



# TAYSIDE RECORDERS' BULLETIN 2017



Photos from top: Dolphin watching, East Haven BioBlitz © C A G Lloyd; Northern Brown Argus © C Caudwell; centre: Small Blue Butterfly on Kidney Vetch; BeeWild Pond Workshop, both © C A G Lloyd; bottom: Montrose Beach Clean © C A G Lloyd, Corn Bunting © T Marshall



## ***Contents***

Our Annual Recorders' Days for the Past Ten Years	3
Date and Venue for the 2018 Recorders' Day	3
National Biodiversity Network Atlas	3
Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland	4
Corn Bunting Recovery Project	4
Recorders' Forum Website/Social Media	6
Tayside Recorders iRecord Page	7
Local Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland Update	7
Tayside Geodiversity	9
Small Blue Butterfly and Kidney Vetch Survey	9
Dundee McManus Collections, Angus Museums, Perth Museum & Art Gallery	10
The Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group (TayARG)	11
Events	11
Tayside Biodiversity Partnership	12
ZoomIn2 Timelapse Project	13
Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project	13
Searching for the Northern Brown Argus	14
Balsam Pulling Volunteers Needed (Perthshire)	14
Great British Beach Clean – Tayside Results	15
Beavers Back for Good	16
East Haven Citizen Science Survey Success	16
Useful International & National Websites	17



## **Our Annual Recorders' Days for the Past Ten Years**

It is tradition for each Tayside Recorders' area to host an event so we have enjoyed Recorders' Days at Perth Museum & Art Gallery not just in 2016, but also in 2008, 2011 and 2013. We are returning to The Meffan in Forfar in 2017; previous Recorders' Day have been hosted there in 2010 and 2014. Our first event in Dundee took place at the Wellgate Library in 2009 and since then we have enjoyed visiting the McManus Art Gallery & Museum in 2012 and the Camperdown Wildlife Centre in 2015.

Last year's Recorders' Day brought many people together to hear updates on a range of local – and national – subjects: the BSBI Plant Atlas 2020, dragonfly hotspots in Tayside, the history of the Angus & Dundee Bird Club and the work of the Tayside Bat Group. Fife Nature outlined its gaps in Kinross-shire records and we heard the latest news from Amphibian & Reptile Conservation regarding its exciting DNA project collecting data about Great Crested Newts.

It was extremely useful to have an update on the Atlas of Living Scotland, BRISC and learn how the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative is undertaking its Citizen Science project "Forth Nature Counts" – something we would like to emulate in Tayside in the future. It was very useful to have an open debate, too, on 'our way forward' – and we are still working on this. We rounded up the day with a practical demonstration on both the Atlas of Living Scotland and iRecord.

**Date for your Diary – 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recorders' Day**

***Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – Perth Museum & Art Gallery***

**Everyone Welcome**

## **The National Biodiversity Network Atlas**

Things are changing at the National Biodiversity Network. All data submissions to the NBN Gateway had to be received by the end of February so that datasets are transferred from the NBN Gateway to the NBN Atlas before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. Records within datasets on the NBN Gateway which have been flagged as 'sensitive' will not be transferred to the NBN Atlas.

From now on any new, updated or historical datasets which are not on the NBN Atlas but are intended to be, must be submitted directly to the NBN Atlas, along with the Data Partner Agreement if not already submitted. Further information on this process will be available soon.

### **Key dates at a glance**

- 28 February 2017 - deadline for data submissions to the NBN Gateway, including any resubmissions for changing the level of access



- 28 February 2017 - deadline for adding a licence to a dataset on the NBN Gateway
- 28 February 2017 - deadline for return of Data Partner Agreements
- 31st March 2017 – the NBN Gateway will be closed
- 1st April 2017 – the NBN Atlas will be live

If you have any questions please contact the NBN Secretariat at [support@nbn.org.uk](mailto:support@nbn.org.uk). For further details on the NBN Atlas, please see <https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/> and <https://nbn.org.uk/blogs/atlas-blog/nbn-atlas-scotland-progress-update/>

## **Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland**

The Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF) is now undertaking a Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland. As part of the information gathering stage there is a new questionnaire and SBIF wants to hear your views. Everyone's views matter, whatever your role, whether you are an individual who records and manages your own records, work for a large NGO or a government agency, or have another role within the community. Views from beyond Scotland are also welcomed. The link to the questionnaire is: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SBIFReview/>. **The deadline for submission is: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

