

Events

Visit to the Heritage Loch, East Kilbride and Cathkin Marsh.

Date: Saturday 14 September 2024

Time: 11am start till 2pm approximately

Leader: Lang Stewart

Rendezvous: Meet at Heritage Loch for 11am, in the car park near the Waterside Café:
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<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Waterside+Cafe/@55.7775781,-4.1862676,259m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m14!1m7!3m6!1s0x488840a0ce99f125:0x947e74c51b027da!2sJames+Hamilton+Heritage+Park!8m2!3d55.7772068!4d-4.1839704!16s%2Fg%2F1tyzyksr!3m5!1s0x488840a0cc63f761:0xa873d0f2bb2bb93c!8m2!3d55.7774371!4d-4.1862937!16s%2Fg%2F11qsfzdkk!entry=ttu>

Please car share if possible. The Waterside Café has toilets.

The loch is part of James Hamilton Heritage Park, run by South Lanarkshire Council.

See also:

https://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/info/115/james_hamilton_heritage_park

We will walk round the loch (3/4 mile), looking out for wildfowl, flowers and invertebrates. On the eastern part of the loch, there should be a range of water bird species. At the western end of the loch there is a bird sanctuary, with small woodlands, quiet water, and possibly a Kingfisher.

Bring a packed lunch in case the café is busy or it's a nice day and we might sit outside.

Afternoon: A relatively short walk at SWT's Cathkin Marsh, a 10 minute drive from Heritage Park.

There is a path through the site, with some interpretation panels, but no other facilities. Cathkin Marsh has interesting birds, with passerines such as Stonechat seen regularly, the possibility of Kestrel, Buzzard, Peregrine and Hen Harrier, and butterflies and dragonflies ought to be out if the weather is good enough.

For details of Cathkin Marsh see:

<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserve/cathkin-marsh/>

and

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/renfrewshire/local-wild-places/cathkin-marsh-wildlife-reserve-scottish-wildlife-trust/>

The small reserve car park can be seen here, so parking may be problematic:

<https://www.google.com/maps/@55.7871361,-4.2020535,3a,75y,94.26h,80.19t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sA0J8BHchZQnW8ooWIXC-ZA!2e0!7i16384!8i8192?hl=en&entry=ttu>

Reserve car park: what3words:caring.bound.error

Depending on numbers, we may have to leave some of the cars at the Heritage Loch and car share to Cathkin Marsh. We may park on the road at the stables area east of Cathkin Marsh at South Cathkin Farm. Lang will lead us there if necessary.

Visit to Loch Ardinning

Date: Thursday 10 October 2024
Time: 11am till 2pm (approximately)
Venue: Loch Ardinning SWT Reserve
Rendezvous: The main gate at the reserve entrance.

Loch Ardinning, between Milngavie and Strathblane, has been a SWT Nature Reserve for many years. It contains wetland, woodland and moorland with a variety of wildlife.

More details can be found at:
<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserve/loch-ardinning/>

On this web page a reserve leaflet and a reserve map are available to download.

Car parking is available in lay-bys on both sides of the A81 Strathblane Road a short distance from the reserve entrance. The Plus Code on Google Maps for the reserve entrance is at XMCW+XQM Strathblane, Glasgow. The OS grid reference for the reserve entrance is NS563778. what3words:replays.wicked.boils

We will walk around part of the reserve on paths, some of which are well maintained and some wilder, so **walking boots are essential**.

Ticks are prevalent on the Reserve; please wear a long sleeved shirt and trousers and have a tick check on your return home.

We will meet Chris Thomson, the SWT Reserves Project Officer, who will be leading a work party on that day.

Please note that there are no visitor facilities on the reserve, so bringing a packed lunch is suggested.

There are no toilet facilities on site, the nearest toilets are at

Mugdock Country Park: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/jUDJqinc2jnGUZqo6>

Oscars Café: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Dybe8Gks3G5MHmfZ8>

Talk: Saving the Capercaillie

Wednesday 23 October 2024

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Hyndland School, Clarence Drive, Airlie Theatre.

Professor Neil B. Metcalfe FRSE, Professor of Behavioural Ecology (Physiology Ageing & Welfare) School of Biodiversity, One Health and Veterinary Medicine

As a result of the decline in the Capercaillie population in recent years, Neil Metcalfe was asked by NatureScot to lead a group to advise on measures for the conservation and management of Capercaillie in Scotland, with emphasis on the core area of the species in the Cairngorms.

Visit to Broadwood Loch, Cumbernauld

Date: Sunday 17 November 2024

Time: 10.30am to 1.30pm approximately

Leader: Clare Wunsch

Rendezvous: Meet at Broadwood Loch car park, Orchardton Road, Cumbernauld G68 9GQ. The entrance is marked by a blue archway for "Broadwood Loch".

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There are no public toilets at Broadwood Loch.

Join us to explore an easy loop through three contrasting habitats on good quality level paths.

Broadwood Loch was created in 1994 when a dam was built across Mosswater to alleviate flood risk downstream. In just 30 years, a combination of open water, bog and woodland has created a rich variety of habitats for birds, butterflies, plants and insects. A good quality, level path forms a two mile circuit around the loch, skirts the bog and meanders through the woods.

Bring a packed lunch in case it's a nice day and we might sit outside beside the loch.

Talk: Seabirds: the Crown Jewels of Scotland's Wildlife

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Hyndland School, Clarence Drive, Airlie Theatre.

Scotland holds some of the most important, and best studied populations of seabirds in the world. Scotland "punches above our weight" in terms of scientific papers on seabird

ecology and we have world-leading long-term studies (many by amateurs and local ringing groups, not just professional researchers). However, many of our seabirds are now in decline, and recently there have been unprecedented outbreaks of avian influenza in seabird colonies. Rapid development of offshore wind farms represents a new pressure on seabirds now added to impacts of climate change, fisheries, invasive mammal predators and pollution.

Seabirds provide impressive wildlife experiences around Scotland but will we be able to conserve these populations? Despite government promises, we still don't have a Scottish (or UK) seabird conservation strategy, but the legal protection now afforded to seabirds might provide an opportunity to improve their conservation status.

Bob was fortunate in converting a childhood enthusiasm for ringing seabirds and watching them from the clifftops of Shetland into a career studying seabird ecology. Thirteen years ago he moved from an academic position as Professor of Seabird and Fishing Interactions at Glasgow University to working part-time at MacArthur Green on impacts of offshore wind farms on seabirds and for eight years as a member of the Board of SNH (now NatureScot).

Christmas Party at Hyndland School

Date: Wednesday 11 December 2024

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Hyndland School Library, Lauderdale Gardens

A light-hearted evening including a quiz, members' wildlife photographs and festive refreshments.