

# wild springfestival

Dumfries and Galloway

25 March to 10 April 2016



- ▶ Over 60 events
- ▶ Scotland's most family friendly wildlife festival



[www.wildseasons.co.uk](http://www.wildseasons.co.uk)

## Introduction

Welcome to Scotland's most friendly family wildlife festival. Dumfries & Galloway's 2016 Wild Spring Festival runs from the 25th March to 10th April and features a wide range of opportunities to experience our diverse wildlife, hosted by local wildlife guides. Set amidst beautiful unspoilt countryside, our festival is perfect for families and wildlife fans alike to discover and stay in the most surprising and naturally inspiring part of Scotland. This year's festival includes opportunities to make feeders for birds, squirrels and butterflies, to watch feeding badgers and red kites, and for you to forage for wild food under the watchful eye of a Scotland's only professional wild food forager. Whether you wish to watch wildlife on foot, bike or canoe, and whenever you wish to watch it, from dawn, through the day, till dusk or at night, there's something for you in the programme. Dumfries and Galloway is teeming with wildlife this Spring and throughout the year; find out more about our festival and all things wildlife on [www.wildseasons.co.uk](http://www.wildseasons.co.uk)

On behalf of the 2016 Wild Spring Festival, I extend to you a very warm welcome to you.

**Peter Norman**  
Biodiversity Officer

### A naturally inspiring break

Dumfries & Galloway offers a range of quality hotel, B&B and self-catering accommodation that is second to none. Whether you plan an overnight stay, a long weekend break or an extended holiday during the school holidays, our local accommodation providers have great value deals and packages to coincide with the 2016 Wild Spring Festival.

You can also go search and book accommodation in Dumfries & Galloway right now at [www.visitsouthwestscotland.com](http://www.visitsouthwestscotland.com)

### Naturally inspiring things to do

If you're visiting Dumfries & Galloway for our Wild Spring Festival, you'll be surprised at the variety of things to do locally. There's foodie heaven at weekly farmers' market, world renowned 7stanes mountain bike trails, castles, gardens and golf galore. Wild Spring has a series of events with a special focus on the area's outstanding natural larder.

Find out about the variety of things to do at [www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk/see-do/](http://www.visitdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk/see-do/)



# Wildlife Events

25 March to 10 April 2016

For more events and any changes please check [www.wildseasons.co.uk](http://www.wildseasons.co.uk)

## Dumfries and Galloway Environment Fair

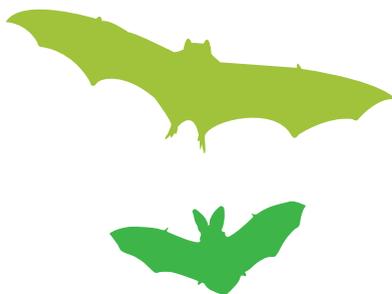
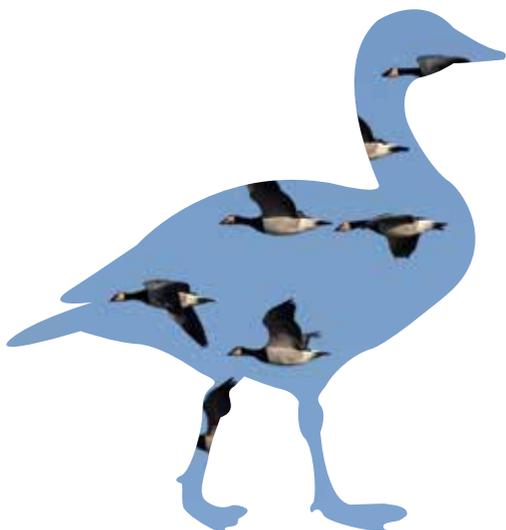
19th March

10:00 AM to 3:30PM

The Dumfries and Galloway Environment Fair is back again for another year of games, crafts and wildlife and environmental fun and information. There will be activities for all ages both indoors and outdoors and lots of opportunity to find out about what is happening in the Wild Spring Festival in the following weeks.

[Facebook.com/ Environment Fair](https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentFair)

Meet: Rutherford McCowan Building, Crichton Campus, Dumfries



## Nocturnal Wildlife Tours

25th March to 10th April

9:30 AM to 11:30 PM

If you have an interest in nature, then why not join us on one of our Nocturnal Wildlife tours. A truly unique experience awaits you so be prepared to be amazed by what you can see and experience with the aid of our professional guides and a range of handheld night vision and thermal imaging equipment. You are guaranteed to see wildlife in a way you've never seen it before.

We can accommodate up to five participants on a tour. Each participant will be able to use a state of the art thermal imaging device for the duration of the tour.

That's not all.. everything you see and experience through our thermal and night vision devices can be recorded for you to take home with you as a memento of your Nocturnal Wildlife Tour.

Tours take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Please check out our online calendar for availability of spaces and booking.

Meet: Castle Douglas Area.

Cost: Prices on web site

Minimum Age: 14

Contact: Tel: 07483 131791

[info@wildlifetours.co.uk](mailto:info@wildlifetours.co.uk)

[www.wildlifetours.co.uk](http://www.wildlifetours.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Nature Tots

25th March

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Whatever the weather, come along with your little nippers for this interactive wildlife trail. Play outdoor games and sing songs, followed by a story and a cup of tea or coffee (juice for the little ones). Meet: RSPB Mersehead Reserve, Southwick, DG2 8AH

Cost: £2 per child, car parking charges apply to non RSPB members

Contact: 01387 780579

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

Booking Essential

## Wilderness Kayak Trip

25th March to 10th April

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Explore Loch Ken in our Easky touring kayaks with a paddlesports instructor from Galloway Activity Centre.

