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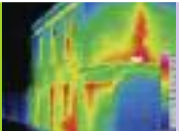
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Winter Specials in the Café

**Delicious home-made specials
Monday-Friday until February
and Christmas Lunches
with all the trimmings in December
(10% discount for members)**

Dolphins!



Bottlenose Dolphins, Laurie Campbell

There have been an unusually large number of sightings of dolphins this summer in the Firth of Forth. The sightings have included reports of very large groups of up to 75 dolphins.

Lynda Dalglish, Marketing Manager with the Scottish Seabird Centre comments, "The Seabird Centre is an official Seawatch Foundation watching site and many sightings are made or reported to us, making it an important link for Seawatch and the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS). We've seen a marked increase in the number of sightings this summer with dolphins swimming alongside boats and leaping and diving in the bays around North Berwick and along the coast of East Lothian and Fife."

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A Royal Occasion



The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Scottish Seabird Centre on the 2nd of July to present the Centre with the 2009 Queen's Award for Enterprise. See highlights of this historic day for North Berwick on pages 8-9.

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Heather and Hadlie

During my stay in North Berwick my daughter Hadlie and I were greeted with nothing but kindness; and my internship for the Scottish Seabird Centre far surpassed all my expectations. My internship was a perfect match for my interests in marine life, environmental issues and sustainable tourism, as well as my academic pursuits.

I enjoyed the great diversity of projects the Centre provided me. Among many, I helped create a new education workshop, wrote about the SOS puffin conservation project, assisted at summer events, researched a recycle campaign and developed a plastic awareness display.

The internship provided several unique experiences for me. A visit to Craigleith Island with the Scottish Television news crew gave me an exclusive opportunity to see all the nesting birds, with puffins being the obvious highlight and I joined the BBC News 24 team later in the summer to witness the natural wildlife wonder that is the Bass Rock. Both experiences were memorable and left lasting impressions.

In addition to my work for the Centre, my daughter and I squeezed in as much of Scotland as possible, never being disappointed. Several visits to Edinburgh allowed us to be "proper tourists"; however, we enjoyed the subtle things of the area as well. It has been such a joy to take evening walks along the beach, hiking North Berwick Law

Transatlantic Studies!

Winning a Ford Foundation scholarship, Heather Cyrus, a student from Oregon University chose to spend the summer working with the Scottish Seabird Centre.



Heather joins Maggie Sheddan and the BBC News 24 team during filming on the Bass Rock

and playing in the Lodge Grounds. North Berwick is a beautiful town. Most enjoyable was getting to know the townsfolk and all the staff at the Centre.

Further Studies

The Seabird Centre is increasingly working with universities and research teams in the UK and further afield. This year, as part of their final year project, Napier University Creative Advertising students created a number of impressive advertising campaigns for the Seabird Centre. MBA Student, John Lawrie from the University of Edinburgh Business School was selected from several candidates to write a dissertation on Marketing and Strategy for the Seabird Centre. Robert Gordon University Student Susannah Nichol, originally from North Berwick, spent six weeks working with the marketing department on various projects, including developing social networking sites for the Centre. Keith Hamer from Leeds University is surveying nest attendance patterns of breeding gannets on the Bass Rock, using the Centre's cameras and GPS loggers. Lecturer Bernard Quinn from Queen Margaret University and Seabird Centre Chief Executive, Tom Brock are producing a joint paper looking at how the Seabird Centre has helped to raise awareness of wildlife and had a beneficial impact on the local area.

Nature Photography Exhibition

Detail from Jonathan Dawson's photo 'Nature's Carpet' which won Highly Commended in last year's junior section.

Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick
20th November 2009 – February 2010

The Scottish Seabird Centre's Annual Nature Photography Competition & Exhibition features five categories: Scottish Wildlife, World Wildlife, Landscape, Creative Visions of Nature and Environmental Impact. This year there is a separate Junior Competition called 'Home Grown' which is designed to encourage younger photographers to take a close look at the wonderful wildlife and landscapes that are all around us – where we live, work and play.

The competition attracts around 250 entries each year and offers an excellent showcase for amateur photographers to display their work and win some excellent prizes. The deadline for entries to the competition is Friday 30th October. The top 100 shortlisted entries will go on display in the Seabird Centre's Annual Nature Photography Exhibition, with a preview for members on Thursday 19th November.

You can download an application form from www.seabird.org, email info@seabird.org or call 01620 890202.



Otters Spotted!

Laurie Campbell

There have been several sightings of otters close to the Seabird Centre this year, one a close encounter reported by Mike Prince from North Berwick who watched a young otter playing at dusk close to the harbour. There have also been several sightings reported by canoeists around North Berwick's East Bay and Craighleith Island.

Continued from page 1

Dolphins

She adds, "The dolphins have been swimming close to sailing boats and our own Seabird Seafari boats, entertaining the passengers. Competitors taking part in the Yacht Club's Annual Solo National Sailing Championships, in July, were thrilled when a group of around 20-30 dolphins swam alongside the dinghies taking part in the race."

Kitty Wilkie and Jim Dickson from North Berwick said, "We saw about 15 dolphins and sailed with them from the Lamb Island right out to the Leithies. They were doing lots of jumping and twisting and swimming right up to the boat I'm sure if we'd had a ball they would have played with it!"

