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Spring/Summer 2013

Newsletter of the Solway Firth Partnership

Issue 38

WILD SEASONS

Wildlife Tourism
Centres of Excellence

Pages 4-5

Cover Photograph : Flax at Brighthouse Bay, Mark Pollitt

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**THE PORT OF
CARLISLE
and the Solway**
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**COMMUNITY
BUYOUT**
Mull Of Galloway
Pages 14 -15

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Gordon Mann OBE.
Chairman Solway Firth Partnership

The prospect of the warmth, vigour and re-growth of spring and summer feels particularly welcome this year given the unseasonably late snowfall that temporarily froze the region. Exceptional snowdrifts left Solway Firth Partnership staff literally digging their way out bound, as some of our team were, for France to pursue the Yes! – Young E Citizens for a Sustainable European Coastline project. The project sees us join forces with partner organisations in Italy, Greece and France and provides a great volunteering opportunity for local young people. Campuses in the south of France and on the Solway Firth later this summer will explore coastal issues linked to climate change and ways of using communications technology to help protect these important areas and support their sustainable use.

There has already been strong competition for two volunteer leader positions on the Yes! project and we are delighted that Lewis Cowie and Kyna Hodges will be joining our project team. Lewis, from Dumfries, has a background in marine biology and is currently working on a shark research and education project with the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network. Kyna is a talented young artist from Moniaive who has been studying the use of visual images in communication and has just secured a place at Glasgow College of Art starting later this year. There are still opportunities for people aged between 18 and 30 to get involved in the project as volunteers and anyone who is interested is encouraged to get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Work on activity mapping in the Solway helps understand how the area is used and the scope for development and we continue to build on the work that has already taken place to support the evolving marine planning process. Our focus over the coming year will be on establishing a clearer picture of activities in Solway Firth European Marine Site in the inner part of the Solway and spanning the administrative border. Further west, we are delighted to be working on activities mapping at Loch Ryan to support the coastal development work that is currently taking place and make sure that the opportunities presented by the re-siting of the ferry terminal are well understood.

Many of you will remember Sue Hall who worked with us for a time before going on to study for an MSc in carbon management. Having successfully completed her studies, we are delighted to welcome Sue back to help us with organisation of World Oceans Week (WOW) this year. WOW supports international World Oceans Day on 8 June with weekend events at Rockcliffe and Port William involving a wide range of partner organisations. The events are about all things marine and ways to enjoy our fabulous coastline. Join us for activities including Food for Free with Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods or Fish on a Budget with local chef Douglas Lisi amongst lots more.

Wishing you a good summer on the Solway Firth.

Gordon



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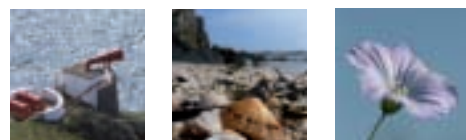


Image Credits:

Front Cover: Perennial Flax at Brighthouse Bay, credit Mark Pollitt; **Page 3:** Caerlaverock NNR, credit Iain Wilson, Rayed trough shell, credit Nic Coombey; Mull of Galloway Foghorn, credit Mull of Galloway Trust; Puffin, credit Keith Fergus; **Pages 4-5:** Caerlaverock NNR, Mull of Galloway; both credit Iain Wilson; **Pages 6-7:** Port Carlisle Harbour Today, The Passing of the Dandy, Entrance to old canal, Port Carlisle circa 1910, all credit www.cumbriaimagebank.org.uk; **Pages 8:** Beach Litter, Sea shells, credit Nic Coombey; **Page 9:** Star Moss, credit Solway Coast AONB; **Page 10-11:** SMEC Green Energy prototype, credit Solway Energy Gateway; **Page 12-13:** Anne Woodcock with grayling caught on angler sampling day, Kenny from APEX injecting knotweed on the Annan, Rosie (8) and Rowan (10) from Lockerbie busy 'Bashing Balsam', A bridge constructed by APEX, Checking the invertebrates of Birnock Water all credit River Annan Trust; **Page 14-15:** Mull of Galloway, all credit Mull of Galloway Trust; **Page 16-17:** The Solway, The Solway Protector at Harbour, Monitoring Shellfish beds, The Solway Protector at sea, Looking across the Solway to Criffel, all credit NWIFCA; **Page 18:** Ferry Fish, credit South West Images Scotland; **Page 19:** Whitehaven Harbour, credit Cumbria FLAG; **Page 20:** Volunteers working on the wall, Thomas Campbell drawing rabbits, Milla Delaney building a bug house, Kai Cartmell and Charlie Cartmell snail racing, all credit National Trust; **Page 21:** Puffin, Coastal walk, both credit Keith Watson; **Page 22-23:** David Collin at Sea, Book Cover for Prince of Denmark, credit Whittle Publishing and Barnet Burns (Tattooed man) Wood engraving, artist unknown (London, R. & D. Read, 1844). Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z. ; **Page 24:** Forester Moth at Brighthouse Bay, credit Mark Pollitt; **Pages 25-26:** Perennial blue flax at Brighthouse Bay, credit Mark Pollitt.

Front Cover Image – Perennial Flax, only found at one site in Scotland: Brighthouse Bay on the Borgue Coast, near Kirkcudbright. See Page 24 for the Bioblitz Event