The SBIF Review is building on the findings of the first SBIF questionnaire issued in 2012; it is a necessary step on the road towards the Forum fulfilling its vision: *High quality species and habitat data will be collected and managed through a sustainable, co-ordinated and integrated local and national framework of organisations, partnerships and initiatives. These data will be available to ensure that Scotland's biodiversity, ecosystems and people benefit.*

Further details are available from Christine Johnston, the NBN Scottish Liaison Officer – tel. 07342254589; email [c.johnston@nbn.org.uk](mailto:c.johnston@nbn.org.uk).

## **Corn Bunting Recovery Project**

Corn buntings are seed-eating birds of lowland arable and mixed farmland. The nicknames “*fat bird of the barley*” and “*corn dumpling*” hint at their appearance: they are stout, dumpy brown birds, most usually seen perched on a wire or post. Their song, which varies in dialect between regions, provides not only a jolly jangly sound but also helps the male birds to defend their territories and to attract females.

Corn buntings have declined by around 90% since 1970 and are on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern. Approximately 750 to 900 territorial males remain in Scotland, and several local extinctions have occurred during recent decades. In Eastern Scotland there has been an 83% decline in singing males on 25 sites in Aberdeenshire and Tayside between 1989 and 2007.



© Tom Marshall

The combination of a late breeding season, a preference for nesting in growing crops and an insect and seed diet centred on grains, is likely to have made them especially vulnerable to modern agricultural practices. However, winter seed food and other management deployed on a number of farms and estates in Angus and Fife as part of Corn Bunting Recovery Project seem to have changed the fortunes of this iconic species.



The survey work last year saw the highest increase in corn bunting numbers in Fife in any single year since monitoring began: between 2015 and 2016, the number of territories increased by 18%, from 62 to 73 on participating farms. In addition, birds had also recolonised areas, where they hadn't been seen in years.

Gary Bruce, the Farm Manager for P.J. Stirling Farms in Angus said: "It was terrific news when we were told that corn buntings had returned to Windyhills Farm. We, as a farm, take our responsibility to caring for and protecting the environment very seriously. (...) Obviously with our wild bird cover and working alongside RSPB Scotland/Angus Corn Bunting Recovery Project we have and will



continue to create the perfect habitat to encourage corn buntings to return year after year."

© Hywell Maggs

A first local range expansion in Fife came thanks to the collective commitment of 14 local farmers and the East Neuk Estates Group, comprising six estates, to support

the recovery of the local corn bunting population. It gives hope that the species may start to spread once again.



On top of this good news, a special milestone has been achieved in Angus. From 2017 onwards, 100% of the local corn buntings will have access to the 'Big Three': safe nesting spaces, winter seed food and summer insect food for the chicks within one mile of their breeding territories.

Farmers and land managers are using a combination of agri-environment scheme options, voluntary action and upgraded greening measures to help make the future of this iconic bird in Scotland more secure and it is hoped more partners will join along the way to ensure a sustainable recovery of this iconic species.

This success shows what can be achieved working together with farmers, estates and other partners and what an immense difference it can make whenever people join forces.

*Yvonne Stephan, RSPB*

### **Recorders' Forum Website and Social Media**

The Tayside Recorders' Forum continues to have a section on the Partnership's website: [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk) and the list of Recorders and associated organisations are very well used. As the list was last updated in 2015 it is important to check your details, or your organisation's details, to ensure they are correct. If changes or additions need to be made, please contact the Biodiversity Partnership at [caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk)

The Partnership now administers a number of Facebook pages –

- Tayside Wildlife Recorders Forum
- Tayside Biodiversity
- Tayside Swifts
- Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group (TayARG)
- (and the Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens Network)

And there is a generic Tayside Biodiversity Twitter page.

We share different organisations' news, events and any training days we are alerted to within the region. If you have any news please either share it direct on any of these Facebook pages or send an email to [caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk) so that the information can be uploaded to the appropriate page. Organisations offering an annual programme of events within Tayside are encouraged to send a link so that it can be featured on the Tayside Biodiversity website's "What's On" page.

