



Clydebelt Newsletter August 2013

www.clydebelt.org.uk

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The Great Outdoors Festival 31st August-8th September

This is the third year of this festival with events across East and West Dunbartonshire and Stirling. The brochure can be seen by following links on the WDC website or available from libraries etc.

www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/outdoorsfestival

There are several events around the Kilpatricks; Clydebelt and Clydebank Local History Society are repeating the 'Solve the Mystery of the Stones' on Sunday 1st September on Carleith Muir and also the 'Antonine Wall Wander' on September 8th, following the Roman Wall from Old Kilpatrick Fort to Castlehill Fort. Others to be recommended are 'The Craigs Circular' a walk guided by the Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust round the Lang Craigs above Dumbarton and a walk from Mugdock to Faifley along the Bankies Trail. With forty eight events for all degrees of fitness and varied interest, there should be something to entice you out into the Great Outdoors.

Some 'old' news on the Woodland Trust's Lang Craigs and improvements at Overtoun estate can be seen on page 3 of the Dumbarton Community News from Autumn 2011

<http://www.amandapost.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/deccc/newsletter3.pdf>

The forestry commission have a website and contact at www.forestry.gov.uk/kilpatrickhills

Postie's Park Levensgrove Dumbarton

Do you know about West Dunbartonshire Council's idea to build the new Our Lady and St. Pat's secondary school on Postie's Park, next to Levensgrove?

This is a large open green space, bounded by the Clyde, the Leven, and Levensgrove Park. An ideal site, from WDC point of view, to build a new school. A campaign against this is mounting, and there is now a 'Save Postie's Park' site on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-Posties-Park/166984396804169?ref=stream>

There is also a petition at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-posties-park>

In brief, this would be against WDC adopted Local Plan (listed as retained public open greenspace) and has some relevant European environmental legislation (redshanks on the shore) a great deal of public opposition and a reasonable alternative - the existing site. The National Pipe Band Championships (or any similar open air events) would no longer be held after 2015; it is an ideal site for what is probably Dumbarton's major annual event.

WDC have done test drilling, and a report goes back to the Education Committee in September. This has to be followed (if they confirm their preference) by a Pre-application Consultation (comments by the public must be noted), a planning application (formal objections must be heard), and finally, because the land is owned by WDC and is against their own Local Plan, it will be called-in by the Scottish Government, for a final decision by a Reporter (all comments, objections, etc. etc. must be taken into consideration).

Postie's Park was given to the local authority in 1872 in substitution for rental sums due to the Town Council, and (unfortunately) does not form part of Dumbarton Common Good. Protection therefore rests on the Adopted Local Plan being respected. Comments can be made at the Pre-application stage, and formal comments at the Planning Application stage, although there is nothing to stop individuals writing to their local councillors at this stage.

Clydebelt's committee will be objecting to the choice of this site to WDC.

See also <http://www.lennoxherald.co.uk/dunbartonshire-news/dunbartonshire-news/dumbarton-news/2013/06/07/bill-heaney-posties-is-the-people-s-park-114557-33426517/> and other press comment.

R.S.P.B Loch Lomond

Last year the RSPB purchased Wards Farm at Gartocharn, adjacent to the Scottish Natural Heritage reserve at the Endrick mouth. Early work will be assessing the site and further enhancing it for wildlife. Access for visitors has also to be looked at and improved. Once up and running, and combined with the SNH reserve, this should be one of the RSPB's most popular reserves for wildlife and wildlife watchers.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/impact/lochlomond/layoftheland.aspx>

CRIMP—How healthy is your water?

This is not a medical question but alludes to a new project now taking place along the feeder streams of the River Clyde catchment area.

The Clyde River Monitoring Project (CRIMP) is trying to test the water quality of all these streams by assessing the presence of indicator species of the animal life on the stream bed. These are collected by disturbing the river bed in running water and sieving out, into a collection/examination tray, any creatures disturbed. The indicator species being recorded are the larvae of cased and uncased caddisflies, stoneflies, some species of mayflies and shrimps. These are sensitive to various pollutants, and although subject to some seasonal cycle, the larval stages can be long lived, stay in the same area and are bottom of the food chain. This makes them the ideal 'canaries' for testing water quality. The variety of species and their numbers are to be recorded each month by the same method and on the same site and any variation in numbers or absence could indicate a previously undetected pollution incident. Chemical water testing can only detect pollution at the time of testing.

This is part of a wider scheme to achieve statutory river purification standards; all water bodies should reach Good ecological status by 2027.

Initial trial testing has been carried out at four points on the Duntocher Burn and one test on each of the Loch Humphrey, Cochno and 'Hardgate' Burns. A reasonable variety of species and numbers were found but assessments will need to be repeated to establish patterns and seasonal variation. The records are co-ordinated and kept. Any breach of 'trigger levels' would require a repeat testing and if confirmed reported to the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI) group coordinator for action.

As this is widespread and labour intensive it is largely being carried out by certified volunteers mainly members of fishing clubs. Training courses have been arranged for those wishing to participate and gain the required certificate.

The project is run by coordination of the Clyde River Foundation, S.N.H. and the Riverfly Partnership.

See- <http://www.clyderiverfoundation.org/crimp/crimp-news>

Pine Martens

One of our members has filmed a Pine Martin in his garden in Old Kilpatrick. Known to be about in the Blane Valley and north eastern Kilpatricks for several years, this may be the first record to show their spread southwards into Clydeside.

Litter Picks--Saltings

Once again we repeat a request for volunteers at the Saltings in Old Kilpatrick on the **First Sunday every month** between 10am and 12. Meet at the car park behind the Scout Hall in Erskine Ferry Road. Equipment supplied. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Linda Adam on 07805 809883.

http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/media/1029292/saltings_leaflet.pdf

Lang Craigs Autumn Tree Planting Day 5th October

The Woodland Trust Scotland invites you to a Community Tree Planting Day at Lang Craigs on the 5th October. As well as a chance to help with tree planting, there is free food and refreshments, willow weaving and drumming to try. The event runs from 11-2pm. Lang Craigs is reached by walking past Overtoun House (and then follow the signs) or there will be a minibus service running from the Council car park on Garshake Road (sorry but there won't be parking at Overtoun House due to limited space). All the family welcome.

Details at <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/take-part/events/Pages/events-in-scotland.aspx> “

Drystone Walling Training Course

Still places on a course on September 14/15 at Kilbarchan cost £45 see

<http://www.wsdswa.org.uk/#/training/4550429337> or phone Paul at 01360312212

Clydebelt Website

Remember our new blog site at <http://clydebeltblog.weebly.com/index.html>

Apologies to those who receive a printed copy of this newsletter; references to links unavailable to you can be very irritating but we have tried to give the basics in each item.

Next Clydebelt Meeting

Tuesday 17th September at 7.30 in Trinity Church Hall, Roman Road, Duntocher.

If you want to be removed from our mailing list please let us know