

Falkland centre for stewardship and Big Tent 2012

January 2012 Newsletter

January 2012: the calm after the storm?

The old year certainly went out with a bang not a whimper! We had three mighty windstorms during December and early January, the final one being the worst for at least a decade. Thousands of trees are down all over the Forest of Falkland, and paths are blocked in a number of places. The Woodland Team and conservation volunteers are working flat out to clear the paths where they can, but this will take some time.

Meanwhile, everyone needs to take extra care and avoid the affected areas – we are putting signs in place, but there are places where trees weakened by the storms may be blown over by even moderate winds, SO PLEASE BE ALERT AND CAUTIOUS EVERYWHERE ON FALKLAND ESTATE. If anyone is thinking of bringing a group on a visit, please call the office first to discuss your plans.

Responding to this storm damage is a challenge – not least for Nick Page, our new Forester who started the day after the worst of the winds went through the trees like a scythe in places! We are currently revising the Forest Plan to see us through the next decade (2013-2022). This offers the opportunity to think about what we will need to do differently to develop and nurture a forest which will be more resilient to this kind of extreme and unpredictable weather event that scientists suggest will become more frequent as the climate changes. We'll be looking carefully at species selection and the design of new planting, as well as seeking appropriate ways to manage the existing forest as we seek to move more of the woodland into continuous cover forestry rather than a clear fell approach. However in the short term, these storms may necessitate a "clear fell" of certain compartments that have been so decimated and opened up - that they are now extremely vulnerable to winds. The economics of dealing with all of this will be challenging. The wind tends not to blow down the right trees in the right place – and it will be expensive to deal with, particularly in areas of challenging terrain, such as Maspie Den.

We do need help – both practical and financial – to deal with the clear-up operation. Several new volunteers have already come forward. Please get in touch if you might be able to help. However many of the windblown trees will require professional forestry contractors with the right equipment – and this will be expensive. If you are able to make a donation, it will help us get the paths restored as soon as possible. Please also bear with us, as it will take time, effort and a stretch of our resources. Thank you!

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Before and after the storm - the little Yad at the Maspie Den.

Big Tent news....Big Tent news....Big Tent news

After the exciting announcement that the Proclaimers are coming to Big Tent we are about to announce a whole host of acts and activities that will make the Big Tent this summer's must attend festival. So stay tuned!

Remember winter warmer tickets are on sale so take advantage of great early bird discounts.

<http://www.bigtentfestival.co.uk/>

Spring Events at Falkland Centre for Stewardship

We hope that you enjoy the range of activities and events we have organised for Spring. Unless indicated, all events need to be booked.

Skills Share Sessions & Suppers

Wednesdays 4-7pm from 22nd February – 28th March

These drop-in sessions will bring together people who want to learn a new skill with others willing to share something they're good at. It will be up to whoever comes to decide what to do, and there will be opportunities to arrange talks, demonstrations and workshops to learn further skills using ideas that grow from these sessions. Between 6-6.30pm, a simple but hearty supper will be served, using local and organic produce.

Some possible suggestions...knitting, weaving, crochet, patchwork quilting, feltmaking • Using a sewing machine, mending and alteration • Nature sketching, collage, clay, photography, nature journaling • Wood working, hedgerow basketry, bushcraft, drystone dyking • Growing food, wild harvesting, wood fuel, coppicing • Compost making, green manuring • Cooking and preserving fruit • Baking and bread making

Other activities • Tools maintenance • Bicycle repairs and maintenance • Whatever you would like to see in this list!

We'll also use the sessions to share tools, equipment, books, materials, surplus garden produce and anything else people are happy to offer!

Accompanied children who want to join in will be welcome. The sessions will be free but a donation for refreshments and heating costs will be requested. There may be a small charge for some materials but these will mostly be reused/ recycled/ shared. If you're interested in this idea but can't make these times, please get in touch to see if we can arrange future sessions at times that suit you.

JUST FOR KIDS

Finding feathered friends (for ages 7-12) Wednesday 15th Feb 10am – 3.30pm Join Sam, our Woodland Ranger, for an exciting day of creative activities, indoors and (weather permitting!) out in the woods. Learn how to find and identify woodland birds and other wildlife. £15 per child. Bring a packed lunch and appropriate clothing.

Easter Holiday Clubs (for ages 7-12) 2-6th April & 9-13th April 10am-3.30pm

Our Holiday Clubs offer kids the chance to spend a week on Falkland Estate trying out new skills, enjoying outdoor activities and having a great time along the way. Helped by Hazel Darwin Edwards, an experienced performer and puppeteer, and Sam, our Woodland Ranger, the young explorers will plan their own activities and be outdoors as much as weather permits. Activities could include den building and bushcraft, treasure hunts, adventure walks, puppet making, arts and crafts. Cost £85 for week.