### **Tayside Recorders iRecord Page**

The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's webmaster is currently setting up a sub-site 'Taysidebiodiversity/Recording' which will be where Indicia software will sit holding the iRecord module. As soon as we are ready to launch this new section Tayside Recorder Forum members will be asked to trial the system before we put it up on the TBP website. We hope the new section will be flexible enough to host citizen science data such as records for Tayside swift nest sites and barn



owl sightings as well as link to other partnership projects. All data will be shared with the National Biodiversity Network.

## **Local Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland Update**

There is an unfortunate clash this year between the Tayside Recorders' Day and a meeting of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland for vice-county recorders. Much as I wanted to attend the Tayside Recorders' Day, the BSBI meeting had been booked in advance and took priority for Tayside BSBI recorders. Even with the best of intentions, clashes are inevitable at some point. I will do my best here to summarise recent activity.

A flurry of urban botanical recording followed John Grace's address to the Tayside Recorders' Day on the Urban Flora of Scotland project in 2014. A joint meeting with the Perthshire Society of Natural Science Botanical Section led by John and Martin Robinson, BSBI vice-county recorder, took place in June 2016. We found an interesting range of plants on post-industrial walls and buildings by the River Ercht, including Martagon Lily (*Lilium martagon*) or, Turk's-cap as it is also known from the shape of its flowers. From its garden origins, seeds have spread down some of our rivers; it is neither common nor invasive and quite attractive.

In November, John updated the Scottish Annual Meeting of the Botanical Society of Scotland and the BSBI on progress of the Urban Flora project; his report can be downloaded here <http://bsbi.org/scottish-annual-meeting>. Details on how to join the project can be found here <http://www.botanical-society-scotland.org.uk/node/351>.

At the same Tayside Recorders' Day in 2014, Roy Watling encouraged us to pursue an interest in mycology. Jim Cook took up the challenge, setting up the Tayside and Fife Fungal Group the following year and running successful fungal forays in 2015 and 2016. Fungi are not plants, but they have been given honorary plant status or included as cryptogams with lichens, mosses and liverworts. Their study was more popular in Victorian times and for a number of years after. Fungi play an important role in recycling nutrients, also provide nutrients to plants through mycorrhizal association with roots and assist orchid seeds to develop into young plants. The study of fungi deserves wider support and the organisation required to run forays, which like similar activities tends to fall to the same people.

In September, there was a joint PSNS/BSS Urban Flora project visit to Kinnoull Hill with Richard Brinklow, who provided instruction on the identification of lichens. Kinnoull Hill may not be an obvious urban candidate, but stonework and trees in and around the centre of Perth have few lichens: Kinnoull Hill falls within the city boundary. There is a wide range of lichens on the hill and

Richard chose the easier ones to identify to avoid taxing our budding skills. This is another group deserving more attention; they have fascinating lifestyles and intriguing relationships between algae and fungi.



*David Chamberlain identifying bryophytes on a cope in Dundee © Brian Ballinger*

The PSNS programme began in 2016 with a joint BSS Urban Flora project excursion to Perth. We were led by David Chamberlain, who identified mosses and liverworts on walls by the River Tay, within Greyfriars Cemetery and on the banks of the river and trees on its banks. Trees provided the most interesting habitat, unusual in some respects and a habitat that must have been reasonably common in places when Britain had greater tree cover. The tidal range at Perth covers low and overhanging limbs of trees and their boles and suspended silt in the water is deposited on the bark of these parts, providing a medium for some unusual mosses, which David found and identified for us.

In December, David led a workshop at the McManus Collections Unit in Dundee and we were grateful for the use of this facility. Botanical excursion in the urban habitat has its advantages and we enjoyed a warming lunch at The McManus before seeking out bryophytes on the streets and walls of Dundee and Dudhope Park. All of these Urban Flora meetings were organised by Brian Ballinger, who has helped to advance our knowledge of the urban flora of Tayside enormously.

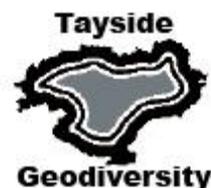
The PSNS will be visiting Abernethy this April with David to explore its bryophyte flora, further details of the PSNS programme will be posted on its website or information on this or further information on what I have covered can be obtained by contacting me [alistair.godfrey@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.godfrey@btinternet.com).