Large areas of Loch Ken are designated as internationally important roosting sites for Greenland white-fronted and Icelandic greylag geese. These birds breed in the far north in summer but fly to this area to escape the harsh Arctic winters. They can often be seen at the RSPB's Ken-Dee Marshes Nature Reserve between October and May. Other wildfowl that can be seen include whooper swans, wigeon, goldeneye and pintail duck, whilst mallard, goosander, teal and tufted duck are here throughout the year.

You will see red kites, and possibly red deer and red squirrel and if you are very lucky otters have been seen on the shore line.

Trips take 1.5 hours - all equipment is provided.

Meet: Galloway Activity Centre - Loch Ken, DG7 3NQ

Cost: £17.50

Minimum Age: 8, Maximum Age:80

Contact: 01556 502011

[gac@lochken.co.uk](mailto:gac@lochken.co.uk)

[www.lochken.co.uk](http://www.lochken.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Easter Egg-stravaganza

25th March

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Come along to have a go at dying eggs using natural materials, take part in a spring themed obstacle course and enjoy a few surprises!

Meet: Corehead Farm, Annan Water Moffat, Dumfriesshire, DG10 9LT

Contact: 07521664530,

[corehead@bordersforesttrust.org](mailto:corehead@bordersforesttrust.org)

[www.bordersforesttrust.org](http://www.bordersforesttrust.org)

Booking Essential

## High Tide Perambulation

25th March

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home, watching for wildlife that use the muds and saltmarsh to feed being evicted by the advancing tide. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

Meet: RSPB Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve, Wigtown, DG8 9AF

Cost: Members £3; non-members £4; children half price

Contact: 01988 402130

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

Booking Not Essential

## Nature Tots

25th March

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Whatever the weather, come along with your little nippers for this interactive wildlife trail. Play outdoor games and sing songs, followed by a story and a cup of tea or coffee (juice for the little ones).

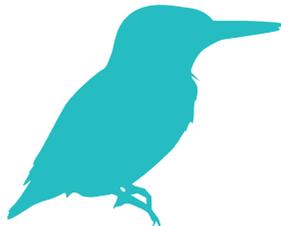
Meet: RSPB Mersehead Reserve, Southwick, DG2 8AH

Cost: £2 per child, car parking charges apply to non RSPB members

Contact: 01387 780579

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

Booking Essential



## Night time guided Mountain Bike ride

25th March

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

The evening starts at Galloway Activity Centre at 1830 where we'll meet up and get kitted out with bikes, helmets and lighting. After a short powerboat ride across the loch to the forest at the other side we'll guide you on a gentle off road forest ride up to the Otter pool in the heart of the Galloway Forest Park.

If you've never Mountain Biked in the dark before it's incredible fun and the perfect opportunity to give it a try. Price is £15pp and includes all the equipment you'll need for the ride.

Meet: Galloway Activity Centre - Loch Ken, 10 miles North of Castle Douglas on the A713, DG7 3NQ

Cost: £15

Minimum Age: 8, Maximum Age:80

Contact: 01556 502011,

[gac@lochken.co.uk](mailto:gac@lochken.co.uk)

[www.lochken.co.uk](http://www.lochken.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Easter Egg Hunt

26th March

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

It's not just birds that lay eggs...find the hidden eggs on the Mull of Galloway reserve and match them to their owners to win a FREE prize.

Meet: RSPB Mull of Galloway, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9HP

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01988 402130,

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

Booking Not Essential

## Gardening for Wildlife Course - Bees and Butterflies

26th March

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join us for a fun and interactive demonstration on how to create a perfect garden for wildlife and take away cuttings from plants, plant your own seeds, learn what flowers to plant for bees and butterflies and what homes you can create for them.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: Adults £5, children £2 (RSPB members adults £3, children £1.50). Car parking charges apply for non-members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential



## Easter Egg Hunt

27th March

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

It's not just birds that lay eggs...find the hidden eggs on the Mull of Galloway reserve and match them to their owners to win a FREE prize.

Meet: RSPB Mull of Galloway, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9HP

Cost: Free but donations welcome

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01988 402130

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

Booking Not Essential

## Easter Egg Hunt

27th March

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Join us for an Easter egg hunt around the reserve, find the clues and complete the challenges to find your way to the giant nest where eggs are hidden.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: £2 per child, car parking charges apply to non RSPB members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Aldouran Adventures

28th March

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Walk around Aldouran Wetland Garden and adjacent Aldouran Glen woodland. Watch for birds and squirrels from our hide. Sample pond dipping, bird and nature craft activities with our volunteers. Explore our new wheelchair accessible woodland path and meet some exciting and magical new residents there!

Enjoy coffee and home baking or soup and sandwiches in our cafe in the village hall.

Suitable for all ages and abilities. Entry free but donations gratefully accepted.