Maggie Sheddán from Seabird Seafaris (on 18th August) commented "As we drifted along they just surrounded us, we had them leaping, back flipping, cutting in front of the boat, riding alongside, two or three just surfing along. We didn't know where to look next. Some broke off and headed toward Daisy Island, but we saw them turn and



Laurie Campbell

head back, playing at that end of the bay. A group of about six or seven stayed with us giving us the most memorable and spectacular display."

Dolphins have been spotted every week throughout the summer, with the most recent sighting as we go to press, from Simone Anderson of North Berwick, on Saturday 19th September, of six or seven dolphins swimming with the Yacht Club's sailing school dinghies, a real treat for the children learning to sail.

Erich Hoyt, Senior Research Fellow with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society comments, "We presume these dolphins are part of the Northeast Scotland

Seal Season

Aerial photographic and thermal imaging surveys of Scotland's islands and coastline during the pupping season provide data on population changes and it is now estimated that there are around 164,000 grey seals and 20,000 common seals in Scotland.

This is more grey seals than previously estimated, but common seals are in decline, according to the Special Committee on Seals (SCOS) report, based on data provided by the Sea Mammal Research Institute (SMRU). The main causes are unclear at present, but predation by killer whales in the Northern Isles and competition for food supplies with grey seals are believed to be significant factors affecting common seals.

Back on land, the Seabird Centre cameras provide an intimate insight into the important seal colony on the Isle of May, the largest on the East Coast of Britain. Craigleith Island, ¼ mile from the Seabird Centre, now also allows for close observation, with the number of seals here and on Inchkeith Island tripling in the last six years, since the islands were included in the survey.

The grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) is the larger of the two species of seal that breed around the British Isles. About 45% of the world population of grey seals is found in Britain and over 90% of British grey seals breed in Scotland.

Common seals (*Phoca vitulina*) are found mainly around the west coast of Scotland, the Northern Isles and the

bottlenose dolphin population - the northernmost group of bottlenose dolphins in the world."

"Their habitat is centred on the Moray Firth but some of them will travel on their hunting expeditions to the Firth of Forth and even further south."

"Many groups like the Scottish Seabird Centre are working hard around the Firth of Forth to create awareness about the water quality and to keep the environment healthy for seabirds, marine mammals and fish. Seeing dolphins and whales increasingly in these waters may be a sign that their efforts are being rewarded."

Erich adds, "If you see dolphins, it would be helpful if you could let us know the time, place, numbers, species, any calves, the behaviour, for example were they swimming (which direction), fishing, playing, etc. And if you happen to be lucky to be close enough to get a photo, the dorsal fin is the equivalent to a human thumbprint and can help us to identify the individual dolphins, who all have names." (check out the Seabird Centre's website www.seabird.org to download the Dolphin ID chart). Sightings can be sent to info@seabird.org or by calling the Seabird Centre at 01620 890202.



Hebrides. Several have been seen this year from the Seabird Seafari trips around Craigleith and the Bass Rock, but on the east coast, their distribution is more restricted.

From now until Christmas, hundreds of pups will be born and some will find their way onto the beaches at North Berwick. Unless they are injured or in danger, they should be left alone to return to the sea on the tide. As the drawing by one of our younger members illustrates, seal pups can also give a serious bite, if they feel threatened. For help or advice, call the Seabird Centre on 01620 890202 or the SSPCA on 03000 999 999.



Win a signed copy of Tooth & Claw !

For details about the Tooth & Claw Exhibition running until 18th November 2009 - see page 18.

Answer the question below and you could win a signed copy of 'Tooth & Claw' by Peter Cairns and Mark Hamblin (RRP £25). Two copies have been donated to the Seabird Centre as prizes. Filled with spectacular imagery and thought-provoking quotations and interviews, the 240 page hard backed book has had excellent reviews from both Simon King and Chris Packham.

Question: Which Scottish animal is otherwise known as the "Highland Tiger"? Send your answers before 31st October by email to info@seabird.org or by post to Tooth & Claw Competition, Scottish Seabird Centre, The Harbour, North Berwick EH39 4SS.

Visit www.highlandtiger.com for help with the answer!

SOS Puffin

Heather Cyrus, spent the summer with the Seabird Centre, during an internship from Oregon University. Heather, who is studying a double major in environmental science and journalism, funded her trip by winning the prestigious Ford Foundation Scholarship and joined the marketing and education teams, assisting on a wide range of projects including SOS Puffin. She reports on the project's progress below.

It's good news this year from SOS Puffin, the Seabird Centre's conservation project to help reinstate puffin colonies on two islands in the Firth of Forth. Craigleith Management Group, set up by the Seabird Centre to manage the project, reports positive findings.

SOS Puffin was set up in 2006 to try to eradicate the invasive plant Tree Mallow from the islands of Craigleith and Fidra, which had taken over the islands, preventing the puffins from nesting and reducing numbers to a couple of thousand.

John Hunt, Chair of the Craigleith Management Group, and Seabird Centre volunteer Maggie Sheddan have

been involved with the project from the beginning.

