

NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL BORDERS MEMBERS CENTRE

Scottish Wildlife Trust

February 2008

Issue No. 1

WELCOME

This is our first Newsletter for quite a while. It becomes more and more difficult to keep members updated on current activities and we feel that many of you are missing out on some aspects which may be of interest. Accordingly, we have decided to take the direct approach, through a newsletter, which all Members can read.

We hope to produce two annual issues, which will highlight our activities and produce articles on current items of interest.

It would be wonderful to receive contributions from Members. We are so fortunate to live in the Borders, with its wealth of beauty and diversity of flora/ fauna. We also have a broad range of expertise within our membership and it would be nice to share this with others.

Any topic can be addressed... including flora / fungi / insects / birds / development issues / mammals, or even amusing encounters with wildlife... my favourite! If you have anything which you think would be of interest, please forward it to us... relevant contacts are listed below.

We run a programme of monthly indoor meetings during the Winter and a series of outdoor events during the Summer. These are summarised below. The indoor meetings are held at the Langlee Centre, Marigold Drive, Galashiels at 7.30pm. These are informal meetings, with a speaker (usually involving an illustrated talk on an aspect of wildlife and always of excellent quality), which allow adequate opportunity to meet with people of like interest and discuss topics of the day.

Please come along and try out our hospitality. The outdoor programme is varied and each activity is led by a knowledgeable guide. Again everyone is welcome to join us. Do come along.

If the newsletter, and more particularly our whole Members Centre, is to succeed and grow, it depends on you to contribute. Let us know your interests. Let us know what you think we are doing which is not good enough. Your Committee will try to correct any faults and to incorporate wishes for future activities.

Most of all we would like you all to participate where you can. It really is a lot of fun... perhaps even more than you think.

Bob Straffen (Chairman)

CONTACTS

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FUTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday, March 13 – Malcolm Lindsay
“A Borders Moth-er”

Thursday, April 10 – Sarah Oakley
“Osprey Update” plus AGM
(At our usual venue at the Langlee Centre, Marigold Drive, Galashiels, at 7.30pm)

Saturday, May 31 – Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Trinity Church (formerly St Ninians), High Street, Galashiels (Opposite “Iceland”), from 10am – 12 noon

Saturday, May 17 – Outing by “BIRDBUS” to VANE FARM. This is an organised trip by coach with pick-up in Selkirk / Gala. For bookings and further details contact Eric Middleton on 01750 21829.

We also have plans for future outdoor activities including a walk round Selkirk Hill on **18 June** at 7pm, to see the special orchids of the area and wealth of other wildlife. A walk at Carrifran (off Moffat valley) is also being planned, where we will get an update on the Borders Forest Trust’s efforts to restore this dramatic valley to its ancient

wildwood state. Later in the year we will be having a trip to Holy Island. These two dates are yet to be finalised. More details will become available through the Website and will appear in our soon to be published syllabus.

We also hold fund-raising events in May and September which always require additional help from volunteers. Please watch the website for further information on these activities and venues and, if you can help, contact Shirley McLaren on 01896 822510.

HAREMOSS RESERVE

We are starting out on an exciting project to upgrade the access and facilities at our Hare Moss reserve. Ground-clearance work is already underway and should be finished before nesting season... weather permitting! Thereafter, we will put together a plan to introduce new facilities to encourage more active use of the reserve. It is our intention to try and involve as many people as possible (both

current members and other interested parties) in this development. In particular, we think it would be good to involve local schoolchildren where we can; maybe allowing them to develop their “own facility”... perhaps a “pond dipping section” or a “butterfly area”. All of this we are going to attempt by using our own members as volunteers. Our fund-raising will go to help and we shall seek additional

funding from various sources. The main resource will be YOU! Can you help? Do you want to join in an activity which should prove to be fun and help the environment and the kids? If you can and wish to help, let us know. What would be of immediate assistance, would be initial ideas of what we might do and what could be done to assist. Over to you! AGAIN, we will up-date on progress whenever we can.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

During the summer months our group enjoyed two outings. On Sunday, 13th May, we had an enjoyable walk around the Gordon Community Woodland. This is a 200 acre mixed woodland, with a river running through and a pond. There is also a teaching cabin by the pond, with some seating. Three local members met us at the wood and walked with us, explaining the history of the land and its development. This added greatly to our enjoyment and

understanding.

On Saturday 2nd June we set off, on a beautiful summer day, for Leighton Moss in Lancashire. We had an excellent day viewing the birds and especially enjoyed the frequent sightings of the many marsh harriers. There were bittern around but remained out of sight though many of us heard the booming noises.

On Sunday 7th October we held

Our first outing of the autumn, visiting Holy Island. This outing was jointly led by Eric Middleton and Alan Pringle. We were extremely lucky to have a fine sunny day and everyone enjoyed not only the excellent birding but also visits to the lime kilns, to find out about the important role played by Holy Island in the economic past of the area. We also found out about its geological structure, looked for fossils and examined many plants. There was something to interest everyone.