Meet: Aldouran Wetland Garden, Leswalt, Stranraer, DG9 0LJ

Contact: Jane Sloan, Kirkland Bank, Leswalt, Stranraer, [j.sloan648@btinternet.com](mailto:j.sloan648@btinternet.com),

[www.aldouran.org](http://www.aldouran.org)

Find us on Facebook

Booking Not Essential



## Giant Duck Hunt

28th March

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Take part in the Giant Duck Hunt around the reserve. Follow the clues to find the giant ducks and learn more about ducks! Family event.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, DG1 4RS

Cost: Normal admission charges apply: Adult £8.20, Concession £6.30, Young Person £4, Under 4 years free, WWT members free.

Maximum Age:12

Contact: Pam Mundy, 01387 770200,

[info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)

Booking Essential

## Easter Egg Hunt

**28th March**

**11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Join us for an Easter egg hunt around the reserve, find the clues and complete the challenges to find your way to the giant nest where eggs are hidden.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: £2 per child, car parking charges apply to non RSPB members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential



## Stars and Stripes Badger Watching

**28th March**

**8:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

Watch wild badgers feeding just outside our comfortable observatory. A unique opportunity to watch badgers in comfort whatever the weather. Fair trade tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, DG1 4RS

Cost: Booking essential and tickets must be paid for in advance. Adults £7.50, Concessions £5, Children £2.50.

Minimum Age: 7, Maximum Age: 100

Contact: 01387 770200

[info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)

Booking Essential

## Seabird Spectacular

**29th March**

**1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join us for a guided walk to find out more about their ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Meet: RSPB Mull of Galloway, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9HP

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50. Under 5's Free.

RSPB members 20% off

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01988 402130,

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

Booking Not Essential

## Landscape Partnership Project Walk and Discussion from St Johns Town of Dalry

**29th March**

**2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Come for a short walk through some of the landscape that is included in the £2.9 million Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project. Find out what the project is all about, how it could transform the local area and how you can get involved. This will be a short walk but could be quite steep and muddy so come prepared.

Meet: St Johns Town of Dalry, junction of A713 and A702, DG7 3UP

Contact: Tom Henry 07702 250958

Booking Essential

## Garden Ranger Pond Dipping

**30th March**

**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

Join our Garden Ranger and discover the many wonderful underwater creatures that live under the surface of our Victorian Lily Pond including our impressively HUGE rare newts. Meet at Castle Kennedy ruin and bring outdoor clothing. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Included within admission to the Gardens.

Meet: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ

Cost: £5.50 adult, £4.50 concessions, £2.00 child and £12.00 Family (2x2)

Minimum Age: 2

Contact: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, Tel: 01581 400225 or 01776 702024

[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://www.castlekennedygardens.com)

Booking Not Essential

## Garden Ranger Pond Dipping

**30th March**

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Join our Garden Ranger and discover the many wonderful underwater creatures that live under the surface of our Victorian Lily Pond including our impressively HUGE rare newts. Meet at Castle Kennedy ruin and bring outdoor clothing. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Included within admission to the Gardens.

Meet: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ

Cost: £5.50 adult, £4.50 concessions, £2.00 child and £12.00 Family (2x2)

Minimum Age: 2

Contact: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, Tel: 01581 400225 or 01776 702024,

[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://www.castlekennedygardens.com)

Booking Not Essential

## Nestbox- building and Landscapes at Carlingwark

**30th March**

**2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Come along to Carlingwark Loch and build a nestbox to take home and put up in your garden. While you're there have a chat to us about the £2.9 million Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project that Castle Douglas is right in the middle of. Find out what the project is all about, how it could transform the local area and how you can get involved.

Drop in any time between 2 and 4 but the nest boxes will be first come, first served.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Meet: Carlingwark Loch, DG7 1EZ

Minimum Age: 6

Contact: Tom Henry 07702 250958,

Booking Not Essential

## Eggstravaganza

**31st March to 7th April**

**1:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Paint an egg and take part in an egg and spoon race on the reserve. Learn about birds and eggs. Family event.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock Dumfriesshire, DG1 4RS

Cost: Normal admission charges apply: Adult £8.20, Concession £6.30, Young person £4, Child under 4 free, WWT members free.

Maximum Age:12

Contact: Pam Mundy, 01387 770200,

[info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)

Booking Essential

## Conservation Volunteer Day

**31st March**

**10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Come along to volunteer on this conservation work day at Corehead Farm. For more information please contact [lynn@bordersforesttrust.org](mailto:lynn@bordersforesttrust.org)

Meet: Corehead Farm and Beef Tub, Annan Water Moffat, Dumfriesshire, DG10 9LT

Contact: [lynn@bordersforesttrust.org](mailto:lynn@bordersforesttrust.org)

[www.bordersforesttrust.org](http://www.bordersforesttrust.org)

Booking Essential

## Seabird Spectacular

**31st March**

**1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join us for a guided walk to find out more about their ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

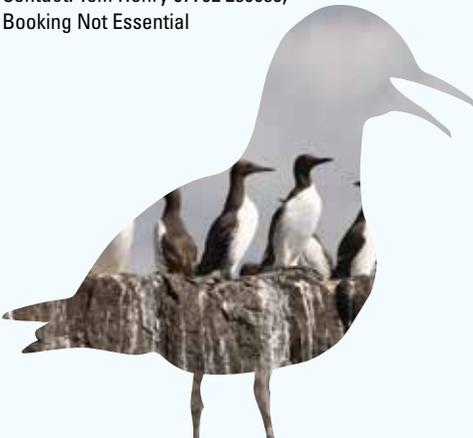
Meet: RSPB Mull of Galloway, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9HP

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50. Under 5s Free. RSPB members 20% off

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01988 402130,

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

Booking Not Essential



## Wild Food Walks, Tuition, Events

**1st April to 30th April**

**9:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

Book Scotland's only full-time foraging tutor and wild food chef for a private foraging session, tailored to the needs and interests of your family or group. From focussed tuition sessions to general foraging days and special events, Galloway Wild Foods can provide a memorable day out in Scotland's bountiful South-West.

