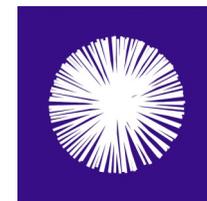


*The Festival might be over*  
**but the fun continues...**

# Scottish Environment Festival 2014

Constituency Visits  
Programme



The voice of  
Scotland's  
environment  
community





**Why not go for a walk in one of Scotland's woodlands?**

- ⇒ Walks with Ramblers, Bat experts, or Scottish Wild Land Group.
- ⇒ Visit ancient woodlands, iconic gardens, historic buildings or unique upland habitats.
- ⇒ See dolphins and whales or the night sky and the Milky way and beyond!
- ⇒ Find out more about our projects!



**Hear the secret noises of the night**



**Get acquainted with the weird and wonderful creepy crawlies**



**See the sunset and beyond from some of Scotland's most beautiful landscapes**

# Across all constituencies - all year around!

## Ramblers Scotland

*Go for a walk with your local Ramblers group!*

We have **55 groups across Scotland** who walk most weekends, and on some weekdays. We can arrange for MSPs to join a walk in their constituency. All groups run regular walk programmes offering a variety of walks from short 3-5 mile rambles to strenuous hikes up Munros. We can offer each MSP the opportunity to walk with their local group and have a chat with Ramblers members as they enjoy Scotland's great outdoors. Depending on the walk, MSPs will need to be properly equipped with walking boots/strong shoes and waterproofs, and if it is a day walk they will need to bring a packed lunch.

MSPs should contact Helen Todd in the Ramblers Scotland office who will then liaise with the groups to set up a walk to suit the MSP.

**Telephone:** 01577-861-222

**Website:** [www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland)



## RSPB Scotland

*Why not visit one of the 70 nature reserves that RSPB Scotland manages?*

We have **over 70 nature reserves across the country**, from Shetland to the Solway and from Aberdeenshire to the Western Isles. These reserves include woodlands, wetland, coast and upland, supporting a range of birds, mammals and plants. Several of our sites also run education programmes for local schools. We can find a visit to suit – whether you want something active, a quiet walk, or just a cuppa and a chat at one of our visitor centres.

***Need a suggestion? See the stunning Flow Country!***

Why not come on a guided bog walk to get up close to the fascinating flora and fauna at RSPB Scotland's Forsinard Reserve? You'll see carnivorous plants like sundew and butterwort, as well as creepy crawlies like great diving beetles. A threatened landscape, peatlands have vanished across much of Scotland, but the RSPB is helping to preserve this vital area of internationally important habitat. Summer is the time to come, when golden plovers, hen harriers and greenshanks breed.

**Telephone:** 0131-317-4100

**Website:** [www.rspb.org.uk/scotland](http://www.rspb.org.uk/scotland)



## WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND

The Woodland Trust is the country's leading woodland conservation charity. We own and manage **over 80 woodland sites across Scotland covering around 8,750 hectares** from Uig on Skye to Aldouran Glen by Stranraer. Highlights include our Commonwealth Wood at Lang Craigs in the Old Kilpatrick Hills by Dumbarton; the ancient Highland oak woods of Ledmore and Migdale; and the big Glen Finglas estate in the Great Trossachs Forest; as well as and significant urban woodland holdings in both Glenrothes and Livingston. As an organisation our vision is a country rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone. We combine the promotion of public access with forestry, farming and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage, and would be delighted to provide tours of our sites (listed) to local MSPs to demonstrate the value of natural native woodland and talk through the major issues our forests face at the moment.