*Alistair Godfrey*



## **Tayside Geodiversity**

New members are urgently required, especially if you have an interest in helping with the fieldwork to prepare the Geodiversity Sites Plans. Any assistance with this task is welcome whether you have a passing interest in geology or a deep understanding of it. Tayside now has its own published Geodiversity Action Plan, included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan. There are some ambitious targets for the next ten years but these need help to bring to fruition.



New members are welcome; contact David at [David.Lampard@leisureandculturaldundee.com](mailto:David.Lampard@leisureandculturaldundee.com). Check out the geodiversity pages on [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk) and the group's own website at <http://www.taysidegeo.org.uk/>.

## **Small Blue Butterfly and Kidney Vetch Survey**

There will be a meeting of the Angus Small Blue Interest Group in Dundee on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Anyone with an interest in the species is very welcome to attend. Contact [glynedwards19@yahoo.com](mailto:glynedwards19@yahoo.com) to receive an agenda and last year's minutes.

We are currently confirming sites for this year's planting of Kidney Vetch plants, specially grown on from seed from Scotia Seeds at the Celtica Wildflowers nursery in Perthshire. Volunteers are needed for this task – please let us know if you would like to be part of this.

Another training session is planned at Barry Buddon on the afternoon of Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. This will be the culmination of the very first Scottish Small Blue Butterfly Week where similar projects to ours will be raising awareness of this special butterfly. We are planning to visit one of these projects in Caithness in mid-June; if anyone would like to join us, please contact [cath.lloyd@btinternet.com](mailto:cath.lloyd@btinternet.com) for further information.



*Searching for Small Blues (Barry Buddon 2016) and Small Blue Butterfly on Kidney Vetch – both photos © C Lloyd*

Many organisations have been involved so far, including the East Haven Together Group and both the Montrose Links and Carnoustie Links Golf Courses who are kindly hosting some of the plants. It is



hoped this will help restore connectivity of populations along the coast. Volunteers are always needed. If you regularly walk in an area that hosts either Kidney Vetch or Small Blue butterflies, could you become a volunteer surveyor during the summer? For more information contact David Lampard on Tel. 01382 432364 or 432392 or via [david.lampard@leisureandculturedundee.com](mailto:david.lampard@leisureandculturedundee.com).

## **Dundee Museums and Art Galleries**

The McManus Collections Unit is the permanent home for Dundee's fascinating history, archaeology and natural history collections. Several 'behind the scenes' events are held each year which introduces the City's history, archaeology and natural history collections. These range from birds to butterflies, coins to costumes and fossils to foreign artefacts. The objects date from 400 million years ago to the present day, and many of them are internationally important.

The website lists guided tours on selected dates: [www.leisureandculturedundee.com](http://www.leisureandculturedundee.com)

## **Angus Museums**

Angus Alive has eight museums and galleries for you to visit: there is a list here - [www.angus.gov.uk/museums/](http://www.angus.gov.uk/museums/). The Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens Museum will introduce you to the wild nature of the Angus Glens. Montrose Museum has lots of natural history and art too.

## **Perth Museum & Art Gallery**

The museum holds large and important collections of zoological, botanical and geological material. In numerical terms this is the largest part of the collection with 150,000 specimens. It is the 6th largest collection of natural history in Scotland.

A major focus for the collections has always been to collect and preserve specimens and information covering the wildlife and geology of Perthshire and Kinross-shire. Locally collected specimens alert us to the changing nature of our environment. Several of the collections are important with some containing type specimens that are of international importance for the naming of living and fossil, animals and plants.

Until 18<sup>th</sup> March Perthshire artist Su Grierson is exhibiting video art to explore performance in landscape, showcasing art's ability to lead us to ideas of 'place'. Between 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April there will be abstract poetry in motion inspired by John Everett-Millais' *Sounds of Many Waters* (1876) and shot on location at Perthshire's Rumbling Bridge. Millais expressed his attraction to Highland Perthshire's wild beauty most vividly in the *Sounds of Many Waters*. This large-scale painting, inspired by both Monet and Van Gogh, captures an autumnal scene on the rocky River Braan.

Further details are available via <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/museums>.