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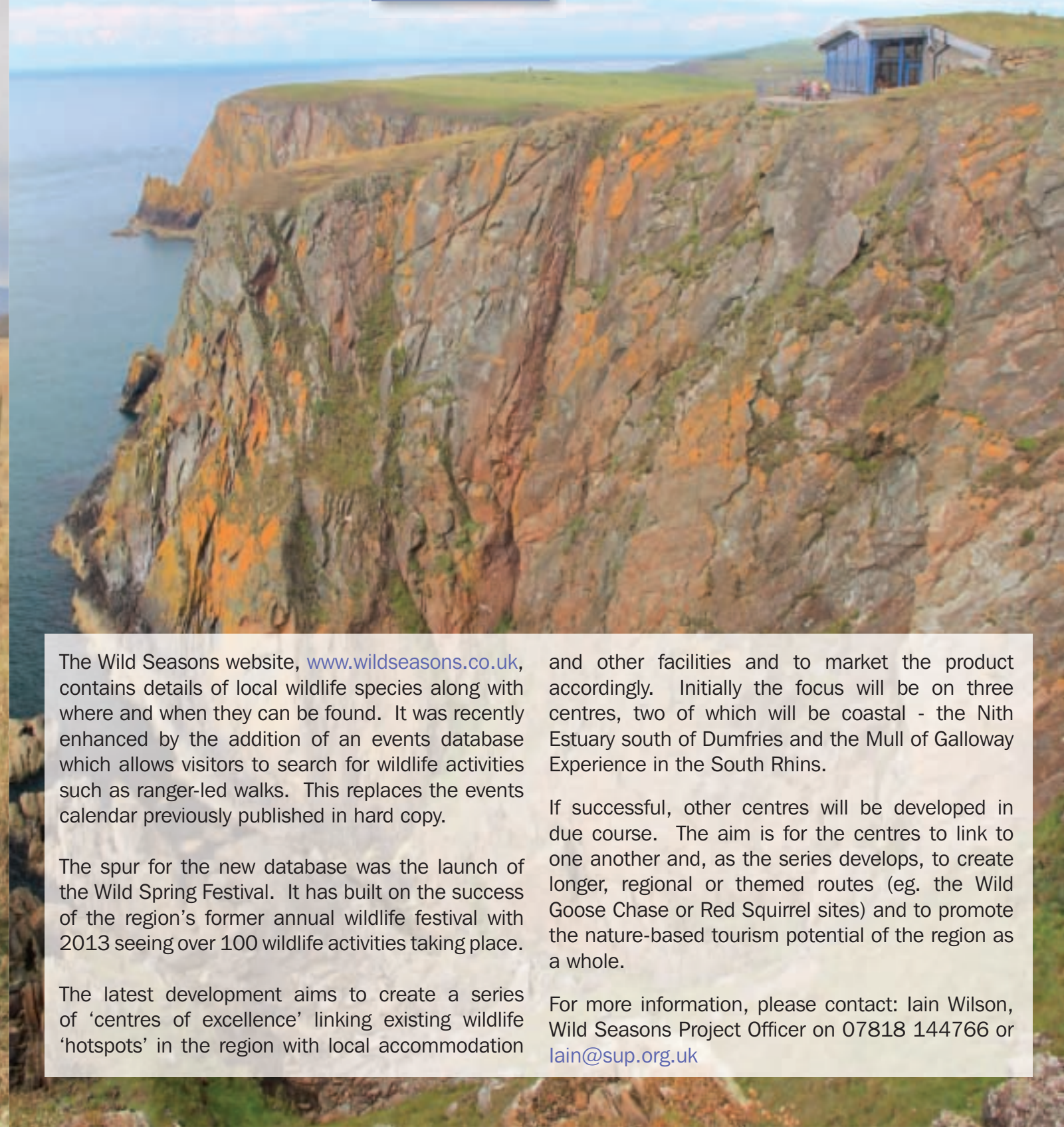


WILD SEASONS

Wildlife Tourism Centres of Excellence



The Wild Seasons initiative in Dumfries and Galloway is moving into a new phase, aiming to improve links between wildlife visitors to the region and the accommodation and other facilities they need to enjoy their visit to the full. The purpose of the initiative, managed by the Southern Uplands Partnership in support of local tourism and countryside agencies, is to make potential visitors and tourism businesses alike aware of the opportunities for enjoying the area's wildlife and natural environment.



The Wild Seasons website, www.wildseasons.co.uk, contains details of local wildlife species along with where and when they can be found. It was recently enhanced by the addition of an events database which allows visitors to search for wildlife activities such as ranger-led walks. This replaces the events calendar previously published in hard copy.

The spur for the new database was the launch of the Wild Spring Festival. It has built on the success of the region's former annual wildlife festival with 2013 seeing over 100 wildlife activities taking place.

The latest development aims to create a series of 'centres of excellence' linking existing wildlife 'hotspots' in the region with local accommodation

and other facilities and to market the product accordingly. Initially the focus will be on three centres, two of which will be coastal - the Nith Estuary south of Dumfries and the Mull of Galloway Experience in the South Rhins.

If successful, other centres will be developed in due course. The aim is for the centres to link to one another and, as the series develops, to create longer, regional or themed routes (eg. the Wild Goose Chase or Red Squirrel sites) and to promote the nature-based tourism potential of the region as a whole.

For more information, please contact: Iain Wilson, Wild Seasons Project Officer on 07818 144766 or Iain@sup.org.uk

THE PORT OF CARLISLE AND THE SOLWAY

The Solway estuary is an obvious communication link from the Irish Sea and the wider Atlantic into the heart of the Scottish Border region. In the past it, along with the Tyne valley, appeared to provide a quick route across the island of Great Britain, especially when water transport was so much easier than land movement for bulky cargoes. This is why, in the 18th century, proposals were advanced for a canal from Newcastle to Maryport. On a contested frontier, the Solway provided both a barrier and an access route for armies and it facilitated the supply of military outposts. At the head of the Solway, and dominating movement in all directions in this region, is the border city of Carlisle. This city was one of the most important strategic places in the region from the Roman period through to the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. It is understandable then that along a coast where many small harbours developed on both sides of the estuary, Carlisle dominated the estuary strategically and economically and along the English reaches of the estuary it came to control trade through the levying of customs duties.

From the 14th century Chester was the legally recognised port for the whole of the North West of England. It was designated as a head port and all maritime trade from the Dee to the Solway was deemed to belong to Chester. In 1564/5 Carlisle was appointed a member port of Chester to act as the head-port for the Cumberland coast. Yet Carlisle city always lacked major harbour facilities because of the narrow and shallow nature of the River Eden flowing past the city before helping to form the Solway estuary. Even in Roman times Carlisle was probably supplied by lighters coming from harbours further downstream. By the 16th century a number of places along the Solway had provided anchorage facilities for the port of Carlisle, including Skinburness (near Silloth), Bowstead Hill (near Bowness-on-Solway), Sandsfield and Rockcliffe. Sandsfield was still the main anchorage serving Carlisle by the 19th century when it was realised that for the sake of Carlisle's economic development improved harbour facilities were required.