**Telephone:** 01738 635 544

**Website:** [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/)



**WOODLAND  
TRUST SCOTLAND**

Wood	Postcode	SP Region	SP Const
Crinan Wood	PA31 8SW	Highlands and Islands	Argyll and Bute
Ledmore & Migdale	IV24 3AE	Highlands and Islands	Caithness, Sutherland and Ross
Glencharnoch Wood	PH23 3AN	Highlands and Islands	Inverness and Nairn
Abriachan Wood	IV3 8LA	Highlands and Islands	Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Uig Wood	IV51 9XP	Highlands and Islands	Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Urquhart Bay	IV63 6UF	Highlands and Islands	Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Balmacaan	IV63 6UP	Highlands and Islands	Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Foulshiels	EH47 8BG	Lothian	Almond Valley
Livingston Woods, 13 Sites from (3ha to 35ha)	EH52 6LL	Lothian	Almond Valley
Hermand Beech Wood	EH55 8RD	Lothian	Almond Valley
Blaeberry Community Wood	EH47 0RX	Lothian	Linlithgow
Wood Hill Wood	FK12 5HU	Mid Scotland and Fife	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane
Inzievar Wood	KY12 8EY	Mid Scotland and Fife	Dunfermline
Formonthills	KY7 6FX	Mid Scotland and Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes
Keil's Den and Largo Serpentine	KY8 6EF	Mid Scotland and Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes
Dura Den Wood	KY15 5TL	Mid Scotland and Fife	North East Fife
Huntly Wood	DD2 5EN	Mid Scotland and Fife	Perthshire North
Glen Devon	FK14 7JZ	Mid Scotland and Fife	Perthshire South and Kinross-shire
Portmoak Moss and Kilmagad Wood	KY13 9HY	Mid Scotland and Fife	Perthshire South and Kinross-shire
Moncreiffe Hill	PH2 8QA	Mid Scotland and Fife	Perthshire South and Kinross-shire
Glen Finglas	FK17 8HS	Mid Scotland and Fife	Stirling
Den Wood	AB51 0AJ	North East Scotland	Aberdeenshire East
Backmuir Wood	DD2 5LW	North East Scotland	Angus South
Currie Wood	EH23 4QY	South Scotland	Dumfriesshire
Butterdean Wood	EH33 2AL	South Scotland	East Lothian
Pressmennan Wood	EH42 1TF	South Scotland	East Lothian
Jacob's Well	TD12 4NT	South Scotland	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire
Fairbairn Copse	TD13 5XD	South Scotland	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire
Aldouran Glen	DG9 0RJ	South Scotland	Galloway and West Dumfries
Beeslack Wood	EH26 8HF	South Scotland	Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale
St Ronans Wood	EH44 6QY	South Scotland	Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale
Lang Craigs	G82 3PY	West Scotland	Dumbarton
Whinny Hill Wood	G83 8LX	West Scotland	Dumbarton



## Scottish Wild Land Group

*Come walk with us practically anywhere in Scotland!*

As part of the 2014 Scottish Environment Festival we are offering considerable flexibility and we invite MSPs and their colleagues to join us practically anywhere in Scotland, on dates that can be arranged to suit throughout the year, to walk [in a leisurely fashion if required!] into notable areas of our country to see and discuss natural heritage features around us and to discuss wide ranging issues of the day.

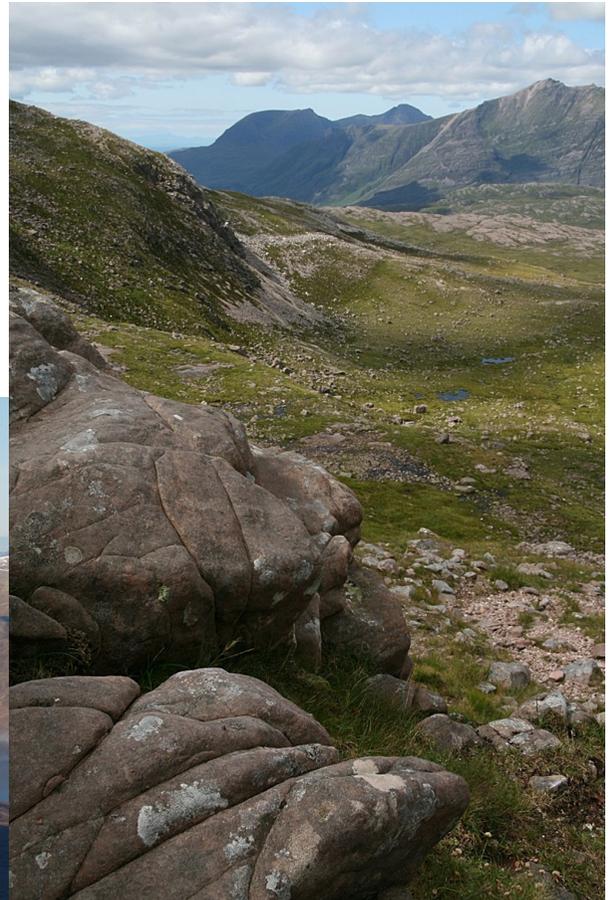
**Visits and trips can be arranged with us at any time of the year, in a variety of locations from north to south.**