## **The Tayside Amphibian and Reptile Group (TayARG)**



*Amphibian ladder workshop © C A G Lloyd*

Set up in 2013, the Tayside Amphibian and Reptile Group (TayARG) helps to co-ordinate volunteers working on a variety of projects across Angus, Perth and Kinross. More help is needed for the Amphibians in Drains Surveys, identifying migration and road crossing hotspots (Amphibian Priority Zones), Toads on Roads, Toadsize Surveys and Pooling our Ponds Surveys. Once funds are in place more training days are planned; we will also need help to make a large batch of amphibian ladders.

French student, Sarah Clement, is currently undertaking an audit of the Angus Sustainable Urban Drainage sites and will then shortlist those which may be suitable for specific pond restoration projects. Past reports can be downloaded via [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk) and Sarah's report will be available later this year.

TayARG membership is free and open to anyone though there may be restrictions for under-16s for safety reasons. If you are interested in helping with survey work or just being part of the group, please contact [Taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk).

### **A Few Events**

The first **Scottish Coppice Festival** will be launched in Angus on 16th March with a talk and then two visits to coppice sites in Forfar and Kirriemuir. Other events are being planned and will include the Scottish Crannog Centre, a Hedgelaying weekend at Lochore Meadows Country Park, and events across Scotland. We are already planning the 2018 Scottish Coppice Festival which will have a biodiversity focus – lichen assessment of hazel coppice woodland, the birdlife of working woodlands, mammals of coppice woodland. If you would like to run an event in 2018 (anywhere in Scotland, but especially in Tayside) please contact Catherine at [cath.lloyd@btinternet.com](mailto:cath.lloyd@btinternet.com).

**Scottish Small Blue Butterfly Week** (27th May to 4th June): another first – this time being taken forward by Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Tayside's contribution to the week will be the annual Small Blue Butterfly Survey event at Barry Buddon. This will take place on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June – everyone welcome. Contact [glynedwards19@yahoo.com](mailto:glynedwards19@yahoo.com) for further details.



**Tayside Swifts** – for the latest list of special events this summer contact [dmuir@taysideswifts.co.uk](mailto:dmuir@taysideswifts.co.uk).

**TayARG (Tayside Amphibians and Reptiles)** – once funding is in place a programme of events will be drawn up. To be kept in touch with volunteering opportunities, please contact [taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk).

**Buildings for Biodiversity Conference** – the Tay Landscape Partnership is making plans for a Perth-based one day conference with national speakers in November 2017. Further information is available via Shirley Paterson at [Shirley.Paterson@pkht.org.uk](mailto:Shirley.Paterson@pkht.org.uk). All welcome, especially architects, builders, contractors and scaffolding companies.

**Botanical Society of Scotland and PSNS** - joint excursion to Abernethy on 29th April as part of the Urban Flora of Scotland project. The event will be led by David Chamberlain and will focus on mosses and liverworts. New members welcome; meet (and park) at the play park near the Williamson Hall at 10.00am.

## **Tayside Biodiversity Partnership**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan was launched in August 2016 and can now be downloaded via [www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk). A few hard copies are still available on request – contact Catherine at [cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk). The Working Groups always welcome new members, either as a consultee member if you are unable to attend meetings, or at the regular meetings held throughout Tayside. Please contact the Working Group Leader direct for further details.

<b>Working Groups:</b>	<b>Leader:</b>	<b>Contact:</b>
Water & Wetland	Kate Baird	<a href="mailto:kate.baird@sepa.org.uk">kate.baird@sepa.org.uk</a>
Coastal & Marine	Kelly Ann Dempsey	<a href="mailto:DempseyK@angus.gov.uk">DempseyK@angus.gov.uk</a>
Farmland & Upland (including Barn Owl Interest Group)	Carol Littlewood	<a href="http://carol@littlewoodlandcare.co.uk">carol@littlewoodlandcare.co.uk</a>
Urban & Built Environment	Craig Borland and David Williamson	<a href="mailto:forfarloch@angus.gov.uk">forfarloch@angus.gov.uk</a> ; <a href="mailto:dwilliamson@pkc.gov.uk">dwilliamson@pkc.gov.uk</a>
Woodland	Mike Strachan and Tim Goucher	<a href="mailto:Mike.strachan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">Mike.strachan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Tim.Goucher@forestry.gsi.gov.uk">Tim.Goucher@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</a>
People & Communications	Polly Pullar	<a href="mailto:pollypullar@yahoo.co.uk">pollypullar@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Species Interest Groups:</b>	<b>Leader:</b>	<b>Contact:</b>
Tayside Swifts	Daniele Muir and Catherine Lloyd	<a href="mailto:DMuir@taysideswifts.co.uk">DMuir@taysideswifts.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk">cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk</a> Facebook page - Tayside Swifts
Small Blue Butterfly	David Lampard	<a href="mailto:david.lampard@leisureandculturedundee.com">david.lampard@leisureandculturedundee.com</a>
Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group (TayARG)	Daniele Muir and Catherine Lloyd	<a href="mailto:taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk">taysideamphibians@yahoo.co.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk">cagllloyd@pkc.gov.uk</a> Facebook page - Tayside Amphibians and Reptiles