In the early 19th century plans were made to construct a canal from Carlisle to a suitable harbour location. The Carlisle Navigation Canal was completed in 1823 and joined the Solway Estuary at Fisher's Cross, near Bowness-on-Solway. By 1827 this was the closest landing stage to Carlisle. Within a few years the two houses of Fisher's Cross had grown to 80 and the settlement had been renamed Port Carlisle. This new settlement also had warehouses and a customs house as well as hotels. Trade at Port Carlisle peaked in the late 1840s. The extension of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway to Silloth in 1856 led to the decline of Port Carlisle as a harbour. At Silloth a new harbour and town were laid out. Today Silloth is still an important harbour and with its docks and Carr's 19th century flour mill has the best physical evidence for Carlisle's history as a port. The settlement and canal and harbour remains at Port Carlisle are also reminders of this heritage, as are the fragments of wooden jetties found at various places along the English Solway coast.

Richard Newman, Cumbria County Council

Port Carlisle Harbour Today



LOTTERY FUNDED

heritage
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solwayWetlands
LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Allerdale
borough council
www.allerdale.gov.uk

PROTOTYPE SMEC “GREEN ENERGY”

device installed at Dalston in Cumbria

Several years ago, Nigel Catterson, Chairman of the Solway Energy Gateway Ltd., spotted the potential of the Spectral Marine Energy Converter (“SMEC”) for a crossing linking Bowness to Annan along the alignment of an old industrial railway. “SMEC is the perfect technology for the Solway Energy Gateway” said Catterson, “It provides a combination of cost-effective power and visual amenity with a much-needed cross-border connection to promote the regional economy in an environmentally-friendly manner that respects both fish and bird life.”

The SMEC has been under development by VerdErg Renewable Energy Ltd for several years with a full scale prototype being made on an old weir spillway on the River Caldew in Cumbria. VerdErg Managing Director Peter Roberts said, “Our development strategy for SMEC since 2006 has been to develop the theory, then move into the laboratory to prove that theory and then to build a SMEC on a river site to prove its huge commercial potential. The interest and encouragement we’ve experienced in Cumbria has been a consistent source of inspiration. It is wholly appropriate for the first real-world SMEC prototype to be on the River Caldew in Dalston, where it was commissioned for the first time in December 2012. SMEC is a neat, quiet, low-cost and environmentally-friendly modern power source for any location where a waterwheel could have been sited 250 years ago.”

Peter Roberts expressed his appreciation for all the assistance that local individuals and organisations had provided towards the success of the prototype SMEC installation, including site owner COWENS Ltd., the Environment Agency, local authorities, NGO “Britain’s Energy Coast”, neighbours and service providers in Dalston and Dave Hammond, who built the largely plywood device in his Ullock workshop.

“SMEC is ideally suited to this region of the UK”, said Nigel Catterson in conclusion. “We anticipate the technology taking root here and creating substantial employment here.”

For more information contact: Peter Roberts, MD VerdErg Ltd, 01483 289322
peter.roberts@verderg.com

Nigel Catterson, Chairman, Solway Energy Gateway Ltd, 016974 76497 nigel.catterson@nb21c.org.uk

Testing the SMEC Prototype on the River Caldew

VOLUNTEERING ON THE RIVER ANNAN

The River Annan Trust has been developing different strands of volunteer work over the last year. Volunteers are being used to help across a wide range of activities including enhancing access, invertebrate sampling, invasive non-native species (INNS) control and fish sampling. Volunteers have been a boon to the river and the amount of information that is gained from them is huge. The volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds: some are anglers, some are members of local wildlife groups and others just want to gain new skills to improve employability.

The access work has been of particular interest as the Trust has partnered up with another charity, APEX, who work with people who have had problems with alcohol/drug misuse or criminal behaviour. APEX is led by people who have themselves decided to change their ways and need to gain skills and confidence. So far, in a pilot project, 32 stiles, 4 bridges, 2 areas of steps down steep banks and a number of benches for people to sit on have been installed. In 2013 riverside shelters, kissing gates and more stiles will be installed. The work has made accessing the river for infirm anglers and walkers far easier and farmers are happier as people are no longer clambering over fences, inadvertently breaking them to access the river. In addition to this work APEX have also been helping to control invasive plant species with a number of their volunteers gaining the appropriate qualifications at college to undertake the work. This has been particularly successful as these qualifications have enabled some of them to move into full time employment (although that does mean they are lost as volunteers!!).

Other volunteer groups have also been tackling INNS especially Himalayan Balsam. These groups include the very young who, during the process, end up learning more about the outdoor environment. More balsam bashing sessions are planned for this year and the Trust will be welcoming six members of Kate's Kitchen, a drop in centre in Annan, to the scheme in July. Control of INNS species makes a real difference to the ecology of the river and the areas treated so far are seeing an increase in native biodiversity.

Another area where volunteers have been of tremendous help is in assessing burn health from invertebrates. Partnering up with the Riverfly Partnership programme and with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) we have managed to train 19 volunteers to use kick samples to check which groups of insects are present. These volunteers are going out in all weathers, once a month, throughout the catchment checking the invertebrates. The data is fed back to the River Annan Trust and any problems can be raised with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and a solution found. The scheme will continue this year with further training events to get even more people involved.