Full day excursions would be preferable as they offer more scope than a half day. We can walk [or even cycle] into a diverse terrain, not necessarily rugged hillsides but also along straths and glens. We see this as an opportunity for MSPs to engage with constituents keen to promote appreciation of Scotland's natural features and to address the challenges of using the natural capital in a sustainable way for communities and the population as a whole.

The Scottish Wild Land Group is a small charity run entirely by volunteers. We are financed by subscriptions and donations. We are most known for our magazine, Wild Land News, which is widely circulated throughout Scotland and beyond.

**Website:** [www.swlg.org.uk](http://www.swlg.org.uk)





# The National Trust for Scotland



**Inverewe Garden  
and Estate**

The Head Gardener would be delighted to take you on the tour of the Garden which is both culturally and horticultural important for our conservation work with the in-bye meadows and organic garden.



**Brodick Castle**

800 Year old Castle holding the second best collection of artefacts set within a country park having Goatfell as a backdrop.

## Saints and Seabirds!

**St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve**, is an internationally important site for breeding seabirds. 45% of the EU's seabirds nest in Scotland, and nearly 25% of Scotland's seabirds nest on National Trust for Scotland properties. In recent years seabird numbers have declined markedly, so this visit will provide an opportunity to find out more about the factors affecting seabird numbers, and what can be done to help conserve one of Scotland's natural wonders.

## Threave Estate, Castle Douglas

Over 200 species of daffodils on view in the Spring, Easter trails, and children's events. Bat reserve, ospreys, red squirrels and much more!



## St Kilda World Heritage Site coastal erosion and sea temperature change

As the UK's only mixed World Heritage Site, St Kilda is one of only 29 places in the world with this accolade. However sea temperature change will have an effect on the seabird colonies and increased storminess and wave action will affect the cultural remains as well as the landscape and natural heritage.



**Telephone:** 0844 493 2100

**Website:** [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

## Whale and Dolphin Conservation

*Visit the Scottish Dolphin Centre*

**29<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

Visit the Scottish Dolphin Centre, a visitor centre run by charity Whale and Dolphin Conservation in the Moray Firth. Visitors can spot bottlenose dolphins and other iconic wildlife whilst discovering more about the threats faced by Scotland's marine life and about how they can help WDC protect whales and dolphins. A member of WDC staff will be available to lead a tour of the Scottish Dolphin Centre and to explain more about the range of work carried out by Whale and Dolphin Conservation. This includes education and outreach, a land-based data collection programme (Shorewatch) and campaign work which currently focusses on Marine Protected Areas in Scottish seas. Please wear clothing appropriate for spending time outdoors depending on weather conditions. No equipment needed.

**6<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Join us at the Scottish Dolphin Centre for a fun filled day celebrating the wild side of Spey Bay! This free event will be packed with fun, interactive activities for all ages; including land based dolphin watching, guided walks, competitions, traditional music, food from Scotland's larder, local produce, entertainment and much more. Due to this being the biggest event of the season at the Scottish Dolphin Centre (2,000 people attended in 2013) unfortunately we will not have a spare member of staff available. However, visiting MSPs and their families can join any of the scheduled guided activities happening through the day. Please wear clothing appropriate for spending time outdoors depending on weather conditions. No equipment needed.

