

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

(www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)



Eskrigg Reserve

October 2013 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538



1. View of the pond taken on the 5th of October from the Red Squirrel Hide.

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve

a. Birds

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Jay, Lapwing, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Treecreeper, Willow Tit, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

Bank Vole, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel.

c. Reptiles, Amphibians and Fish

Common Lizard, Frog, Toad, Stickleback.

d. Invertebrates

Alderfly nymph, Beetle larva, 'Bloodworm', Centipede, Common Green Grasshopper, Common Shiny Woodlouse, Earthworm, Earwig, Garden Spider, Gnat larva, Ground Beetle, Harvestman, Leech, Mayfly nymph, Midge larva, Millipede, Mosquito larva, Pea Mussel, Pond snail, Red Admiral Butterfly, Sawfly larva, Seven-spot Ladybird, Spiders (4 unidentified species).



The Greylags return

Photographs throughout by Jim Rae

3. October Photo-gallery



1st Row: Garden spider (*Araneus diadematus*), Elfin Saddle (*Helvella lacunosa*), Shiny woodlouse (*Oniscus asellus*).
 2nd Row: Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*), Sawfly Larva (sp.?), Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).
 3rd Row: Cauliflower Fungus (*Sparassis crispa*), Grasshopper (*Omocestus viridulus*), Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*).
 4th Row: Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*), English Oak (*Quercus robur*), Bulbous Honey Fungus (*Armillaria gallica*).

4. Activities at the Reserve during October

Tues. 1 60 Lockerbie Primary 2 pupils, with their teachers and some parents came down to the Reserve between 11.00am and 2.30pm. The pupils were divided into 6 groups and rotated round 6 activities: mammal clock orienteering, pond dipping, woodland minibeasts 1 and 2, wildlife handicraft and the Eskrigg Junior Challenge. The pupils arrived a bit later than expected so the time allocated to each activity was reduced to 20 minutes. This proved to be a bit rushed. Nevertheless the kids enjoyed their visit. Many thanks to the LWT volunteers (Liz McDonnell, Bob Glaister, George Trudt, Rory MacPherson and Fiona MacPherson) for their help in supervising the activities.



P2 pupils (groups 1-3) outside the centre



P2 pupils (groups 4-6) at the shelter

Wed. 2 Red Squirrel Walk with Heinz Traut. There were no bookings for this event so it was cancelled.

Sat. 5 Red Squirrel Walk with Heinz Traut. There were no bookings for this event so it was cancelled.

Mon. 7 Children from the Kids Ahoy Childcare Centre in Dumfries enjoyed exploring the Reserve, having a picnic and having a go at pond dipping.



Kids Ahoy

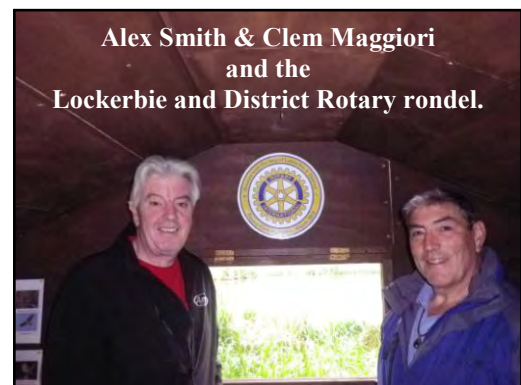


Poppy gets close to Nature

Wed. 9 Jude and Craig Henderson (Glasgow Herald photographer) visited the Reserve to take photographs of their daughter Poppy with the red squirrels to help promote Dumfries and Galloway Wild Autumn – 'Getting Close to Nature'.

Sat. 12 Lockerbie Rotarians re-visit Reserve

Alex Smith (President) and Clem Maggiori (past President) returned to the Red Squirrel Hide they helped to construct in order to present the Trust with a copy of the Lockerbie and District Rotary rondel. The rondel has been mounted on the east wall of the hide for all to see.



Mon. 21 High Blantyre Primary 7 visit Reserve.



The P7 pupils and their teachers visited the Reserve to do three activities: bird clock orienteering, pond dipping and woodland minibeasts. Many thanks to LWT volunteers Rory MacPherson and Frank Gibson for their help in running these events. All events went well despite the wet weather.