All of the volunteering on the Annan should be fun; otherwise it would be hard to get people to come along. This is demonstrated by the fish sampling days that have been organised over the last few years. It is very difficult to get information about the status of fish stocks in rivers without catching them. For years electrofishing surveys have been carried out which give a very good idea of the health of the smaller water courses (less than 5m wide) but as watercourses get bigger this technique becomes less efficient so there is a hole in the knowledge. To close this gap another method is needed and as the river is a popular fishing destination why not harness that and use anglers as sampling machines! Over the winter and into spring monthly days have been organised on the whole river with anglers fishing for a set time and recording everything they catch. The results from this have been very good with, on average, twenty anglers taking part in each event. A good data set of fish sizes throughout the river has now been collected. Information on future angling days can be found on www.fishannan.co.uk

All of the projects carried out the River Annan Trust welcome volunteers. If you want to help contact Nick on nick@annanfisheryboard.co.uk or 01576 470600



Kenny from APEX injecting knotweed on the Annan



Even the youngest can help as demonstrated by Rosie (8) and Rowan (10) from Lockerbie who are busy 'Bashing Balsam' on a foul rainy day in 2012!



A bridge constructed by APEX during 2012



Checking the fruits of labour and seeing if the Birnock Water is healthy.....It is.



Anne Woodcock with a wee grayling caught on an organised angler sampling day

COMMUNITY BUYOUT AT THE MULL OF GALLOWAY

The Mull of Galloway lighthouse has marked the start of the Solway Firth for over 180 years, warning ships away from the rocky headland.

The light room at the top of the lighthouse is 99 metres above sea level and was built by Robert Stevenson. It took 2 years to complete and on the 26th March 1830 was lit for the first time. The 26 metre tower with its two foredecks follows a tried and tested design, with a central column, down which the weight that powered the former clockwork driven Fresnel lens hung. The weight took 45 minutes to travel from top to bottom, and woe betide any lighthouse keeper who failed to rewind it to the top. Failure to do so would result in the light showing a false signal. It was instant dismissal for the hapless keeper should it be proved that this was through his negligence.

This lens remained in situ until 1971, when the present electric light was fitted. This light is made up of sixteen 200 watt bulbs, very much like car headlights, with four additional smaller bulbs. The original Fresnel lens turned once every 2 mins 45 seconds whilst the present light turns once every 20 seconds producing a half second flash. The light can be clearly seen for 28 nautical miles on a clear night.

Over the years the Mull of Galloway has seen many tragedies including the deaths of 2 Air Transport personnel. They died on the 8th June 1944 when the Beaufighter plane they were delivering from Weston-Super-Mare to Lossiemouth encountered thick fog at the Mull. This resulted in them hitting the boundary wall (close examination of the wall to the left of the main gate reveals repairs), hitting the roof of the former

byre (now the RSPB visitor centre) and then falling over the cliff edge and into the sea. The bodies of both men were recovered at the time as was most of the wreckage. There should have been only one person on board at the time, the pilot Claudius Echallier, one of only 5 free Frenchmen who flew for the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War. However, there was another person on board, a flight engineer, Royston Edwin Staniford, whom it is thought was probably hitching a lift back to Scotland.

The lighthouse stands within 30 acres of heathland which is designated as a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The whole site is currently owned by the Northern Lighthouse Board but this is soon to change if the local community are successful in their bid to purchase. The Mull of Galloway Trust, a charitable body formed in 2012, has submitted an application to the Scottish Government for a community buyout. The asking price for the 30 acres of heathland, 3 cottages, engine room (now exhibition room), fog horn and all the ancillary buildings, with the exception of the Tower, is £300,000.

The Trust will continue to rent out the cottages to holiday makers, providing their main source of income, whilst the South Rhins Community Development Trust will continue to run the lighthouse exhibition and tower tours. The RSPB will continue to rent the visitor centre and to be responsible for the upkeep of the heathland.



Early print of the Mull Lighthouse



The Engine Room



The Mull Fog Horn

The RSPB centre is open daily from Easter until October.
Tower tours are available at weekends, every bank holiday and additional Mondays in July and August.
The lighthouse exhibition is open daily (10am - 4.00pm) from May to September.
The Gallie Craig Coffee House and gift shop is open from 10am - 5.30pm from April to October, with more limited openings in November, February and March (closed December and January)
For additional information about the Mull of Galloway lighthouse see www.mull-of-galloway.co.uk

NORTH WESTERN INSHORE FISHERIES and Conservation Authority

With a vision statement to “lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry” the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NWIFCA) plays an important role in the management of activity in the Solway and beyond.

Created in 2011 as part of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009), NWIFCA is one of 10 IFCAs around the coast of England. In the Solway the NWIFCA replaces Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee and continues its work of managing sustainable fisheries out to 6 nautical miles offshore and to the Scottish border. Southward the NWIFCA district extends to the Welsh border in the Dee Estuary.

NWIFCA has responsibilities to ensure that fisheries resources in the district are sustainably managed and that the socio-economic needs of stakeholders are balanced with marine conservation. NWIFCA measures therefore include those targeted at managing fisheries specifically, as well as ensuring conservation features are protected. For example NWIFCA runs a permit scheme for cockle and mussel fisheries and will also have the responsibility for managing Marine Conservation Zones.

The primary mechanism for management is through NWIFCA byelaws which are enforced by a team of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officers, patrolling both on land and on sea. Our largest patrol boat, the Solway Protector, is based in Whitehaven where we also have a small office on the harbour side.

Large scale management decisions are taken by a committee made up of a range of stakeholders. These include local councillors, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Natural England and the Environment Agency, as well as a majority of members from the public who are chosen by the MMO for their knowledge and expertise in areas such as marine science, the fishing industry and recreation.

Decisions are informed by the work of the Science Team, who carry out stock surveys and other scientific research. In the Solway, for example, Science Officers have recently been out to survey the important conservation species, Honeycomb Worm, *Sabellaria alveolata*, on the skears around Silloth.



The Solway Protector in Harbour



Monitoring shellfish beds



The Solway Protector at sea



Looking across the Solway to Criffel



APPLICANTS URGED TO TAP INTO £1.1 MILLION EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND

Funding to help develop and support Dumfries and Galloway's coastal areas is being made available through the European Fisheries Fund.

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 is 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.