**Address:** Scottish Dolphin Centre, Spey Bay, Moray, IV32 7PJ

**Telephone:** 01343 820339

**Website:** [www.whales.org/dolphincentre](http://www.whales.org/dolphincentre)

Richard Lochhead MSP participating in a Shorewatch event as part of 2012 Constituency Visits.

**WHALE AND  
DOLPHIN  
CONSERVATION**



# Bat Conservation Trust



## Bat Walks at the Heart of the City

A sunset saunter looking and listening for the first bats of spring. The walk will be led by Anne Youngman, Scottish Officer for the Bat Conservation Trust with assistance from local bat group members, bat experts and enthusiasts. We will help you get to grips with bat detectors so you will be able to hear the bats as they socialise and feed. **The walk will start at the Parliament**



**building** and continue to St Mary's Loch where we hope to encounter pipistrelle and Daubenton's bats. The paths are level and the walk is likely to last around an hour to an hour and a half.

Come along and eavesdrop into the normally secret world of bat sounds, chat to some bat experts, meet some species champions and have a memorable night out. Meet near the Holyrood public entrance.

### **Dates:**

April 30th 2014 9pm-10:30pm

May 13th 2014 9:30pm-11:00pm

20th August 2014-8:30pm-10:00pm

Septembers 2nd 2014 8:00pm-9:30pm

## **A Batty Night Out in Dunblane**

*Evening bat talk and walk with bat detectors.*

A sunset walk near Dunblane Cathedral looking and listening for bats. Enjoy an evening walk listening to the love-songs of bats while enjoying sunset views over the Dunblane cathedral and the Allanwater river. The walks will also be open to the general public. Meet bat experts, who can identify bats from their bat detector sounds and learn how to do this yourself for 3 species of bat.

**Learn how to "think like a bat" and identify potential roost sites, good feeding areas and wildlife corridors.**

Sunset to up to 2 hours later, Meeting near Dunblane Cathedral.

**August - September**



**Telephone:** 01786 822107

**Website:** [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

## **"A bat he would a woo-ing go"**

A bat talk followed by a bat walk around the woodlands surrounding **Castle Semple Loch in the RSPB reserve at Lochwinnoch** led by Ayrshire Bat Group. Owls and otters may also make an appearance. A moth expert will be on hand to talk about moths and set up a moth trap to capture moths for identification.

**Friday 29 August 2014 (provisional)**

RSPB Reserve, Largs Road, Lochwinnoch PA12 4JF

## **Tayside Bat Group Tayside (Perth and Kinross, Angus, Dundee)**

Bat surveys are done during the hours of darkness at locations throughout Tayside, particularly close to Dundee where most of our members are. Outdoors clothing will be needed. We use bat detectors that allow us to hear the sounds bats make to find food. **We are due to visit golf clubs in Tayside this year to assist them with bat box schemes using grants awarded from the Scottish Golf Environment Group as part of the Ryder Cup celebrations - don't miss out!**

# Visits with John Muir Trust



## **John Muir Trust John Muir Award constituency visits 2014**

MSPs are invited to join a number of John Muir Award **celebrations across Scotland**. These events will recognise people's enjoyment of, and commitment to, wild places. MSPs may well be asked to celebrate achievement by helping present nationally recognised John Muir Award certificates. The John Muir Award encourages people to connect with, enjoy and care for the natural environment. The John Muir Award is open to people from all different backgrounds. It is delivered through partnerships with youth organisations, schools, clubs, Local Authorities, community learning, residential and outdoor centres. **Over 15,000 John Muir Awards are achieved each year across Scotland - 30% by people from socially excluded backgrounds – through over 500 partnership organisations across all 32 Local Authority areas.** Let us know if you have a particular interest area that you would like to help celebrate e.g. schools, colleges, adult learning, youth work, family projects.