Former Head of Nature Reserves with the RSPB, John is also a volunteer and a trustee of the Seabird Centre. Now in its third year, John is optimistic about the results of SOS Puffin to date. "I feel that we are definitely turning the corner, the seed bank is reducing and other native plants are starting to come in."

John explains, "The plant was brought to the area over three centuries ago; however, climate change has resulted in milder winters in Scotland eliminating the harsh frosts that used to keep the plant regulated. Tree mallow can grow up to 9 feet (3 metres) in height, overpowering the burrows where puffins nest and rear their chicks.

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1893

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SOS Puffin; a partnership led by the Scottish Seabird Centre and involving Scottish Natural Heritage, RSPB Scotland, Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, and the University of Aberdeen, was created to tackle the problem. Funding was secured from Viridor Credits and Scottish Natural Heritage, allowing the programme to purchase supplies and get underway.

By the end of spring this year both Fidra and Craigleith were virtually free of mallow, making the entire puffin nesting areas available for use. Maggie, Seabird Centre boat guide and long term volunteer, commented, "The puffins had a better season this year. The data is not yet collated, but indications are that the puffins are steadily returning."

Plant monitoring is carried out by Dr Rene van der Wal from Aberdeen University who has discovered that native plant species are slowly replacing tree mallow seedlings, an encouraging observation and a key objective for SOS Puffin.

Craigleith has a five year management plan; this suggests that eliminating tree mallow entirely is very unlikely; rather the hope is, it can be contained with relatively little ongoing management.



SOS Puffin volunteers hard at work



Scottish Television news presenter, Nicol Nicholson, during filming on Craigleith for SOS Puffin.

To date over 450 volunteers have made it to the island, some over 35 times. Volunteers range in age from 11-81 and over 20 nationalities have been represented, making this an extremely diverse group.

Volunteer James Leyden moved to North Berwick about the time that the SOS Puffin project was launched and was motivated to volunteer after seeing the channel 4 programme, "Wild Thing I Love You".

"It's on my doorstep, I thought, so why not!" James has now been on more than 30 volunteering trips. He is thrilled to be helping the puffins, "they are cute birds, but more importantly, the general idea of giving back is the highest motivating factor."

Volunteers enjoy the wildlife, the fresh air and the opportunity to get outdoors. Anyone interested can join the teams going out to the islands all year round (except from mid-April to July when the puffins return to their burrows to nest). Email info@seabird.org or call 01620 890202.



John Cunningham

A Royal Occas



Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Scottish Seabird Centre on the 2nd of July to present the Centre with the Queen's Award for Enterprise.

Having won the award in 2004, the Centre was the proud winner again this year. The Queen had expressed a wish to visit the Centre and this provided the perfect occasion. The Centre was opened by The Duke of Rothesay in 2000, but this was the first time that a reigning monarch had visited the town of North Berwick since 1902. The day dawned sunny and beautiful and crowds of well wishers were there to welcome The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. A proud day to remember for the Seabird Centre and the people of North Berwick.

The Seabird Centre's official DVD is now available to buy from the Gift Shop or online at www.seabird.org. A wonderful souvenir of a very special day in North Berwick's history. A DVD was also produced by Hugh Trevor from North Berwick.

ion



Members' Christmas Shopping Evening

6.30-9.00pm, Thursday 19th November 2009

Enjoy relaxed shopping with mulled wine, tastings and samplings. Local artists, jewellery designers and a wonderful range of unusual and unique Christmas gifts...

...and for one night only - 15% discount for members!



You are welcome to bring guests, but discount on the night and entry to the Nature Photography Exhibition preview is exclusive to members.

Please remember to bring your membership card for your discount.

We hope you can make it along on the night and look forward to seeing you then.

(10% discount on binoculars and telescopes)

Something Different for Christmas!

The Seabird Centre is the perfect place to find something different for Christmas. There's a wonderful range of new products in the Gift Shop with more stock arriving every day. And, if you prefer to shop from the comfort of your own home, take a look at our new Online Shop at www.seabird.org.



A popular choice if you're looking for something different is to adopt a puffin, a seal or a Bass Rock gannet family and another idea is gift vouchers which can be used for the Cafe, the Gift Shop, Membership, the Discovery Centre and boat trips.

Proving very popular as a gift this year is a voucher for a Seabird Seafari Boat trip or the Bass Rock landing trip – an unforgettable experience! Members receive 10% discount on all our boat trips.



The Seabird Centre was one of the highlights during a visit by 40 inbound tourism operators from England and Europe visiting East Lothian as part of a marketing initiative to promote East Lothian with the Macdonald Marine Hotel and East Lothian Council. It's hoped this will help attract new visitors to East Lothian in the future.

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Bin the Bag!



l to r: Seabird Centre Chief Executive Tom Brock and Councillor David Berry campaigning for "Bin the Bag"

On International Plastic Bag Free Day this year, the Bin the Bag Steering Group took to the streets of North Berwick giving information and handing out bags and posters.

North Berwick has become a guiding light in the campaign to 'Bin the Bag', with local people choosing re-usable bags and most of the town's shopkeepers no longer issuing free plastic carrier bags.

