 July

Maryport Blues Festival
(Wave Centre, Maryport)
Booking: No advance tickets

An epic 3 day music festival featuring more than 100 blues musicians from all over the globe, on the main stage and in local pubs and clubs.

Contact: www.skiddle.com/festivals

Venue: The Wave Centre, Maryport, Cumbria

Cost: See website for details





Sunday 27 July

Walk on the Wildside
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
12.00 noon to 2.00pm
Booking: Essential

Catch the tide with the Warden for an informative walk through the reserve. Learn how the RSPB is 'Giving Nature a Home'. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

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

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

Cost: Members £1.50, non-members £3,
children FREE

Wednesday 30 July

Wild Wednesday
(RSPB Mersehead)
11.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential

Come and join us and take part in fun activities looking at the wildlife around the reserve. Looking for the smallest animal to the nosiest bird and discovering how you can help the wildlife in your garden.

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

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

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, members half price

AUGUST

Fridays 1, 22 August

Bug Explorers
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
Details as previous

Fridays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August

Family Fun Friday
(RSPB Mersehead)
11.00am to 4.00pm
Booking: Essential

Come and join us for a wild family day out, with treasure trails, beach activities, minibeast hunting and more. Have fun with nature and find out how you can help nature.

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

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

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, members half price

Tuesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 August

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 August

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

Spend a morning with the warden pond dipping on the reserve. An event for all the family – children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission prices apply

Wednesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 August

Wild Wednesday
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Thursdays 7, 14, 21, 28 August

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Thursdays 7, 21 August

Mocha and Moths
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Thursdays 7, 21 August

Walk to Rough Island
National Trust for Scotland
Details as previous

Friday 8 August

Mud Walk
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
2.00pm to 4.00pm

Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve from a different angle, starting from the RSPB's Crook of Baldoon. What makes an estuary? 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.

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

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

Cost: Members £1.50, non-members £3,
children FREE

Sunday 10 August

A Walk on the South Solway Shore
with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway
Shore Stories (Allonby)
6.15pm start
Booking: Essential
(Maximum 10 places)

Depending on weather and tide, walks take in the submerged forest, the Honeycomb worm, Sabellaria reefs, and look at the animals that live in the sand, in the pools and cling onto hard surfaces. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothing.

Contact: Ann Lingard 016973 21967
or go to www.solwayshortstories.co.uk

Meet: Allonby car park, opposite
Twentymans' store

Cost: FREE but donations welcomed

Tuesday 12 August

Make Hay While the Sun Shines
(RSPB Mersehead)
11.00am to 1.00pm
Booking: Essential

Come along to the reserve and find out about the process of hay making and the importance of hay making for wildlife.

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

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

Cost: £4 adult, £2 child, members half price

Thursday 14 August

A Walk on the South Solway Shore
with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway
Shore Stories (Mawbray Banks)
9.15am start
Booking: Essential
Maximum 10 places)

Depending on weather and tide, walks take in the submerged forest, the Honeycomb worm, Sabellaria reefs, and look at the animals that live in the sand, in the pools and cling onto hard surfaces. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothing.

Contact: Ann Lingard 016973 21967 or go
to www.solwayshortstories.co.uk

Meet: Mawbray Banks, opposite Bank Mill
Nursery and café

Cost: FREE but donations welcomed

Friday 15 August

Rockpool Ramble
(RSPB at Monreith)
St Medan's Bay, Monreith
Details as previous

Saturday 16

Species Hunt
Scottish Sea Angling Conservation
Network (SSACN)

The SSACN will be holding its second species hunt at Luce bay and Port Logan. The aim is to encourage anglers to measure their catch rather than weigh it and calculate weights using SSACN graphs. There are prizes across a range of categories for junior and senior sections. Anyone can participate.

Contact: www.tagsharks.com/species-hunt-2014 for further information or to get involved in the event

Saturday 23 August

Sunset on the Solway
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Saturday 30 August

Moth Morning
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
Details as previous



SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 daily to Sunday 7 September

Stars and Stripes
(WWT Caerlaverock)
8.00pm til late
Booking: Essential

Watch wild badgers feeding just outside our comfortable observatory. Fair trade tea and coffee available, included in price. Wheelchair accessible. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

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

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

Cost: Normal admission prices apply

Tuesdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Thursdays 4, 18 September

Mocha and Moths
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 September

Mull of Galloway Guided Walk
Details as previous

Wednesdays 10, 24 September

Off the Beaten Track
(RSPB Mersehead)
Details as previous

Friday 12 September

A Walk on the South Solway Shore
with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway
Shore Stories (Allonby)
8.45am start Booking: Essential
(Maximum 10 places)

Depending on weather and tide, walks take in the submerged forest, the Honeycomb worm, Sabellaria reefs, and look at the animals that live in the sand, in the pools and cling onto hard surfaces. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothing.

Contact: Ann Lingard 016973 21967 or go
to www.solwayshortstories.co.uk

Meet: Allonby car park, opposite
Twentymans' store

Cost: FREE but donations welcomed

Fridays 12, 26 September

Walk on the Wildside
(RSPB Crook of Baldoon)
Details as previous



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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