**Time:** Daytime flexible from 9am – 3pm

**Event details to be confirmed once MSP has expressed interest please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to participate.**

**Address:** varied throughout Scotland

## **Glenlude, Scottish Borders—March to October**

Glenlude Forest lies at the watershed between the River Tweed and the Yarrow Water, a tributary of the River Tweed. A member of staff will be available. 140 ha formed roughly of 75 ha planted woodland and the balance of open moorland around Glenlude Hill with a small strip of remnant native woodland along the Paddock Burn adjacent to the roadside. The Paddock Burn up to NT 314 312 is part of the River Tweed special area of conservation (SAC) for salmon, lamprey, otter and floating vegetation. There has been some more planting of native broadleaves with variable success due to heavy browsing by roe deer. We are involved in a partnership with the Phoenix Futures Charity who help people who suffer from Drug and/or alcohol addiction to recover through nature including tree planting. An **excellent example of the healing quality of being outdoors and working with nature.**

## **Li and Coire Dhorrcail, Knoydart -March to October**

The property is owned by the John Muir Trust. There is no time limit on this offer and we can arrange a guided visit to suit individuals or groups of MSPs. **Opportunity to see re-wilding, habitat restoration and deer management.** Access : There are no roads to this area but the Trust will provide transport on its boat. A member of staff will be available. The John Muir Trust looks after 3,101 acres of land on the north-eastern slopes of Ladhair Bheinn on the Knoydart peninsula. Traditionally referred to as the 'rough bounds' because of its wild terrain and remoteness, it forms part of the Knoydart National Scenic Area. It's one of the most isolated of the Trust's properties, offering the feeling of a truly wild place. This is only suitable for well equipped, experience hill walkers.

**Telephone:** 01796 470080

**Website:** [www.jmt.org](http://www.jmt.org)

### **Quinag, near Lochinver -March to October**

The property is owned by the John Muir Trust. There is no time limit on this offer and we can arrange a guided visit to suit individuals or groups of MSPs. A member of staff will be available. The Ardvar Woodlands on Quinag are a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). MSPs interested will need to dress appropriately for the time of year, have good outdoor footwear and be reasonably fit. Although we do not anticipate any extended hill walking there will be some. **We will demonstrate the work being undertaken to restore eroded land surface and repair/construct footpaths. Most importantly will be the discussion on deer management and seeing practical examples of the issues and possible solutions.**