Kathy Crawford, Chair of 'Bring Your Own Bag' bid said, "It's wonderful to see the change over the last 12 months, since we launched the campaign. I'm particularly delighted to report that Tesco North Berwick is now the number one store, from Edinburgh and the Lothians to Dumfries, for customers using their own bags."

She continues, "Polystyrene food take-away style containers are our next challenge. We would be delighted if the town's fish and chip shops would go back to using traditional disposable wrappers."

Scottish Seabird Centre Chief Executive, Tom Brock is a member of the 'Bin the Bag' Steering group, and commented, "We are strong supporters of the campaign. Plastic and polystyrene causes major problems for marine wildlife. It's crucial that we reduce the use of bags and fast food polystyrene containers for the benefit of our environment and our wildlife."

Hatchery Plans Receive Strong Support



Jura Consultants, appointed to carry out the feasibility study for the proposed lobster hatchery in North Berwick, undertook a major public consultation in the town and with other local interests earlier this year.

They found strong support for the project and their findings indicate that such a facility is feasible and would generate significant benefits for locals, visitors and the area's economy. The long term introduction of significant quantities of young lobsters and other species, such as crab and langoustines, would help ensure the future of local stocks and the jobs they directly and indirectly support. Local fisherman also indicated that holding tanks for catches would be a useful additional facility.

"The proposed Lobster Hatchery has the potential to emulate similar existing centres across the UK with benefits for both marine conservation and the tourism economy of North Berwick", commented Paul Jardine, Managing Director of Jura Consultants.

The study also noted that there was significant scope for development of education programmes based around the work of the hatchery. Three higher education institutions have already shown an interest in involvement and collaboration through research, teaching and student projects.

Chief Executive Tom Brock OBE commented: "This comprehensive study, confirms our belief that such a hatchery would be of real benefit to North Berwick, having major positive, economic, environmental and education impacts. There is a long way to go, but with continued strong, local support, we believe that this exciting and innovative idea can become a reality. North Berwick could become home to the first hatchery of its type in Scotland."

Following a meeting of interested parties last year, the Seabird Centre was asked to investigate the idea in more detail. After feedback from the consultants, the local steering group will now determine how best to move the proposals forward.

On behalf of the Steering Group, thank you to everyone who contributed to the public consultation and grateful thanks to the funders of the feasibility study: East Lothian Council; The Scottish Government; the European Community Tyne Esk LEADER 2007-2013 programme and the Derek Stewart Charitable Trust.

Calling All Gannets!

Karrine Powell, studying Fine Art at Oxford Brookes University, has been inspired by the Bass Rock to create a piece of art which will be shown in a new exhibition, "In Flight : Metaphysics of the Imagination" at the Fruitmarket Gallery 26-30 October.

Karrine worked closely with the Seabird Centre for the piece, setting up a mobile phone and speaker on the Bass Rock which connects to the sound of thousands of breeding gannets that have spent the summer on the Bass Rock and are preparing to leave to fly south.

The live sound installation is part of a body of work that Karrine has been working on, which explores the nature of remoteness and our need to form connections to place and each other. As she says, "I wanted something that would bring two worlds together. Using mobile phone technology enables the viewer to experience a live 'relationship' which is both near and yet very far away mentally and physically!"



Bass Rock by Jane McMinn

North Berwick Crowned Most Beautiful Town in Scotland

As North Berwick scoops the title of most beautiful town in Scotland, congratulations go to the team of volunteers who work tirelessly to make it happen.

The Beautiful Scotland judges were impressed by initiatives in the town, ranging from using seaweed as fertiliser to monthly litter picks, the stunning floral displays and the progressive attitude of the town to the environment. As well as winning the top prize, North Berwick also scooped another two – the Coastal Resort Award and Permanent Landscaping Award.

Sheila Sinclair, Secretary of the North Berwick in Bloom team behind the bid said, "We are very, very pleased to have won. We worked very hard. Quite honestly we couldn't have done more. It's good for tourism and it's good for people to work together to make the place nicer for everyone to live in."



The Seabird Centre's 'Wild Flowers of the East Lothian Coast' display created by North Berwick in Bloom.



the Green Team

The Seabird Centre's Green Team meets every month to try to make sure that the Centre continues to lead by example and "walk the talk" in environmental issues. Below is some of their news.



The Green Team is asking for your help in recycling mobile phones and ink cartridges with Recycle4Charity.co.uk. We've enclosed an envelope with your magazine, in the hope that you may have an old phone or ink cartridge you don't need anymore. There's also a collection box permanently situated in the Picture Gallery. This helps the environment and also helps to raise much needed funds for the Centre. We hope you will be able to help.

The Green Team has created Plan Green Zero to scrutinise the Centre's energy usage and expenditure. A thermal imaging exercise will be carried out in October to identify and address areas of heat loss.

At the Scottish Seabird Centre, environmental awareness and the need for fuel economy are vital. A state of the art wind turbine on the Education Centre's roof, the Swift, is capable of producing 1.5 kWh of clean electricity and through the installation of a 40-piece solar panel system, the Seabird Centre is now able to meet a significant portion of its electricity needs with clean, green solar energy. The digital display monitor in the Environment Zone allows visitors to see how much energy is being generated and how much CO2 has been saved as a result. The system complements the solar-powered seabird parking metres and cameras on the islands.

