

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve

February 2016 News Bulletin

1. Views of the Reserve taken on Valentine's Day, 14th February.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve in February.

a. Birds

Barn Owl, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Grey Heron, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Redwing, Robin, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Treecreeper, Wood Pigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals

Badger, Bank Vole, Fox, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Wood Mouse.

3. February Photo-gallery.



Scarlet Elf Cup



Male Hazel Catkins



Female Hazel Flower



Slime Mould

Photographs by Jim Rae

4. Annual Nut Race



Photo by D&G Standard photographer just before the start of the race.



Photo by Jim Rae during the heats when there were around eighty people present.

There was an exceptionally high turnout for this year's race thanks to the winter sunshine. The water level was a bit low but, with the help of the children, the nuts all made it down the burn to the finishing line. The children all received a chocolate bunny or some other sweet for taking part.

The prize winning nuts were: 1st prize £25 - green 93 - sponsored by Clive Brown; 2nd prize £15 - black 9 - sponsored by Allan Garnett; 3rd prize £5 - blue 8 - sponsored by George Johnstone.

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust would like to say a big thank you to all who sponsored a nut, gave a donation or came along in person to support the event. The magnificent sum of £654 was raised and will be used to support the work of the Trust at the Reserve.

Special thanks to Liz McDonnell who donated all the prizes and treats for the children.

5. Planned Activities

Wed. 3rd - Visit to the Reserve by pupils and staff from Tarporley Primary School in Cheshire.

The group called in to have a tour round the Reserve, photograph the Red Squirrels and have a packed lunch before heading to Lockerbie Manor Activity Centre for a few days.



Photographs by Jim Rae

This was the first group to use the new picnic table. Some readers may recognise a former pupil of Lockerbie Academy, Carol Grieve, at the far end of the table.

A bag of golf clubs was found in the car park on the same day. They were handed in to Lockerbie Police Station.

6. Volunteer Activities

Mon. 1st - Jim Rae obtained a lorry load of tar planings from James Lupton Ltd, who was re-surfacing the A74 at the time. Jim then filled up the pot holes on the Eskrigg Farm Road over the next two days.

The remaining planings will be used for the same purpose in the coming month.



Sat. 13th - The E-Team



Keir Stewart and Rory Holden helped to repair some flood damage at the outfall from the pond, by filling the holes gouged out by the flood waters with gabion stones. The stones were kindly donated by Grange Quarry.

Maya Saunders and Rory Morford helped by fixing wire netting to the new sleeper bridge, so that people crossing would not slip.



Sat. 20th - The E-Team

Patrick Malone and Keir Stewart filled in more hole with gabion stones while Michael Kerr helped Jim to build steps up to the sleeper bridge.



Sat. 27th - The E-Team

Rory Morford, Maya Saunders, Rory Holden and Keir Stewart helped **Jim** to clear the first long section of the burn for the Annual Nut Race.

Sun. 28th - On the morning of the Annual Nut Race, **Bob Glaister and Jim Rae** cleared the second short section of the burn for the Nut Race.

Photographs by Jim Rae

For more information call Jim Rae or visit our website.

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)
Address: Carradale, 12 Douglas Terrace, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 2DZ.
Home Tel.: 01576 203 314 / Mobile No.: 07739 987 009
Email: jim.rae2012@gmail.com