Dates, times, locations, topics, food etc can be arranged to suit your needs and budget. Contact Mark to discuss your requirements.

Groups from 1 to 16 can be accommodated.

Prices from £50/hour based on a minimum 3 hours.

Some examples:

An afternoon with family and friends learning about coastal plants and shellfish in Wigton Bay, followed by a wild food barbeque on the beach.

A day exploring the wild fungi of the forest park and a wild cook-in of our finds.

A foraging walk at Rockcliffe followed by a wild food meal.

Meet: Contact Mark to arrange

Cost: From £50/hr

Contact: Mark Williams,

[mark@gallowaywildfoods.com](mailto:mark@gallowaywildfoods.com)

07900692478, [www.gallowaywildfoods.com](http://www.gallowaywildfoods.com)

Booking Essential

## Mocha and Moths

**1st April**

**9:30 AM to 11:00 AM**

Not all moths are dull brown and boring! We've got dozens of species at Mersehead, and they come in all different shades and sizes. With the help of our moth trap, you'll be able to see them up close before we release them, and find out a bit more about how they live, and enjoy a hot or cold drink while we look through our catch.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: Adults £5, children £2 (RSPB members adults £3, children £1.50) Car parking charges apply for non-members.

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Tongland Tour

**1st April**

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Come and see an active working hydro station. Tongland Power Station, the largest in ScottishPower's Galloway Hydro-electric Scheme has been generating clean, green power since 1935. Take a guided walk through the Power Station and across the 298 metre dam wall and see the fish ladder, built to help salmon move upstream past the dam. A minimum number of 15 adults/children are required to run this tour.

To secure a place, please book directly with Galloway Fisheries Trust see below

Meet: Tongland Power Station, Tongland, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4LT

Cost: Free Event

Minimum Age: 7, Maximum Age: 100

Contact: Rowan Armstrong, Galloway Fisheries Trust, 01671 40 3011

[rowan@gallowayfisheriestrust.org](mailto:rowan@gallowayfisheriestrust.org)

Booking Essential





## Red Squirrel Walk

2nd April

9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Join Kate Thomson, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Project Officer, on a walk through the woods near Eskrigg Reserve to look for signs of red squirrels and their dreys. Visit the reserve to watch and photograph the squirrels and learn from Kate about the distribution of red squirrels and the control of grey squirrels in Dumfries and Galloway.

Meet: Eskrigg Reserve, Lockerbie. (Meet at Dryfesdale Cemetery Car Park, DG11 1HZ)

Cost: There is no charge, donations to the Annandale Red Squirrel Group are welcome.

Contact: Jim Rae, Mobile: 07739987009

[jim.rae2012@gmail.com](mailto:jim.rae2012@gmail.com)

[www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Wild Weekends at Mersehead

2nd April

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Turn into a nature detective and explore the wildlife that makes Mersehead its home. Get your hands on some weird and wonderful creatures by collecting minibeasts, spotting birds and have the opportunity to check out what moths have been seen fluttering around.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: £3 per child (£2.50 for RSPB members).

Car parking charges apply for non members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Open Day at Red Kite Feeding Station

2nd April

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

FREE entry to the red kite feeding station at Laurieston. There are few experiences like watching dozens of kites in a food fight! Watch as they zoom down for their share, or turn aerobatics in the sky up above. We'll be on hand in case you have any questions, and have telescopes and binoculars you can borrow.

RSPB Scotland will be running this event in partnership with the farm owner (Anne Johnstone). If you'd like to support the red kite project further by donations, volunteering or supporting through membership, RSPB Scotland will be there to offer assistance.

Meet: Bellymack Hill Farm, Kite Feeding Station, Laurieston, DG7 2PJ. Cost: FREE

Contact: T: 01556 670464

[calum.murray@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:calum.murray@www.rspb.org.uk)

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

Booking Not Essential

## Woodland Wander

2nd April

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Join us for a wander through the beautiful Drumlanrig woodlands and let us unveil the secrets that the woodland has to offer at this time of year.

Meet: Drumlanrig Castle, DG3 4AG

Cost: Country Estate charge applies

Contact: Buccleuch Ranger Service, 01848 331555

[rangerservice@buccleuch.com](mailto:rangerservice@buccleuch.com)

[www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk](http://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Wild Weekends at Mersehead

2nd April

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Turn into a nature detective and explore the wildlife that makes Mersehead its home. Get your hands on some weird and wonderful creatures by collecting minibeasts, spotting birds and have the opportunity to check out what moths have been seen fluttering around.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: £3 per child (£2.50 for RSPB members).

Car parking charges apply for non members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead),

Booking Essential

## Wild Weekends at Mersehead

3rd April

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Turn into a nature detective and explore the wildlife that makes Mersehead its home. Get your hands on some weird and wonderful creatures by collecting minibeasts, spotting birds and have the opportunity to check out what moths have been seen fluttering around.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: £3 per child (£2.50 for RSPB members).