### **Sandwood Bay**

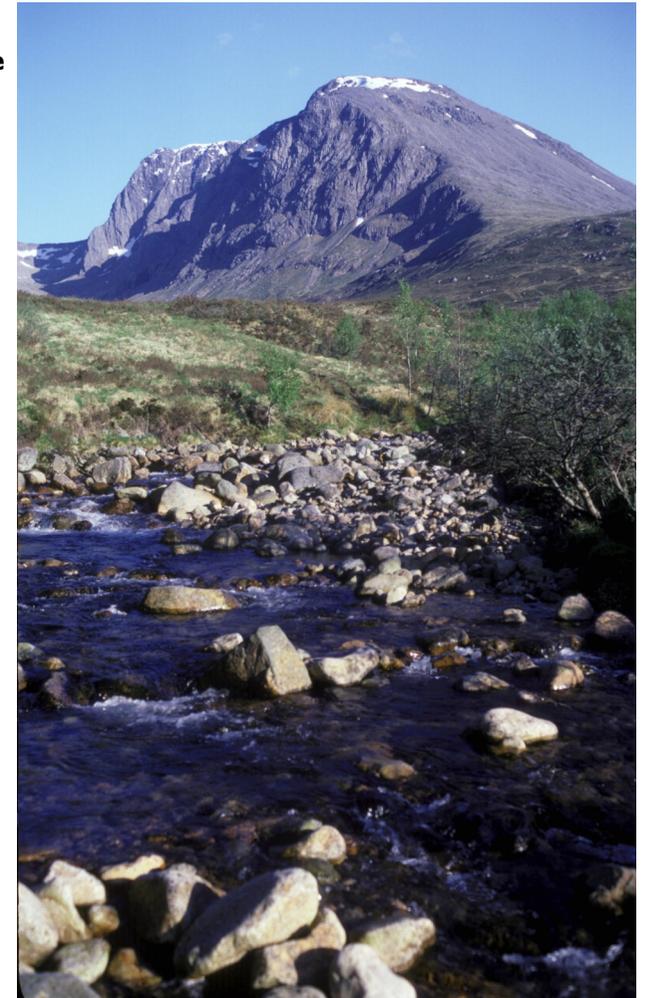
**The John Muir Trust acquired Sandwood in 1993 with the aim of protecting and conserving this beautiful wild place. This includes protecting peatland – an important wildlife habitat and carbon store – and machair.** The footpath to this world renowned beach is very popular and the Trust has been working to maintain it using sensitive hand-built techniques. A member of staff will be available. Sandwood covers 4,703 hectares (11,621 acres) of wild and crofted land just a few miles from Cape Wrath on the north-west tip of Scotland. Sandwood Bay, Sheigra, Oldshorebeg and Oldshoremore machair and the coastal cliffs are designated a Special Area of Conservation. **An ideal visit to see footpath restoration.**

### **East Schiehallion**

East Schiehallion covers an area of 871 hectares (2,153 acres), which includes the eastern part of Schiehallion as well as the quieter and wilder Gleann Mòr to the south. It forms part of the designated Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area and Schiehallion Site of Special Scientific Interest. A member of staff will be available. **The John Muir Trust works to improve important upland habitats at Schiehallion – including heather moorland and bog – which are home to threatened species such as black grouse.** We're also encouraging natural regeneration of native woodland by controlling deer and sheep numbers. When the Trust took ownership of Schiehallion in 1998, the main path to the summit from the Braes of Foss car park had become an ugly scar on the hill (extremely muddy and up to 90 feet wide in sections). Over a five-year period, the Trust set out to realign the main path up the hill onto a more sustainable line. **The new path was built using locally sourced materials and offers dramatic views. The Trust has since embarked on a programme to heal the damage caused by the old path, and the scar is much less noticeable.**

### **Strathaird, Skye**

Strathaird contains outliers to the main Black Cuillin ridge including Bla Bheinn. On the western edge of Strathaird is Loch Coruisk, one of Scotland's most dramatic inland lochs, which has inspired writers and artists from Walter Scott to JMW Turner. **In this area we have an excellent example of footpath management and restoration and regeneration of the natural ecosystem.** A member of staff will be available. We are about to undertake a major footpath repair project on Bla Bheinn. This iconic and popular Munro is a victim of its own success – suffering from erosion. **Sensitive, hand-built footpath techniques are being used to repair it. There is currently no public funding available for this type of work.**



## Soil Association Scotland

*Food for Life Scotland Programme*

Visit a Food for Life Catering Mark certified School for lunch to find out more about how the Food for Life Scotland programme and the Catering Mark are working to bring people together – teachers, pupils, families, cooks, caterers, food producers, and the wider community – to enjoy, celebrate and raise understanding of good, fresh, seasonal, local and sustainable school meals; **changing food culture in Scottish schools and the communities around them.**

The Soil Association's Food for Life Scotland programme aims to transform food culture across the country, so we can all eat food that is good for us, our communities and the planet. Working across many sectors, the Food for Life Scotland team support caterers in schools, nurseries, hospitals, leisure and tourism outlets and workplaces to achieve the Food for Life Catering Mark.

