

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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



Eskrigg Reserve

November 2017 News Bulletin

Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Mute Swans on the pond at sunset - 30.11.17 - Young tree plantation in late afternoon.



JR



JR

2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during November.

a. Birds

Blackbird, Black-headed Gull, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Redwing, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Teal, Treecreeper, Widgeon, Wood Pigeon, Wren.



Nuthatch (BF)

b. Mammals

Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Woodmouse.



Paul Wharton setting up his reflection pool (JR)



Red Squirrel (PW)

Photographs by Bob Fitzsimmons (BF), Paul Wharton (PW) and Jim Rae (JR)

3. November Photo Gallery



Row 1: Large-flowered hemp-nettle (flower head), Red Squirrel, Large-flowered hemp-nettle flower (single flower).

Row 2: Red Squirrel, Blushing Bracket, Red Squirrel.

Row 3: Crested Coral, Pheasant, Ice Crystals on Heather.

Row 4: Blackbird, Red Squirrel, Robin.

The Large-flowered hemp-nettle (*Galiopsis speciosa*) is an arable weed. It was probably stimulated to flower this late in the year when Electricity Board workers disturbed the ground to erect new telegraph poles nearby.

Photographs by Bob Fitzsimmons (BF), Paul Wharton (PW) and Jim Rae (JR).

4. Planned Activities in November

Wed. 1st **Annan Academy Advanced Higher Biology Students** visited the Reserve, with their teacher **Kirsty Jordan** and Head Teacher **James Brown**.



Annan Academy students and staff



Students sampling the pond

The students practised a range of techniques - measuring stream velocity, kick-sampling of stream organisms, soil sampling and pond water sampling. The stream organisms identified included caddis larvae, mayfly nymphs, blackfly larvae and freshwater shrimps.

Sat. 4th **Annual Coffee Morning**

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust held its **Annual Autumn Coffee Morning** in Lockerbie Townhall in order to raise funds for managing the Reserve. This proved to be another successful event - many thanks to all who supported it and helped to raise £681.66.

Tue. 7th The boys in **Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills Class** visited the Reserve again to continue their work to help upgrade the woodland walks. Well done, boys.



Sat. 11th **Annual Lantern Parade**

Only a few members attended the parade this year, perhaps because the event had not been publicised enough. Another year, we shall increase the publicity and hope for a bigger turnout.

Tue. 14th The boys and girls of the **Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills Class** spent a whole day at the Reserve and upgraded another long section of woodland path. Well done all.

Sat. 18th **Lockerbie Christmas Lights**

The Trust ran a stall at the turning on of the Christmas lights again this year. The whole event was well-organised and there was a good turnout of local people. The weather was cold but dry.

The number of calendars sold was well up on last year.

Tue. 21st **Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills**

The planned visit to the Reserve was cancelled due to bad weather. Instead, Jim Rae went in to the school and gave a presentation about Red Squirrels.

The pupils were very interested and asked many pertinent questions.



Photographs by Jim Rae

Fri. 24th and Sat. 25th TESCO Stall

Once again the staff at TESCO, Lockerbie, kindly allowed the Lockerbie Wildlife Trust to run a fund-raising stall at the store between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on both days. Items on sale included the 2018 Calendars, Christmas Cards, Nature Notelets, Bird Boxes, peanuts, sunflower hearts and wheat-free bird seed. Sales went very well. Many people, who had already bought their Christmas cards or 2018 calendars, generously gave a donation instead of making a purchase. Thanks to the Committee members who manned the stall and the staff at the Lockerbie branch of TESCO.



Tue. 28th Lockerbie Academy Rural Skills

This time, it was the turn of the girls to spend an hour making improvements to the Woodland Walks and learn some useful countryside skills. A job well done.

5. Volunteer Activities in November

Fri. 10th Jim finished strimming the path from the car park down to the Reserve.



Sat. 11th Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteers

Many thanks to **Michael Kerr** and **Neil Stewart**, who helped **Jim** resurface another section of the Woodland Walks.



Sun. 26th Maintenance Day

Catriona Groves and **Kaye Borthwick** helped **Jim** rake up the autumn leaves and tidy the Reserve paths.

6. Mosses (and other non-flowering plants)



There may be few flowers around at this time of year, but there is still a great variety of non-flowering plants such as fungi, mosses, algae, liverworts and lichens. Take a few minutes, next time you are at the Reserve, to look closely at these organisms and you will be amazed at their variety and beauty.

Photographs by Jim Rae

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