Car parking charges apply for non members

Contact: T: 01387 780579,

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Wild Weekends at Mersehead

3rd April

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Turn into a nature detective and explore the wildlife that makes Mersehead its home. Get your hands on some weird and wonderful creatures by collecting minibeasts, spotting birds and have the opportunity to check out what moths have been seen fluttering around.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: £3 per child (£2.50 for RSPB members).

Car parking charges apply for non members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Shelter Building at Barrhill

4th April

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Build a den out of sticks and leaves. While you're around have a chat to us about the £2.9 million Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project. Kirkcudbright is right at one end of the Galloway Glens area so find out what the project is all about, how it could transform the local area and how you can get involved. All Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Meet: Barrhill wood, Kirkcudbright NX686505, DG6 4BP

Minimum Age: 6

Contact: Tom Henry 07702 250958

Booking Essential

## Stars and Stripes Badger Watching

4th April To 8th April

8:00 PM

Watch wild badgers feeding just outside our comfortable observatory. A unique opportunity to watch badgers in comfort whatever the weather. Fair trade tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, DG1 4RS

Cost: Booking essential and tickets must be paid for in advance. Adults £7.50, Concessions £5, Children £2.50. Minimum Age: 7, Maximum Age: 100  
Contact: 01387 770200

[info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)

Booking Essential

## Beginner Birding for Kids

5th April

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Learn some of the common bird species seen at Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, including ducks, geese, swans and garden birds. Use binoculars and telescopes to take a close look! Family event.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, DG1 4RS

Cost: Normal admission charges apply: Adult £8.20, Concession £6.30, Young person £4, child under 4 free, WWT members free.

Minimum Age: 5, Maximum Age: 12

Contact: Pam Mundy, 01387 770200

[info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)

Booking Essential

## Corehead Adventure Club:

### Spring Fun Day

5th April

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Explore the colour and new life that has sprung in spring through activities and games. Plant your own wildflower seeds and herbs to take home.

Meet: Corehead Farm and Beef Tub, Annan Water Moffat, Dumfriesshire. DG10 9LT

Contact: 07521664530,

[corehead@bordersforesttrust.org](mailto:corehead@bordersforesttrust.org)

[www.bordersforesttrust.org](http://www.bordersforesttrust.org)

Booking Essential

## Winter Trees & Crawly Bugs

5th April

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

A discovery morning for all the family at Castle Loch, Lochmaben. Ever wondered how a spider makes its web, why a pond skater bug doesn't sink or what all those winter trees might be? Then come along to this free discovery morning, led by Darren Flint, the site Project Officer.

Meet: Lochfield Cottage, Castle Loch, Lochmaben, 15 minutes walk from Lochmaben village on the loch side path or small car park on A709, DG11 1LP

Minimum Age: 5, Maximum Age: 10

Contact: Darren Flint, Project Officer, To book a place: T: 07971790847

[darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk](mailto:darrenflint@castleloch.org.uk)

[www.castleloch.org.uk](http://www.castleloch.org.uk)

Booking Essential

## Wild Spring at Parton

5th April

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

A short walk up to the viewpoint above Parton. Join the RSPB to discover wild animals, plants and red kites, as they glide above. Find out how we have helped give these a home here and enjoy impressive springtime views over Loch Ken and River Dee. Kids can take part in a Scavenger Hunt. Meet: Boat o' Rhone car park at Loch Ken Holiday Park, Parton, Castle Douglas, DG7 3NE

Cost: RSPB members £3; non-members £4; children half price

Contact: Calum Murray T: 01556 670464

[calum.murray@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:calum.murray@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.gallowaykitetrail.com](http://www.gallowaykitetrail.com)

Booking Not Essential



### Seabird Spectacular

5th April

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join us for a guided walk to find out more about their ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Meet: RSPB Mull of Galloway, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9HP

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50. Under 5's Free.

RSPB members 20% off

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01988 402130,

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

Booking Not Essential

### Spring Pond-Life

5th April

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Children are invited to sample and identify the creatures that live in the pond at this time of year.

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, Eskrigg Reserve, Lockerbie, DG11 1HY

Cost: Donations to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust welcome.

Contact: Jim Rae, Mobile: 07739 987 009,

[jim.rae2012@gmail.com](mailto:jim.rae2012@gmail.com)

[www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)

Booking Essential

### Caerlaverock Kids

6th April

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Join our group for parents and toddlers. Take part in outdoor and nature activities at the Centre.

Meet: WWT Caerlaverock Wetland Centre, Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire, DG1 4RS

Cost: Normal admission charges: Adults £8.20,

Concessions: £6.30, Young person: £4, Family:

£22.10, child under 4 years free, Members free.