To enable drawdown of EU funds, DGEFF projects will have to secure match-funding from sources such as Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Coastal Communities Fund (Crown Estate), Seafood Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, the National Lottery, Landfill Communities Fund or private funding. The DGEFF Programme budget needs to be committed by the end of 2013, although the cash drawdown period extends to the end of 2015.

In particular, Axis 4 will support projects which promote:

- **The strengthening and competitiveness of fisheries areas**
- **Restructuring and redirecting economic activities**
- **Business diversification and value-adding activities**
- **Supporting small fisheries and tourism-related infrastructure and services for the benefit of small fisheries communities**
- **Protecting the environment in fisheries areas**
- **Inter-regional and trans-national co-operation**

Applications for DGEFF funding are welcomed from micro, small and medium businesses, private and voluntary groups and organisations and public sector organisations. Staff are on hand to offer advice on the application process, ideas for potential sources of match funding and to help with the development of projects. Applicants are required to submit a concise summary expression of interest for assessment before being invited to complete a full application.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest in this round is 14 June 2013.

Anyone interested in applying for funding, or finding out more, should contact the EFF Project Administrator, Dumfries and Galloway Council on 01387 260513 or 07775032249 Visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/econmoicdevelopment or e-mail fisheriesfund@dumgal.gov.uk



CUMBRIA FLAG EXTENDS BOUNDARIES

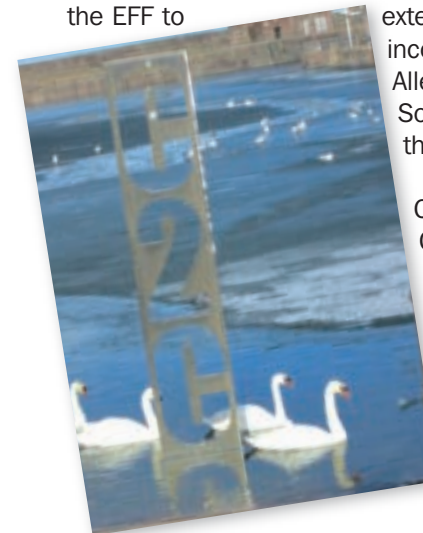
The North and West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) was launched on 21 November 2011 with the original aim of supporting the local fishing industry and communities along the coastal strip stretching from Silloth in the North to Ravenglass in the South.

The FLAG has been allocated £1.35 million of European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Axis 4, which will be used to support the existing fishing industry, create new businesses and jobs and provide educational opportunities throughout the FLAG area.

Now, Cumbria FLAG has announced some significant changes to its programme delivery with the aim of supporting even more of Cumbria's coastal communities. The FLAG has successfully applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the EFF to

extend its boundary so that it now incorporates all of Copeland and Allerdale Coast from Bowness on Solway in the North to Millom in the South.

Celia MacKenzie Chair of Cumbria FLAG, said: "We are delighted that the MMO has agreed to allow us to extend our operational area, and we look forward to receiving project applications and supporting the fishing communities in these districts."



The FLAG project Animator Glynda Kennedy will be holding 'Funding Surgeries' to give advice and guidance to anyone wishing to apply to the FLAG for funding. Anyone wanting information on the surgeries or to arrange a one to one meeting with the Animator should contact Glynda on 07803 001809 or glynda@cumbriafalg.org.uk

Allerdale County Councillor and FLAG Board Member Tony Markley said: "I welcome the news that the FLAG Boundaries are to incorporate the whole of the Allerdale and Copeland Coastal Communities, offering funding opportunities and support to these outlying areas. I fully support the FLAG in its efforts and look forward to an increasingly bright future for people living and working in these constituencies."

The FLAG would welcome expression of interest applications from interested parties throughout the FLAG area, and in particular from Silloth and Millom which have not yet benefitted from the available funding.

You can contact the FLAG team on 01946 67182 or visit the website for up to date information on current projects. www.cumbriafalg.org.uk



IT'S ALL HAPPENING ON THE COLOURFUL COAST (WHITEHAVEN TO ST BEES) IN 2013!

This year was well and truly kicked off with the most successful Easter egg trail yet. Over 300 people attended the event and took part in a range of crafts and activities held along the coast. The first activities included making bunny ears, egg decorating and handling scary sea creatures. Further along the trail was rabbit handling and drawing, followed by giant chalk drawing on the path. Finally there was snail racing and barefoot walking along with many other games along the route. Our next event is at the Whitehaven festival on the 21 to 23 June.

Thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers we have also set 2013 off with a flourish of flowers as crocuses, snowdrops, daffodils and tulips rise from their winter rest. Every year several thousand bulbs are planted on site, many of them native species such as bluebells and ramsons.

The team is now working on restoring a wall that is over 300 years old along the historic Ravenhill Track, once the main route to Saltom pit. We are using traditional lime mortar to point the wall where it is still standing and later we will rebuild collapsed sections. If you would like to get involved please contact Chris Gomersall on 07785 226698 or chris.gomersall@nationaltrust.org.uk or for more information visit the website www.colourfulcoast.org.uk

We have also been 'walking the course' a process of helping to decide the route for the National coastal trail which was started in the Solway, alongside several other locations, by Natural England.

Chris Gommersall,
Whitehaven and Ennerdale Ranger, National Trust

GALLOWAY COAST:

25 WALKS Exploring the Natural Heritage of Southwest Scotland

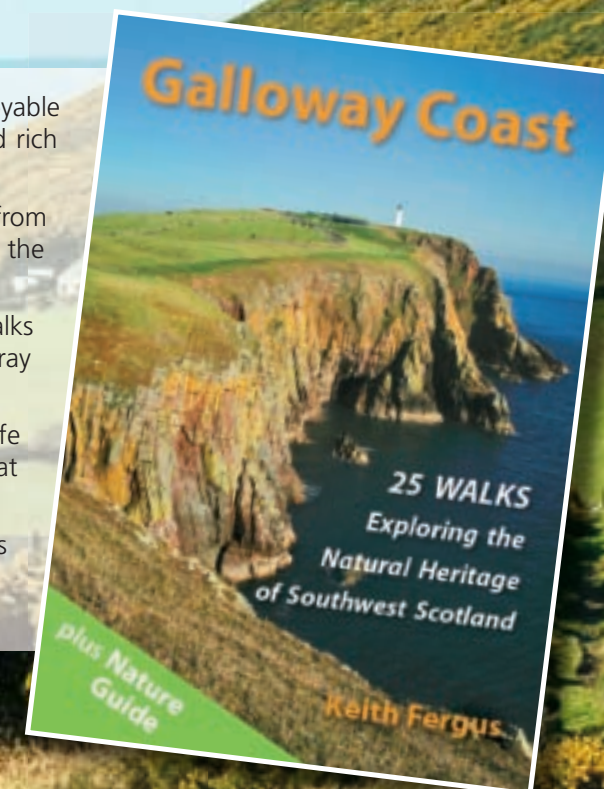
This new guidebook goes a step further than simply detailing enjoyable walks; it also inspires readers to explore the natural heritage and rich history of the long coastline of the Solway Firth.

Galloway Coast contains 25 coastal, woodland and hill walks from Annan to the Mull of Galloway and a 16-page nature guide to the area.

It highlights the wildlife that can be experienced on the walks through the seasons and includes stunning photographs that portray the breathtaking scenery along the coast.

Author Keith Fergus lives on the outskirts of Glasgow with his wife and two children. They all enjoy the Galloway coast walks that Keith's father introduced him to during his childhood.

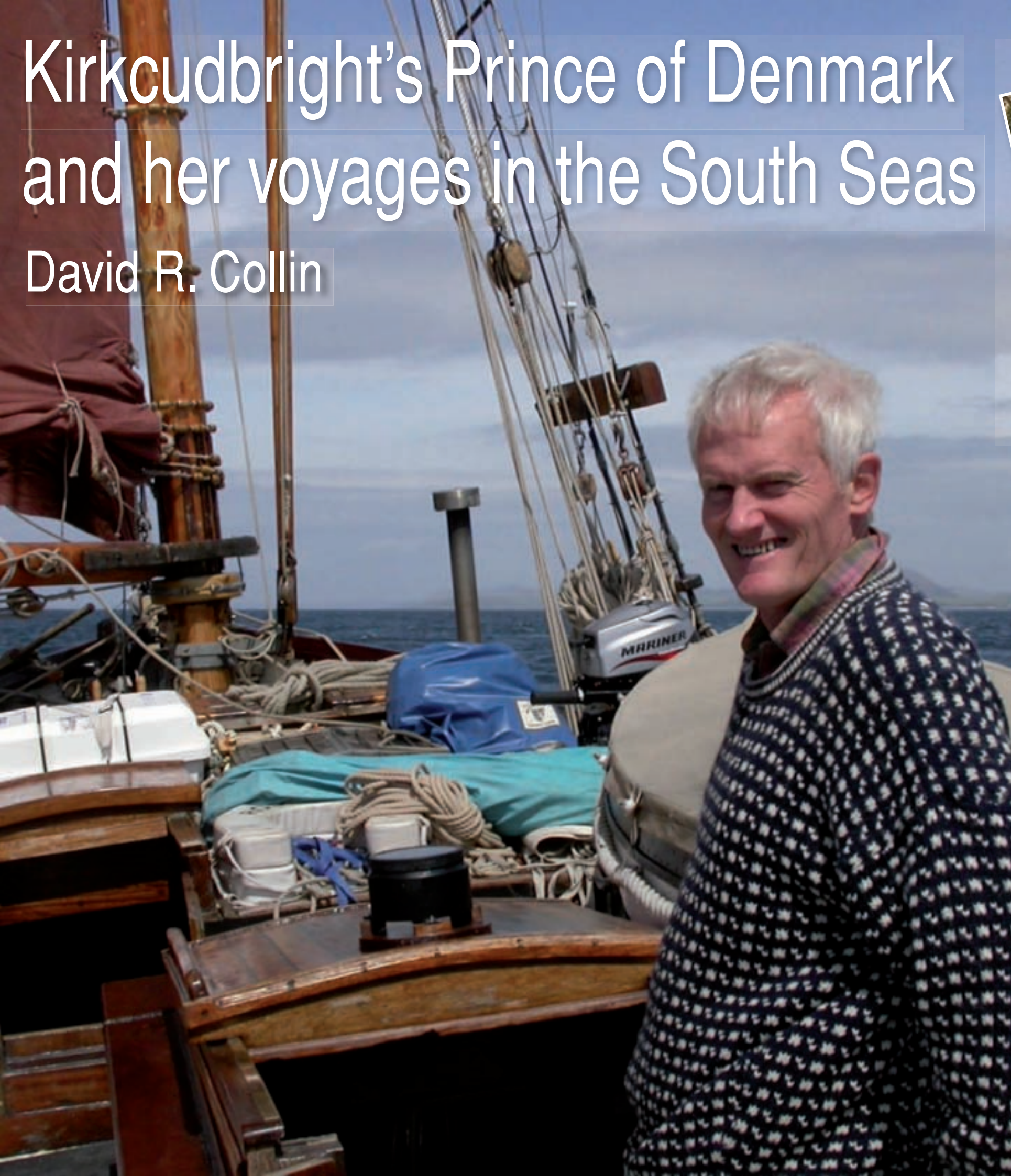
The book is available in many shops, cafés and visitor attractions across the region and by mail order from the website www.gallowaycoast.com