## **ZoomIn2 Project**

If you enjoy time-lapse projects or photographing something regularly, here is your chance to take part in the ZoomIn2 Project. Choose a space which is special to you - anything that is natural goes: from a fruit tree in your local community orchard or a pond in a park, to a view across your favourite beach or a gravestone in an old church. It doesn't have to be in the countryside – it can be a street tree or a river near where you live – something that will show the changing seasons. It can be in your garden, the car park at work, an allotment or a school wildlife garden. Some of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's BeeWild participants (care homes and day care centres in Angus) will be using the website to show how their grounds are improving for wildlife. Return every month for 12 months (or more if you wish) and take a photograph from exactly the same spot. You can upload your monthly photograph to [www.zoomin2.co.uk](http://www.zoomin2.co.uk), gradually accumulating a series of photographs. See you on the website?

## **Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project**

This project has just been completed. It followed on from the successful pilot Swift Conservation Project in the Carse of Gowrie in 2013. Launched in 2014, the Kirriemuir Swift Conservation Project ran alongside the CARS project (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme) and had the following aims:

- to encourage citizen science survey work across the town and raising awareness of swifts amongst the general public;
- to update the Swift Priority Area map to check the baseline data;
- Provision of nestboxes to all those property holders successfully achieving a grant to renovate their property frontage, as well as providing nestboxes for anyone in and around Kirriemuir keen to help – 95 nestboxes were provided, some of them triple nestboxes. This has now led to 115 new nesting locations;
- Publication of a Kirriemuir Swift Conservation leaflet to raise awareness of the project – this led to a generic Tayside leaflet being published (with separate funding) – this can be downloaded direct from <http://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/get-involved/projects/projects-swifts/>;
- A technical training workshop was achieved in the first year, welcoming international expert Edward Mayer from UK Swift Conservation and Anne Youngman from Bat Conservation Trust.

Plans are afoot to run small-scale swift projects elsewhere in Tayside during 2017. There is a swift element to the Tay Landscape Partnership Buildings for Biodiversity project and the Strathearn Swift Conservation Project is ongoing.

For details of guided walks and training sessions in 2017, contact Daniele Muir at [dmuir@taysideswifts.co.uk](mailto:dmuir@taysideswifts.co.uk). Tayside Swifts are planning a minibus trip in May to see the tree-dwelling swifts in the Cairngorms. Again if this is of interest, please contact Daniele.

*Catherine Lloyd and Daniele Muir, Tayside Swifts*



## Searching for the Northern Brown Argus



There will be a free Survey Training Day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July (starting at 10.30am) at Lundie Crag, on the Sidlaws. The East of Scotland Branch, Butterfly Conservation will be aiming to establish which previously-recorded sites for the Northern Brown Argus are still occupied and will also map new sites. By choosing the end of July, adults, eggs and possibly larvae are likely to be found.

There will be a walk of approximately 2.5km -3 km both to and from the site. There is a rough track at first but the site itself is on a steeply sloping vegetated hillside. It is essential to bring good outdoor gear including waterproofs and a packed lunch.

To book a free place, please contact [perthshirebutterflies@eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk](mailto:perthshirebutterflies@eastscotland-butterflies.org.uk) (or tel. 01828 686709). A meeting place will also be confirmed nearer the time.

