



## SWT Berwickshire Members Centre

### March 2008 Newsletter

#### Past Events

The **coffee morning** last November was very successful. We raised almost £200 from the sale of cakes, plants, coffee and a raffle. We are indebted to Minnie Wilson who did the organising and to everyone who came to support us or who donated raffle prizes and gifts for the stalls. The money raised was partly sent to headquarters and partly used to help fund a group of volunteers who worked at Pease Dean between Christmas and New Year (see below).

The **Lothian Conservation volunteers** came to work on **Pease Dean Reserve** staying at a farm cottage near Cockburnspath for three days at New Year. Consolidating their work from previous visits they cleared the undergrowth and invasive non-native trees to prepare for replanting. Harry Edie, the reserve convener, would be pleased to welcome new volunteers to his monthly working parties there. The sessions are held on the second Sunday of the month. Contact Harry on **01289 386 338** if you are interested. Harry usually grows the trees, such as oaks, ash and hazel from seeds taken from the reserve but funding for the supports and tree guards still has to be found.

Murray Henderson, **Duns Castle** convener, reports that the Hen Poo Hide is showing its age and needs some repairs. Seven young cygnets, hatched last year, left the lake in late autumn. A memorial Sweet Chestnut tree was planted in St Mary's Glade after the October coffee morning. Members of Alex Turner's family and a few SWT members attended a small ceremony led by Minister, Andrew Morrice.

Alec West, **Gordon Moss** convener, joined SWT Conservation Manager Julian Warman to clear five new areas for orchids. Botanist Michael Braithwaite accompanied them to point out suitable sites. None of the five areas are visible from paths. The task was approved by the Feuers. Alec has also completed the job of checking the WaLRaGs that monitor the water levels, concluding that the drain is causing the Moss to dry out but it seems that no-one is likely to change the situation.

#### Winter talks

We have had a wide range of events with some zany titles such as "Creatures of the Night" and "Weeds, Creepy Crawlies, Cute Furry Things & Kingfishers" and have been "transported" from Scotland to China by superb speakers who attracted capacity audiences. Indeed we are the envy of many other groups from larger areas. We experimented in January with a **Social Evening** and invited the "**Small Hall Band**" to give a concert of traditional Scottish Music after a display of natural history items of interest. The youngsters played brilliantly and everyone had an enjoyable time.

## **Future events**

The annual SWT Wildlife Week is renamed **Scottish Wildlife Week** and will take place from **7<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June**. Our group has organised two local walks but keep an eye on **The Scotsman** and your SWT magazine which will publicise events throughout Scotland. Many events are free to members or have reduced admission rates during this time.

Berwick is holding its fourth “Green Festival” on **June 29<sup>th</sup>** and we have accepted an invitation to share a table with the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Other groups such as the B.O.G. (Borders Organic Gardening Group), and Berwick Wildlife Group attend, and there is music, stalls of craft work, organic produce, and lots of family entertainment.

- Unfortunately this clashes with the open day for Anton Hill and Alec West’s organic walled garden at **Leitholm** also open on **Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>** from 2-6pm. Visitor attractions include plant sales and rides on Harry Edie’s miniature live steamtrain. Admission charge is for a local charity.
- **Duns Show** (August 2<sup>nd</sup>) We hope to borrow an SWT marquee from Headquarters at Cramond but need more volunteers and some fresh ideas to make the day worthwhile.



Part of the capacity audience at Jim Wilson's talk “Scotland's Four Seasons”.

## **Fund Raising Activities**

Our next **Coffee Morning** has been booked in the Duns Parish Church Hall for Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 11.30am. We need to make even more effort this year as the SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) are cutting the budget usually allocated to SWT.

**The Postcode Lottery** is helping to fill the shortfall and so far has raised over £16,000 since its launch. Players purchase a £2 ticket every week based on their postcode and stand a chance of

winning a share of the weekly prize of £25,000 as well as a chance of winning a star prize including a brand new Mini. To subscribe, visit [www.postcodelottery.co.uk](http://www.postcodelottery.co.uk) or call 0808 1098765. Players must be over 16, resident in Scotland, and must register to become a player.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (registered number SC040247), having its registered office at Cramond House, Cramond Glebe Road, Edinburgh EH4 6NS. It is also a Scottish registered charity (charity number SC05792)