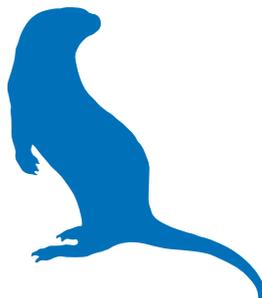
Maximum Age:5

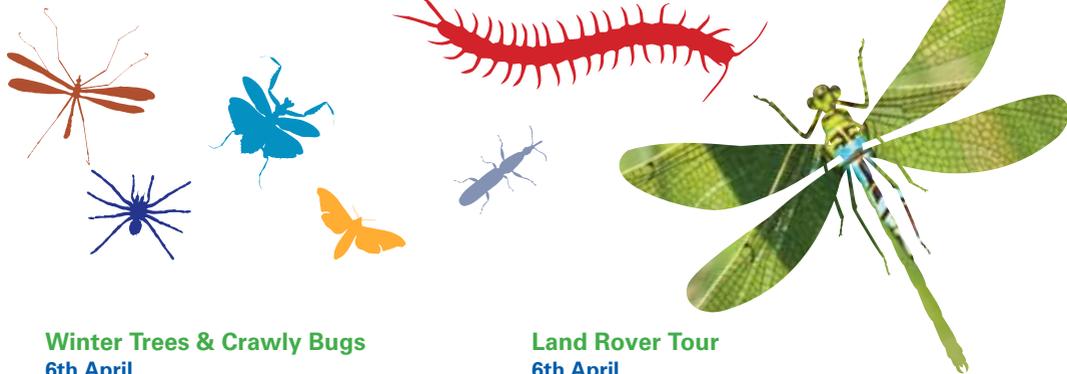
Contact: Pam Mundy 01387 770200,

[info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk](mailto:info.caerlaverock@wwt.org.uk)

[www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock](http://www.wwt.org.uk/caerlaverock)

Booking Essential





## Winter Trees & Crawly Bugs

**6th April**

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

A discovery morning for all the family at Moffat Community Nature Reserve. Ever wondered how a spider makes its web, why a pond skater bug doesn't sink or what all those winter trees might be? Then come along to this free discovery morning, led by Darren Flint, the site Project Officer.

Meet: Moffat Community Nature Reserve - sign posted from the A701 between Moffat and the motorway. DG10 9SD

Minimum Age: 5, Maximum Age:10

Contact: Darren Flint, Project Officer, To book a place: T: 07971790847

[moffatcommunitynaturereserve@gmail.com](mailto:moffatcommunitynaturereserve@gmail.com)

[moffatcommunitynaturereserve@gmail.com](mailto:moffatcommunitynaturereserve@gmail.com)

Booking Essential

## Garden Ranger Bug Hotel

**6th April**

**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

Join our Garden Ranger and help us create a bug hotel in our dedicated Ranger Area to encourage and provide shelter for mini-beasts to make their home. Meet at Castle Kennedy ruin and bring outdoor clothing. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Included within admission to the Gardens.

Meet: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ

Cost: £5.50 adult, £4.50 concessions, £2.00 child and £12.00 Family (2x2)

Minimum Age: 2

Contact: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, Tel: 01581 400225 or 01776 702024

[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://www.castlekennedygardens.com)

Booking Not Essential

## Land Rover Tour

**6th April**

**1:00 PM to 2:30 PM**

We are offering a special 1.5 hour breath-taking Land Rover Tour of the stunning woodlands and policies surrounding Drumlanrig Castle, for a wild season offer of £20 per person. This is where you enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery in Scotland.

Meet: Drumlanrig Castle, DG3 4AQ

Contact: Buccleuch Ranger Service 01848 331555

[rangerservice@buccleuch.com](mailto:rangerservice@buccleuch.com)

[www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk](http://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Garden Ranger Millipede Marathon

**6th April**

**2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

Did you know that Millipedes were the first animals to live on land and can live for up to 7 years? Join our Garden Ranger to unearth more fascinating facts about the millipedes found in the Gardens. Meet at Castle Kennedy ruin and bring outdoor clothing. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Included within admission to the Gardens.

Meet: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ

Cost: £5.50 adult, £4.50 concessions, £2.00 child and £12.00 Family (2x2)

Minimum Age: 2

Contact: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, Tel: 01581 400225 or 01776 702024

[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://www.castlekennedygardens.com)

Booking Not Essential



## Spring & Kites at Ken-Dee

**7th April**

**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Discover the sounds and signs of spring at this reserve. With red kites overhead and nesting lapwings in the fields, fragrant flowers and buds in the glades and singing woodland birds in chorus.

Kids can take part in a Scavenger Hunt, for a small prize.

Please bring your own binoculars if you have some. Meet at the Reserve car park.

Meet: RSPB Ken-Dee Marshes Reserve, Mains of Duchrae, Castle Douglas, DG7 2LY

Cost: Adult £4, Child £2, RSPB members half price.

Minimum Age: 6

Contact: Calum Murray (RSPB Scotland)

T: 01556 670464

[calum.murray@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:calum.murray@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/kendemarshes](http://www.rspb.org.uk/kendemarshes)

Booking Essential

## Seabird Spectacular

**7th April**

**1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

The Mull of Galloway is home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Join us for a guided walk to find out more about their ecology and the importance of the reserve in supporting these magnificent birds.

Bring binoculars if you have them, suitable clothing and stout footwear.

Meet: RSPB Mull of Galloway, Drummore, Stranraer, DG9 9HP

Cost: Adults £3, Children £1.50. Under 5's Free.

RSPB members 20% off

Contact: 01776 840539 or 01988 402130

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

Booking Not Essential

## Wee Woodland Beasties

**7th April**

**2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Children are invited to search for and identify the small creatures living on the woodland floor.

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, Eskrigg Reserve, Lockerbie., DG11 1HY

Cost: Donations to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust welcome.

Contact: Jim Rae, Mobile: 07739 987 009

[jim.rae2012@gmail.com](mailto:jim.rae2012@gmail.com)

[www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Nature Tots

**8th April**

**10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

Whatever the weather, come along with your little nippers for this interactive wildlife trail. Play outdoor games and sing songs, followed by a story and a cup of tea or coffee (juice for the little ones).