Mon. 21 Wild Autumn - Den Building



It was 'wild autumn' indeed for this year's den building activity. However, the persistent rain did not dampen the spirits of these youngsters. With help from equally keen parents, they constructed three sturdy shelters. Many thanks to Rory MacPherson who took charge of the activity enabling Jim to clear up after the earlier primary school visit.

Thur. 24 'Wild Autumn through the Lens' with Keith Kirk.

Keith provided another excellent DSLR workshop at the Reserve. The feedback from all participants was very positive as usual.



Keith stayed on after the workshop to get a few shots of his own. One of the red squirrels took great interest in Keith's equipment.

Sat. 26 Red Squirrel Walk with Heinz Traut.

This Wild Autumn activity was well attended. There were good sightings of the squirrels in the woods as well as within the Reserve itself. Heinz brought everyone up to date with the situation regarding the reds and greys in S.W. Scotland. Some of the information is now on display in the Eskrigg Centre.

5. Maintenance work during October.

Sat. 8 Pamela Beeton helping Jim to dig in some tree identification posts.

Sat. 12 Four members of 'The E-Team', Megan Johnstone, Charlotte Carruthers, Erin Johnston and Drew Stewart, helped to rake up leaves from part of the Reserve path and clear vegetation and obstructions for the burn that runs round the outside of the Reserve.

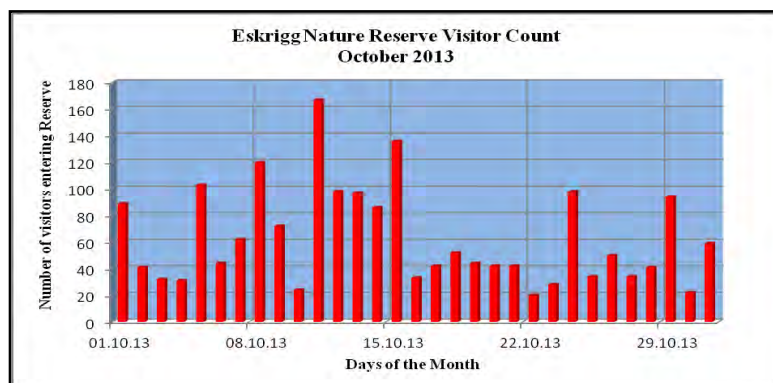


Tues. 15 Pamela Beeton helped Jim clear the ditch along the west side of the Reserve while Ian Dunn cleared leaves from part of the Reserve path.

Tues. 29 Ian Dunn, Pamela Beeton and Dayne Earl helped clear the stacked branches from a possible toilet site.

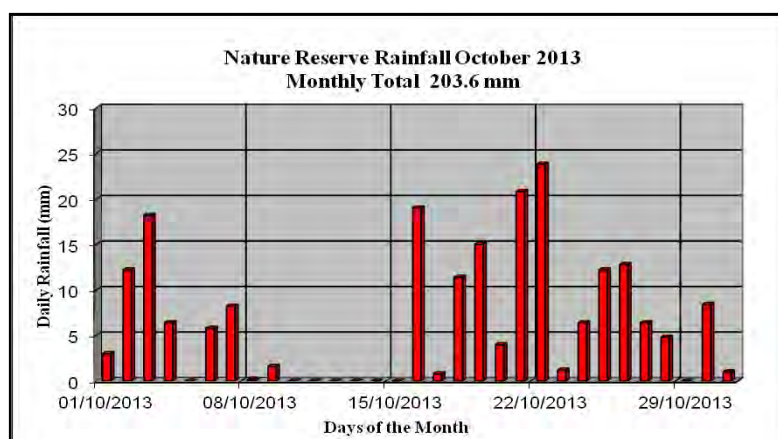
6. Visitor Records

| Month | Total number of Visitors | Daily Average Visitors |
|------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| May 2013 | 2056 | 66 |
| June 2013 | 1691 | 56 |
| July 2013 | 1700 | 55 |
| Aug. 2013 | 1587 | 51 |
| Sept. 2013 | 1528 | 51 |
| Oct. 2013 | 1937 | 62 |



7. Precipitation

| Month | Rainfall (mm) |
|------------|---------------|
| May 2013 | 118 |
| June 2013 | 69.2 |
| July 2013 | 82 |
| Aug. 2013 | 72.4 |
| Sept. 2013 | 93 |
| Oct. 2013 | 203.6 |



For more information, or booking, call Jim Rae, look out for the posters or visit our website.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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