## Balsam Pulling Volunteers Needed

Sustrans is the national charity responsible for co-ordinating the National Cycle Network. The cycleways can act as biodiversity corridors, and the riverside path in Perth is part of the Greener Greenways project. Perth and Kinross Group volunteer rangers and wildlife champions have been working on the project for the past two years - recording plants, bees, butterflies and other wildlife, scything a new meadow and pulling the invasive non-native species Himalayan balsam which threatens to invade the existing biodiverse meadow. Their balsam pulling efforts would be greatly enhanced by additional volunteer help.



Work days are proposed for eight consecutive Saturdays between 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 22 (between 11am and 1pm). Anyone keen to help once, twice or all eight times would be most welcome. There will be different starting points for each of the events, so please contact Katharine Melville on either 07803 605612 or email [kmelville@ogoroad.com](mailto:kmelville@ogoroad.com). There will be no toilets on site and gloves and eye protectors will be provided. Strong shoes, preferably boots, will be needed as you will be working on steep slopes. Please also bring gloves, water, a snack and sun screen.



## Great British Beach Clean – Tayside Results

The 2016 Great British Beach Clean event was another record breaker! In Scotland a total of 58,794 litter items were collected from 121 beaches (a 50% increase on 2015) and there was a 22% increase in volunteers participating from 1,421 in 2015 to 1,744 in 2016.

In Tayside there were thirteen beach cleans which involved an amazing 181 volunteers during the weekend of the 16th-19th September - that's nearly 90 more volunteers than in the previous year. A big thank you to everyone on the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Marine & Coastal Working Group; they have been promoting the Great British Beach Clean for the last two years. The Partnership organised a Great British Beach Clean event at Ferryden for the 2016 event; the local school surveyed two stretches of beach on the day. The Partnership has since decided to create local targets for volunteer and beach numbers which is going to help focus promotion for future years around Tayside.



© Montrose Beach Clean 2016 © C A G Lloyd

The Great British Beach Clean this year will be running from the 15th-18th September — so can we beat last years record for volunteers and beaches? For more information please contact [catherine.gemmell@mcsuk.org](mailto:catherine.gemmell@mcsuk.org).

Catherine Gemmell, MCS



## **Beavers Back for Good**



Last November the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Climate Change announced that the Scottish Government was minded to allow beavers to remain in Scotland. This is the first formal mammal reintroduction in UK history and means beavers will be back permanently after a 400 year gap since they were hunted to extinction. Work is now underway to provide the legal protection that the Cabinet Secretary described, i.e. ensuring the beavers are safeguarded via the EU Protected Species legislation. This is expected to be put in place towards the end of Spring 2017. SNH has created an information page at <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/beavers/> to highlight the beavers' interactions with the natural and human environment and their necessary management.

*© Natural habitat improvement by beavers © C A G Lloyd*

## **East Haven Citizen Science Surveys Success**

East Haven hosted the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan and ran a highly successful BioBlitz event to coincide. The full report detailing the outcomes from the East Haven BioBlitz can be downloaded from <http://www.easthavenangus.com/410664251>.

A total of 636 biological records were made comprising 347 different species.

Last year the group planted Kidney Vetch as part of the Angus Small Blue Butterfly project. In addition to nurturing the Kidney Vetch plantings, a second project will be started in 2017: the planting of native Scottish Sea Pea in designated locations along the dunes. The group is working with Scottish Natural Heritage on all this.

*Moth trapping analysis, East Haven BioBlitz 2016 © C A G Lloyd*





A Biodiversity Diary has been set up for 2017 (check <http://www.easthavenangus.com/259940025>) and includes two mini bioblitzes to follow up on the key 2016 one. Experts and participants are equally welcome to be part of these events: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (starting at 10am) and on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at mid-day. These events will only last three or four hours but refreshments will be provided at the Bothy and all records uploaded to iRecord to build on the records submitted last year.

## Useful International and National Websites:

- <http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/> - gives details about the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Biodiversity Duty for Public Bodies (Nature Conservation Scotland Act 2004) and the Scottish Biodiversity List
- <http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/> - United Nations Decade on Biodiversity
- <http://www.brisc.org.uk> - Biological Recording in Scotland
- <http://www.scottishgeology.com> - Scottish Geology Forum

*With thanks to all contributors to this Bulletin.*

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

Facebook pages: *Tayside Wildlife Recorders / Tayside Biodiversity / Tayside Swifts / Tayside Amphibians & Reptiles*



Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



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