Meet: RSPB Mersehead Reserve, Southwick, DG2 8AH

Cost: £2 per child, car parking charges apply to non RSPB members

Contact: 01387 780579

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

Booking Essential



## Barclye Past and Present

8th April

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

A walk through the visible history of the Barclye nature reserve. From the bronze age to the industrial revolution in two hours. Meet at the Barclye Trails Car Park.

Meet: RSPB Wood of Cree Reserve (Barclye Car Park), Newton Stewart, DG8 6SN

Cost: Adults £4, children £2, Families (2 adult, 2 child) £10. (RSPB members half price)

Contact: Crystal Maw T: 01988 402130,

[crystal.maw@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:crystal.maw@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/woodofcree](http://www.rspb.org.uk/woodofcree)

Booking Not Essential

## High Tide Perambulation

8th April

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Take a gentle stroll along the flood bank through nature's home, watching for wildlife that use the muds and saltmarsh to feed, being evicted by the advancing tide. Bring binoculars and walking boots.

Meet: RSPB Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve, Wigtown, DG8 9AF

Cost: Members £3; non-members £4; children half price

Contact: 01988 402130

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

Booking Not Essential

## Nature Tots

8th April

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Whatever the weather, come along with your little nippers for this interactive wildlife trail. Play outdoor games and sing songs, followed by a story and a cup of tea or coffee (juice for the little ones).

Meet: RSPB Mersehead Reserve, Southwick, DG2 8AH

Cost: £2 per child, car parking charges apply to non RSPB members

Contact: T: 01387 780579,

E: [mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk),

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

Booking Essential



## Skills share

8th April

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Join DGOWL members for this adult skill share where we will be investigating the world of minibeats and how they link in the food chain to birds and amphibians. If we are lucky we will go out and look for the elusive natterjack toads and learn how we study and monitor them.

Meet: Mersehead Nature Reserve, DG2 8AH

Minimum Age: 16

Contact: 07444175685

[http://owlscotland.org/local-groups/dumfries\\_and\\_galloway\\_cluster\\_group](http://owlscotland.org/local-groups/dumfries_and_galloway_cluster_group)

Booking Not Essential

## Night time guided Mountain Bike ride

8th April

8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

The evening starts at Galloway Activity Centre at 1830 where we'll meet up and get kitted out with bikes, helmets and lighting. After a short powerboat ride across the loch to the forest at the other side we'll guide you on a gentle off road forest ride up to the Otter pool in the heart of the Galloway Forest Park.

If you've never Mountain Biked in the dark before it's incredible fun and the perfect opportunity to give it a try. Price is £15pp and includes all the equipment you'll need for the ride.

Meet: Galloway Activity Centre - Loch Ken, 10 miles North of Castle Douglas on the A713, DG7 3NQ

Cost: £15

Minimum Age: 8, Maximum Age: 80

Contact: T: 01556 502011

[gac@lochken.co.uk](mailto:gac@lochken.co.uk)

[www.lochken.co.uk](http://www.lochken.co.uk)

Booking Essential



## Galloway Glens Landscape from the Parton Viewpoint

9th April

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Come for a short walk through some of the landscape that is included in the £2.9 million Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Project. Find out what the project is all about, how it could transform the local area and how you can get involved. This will be a short walk but is quite steep and could be muddy so come prepared.

Meet: Boat o Rhone layby, NX685704, DG7 3NE

Contact: Tom Henry 07702 250958

Booking Essential

## Spring Coastal Foraging Walk

9th April

4:30 PM to 8:00 PM

An introduction to spring foraging on the coast with Scotland's only full-time foraging tutor. Over the course of the walk, you will receive expert tuition on how to find, identify, mindfully harvest, preserve, cook and enjoy 30+ wild edibles. Highlights include spoot (razor) clam trapping, other shellfish, seaweeds, coastal succulent plants and maritime herbs. This is a fun, informative and truly memorable evening with treats and tasters throughout.

The route is suitable for anyone of moderate fitness who is comfortable moving over rocky foreshore, slippery rocks and muddy sand flats.

Both novice and more advanced foragers will find this event inspiring, fun, and hugely informative.

The evening is timed around a low spring tide, which occurs at sunset. This is a beautiful place to watch the sun going down, but this means I am unable to incorporate my usual cook-in.

Warm clothes and wellies essential.

Meet: Carrick Shore, Near Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2DT

Cost: Adults £35 Children £20 Family (2A + 2C) £95

Minimum Age: 8, Maximum Age: 90

Contact: T: 07900 692 478

[mark@gallowaywildfoods.com](mailto:mark@gallowaywildfoods.com)

[www.gallowaywildfoods.com](http://www.gallowaywildfoods.com)

Booking Essential

## Natterjack Nights

9th April

8:30 PM to 10:30 PM

At dusk if we are lucky we may hear the toad chorus as the male toads come down to the shallow pools to sing to the females to encourage them to spawn. Come along and see if we can spot a toad. Bring a torch and wellies

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: Adults £5, children £2 (RSPB members adults £3, children £1.50). Car parking charges apply for non-members

Contact: T: 01387 780579

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## April Moths 1

10th April

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Help Jim Rae identify and photograph any moths caught during the previous night at Eskrigg Reserve.

Meet: Eskrigg Centre, Eskrigg Reserve, Lockerbie., DG11 1HY

Cost: Donations to Lockerbie Wildlife Trust welcome.

