



LANARK AREA MEMBER CENTRE BULLETIN
ISSUE 42: SEPTEMBER 2011

WELCOME

Welcome to the September issue of the Lanark Area MC's bulletin 2011, which contains articles of general and local interest, updates on talks, events, etc. I hope you will all contribute news and events to future bulletin editions. Send any articles, photos and ideas to postmaster@lanarkswt.org.uk.

Upcoming events

Don't miss our first talk of the season and find out what's flying around your garden at night:

Moths – Night flying butterflies

by Jo Davis

Tuesday 27th September, St. Nicholas Church Hall, Lanark



White Ermine, <http://fallsofclyde2011.blogspot.com>

Website News

The SWT recently unveiled its brand new website:

<http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

Much of the content that you recognise is still there, but much easier to find (particularly the Member centres, blogs, and webcams). You will also see that the Member Centres now have their own small summary pages within the main website (See Local Groups, under “Who We Are – and even more conveniently, via the link at top right on the SWT homepage). All of the groups have a summary page which can be located either from the drop-down menu or from the Scotland map. Each MC has immediate access to these pages for updating, but there are obviously limitations to how much space each MC has on this, so many (including the Lanark Area MC) will retain their more comprehensive websites, which are linked from the summary page. Our summary page can be found directly at

<http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/local-member-group/lanark/>

and our own page is at

<http://www.lanarkswt.org.uk/>

If you have any ideas for extra content, please let us know.

Falls of Clyde News

Sunday 2nd October 2-4 pm

Fabulous fungi

The Falls of Clyde is famous for its fabulous fungi! Join the rangers and a local expert for a walk in the woods and learn how to identify the different species. Meet at Visitor Centre. Adult £6, Child £3. **Contact 01555 665262**

Other news

Novel attempts for wildcat conservation

Researchers have begun investigating the technical challenges in cloning the Scottish wildcat. Embryologist Dr. Bill Ritchie said the project could help the species, which is thought to number around 400 in the wild. Several cat species have been cloned in the past, but it is very difficult to find pure wildcats due to their crossing with domestic animals. However molecular techniques are able to select animals which are pure bred, and cells selected from these animals could be cultured to provide cells for the cloning process.



Scottish Wildcats Association/Peter Cairns

Another new invasive crayfish sighting

The North American signal crayfish has now been recorded by a council ranger in a pond in Ballachulish Quarry – the most northerly sighting of this invasive species in the west Highlands.

The crayfish is a voracious species and eats young fish and other native fauna and destroys habitat, as its burrows can be up to a metre long. They can walk several miles across land to find new territory. They can also carry crayfish plague which is rapidly fatal to European species of crayfish. They are impossible to eradicate once in an open water course. The most northerly recording so far is in the River Nairn in the northeast. They were accidentally introduced into English rivers via escapes from crayfish farms supplying the restaurant trade in the late seventies.

Dr Colin Bean, freshwater advisor at SNH said: "It is disappointing to now find signal crayfish in relatively remote areas of the west of Scotland - the nearest population to this one is over 60 miles away at the River Kelvin - so it is clear that the Ballachulish population was established by humans. As it is against the law to capture, keep, transport or release live signal crayfish into the wild without a licence, the establishment of this population is the result of an illegal act."



Justcanals.com

Purple Hairstreaks in Paisley

A colony of the rare purple hairstreak butterfly has been found in Shaw Wood in Thornly Park, Paisley. The discovery is important, as the butterfly, though widespread over the border, is far less common in Scotland. The purple hairstreak is one of the most vivid butterflies in the UK - The male boasts striking, deep-purple upper wings and tiny black tail streamers. Purple hairstreaks often go unnoticed as they are typically found in tree-tops. Despite their colour, they are difficult to spot, as they live in self-contained colonies on oak trees and only take flight on sunny days (and there have been precious few of those!). Because of the difficulty of seeing them, there is a strong chance that they are under-recorded.



Butterfly Conservation

Fishing for Osprey

An angler from Fife caught more than he bargained for during a pike-fishing weekend on Loch Insh, in Strathspey. Alastair Scott had been camping with his family on the banks of the water when he awoke to find an osprey had become tangled in his line. It had been entangled for some time, and though the SPCA were en route, the danger of hypothermia spurred the angler to wrap it in a jacket in the porch of the tent and allow it to warm up. A short time later it flexed its wings and flew off.

The RSPB suggested that leaving the bird to recover somewhere warm was the right thing to do, and reminded anglers to stay vigilant and if possible not leave their lines unattended unless fitted with a bait alarm or similar device.

