



**Scottish
Wildlife
Trust**

Ayrshire Newsletter Autumn 2010

Chairman's notes.

At the end of Kirsty Low's final year as Ayrshire's chairman I think we can take some satisfaction in the state of the Members Centre. Last winter's evening meetings were enjoyed by good numbers, including many new faces. Our finances are sound thanks to members' generosity at the raffles at the meetings and money raised at events, particularly the collection at Dobbies where the old diehards were joined by some welcome new collectors. This summer Brian Dawkins, our Irvine Ranger, has again organised some attractive family events on our Irvine Reserves.

I was recently very encouraged to learn that our membership in Ayrshire is now 1155. However it also made me aware that I have never met most of you. I know that many of you lead busy lives, but like to know that you are contributing to the work of the Trust and read about our achievements (and challenges) in the magazine. But if you can get along to our magnificent new blue and white tent at the Ayr Flower Show (6-8th Aug), or attend even just one of the evening meetings next winter we would love to meet you. Committee members are recognisable by their name badges, so do introduce yourselves and tell us what you would like the MC to do. [I realise I am taking a risk here – if you all turn up to the same meeting we will run out of space and chairs rather rapidly, but what a wonderful problem to have!]

Roger Hissett.

EVENING MEETINGS PROGRAMME

We shall again meet on Tuesday evenings, in the Green Room, the Refectory, SAC Auchincruive, KA6 5HW. Follow the signs from the B743 to the main College entrance, turn left onto the main drive, and then right to the ample parking beside the Refectory. Tea and coffee are available in the interval. Non-members are also very welcome.

*September 21 – **Andy Christie:** "Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue".* Most of us at some time have taken or sent an injured bird or animal to Hessilhead for care and attention. Find out more about the rescue centre that is now so much a part of the Ayrshire wildlife scene.

*October 19 – **Simon Jones:** "The Return of the Beaver".* We are hoping that fate will be kinder to Simon and his assistant this year, and he will be able to come down to Ayrshire to tell us about the new beaver families in Knapdale. After the cold winter and another summer there should be even more stories to tell.

*November 16 – **Gavin Anderson:** "Around the World under Water".* Gavin is an award winning photographer who has travelled the world as a photojournalist. He is also a superb underwater photographer, and will be showing us some of his amazing pictures of marine life.

There will be no meeting in December, but four more in 2011: -

*January 18 – **Joe Connelly, Strathclyde Police:** "Wildlife Crime in Scotland".*

*February 15 – **Paula Baker, Assistant Site Manager of Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve:***

"Alternative Lochwinnoch"

*March 15 – **Davy McCracken:** "Chough Stuff: Developing Chough conservation strategies in Scotland".*

*April 19 – AGM followed by **Scott Shanks** on "Small Blue reintroduction at Gales Marsh".*