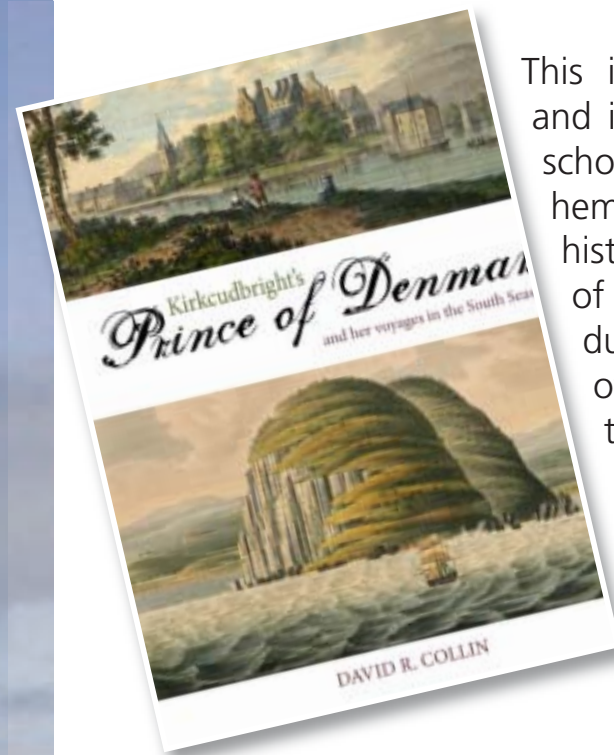
Published by Catkin Press 2012
ISBN: 978-1-907101-04-5

Kirkcudbright's Prince of Denmark and her voyages in the South Seas

David R. Collin



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This is the story of the unusually long and interesting career of a small Scottish schooner spent primarily in the southern hemisphere. From the quest to trace her history and construction to the careers of those who owned and sailed in her during her 74-year life, the story is full of vividly-portrayed rogues and heroes, the famous and infamous, as well as ordinary people calmly going about their daily business in tempestuous and difficult times, when grave risks were stoically and courageously accepted as a matter of course.

Visionary colonists, whalers, sealers, Maoris, botanists, missionaries, cannibals, convicts, aristocrats, explorers and seamen of many nationalities are linked in this narrative and biographical sketches of key figures are brought to life with detailed information transcribed from logs, crew and passenger lists. As well as a dramatic rescue by the ship's captain and crew, the schooner's log covers numerous voyages including whaling to New Zealand and trade with Samoa. Built in Kirkcudbright, in 1789, she was wrecked in the Chesterfield Islands, Pacific Ocean in 1863. Her incredible rebirth only four months later as the schooner, *Hamlet's Ghost* is verified by painstaking and meticulous research into records and logs of the vessels concerned. The voyages of the *Prince of Denmark* and of *Hamlet's Ghost* exemplify the courage, skill and vision of men and women who experienced hardship, danger and adversity in their quest for riches in colonial lands.

A Word from the Author

I started writing articles on local history, inspired by an almost irrational pride and affection for my home town of Kirkcudbright. As a member of the crew of Kirkcudbright Lifeboat, and a founder member of Kirkcudbright Sailing Club, the harbour was of particular interest to me with its astonishing diversity and extent of shipping over the centuries. On a hunch, the ship I chose to write about was the *Prince of Denmark*, built in Kirkcudbright in 1789. At the outset, the project seemed likely to be short-lived, as initial research produced nothing - absolutely nothing - not a trace - no known arrival or departure notices, no records in any likely ports of call and no details in any of the maritime museums contacted. A difficult start! Persistence eventually produced, to my surprise, a trickle of information from Australia which gradually grew into a steady flow of fascinating, baffling and sometimes quite staggering details of this amazing little vessel's career. Other information followed from New Zealand, New Caledonia, Indonesia and a variety of destinations in the southern hemisphere. The antipodean connection surprised

and fascinated me, as I had lived and worked in Fiji for six years and was therefore familiar with the Pacific way of life, and also several of the *Prince of Denmark's* exotic ports of call.



Was my experience of researching local history in south west Scotland relevant and could I learn enough about unfamiliar subjects such as Maori wars, whaling, the colonisation of New Zealand and the exploration of Australia? Ultimately I concluded that the unexpected link to the Pacific islands meant that destiny seemed to be calling me to attempt to tell the tale, for better or for worse.

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May — September

Please contact event organisers to confirm details

May

Wednesday 15, 22, 29	Walk in the Wild 10.00am – 12.00pm Booking: Not Required	Seasonal guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Thursday 30	A Walk on the South Solway Shore with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway Shore Stories 10.15am start Booking: Essential Maximum 10 Places	Depending on weather and tide, walks 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. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothes, and bring walking-poles if required, as the terrain at the bottom of the shore is always wet, mostly pebbly, and often muddy! Contact: For information about previous walks, and booking details, see www.solwayshorestories.co.uk/shore-walker or phone Ann on 016973 21967 Meet: Mawbray Banks, opposite Bank Mill Nursery and café

June

World Oceans Week Event

Sunday 2	World Oceans Week Celebration, Rockcliffe 11.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Join in the fun on the beach at Rockcliffe 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
Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 & 26	Walk in the Wild 10.00am – 12.00pm Booking: Not Required	Seasonal guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Fridays 7 & 14	Sunset on the Solway 8.30pm - 10.30pm Booking: Essential	An evening guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or email mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561

World Oceans Week Event

Saturday 8	Brighthouse Bay Bioblitz Day 10.00am – 4.00pm Booking: Not Required	Come and help record wildlife as part of a World Oceans Day BioBlitz. The location at Brighthouse Bay Holiday Park means that within a short distance it is possible to visit a variety of habitats from sand dunes and woodland to cliff tops and rockpools. The BioBlitz Day will be a festival of biodiversity bringing together wildlife recorders, both experts and beginners, to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible – all in 24 hours. There will be a programme of guided walks and activities throughout the day. Local guides will lead expeditions around the area to record as many species as they can find and there will be self-guided activities for those who wish to do their own thing. Contact: Making the Most of the Coast Ranger on 01387 251991 or nic@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk Meet: Brighthouse Bay Holiday Park, Borgue, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4TS, NX627452
Sunday 9	World Oceans Week Celebration, Port William 11.00am - 4.00 pm Booking: Not Required	Join in the fun on the beach at Port William 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