Contact: Jim Rae, Mobile: 07739 987 009

[jim.rae2012@gmail.com](mailto:jim.rae2012@gmail.com)

[www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk](http://www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)

Booking Essential



## Hands-On Day at Knowetop Lochs

**10th April**

**10:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

Get involved with practical conservation work at Knowetop Lochs. Activities will include peat depth measurement and sampling, sapling removal, habitat creation. Join in for the day or just an hour, bring wellies, gloves and old clothes or simply come and meet the Reserves Conservation Team and watch them at work!

Meet: Scottish Wildlife Trust Knowetop Lochs Reserve. 5 miles W of Corsock on A712 DG7 3QL  
Cost: Free

Contact: [swtgalloway@gmail.com](mailto:swtgalloway@gmail.com)

Booking Not Essential

## Hungry Caterpillar Story Trail

**10th April**

**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

Learn about caterpillars and butterflies in this two hour session of activities. Make a caterpillar, go butterfly spotting, make a butterfly feeder and play a game.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: Child £3. Car parking charges apply to non-RSPB members

Contact: T: 01387 780798,

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Garden Ranger Make Your Own Bird Feeder

**10th April**

**11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

A perfect treat for birds, come and join our Garden Ranger and make your own bird feeder which you can take home with you to encourage feathered friends into your Garden. Meet at Castle Kennedy ruin and bring outdoor clothing. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Included within admission to the Gardens.

Meet: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ

Cost: £5.50 adult, £4.50 concessions, £2.00 child and £12.00 Family (2x2)

Minimum Age: 2

Contact: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, Tel: 01581 400225 or 01776 702024,

[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://www.castlekennedygardens.com)

Booking Not Essential

[www.wildseasons.co.uk](http://www.wildseasons.co.uk)

## Micro Safari

**10th April**

**1:00 PM to 2:00 PM**

Investigate the miniature world of the life of our mini beasts. Find where they are living and learn how they live and survive.

Meet: Drumlanrig Castle, DG3 4AQ

Contact: Buccleuch Ranger Service,

T: 01848 331555

[rangerservice@buccleuch.com](mailto:rangerservice@buccleuch.com)

[www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk](http://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk)

Booking Essential

## Hungry Caterpillar Story Trail

**10th April**

**2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

Learn about caterpillars and butterflies in this two hour session of activities. Make a caterpillar, go butterfly spotting, make a butterfly feeder and play a game.

Meet: Mersehead Farm, Southwick, Dumfries, DG2 8AH

Cost: Child £3. Car parking charges apply to non-RSPB members

Contact: T: 01387 780798

[mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk](mailto:mersehead@www.rspb.org.uk)

[www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead](http://www.rspb.org.uk/mersehead)

Booking Essential

## Garden Ranger Make Your Own Bird Feeder

**10th April**

**2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

A perfect treat for birds, come and join our Garden Ranger and make your own bird feeder which you can take home with you to encourage feathered friends into your Garden. Meet at Castle Kennedy ruin and bring outdoor clothing. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Included within admission to the Gardens.

Meet: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ

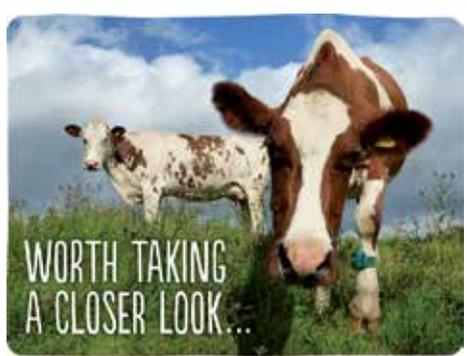
Cost: £5.50 adult, £4.50 concessions, £2.00 child and £12.00 Family (2x2)

Minimum Age: 2

Contact: Castle Kennedy Gardens, Castle Kennedy, Stranraer, DG9 8SJ, Tel: 01581 400225 or 01776 702024

[www.castlekennedygardens.com](http://www.castlekennedygardens.com)

Booking Not Essential



GALLOWAY AND  
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE  
**BIOSPHERE**

[gsabiosphere.org.uk](http://gsabiosphere.org.uk)



# wild springfestival

Dumfries and Galloway



## Find out more:-

On wildlife in Dumfries & Galloway check out the following publications and websites:

### Birdwatching in D&G :

Available from Tourist Information Centres or [rangers@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@dumgal.gov.uk) or download at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/rangers)

Other publications on local wildlife, including butterflies, trees and Solway Coast, as well as advice on wildlife recording can be downloaded from the Dumfries & Galloway Environmental Resources Centre website at [www.dgerc.org.uk?q=downloads](http://www.dgerc.org.uk?q=downloads)

Wildlife events take place throughout the year in Dumfries & Galloway, to find out more visit [www.wildseasons.co.uk](http://www.wildseasons.co.uk)

Dumfries & Galloway is an inspiring place to enjoy wildlife, please enjoy the outdoors responsibly for more information visit [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

After dark remember to look to the skies with the Biosphere Dark Sky Rangers - [www.gsabiosphere.org.uk](http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk)

Follow Wild Seasons in Dumfries & Galloway on

-  [www.facebook.com/wildseasonsDG](https://www.facebook.com/wildseasonsDG)
-  [twitter.com/WildSeasonsDG](https://twitter.com/WildSeasonsDG)
-  [www.pinterest.com/wildseasons](https://www.pinterest.com/wildseasons)