The Centre is also working with sustainable transport consultants Vipre UK and the Energy Savings Trust to create a green travel plan. As part of the work, they're conducting staff and visitor travel surveys, the results of which will be implemented as soon as possible.



If you've visited the Ladies' Toilets in the Centre recently, you'll have spotted the 'Dyson Airblade'. Paid for by the Centre's volunteers, it's the fastest hand dryer around – and hygienic, too, purifying the air before blowing it onto hands. It uses up to 80% less energy than warm air hand dryers, and costs less to run. So far it's 'ladies only' but when our other dryers give out, we plan to replace them with Dyson Airblades.

In Transition

A group has been set up in North Berwick to explore ideas around the town becoming a member of the rapidly expanding Transition Towns Network, joining both Dunbar and Haddington. The next meeting will take place in early November. See www.transition-north-berwick.org.uk for more information or call Kathy on 07966 033926.

The Transition movement encourages and supports communities, at a local level, to tackle the related problems of climate change and reliance on oil in anticipation of declining stocks and rising prices and there are a huge number of different ways to make a contribution, such as:-

- Growing more food locally and garden sharing
- Introducing local markets for local produce and other products
- Encouraging improvements to local public transport and schemes like car sharing
- Promoting methods of saving energy such as energy audits and home insulation
- Setting up small scale renewable energy schemes to offer low-cost energy





Simon Heath

Beachwatching

"The Scottish Seabird Centre works in partnership with a wide range of environmental organisations to help improve the environment and protect our wildlife. Throughout the year, the Centre has been involved in organising beachwatching and beach cleaning days with the Marine Conservation Society (MCS)."

Anna Pugh, the Seabird Centre's Events & Exhibitions Officer comments, "Marine litter has a major impact on wildlife and it is estimated that globally over 100,000 marine mammals die every year from becoming entangled or ingesting plastic. MCS is trying to find out where litter is coming from so they can deal with the sources before it gets into the sea. More information can be found at www.mcsuk.org."

A Load of

RUBBISH!

Thanks to a bit of creative thinking and some great partnership working, a solution has been found to the Seabird Centre's challenge of what to do with its waste cardboard and plastic.

The Scottish Seabird Centre, passionately committed to sustainability and holder of a gold award in the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS), had a challenge – what to do with cardboard packaging and plastic produced from the Gift Shop and Cafe? With no recycling facilities for cardboard or plastic in their area, how could they prevent all this ending up in landfill?

Working in partnership with leaflet distribution company, Edinburgh Arts & Entertainment (EAE), an award-winning company with excellent green credentials including, as we go to press, a Gold GTBS Award, the first supplier to Scottish tourism to have been awarded gold. All the Seabird Centre's cardboard and plastic waste is now recycled. It is stored at the Seabird Centre until the weekly visit to East Lothian by EAE to stock up their leaflet racks in the Centre, at which point it is removed and recycled at their plant in Edinburgh. The recycled cardboard is also used to help power the company's headquarters. The company is also about to purchase a plastic compactor which will allow them to take any pallet shrink wrap left by delivery companies.

The Seabird Centre's Visitor Centre Manager, Julie Merrilees, is delighted with the partnership, "We are actively trying to encourage our suppliers to reduce packaging, but this is an innovative solution to the current problem. We store all our cardboard and plastic packaging in a small shed, to which the EAE driver has a key, and he collects it once a fortnight. This way, the carbon emissions needed to recycle the cardboard are kept to an essential minimum. It's a win-win situation for us and the environment."

Glen Bennett, the owner of EAE explains: "It's just too good an opportunity! Our vans are delivering leaflets around East Lothian, so on some of the trips, our driver will collect the bales of cardboard and plastic and bring them back to our premises at Loanhead, where compactors will reduce the materials as much as possible before they're uplifted by LEEP for recycling."

Glen is interested in hearing from other companies in East Lothian who may be experiencing similar challenges. Have a look at the company's website www.eae.co.uk or call them on 0131 440 9444.

Help Get The Wave Rolling!

We need your help to get thousands of people to Wave Scotland.

On Saturday 5th December, people from across Scotland will come together to send a clear message about climate change to world leaders meeting in Copenhagen for the UN climate change negotiations. It is anticipated that this will be the largest ever demonstration in support of action on climate change in Scotland. If you would like to help make this demonstration a great success, there are a number of things you can do, such as get the word out to friends and family by email or add the link www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland from your Facebook site or website. To find out more about The Wave, visit www.the-wave.org.uk/scotland.

Protecting Our Seabirds

The Scottish Government has announced that it is to extend 31 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to give seabird feeding grounds the same protection as their nesting colonies on the land.

The SPAs will extend by between one and four kilometres out to sea, depending on which species are present. This means marine developments such as pipelines and fish farms will have to go through a more rigorous planning process.

Environment Secretary, Richard Lochhead, said: "Our seabird populations are respected across the world and attract tens of thousands of visitors to Scotland every year, helping to deliver millions of pounds for the economy. A seabird's marine habitat is as crucial to its ability to survive as nesting sites on dry land."