June

Friday 14 - Saturday 15	Bioblitz – Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve Booking: Not Required	Join the experts to record as much wildlife as possible within 24 hours at Finglandrigg Wood NNR. Kicking off at 7pm, a series of activities start on the Friday evening and continues through Saturday to identify bats, birds, insects, mammals and wildflowers on the site. Learn how to find, identify and record wildlife with guided walks, displays, demonstrations and activities. The Bioblitz is being run jointly with the Solway Wetlands Partnership, Natural England, Tullie House Museum and Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. See the full programme at www.cbdc.org.uk Contact: Naomi Hewitt, Education Officer at the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership on 016973 33055 or at naomi.hewitt@allerdale.gov.uk Meet: Finglandrigg Wood National Nature Reserve, near Kirkbampton, Cumbria, NY274568
Friday 21 - Sunday 23	Whitehaven Festival Booking: Required for some acts	The Whitehaven Festival is a mix of Live Music, Street Theatre, visiting ships, Air Shows and markets that takes place in and around the beautiful Harbour area of Whitehaven. Contact: Richardson’s of Whitehaven on 01946 65334, www.richardsonsofwhitehaven.co.uk Meet: Whitehaven Harbour, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7XY, NX973185

Wednesday 26	A Walk on the South Solway Shore with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway Shore Stories 8.30am start Booking: Essential Maximum 10 places	Depending on weather and tide, walks 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. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothes, and bring walking-poles if required, as the terrain at the bottom of the shore is always wet, mostly pebbly, and often muddy! Contact: For information about previous walks, and booking details, see www.solwayshorestories.co.uk/shore-walker or phone Ann on 016973 21967 Meet: Allonby carpark opposite Twentymans’ store
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July

Wednesday 3, 10, 17, 24	Walk in the Wild 10am – 12.00 noon Booking: Not Required	Seasonal guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Monday 8, 15, 22 & 29	Summer Scavenger Hunt Booking: Not Required Drop in 11am - 4pm	Family activity Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Thursday 11	Sunset on the Solway Booking: Essential 8.30pm - 10.30pm	An evening guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Friday 26	A Walk on the South Solway Shore with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway Shore Stories 9.00am start Booking: Essential, maximum 10 places	Depending on weather and tide, walks 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. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothes, and bring walking-poles if required, as the terrain at the bottom of the shore is always wet, mostly pebbly, and often muddy! Contact: For information about previous walks, and booking details, see www.solwayshorestories.co.uk/shore-walker or phone Ann on 016973 21967 Meet: Mawbray Banks, opposite Bank Mill Nursery and café
Saturday 27	Photography Workshop with Ken McKillop Booking: Essential 8.30am - 12noon	Photography workshop at Mereshead Reserve Cost: £25 per person Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Wednesday 31	Walk in the Wild 11am – 12.00 noon and 1pm – 2pm Booking: Not Required	Seasonal guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: Free Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561



August

Friday 2, 9, 16 & 23	Family Fun Friday Booking: Not Required Drop in 11am - 4pm	Family activity Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Mondays 5, 12, 19 & 26	Summer Scavenger Hunt Booking: Not Required Drop in 11am - 4pm	Family activity Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Wednesdays 7, 14, 21	Walk in the Wild 11am - 12.00 noon and 1pm - 2pm Booking: Not Required	Seasonal guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: Free Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or email mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Thursdays 8 & 22	Sunset on the Solway 8.30pm - 10.30pm Booking: Essential	An evening guided walk around Mersehead Reserve. Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Saturday 10 - Sunday 11	Big Wild Sleepout Booking: Essential	Camp out with the family on the reserve. Cost: tbc, spaces limited Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Saturday 10	Summer Night 8.00pm - 11.00pm	Discover Mersehead at night, moth trapping & stargazing Cost: tbc Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Wednesday 21	A Walk on the South Solway Shore with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway Shore Stories 6.30pm start Booking: Essential, maximum 10 places	Depending on weather and tide, walks 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. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothes, and bring walking-poles if required, as the terrain at the bottom of the shore is always wet, mostly pebbly, and often muddy! Contact: For information about previous walks, and booking details, see www.solwayshorestories.co.uk/shore-walker or phone Ann on 016973 21967 Meet: Mawbray Banks, opposite Bank Mill Nursery and café
Saturday 24	A Walk on the South Solway Shore with Ann Lingard, writer of Solway Shore Stories 8.45am start Booking: Essential, maximum 10 places	Depending on weather and tide, walks 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. Walkers should wear wellies and warm clothes, and bring walking-poles if required, as the terrain at the bottom of the shore is always wet, mostly pebbly, and often muddy! Contact: For information about previous walks, and booking details, see www.solwayshorestories.co.uk/shore-walker or phone Ann on 016973 21967 Meet: Allonby carpark opposite Twentymans' store

September

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 24	Walk in the Wild 10am - 12.00 noon Booking: Not Required	Seasonal guided walk around Mersehead Reserve Cost: £2 adult, £1 child, free for members Contact: Visitor centre on 01387 780579 or mersehead@rspb.org.uk Meet: RSPB Mersehead, Southwick, DG2 8AH, NX925561
Saturday 7	MacMillans Abseil 10am - 4pm	Abseil down the Mull of Galloway Lighthouse tower to help raise money for the community buy out. Register beforehand. Contact: Registration forms can be obtained from drummore@btinternet.com or contact Steve Hardy 01776 840371 Meet: Mull of Galloway Lighthouse

Dumfries & Galloway's

World Oceans Week Celebrations 2013

Come and join us at our World Oceans Week Celebrations at

Rockcliffe

Sunday 2 June, 11am - 4pm

Port William

Sunday 9 June, 11am - 4pm

All Activities Free

Great family fun days by the sea

Activities include sea kayaking with Galloway Activity Centre, beach casting, rock pooling, treasure hunts and a lot more!

Pearls from Grit - Creative Writing workshop with local award winning writer, Karen Campbell



Find us on:
facebook

There's something for all the family!

For more information contact:

Solway Firth Partnership tel: 01387 702162

e: info@solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk



World Oceans Week 2013 has been generously funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, E-ON Energy and Renewables, Dumfries and Galloway Council, The Holyrood Trust & Live Literature Fund (supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland, managed by Scottish Book Trust) and is organised by: Solway Firth Partnership and the National Trust for Scotland