

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

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

Eskrigg Reserve

November 2022 News Bulletin



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

1. Eskrigg Pond taken by Sybille Spägele taken at sunrise on the 2nd of November.



2. Confirmed wildlife sightings at the Reserve during November.

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Brambling, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Common Gull, Crossbill, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Jay, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Redwing, Robin, Siskin, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Woodpigeon, Wren.

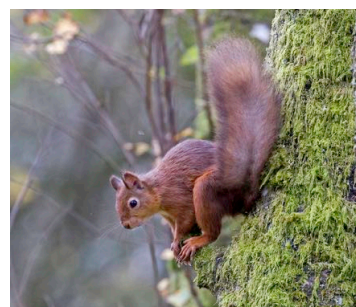
b. Mammals:

Bank Vole, Grey Squirrel, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Stoat, Roe Deer, Weasel, Wood Mouse.



Photographs by Norman Fazakerly (NF), Sybille Spägele (SS).

3. November 2022 Photo-gallery



Photographs by Alistair Moulstone

4. Construction and Maintenance Work during November.

Tue. 01 **Jim Rae, Sybille Spägle** and a new volunteer, **Noah Nightingale**, tidied up part of the Larch Walk following some timber extraction by Castle Milk Estate.

Fri. 04 **Jim, Sybille** and **Gordon Reid** tidied up some more of the Larch Walk before meeting up with **Alastair Gordon** at the entrance to Vallance Drive in order to erect the new Reserve sign that Alastair had made. Once the sign was in place the three returned to complete the tidying up of the Larch Walk.



Tue. 08 The weather was not suitable for working outside so **Jim** and **Noah** tidied up inside the Eskrigg Centre.

Fri. 18 **Gordon** helped **Jim** to open up, top up the feeders, tidy up and plant a tree.

Sun. 27 **Jim** raked up the leaves in the area from the store to the Reserve.

Mon. 28 **Tom Hargreaves** and **Jim** strimmed and raked part of the Northern Loop.

Tue. 29 **Gordon Reid** and **Jim** filled in the potholes on the Eskrigg Farm road.

5. Lockerbie Wildlife Trust events in November.

Sat. 12 & Sun. 13 Remembrance Weekend Poppy Walk

There were 12 displays of poppies around Eskrigg Nature Reserve, each with a different remembrance theme. Some of the displays were similar to last year's and others were new. The poppies and the displays were all handmade by the **Bowling Club Crafters and Friends** to mark Remembrance and the displays then organized by **Sybil Williamson** and **Mairi Pringle**.

The topics were:

- 1 **Queen Elizabeth II**
- 2 **The Oath of Allegiance**
- 3 **In Flanders Fields**
- 4 **We Remember Them**
- 5 **Conflict at Sea**
- 6 **Conflict in the Air**
- 7 **Animals at War**
- 8 **Women at War**
- 9 **The Kohima Epitaph**
- 10 **African, Caribbean & Pacific Island Communities**
- 11 **For the Fallen and For the Future**
- 12 **The Poppy Cascade**



Over the weekend, visitors registered for the Poppy Walk at the trailer in the Reserve car park. The trailer was kindly loaned by the **Lockerbie and District Rotary Club**. President of the Rotary Club, **Bryan Woods**, also donated a garden seat and planter, that he had made from whisky barrels, as prizes for a raffle. The garden seat was won by **Ann Good** and the planter by **Gordon Reid**.



The proceeds from the raffle and generously given donations totalled £591.45 and this was shared equally between SSAFA, (**Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's Families Association**) and **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust**. The Trust then gave the Rotary Club a donation for the use of the trailer.

Thanks to all who supported the Poppy Walk.

Photographs by Jim Rae

Wed. 16 Visit by **Primary 7** pupils from **Murray Primary School, East Kilbride.**



The group was split into two. One half carried out a **Tree-based activity** with **Duncan Ford** while the other half did **Pond Dipping** and **Woodland Minibeasts** with **Jim Rae**. After a short lunch break, the groups swapped activities.

Many thanks to Duncan for his assistance.

Thu. 17 **Jim** gave a talk to the **Lockerbie Retired and Independent Ladies Club**. He outlined the developments that had taken place at Eskrigg Reserve since he gave his last talk to the group in 2011.

Sat. 19 **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** ran a stall at the switch on of the Lockerbie Christmas Lights. On sale were the usual Calendars, Christmas Cards and Nature Notelets. The sales went well.

Jim Rae felt greatly honoured to be awarded **Lockerbie Christmas Lights Bev Farish Community Person of the Year Award 2022** for his work at Eskrigg Nature Reserve.



He was also very proud to be asked to switch on the Christmas Lights.

Photographs by Allan Devlin



Wed. 23 **Keith Kirk**, Wildlife and Natural History Photographer and Writer, gave a fascinating account of his recent work photographing the wildlife in Dumfries and Galloway. The live talk at Lockerbie Town Hall was well attended and some members of the Trust also logged in on Zoom. One of the many aspects he covered was his use of a drone to get a different perspective from the normal digital camera.

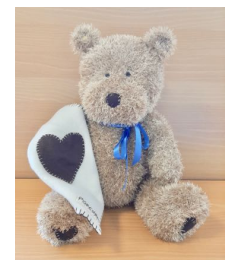
Fri. 25 & Sat. 26 **Christmas Stall at Tesco, Lockerbie.**

Tesco kindly allowed the Trust to run a Christmas Stall in the foyer of the shop once again.

Together the Xmas Stalls, at the Christmas Lights Switch-on and at Tesco, raised £1,770 for the work of the Trust. **The Management Committee would like to thank the people of Lockerbie and District for their generous support.**

During November, there was also a competition to guess '**Popcorn's Birthday**'. **Popcorn the Teddy Bear** was made, and donated to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust, by **Margaret McMillan**, one of the Bowling Club Crafters.

Popcorn was won and adopted by **Debbie Simpson** from Hightae. **Popcorn's Birthday was the 5th of October.** The competition raised a further £115 for the Trust. Thank you to Margaret, Debbie and all who entered the competition.



Popcorn

Photograph of Popcorn by Jim Rae

Merry Christmas Everyone

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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