Tom Brock OBE, Chief Executive of the Seabird Centre comments, "Scotland is home to 45% of Europe's nesting seabirds and in recent years we have been observing some species suffering badly, for example, many kittiwake populations have declined dramatically due to the lack of suitable food. We congratulate the government on introducing these additional protection measures which will help to conserve our seabirds."

SNH Chairman Andrew Thin said:

"This is an important measure for the long term conservation of seabird populations around our coasts. In recent years significant declines have been recorded in the breeding success and size of key Scottish colonies for many species. The extension of SPA protection into the marine environment is an important step in ensuring the most favourable conditions exist for their recovery and future stability."

The 31 sites are: Canna and Sanday; Marwick Head; North Colonsay and Western Cliffs; Rum; St Abbs to Fast Castle; Ailsa Craig; Buchan Ness to Collieston; Calf of Eday; Cape Wrath; Copinsay; East Caithness Cliffs; Fair Isle; Fetlar; Forth Islands; Flannan Isles; Foula; Fowlsheugh; Handa; Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field; Hoy; Mingulay and Berneray; North Caithness Cliffs; North Rona and Sula Sgeir; Noss; Rousay; Shiant Isles; St Kilda; Sule Skerry and Sule Stack; Sumburgh Head; Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads; West Westray.

Are You Interested in Photography?

There was standing room only when North Berwick's new Photographic Club was launched at the Scottish Seabird Centre in September with a meeting and talk on telephotography by photographer Alan Thomson. Photographer, Delvin Stonehill also showed an audio visual of his trip to the Bass Rock and Anita Nutter showed a few prints taken on her winning day out, courtesy of the Seabird Centre's Nature Photography Competition last year when she visited the island with renowned wildlife photographer Laurie Campbell. The society meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the County Hotel, North Berwick. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact Anita Nutter on 01620 890724.



News from the Volunteers

by Sandy Forrest, Chair of Volunteers

The Volunteers had a busy summer, with the high point undoubtedly the visit of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh in July. The volunteers acted as marshalls for the morning, directing invited guests to their allotted places. We were well rewarded for our hard work as our duty positions allowed us prime viewing of the royal couple. The Queen was radiant, the weather hot and sunny and the crowds very excited. It was a memorable day.

Later in July, Mary Tebble travelled to London with the Centre's Chief Executive Tom Brock to represent the Volunteers at the reception for winners of the Queen's Award for Enterprise at Buckingham Palace, where The Queen chatted with them, recalling how much she enjoyed her visit to the Centre. The summer continued to be very busy with lots of people visiting the Centre and clearly enjoying their experience, as they were happy to buy tickets for our Big Raffle as they left, expressing their appreciation and looking forward to returning soon.

The Volunteers hosted an enjoyable Midsummer Music evening in June, an excellent Jazz Night in August and a very successful apple themed Coffee Morning in September. All these events not only raised funds for the



Pictured here are volunteer Morag MacKenzie and Chair of Volunteers Sandy Forrest

Centre, but gave the participants a great deal of fun and enjoyment at the same time. Our final events for this year will be a St Andrew's Night celebration in November and the Christmas Fair in December.

We're always looking for new volunteers to help. If you could give a little bit of time to help with welcoming visitors as they arrive or in the Discovery Centre or with storytelling and activities or at our events, please contact the Seabird Centre office on 01620 890202 who will put you in touch with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Annual Big Raffle

The winners of this year's Annual Big Raffle, organised by the Seabird Centre volunteers are:

1st prize: Mrs B Lawrie, Glasgow, 2nd prize: Mr O Hanratty, Rutherglen, 3rd prize: Mrs J Wilson, Haddington, 4th prize: Mrs A Crowther, Dunbar, 5th prize: Mrs P Hamilton, Argyll.

The total raised was £5,177 – an amazing effort by everyone involved, in particular Mary Tebble, Vice Chair of the Volunteers Group. There were some wonderful prizes this year, including a hand-made decorated bowl from Meadows Pottery. The proceeds help support the work of the charity and we would like to thank everyone for their support of the raffle.

WHAT'S ON • WHAT'S ON • WHAT'S ON • WHAT'S ON •

All the Seabird Centre events listed are free to members or with admission, unless shown.

October

1st - 30th Oct
Keli Clark Exhibition in the Picture Gallery.

Original paintings and print work of the local area and wildlife.

2nd October 2.30pm
'Storytime by the Sea'
Snuggle down for an afternoon of stories by the sea. The story for this month is about a little seal pup who gets lost but finds his way home in the end.

3rd - 31st Oct
'Tooth and Claw' - Living Alongside Predators Exhibition Environment Zone

This spectacular exhibition combines unique imagery and insightful interpretation to explore the relationship of people and predators. It not only provides a visually stunning spectacle but also a thought-provoking insight into our changing relationship with nature.

7th October
'Walking with Birds'
Musselburgh. Meet at the mouth of the River Esk at 10.30am. Contact Lesley on 01875 815142.

11th October
'Walking with Birds'
Aberlady Bay. Meet at wooden bridge car park. Contact Alan Gracie on 0131 652 0308.