The Catering Mark is the Soil Association's prestigious national food award, and the only UK-wide certification scheme that provides a guarantee that food is fresh, seasonal and better for animal welfare. Bronze, silver and gold tiers encourage caterers to make step-by-step progress towards using more local, free range, fair trade and organic ingredients to produce healthier menus.

**Currently, more than 61,000 Catering Mark meals are served across Scotland daily and 1 in 3 Primary Schools in Scotland serves Catering Mark school meals.**

To find out more about the programme or to arrange a visit to a Food for Life Catering Mark certified School for lunch, please contact us.

**Telephone:** 0131 666 2474

**Website:** [www.soilassociation.org/scotland](http://www.soilassociation.org/scotland)



**Soil Association**  
Scotland

**food**  
**for life**  
SCOTLAND

## Scottish Dark Sky Observatory

The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory is a unique asset for Scotland. **It is the only publicly accessible, research grade observatory within a gold tier Dark Sky Park in the country and one of only two in the whole world.** The skies above are some of the darkest that most people will ever see and through the powerful telescopes you can see the Milky Way, planets, shooting stars, the constellations and the moon. The observatory is a charity whose aim is the regeneration of the Doon Valley, a former mining community.

A visit as part of the LINK Scottish Environment Festival can be tailor made to suit, both as far as dates and format are concerned.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact  
Fi McClelland on [darkskyobservatory@craigengillan.com](mailto:darkskyobservatory@craigengillan.com)





# Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

The Trust will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2014 with a number of open and community events. The first of these will be over the Easter weekend, 18-21 April, and you are cordially invited to visit us at our Visitor Centre and Shop on the waterfront of Tobermory, and to be shown round our research and education vessel, *Silurian*.

If you are unable to visit at Easter, we would welcome you at events later in the year.

For details, please contact: Eva Varga (Operations Manager) [eva.varga@hwdt.org](mailto:eva.varga@hwdt.org)



The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust ([hwdt.org](http://hwdt.org)) has pioneered practical, locally-based education and monitoring programmes on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) in the Hebrides.

We conduct long-term monitoring of distribution, abundance and habitat use, so as to provide those who manage Scotland's marine wildlife and habitats with information they need to achieve conservation of the area's extraordinary biodiversity.

This monitoring work also provides the materials for our work in environmental education, helping to raise public awareness about the wildlife that exists in this unique region. The Trust believes that by educating people about the marine environment we are helping to safeguard biodiversity now and for the future: we are educating the citizens and decision makers of tomorrow.



# About

Since its inception in 2003, Scottish Environment Festival brings together MSPs, civic Scotland, business, eNGOs and environmentalists to celebrate Scotland's environment. The events have become a popular fixture in the Parliamentary calendar and MSPs from all parties have attended events highlighting the many facets of Scotland's environment.

As part of the Festival, LINK and its members also offer MSPs the chance to discover what is going on, on their doorsteps, by offering and arranging Constituency Visits. This year we've done things a little differently as we'll be offering visits to all MSPs, their family and staff through out the year. The reason for this is that we didn't want you to miss out on all the animals, plants and landscapes that wake up and flourish throughout the year rather than hibernating in February as we have done in the past. Therefore keep a hold of this throughout this year and see where our members and your interests can take you!

**LINK has 34 members so don't forget to check out their websites to see what is happening throughout the year that you could participating in!**

## Scottish Environment LINK

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 30 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society. Its member bodies represent a wide community of environmental interest. LINK provides a forum for these organizations, enabling informed debate, assisting co-operation within the voluntary sector and acting as a strong voice for this community in communications with decision-makers in Government and its agencies, Parliaments, the civic sector, the media and with the public through our members' collective 500,000+ supporters.

Acting at local, national and international levels, LINK aims to ensure that the environment community participates in the development of policy and legislation affecting Scotland.

LINK is a Scottish Charity (SC000296) and a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee (SC250899). LINK is core funded by Membership Subscriptions and by grants from Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Government and Charitable Trusts including Craignish Charitable Trust, Gannochy Charitable Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