18th October 2pm-4pm
'Wild About Art' - Seal Shadows
Create your own shadow puppets to tell the myths and legends of the seals with Alchemy Arts

21st October
'Walking with Birds'
Dounie/ Argaty RSPB farm. Meet 10.30am in castle car park. Contact Lesley on 01875 815142.

23rd October 2pm
'Cherokee Stories'
Edinburgh International Storytelling Festival
Join Cherokee storyteller Gayle Ross for traditional Native American tales of the power, fragility and beauty of the natural world, and our relationship with it.

24th-25th October All day
Big Pirate Weekend
'Shiver Me Timbers and Pieces of Eight!' The Scottish Seabird Centre is taken over by pirates in

Cherokee Stories



2pm 23rd October
Join Cherokee storyteller Gayle Ross for traditional Native American tales of the power, fragility and beauty of the natural world and our relationship with it. The daughter of a half-Cherokee father, Gayle is one of the best-loved and most respected storytellers in North America and has written many books, such as 'The Girl Who Married the Moon: Tales from Native North America' and 'The Story of the Milky Way'.

this family fun weekend! Activities running throughout the day and 'Pieces of Eight' given for the best dressed pirates of all ages! Come along and join in the fun.

25th October 8am
'Walking with Birds'
Meet at the Seabird Centre entrance at 8am.
A lovely beach walk for anyone who would like to know more about birds. Why not join us for breakfast after? Contact Maggie Sheddan 07709 505133.

28th October
'Walking with Birds'
RSVP visit to Vane Farm. Meet at Car Park. Contact Alan Gracie on 0131 652 0308.

Pirates Weekend

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October
10am-5.30pm

"Shiver Me' timbers and Pieces of Eight!" The Scottish Seabird Centre is taken over by Pirates in this fun family weekend! There's a packed programme of activities running throughout the day and 'Pieces of Eight' given for the best dressed Pirates (of all ages)!

Entry is free to members and included with admission.
Come along and join in the fun.

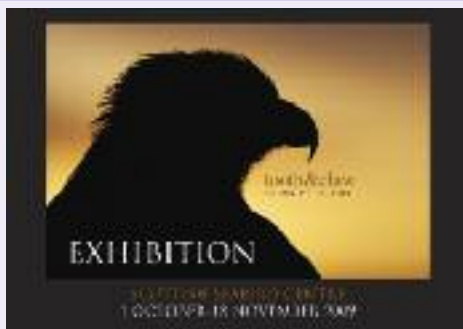


Helen Pugh

Pieces of Eight!



Details correct at time of going to press. Call 01620 890202 or visit www.seabird.org for updates.



Tooth and Claw: Living Alongside Britain's Predators

Don't miss this touring exhibition which explores the issues surrounding our relationships with wild predators and featuring stunning photography by Peter Cairns and Mark Hamblin. It provides not only a visually stunning spectacle but a thought provoking insight into our changing relationship with nature.

November

1st – 15th November 'Tooth and Claw'

Living Alongside Predators Exhibition (see above)

2nd Nov - 30th Nov Scottish Seabird Centre Collection – Exhibition

A collection of the work of some of Britain's finest wildlife artists in the Picture Gallery.

3rd November - 7pm Isle of May Evening Talk

(see opposite)

4th November 'Walking with Birds'

Dalkeith Country Park. Meet 10.30am at car park just outside entrance to the palace in Dalkeith. Contact Lesley on 01875 815142.

6th November 2.30pm Storytime by the Sea

Snuggle down on giant beanbags and listen to the story of Plop the Baby Barn Owl who is afraid of the dark!

7th November 'Walking with Birds'

Eden Estuary. Contact Alan Gracie on 0131 652 0308.

11th November 'Walking with Birds'

Gore Glen / Arniston House. Contact Alan Gracie on 0131 652 0308.

15th November 2pm-4pm 'Wild About Art' - Skies at Night

Celebrate 2009 The Year of Astronomy and make a lantern with Alchemy Arts which glows like the night sky

18th November 'Walking with Birds'

Aberlady / Kilspindie / Gosford Bay. Meet at Aberlady Nature Reserve car park at 10.30am. Contact Lesley on 01875 815142.

20th – 30th November Nature Photography Exhibition 2009

Now in its fourth year the Nature Photography Exhibition 2009 showcases the top 100 shortlisted entries from this year's competition. View these stunning photographs and vote for your favourites. For further information about the competition and exhibition please visit www.seabird.org or call 01620 890202.

29th November 9am 'Walking with Birds'

Meet at the Seabird Centre entrance at 9am. A lovely beach walk for anyone who would like to know more about birds. Why not join us for breakfast after? Contact Maggie Sheddan 07709 505133.

December

1st – 31st December Sheena Phillips Exhibition

Sheena Phillips Exhibition in the Picture Gallery. Scottish landscape artist Sheena Phillips exhibits her atmospheric watercolours in this new exhibition.

2nd December 'Walking with Birds'

Vane Farm RSPB reserve. Contact Lesley on 01875 815142 about transport arrangements and time to meet. All day outing. Bring a packed lunch.

4th December 2.30pm 'Storytime by the Sea'

Snuggle down for an afternoon of stories by the sea.

6th December 'Walking with Birds'

Bavelaw / Threipmuir. Meet at Red Moss Car Park. Contact Alan Gracie on 0131 652 0308.

9th December 'Walking with Birds'

Aberlady/Kilspindie/ Gullane Point. Contact Alan Gracie on 0131 652 0308.

20th December 2pm-4pm 'Wild About Art'

Yummy Yuletide
Make a beautiful and edible Christmas wreath for the birds near your home.

**1st – 31st January
Sheena Phillips Exhibition**
Sheena Phillips Exhibition in the Picture Gallery. Scottish landscape artist Sheena Phillips exhibits her atmospheric watercolours in this new exhibition.

17th January 2pm-4pm 'Wild About Art'

Feed the Birds
Make a colourful bird feeder to cheer up your winter garden and the birds that live there. With Alchemy Arts.

WILD ABOUT ART

Alchemy Arts is working in partnership with the Seabird Centre to present this exciting series of monthly Wild About Art workshops, such as Seal Shadows in October. They use recycled resources to inspire the creative transformation of materials, spaces and people. Using art, music, storytelling and performance they encourage creativity in a fun atmosphere.



Isle of May Jewel of the Forth Evening Talk

7pm Tuesday 3rd November 2009
Tickets £3.50 (£3 Seabird Centre members) are available from the Seabird Centre or by calling 01620 890202.

With over 250,000 seabirds and the largest grey seal colony on the east coast of Britain, the Isle of May provides a safe haven for some of Scotland's most amazing wildlife. In this evening talk with Scottish Natural Heritage's Isle of May Ranger, Therese Alampo and Mark Newell, from the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, you can hear about their work to conserve this National Nature Reserve.

This event is part of the ongoing partnership between Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Seabird Centre.



Scottish Seabird Centre

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The Scottish Seabird Centre is an independent charity dedicated to inspiring people to appreciate and care for wildlife and the natural environment. Charity No SC0 25837. Registered in Scotland No 172288.

The Scottish Seabird Centre Newsletter is written and edited by Lynda Dalgleish and designed and produced by Creative Link, North Berwick.

Seabird Centre Opening Times

Open All year Except Christmas Day

Feb, Mar & Oct	10:00-17:00 (Mon - Fri)
	10:00-17:30 (Sat & Sun)
April-Sept	10:00-18:00 (Every day)
Nov-Jan	10:00-16:00 (Mon-Fri)
	10:00-17:30 (Sat & Sun)



Help the environment and save the Seabird Centre money! To receive your newsletter by email contact Teresa Martin on membership@seabird.org

Sign up for email updates to get the latest wildlife and events news.

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The Scottish Seabird Centre gratefully acknowledges support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage and Tyne Esk Leader Funding in delivery of its conservation and education projects and events and exhibitions.



PUFFIN CLUB

October

12th - 17th Oct

Seal Finger Puppets

Make your own seal finger puppets to take home and keep.

19th - 23rd Oct

Seal Collages

Watch the seals live on camera for inspiration for your seal collage.

26th - 27th Oct

Seal Masks

Create, colour and decorate your very own seal mask.

31st October

Halloween Masks

Give everyone a fright by making your own Halloween mask ready for some trick or treating!



November

1st Nov

Seal Masks

Use your hands and feet to create a cheeky Christmas reindeer.

7th - 8th Nov & 14th Nov

Pop-Up Seal Cards

Create your own pop up Christmas card for a friend, relative or yourself!

21st - 22nd Nov

Seal Collages

Watch the seals live on camera for inspiration for your seal collage.

28th - 29th Nov

Stained Glass Seal Scenes

Create your own stain glass seal scene to brighten up your room.

December

5th - 6th Dec

Hand and Footprint Reindeer

Use your hands and feet to create a cheeky Christmas reindeer.

12th - 13th Dec

Pop-Up Christmas Cards

Create your own pop up Christmas card for a friend, relative or yourself!

19th Dec

CD Fish Christmas Decorations

Brighten up your tree with these funky CD fish.

21st - 24th Dec

Hand and Footprint Reindeer

Use your hands and feet to create a cheeky Christmas reindeer.

26th - 27th Dec

Build a Bird Feeder

Help feed the birds through the winter months by creating a recycled bird feeder for your garden.

28th - 31st Dec

Build a Bird Feeder

Help feed the birds through the winter months by creating a recycled bird feeder for your garden.

January 2010

Weekends and holidays

Puffin Club

Join us 2pm - 3pm weekend and holidays for fun make and take sessions.

1st - 3rd January

Hand and Footprint Eagle

Use your hands and feet to create your very own unique eagle.

9th - 10th January

Build a Bird Feeder

Help feed the birds through the winter months by creating a recycled bird feeder for your garden.

16th January

Animal Tracks

Make tracks in this week's Puffin Club!

23rd - 24th January

Build a Bird Feeder

Help feed the birds through the winter months by creating a recycled bird feeder for your garden.

30th - 31st January

Oystercatcher Finger Puppets

Make your own oystercatcher finger puppets to take home and keep.

The Puffin Club activities are based in the Discovery Centre of the Scottish Seabird Centre. Free with admission and membership, sessions run from 2pm-3pm unless otherwise stated. Suitable for children aged 2 upwards.