TO BOOK:

call 01337 858838 or email info@centreforstewardship.org.uk.

<http://www.centreforstewardship.org.uk/events.htm>





Spring Events at Falkland Centre for Stewardship

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

The inside out woolly tree Starts on 1st February, 1.30pm to 2.30pm

A community arts project to create a whole new species of tree! Using fabulous images that show the microscopic structure of wood, we're going to do some tree dressing with a difference. Taking our patterns from nature, we'll choose a tree, knit and crochet its insides and decorate the tree during the Big Tent so everyone can see the hidden beauty of what lies beneath the bark and underground.

All are welcome - from complete beginners or to those with skills in knitting/crochet. We'll also need a lot of wool, so if you have any to donate, please get in touch. If you're interested, come along to the Stables Workshop to find out more.



Patchwork and applique with artist Jan Hendry Sunday 5th February 10am to 12.30pm (family workshop) and 1pm to 3.30pm (adult only workshop).

Taking inspiration from snowdrops and woodland wildlife, learn simple patchwork and appliqué techniques to design and make a small wall hanging, tablemat or bag. Cost £12.50 for adult + child, £15 for adult + 2 children, £10 adult. This includes all materials.



Felting with textile artist Linzi Knox Sunday 19th February 11am to 4pm (adult only workshop). Using both needle- and wet-felting techniques, make a small wall hanging on a woodland theme. £20 for adults (this includes all materials but bring a packed lunch).

Willow weaving with basketmaker Lise Bech Sunday 26th February 10am to 12.30pm (family workshop) and 1pm to 3.30pm (adult only workshop).

Make a spiral bird feeder for your feathered garden visitors, who will be very hungry after the long cold winter months. This simple willow weaving technique can also be used for making other garden structures as Lise will demonstrate. Cost £12.50 for adult + child, £15 for adult + 2 children, £10 adult. All materials included.



Basketmaking with Jane Wilkinson Sat 10th & Sun 11th March, 9am-5pm

Back by popular demand, we are delighted to be able to offer a two-day workshop with Jane. Suitable for beginners and improvers, you will take home a basket with a handle. Cost is £85 and includes all materials but bring your own lunch.

GUIDED WALKS

Our guided walks are free but booking is essential (weather dependent).

Budding trees Thursday 23rd February 10.30am -12.30pm

As winter turns to spring, join Sam, our Woodland Ranger, on this gentle walk looking closely at the trees of Maspie Den as the buds swell and start to open.

Sensory walk Tuesday 28th February 10.30am -12 noon

This slow ramble along the Tree Trail will engage all our senses in seeking signs of spring as woodland wildlife stirs into new life.

Signs of spring Friday 9th March 10.30am-12.30pm

Another chance to explore the Forest of Falkland with Sam, our Woodland Ranger. Enjoy the snowdrops as they reach their peak and learn about the trees as they burst into leaf.



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volunteering - your New Year's resolution?



Zero waste volunteers

As we start 2012, what about making **ZERO WASTE** your New Year's Resolution? This is what Fife Zero Waste Volunteer Programme, based at Falkland but covering the whole of Fife aspires to!

Volunteer with us to help achieve this aspiration across Fife and you'll get lots of training and support from Fife's two Zero Waste Volunteer coordinators, Kirsty and Rod. We have got plenty of activities planned so far like a **Burn's supper** and training evening in January, a visit to **Binn Eco Park** in February to see where our food waste goes, **compost workshops** and **Love Food Hate Waste training sessions** to be held here at Falkland. We will also be out and about across Fife attending events like the Fife Show and linking up with other groups such as Fife Diet, Greener Kirkcaldy and Clear Buckhaven.

That's all without even mentioning Big Tent Festival, which we will be getting stuck into planning our involvement with very soon.

We don't ask for a certain amount of time from our volunteers, you can help out as much as you like and are able to. You can help shape what we do, as the volunteers decide what things they would like to get involved with and we are always open to new ideas! Have a look at <http://www.centreforstewardship.org.uk/zerowaste.htm> to find out more about the campaigns we focus on and ways to contact us.

Monday conservation volunteers

A chance to work with other volunteers and staff on a variety of woodland tasks. The tasks are varied but right now we are concentrating on repairing and making safe the Forest of Falkland after the recent bad storms. If you are able to help then please contact Sam Docherty our Woodland Ranger on 01337 858838 or sam@centreforstewardship.org.uk.

Big Tent volunteers

We are looking for eager volunteers to work at the festival in 2012. There's a whole host of things that volunteers get involved with including evaluations, workshops, selling tickets and helping backstage. We also welcome volunteers in the months of planning Big Tent. If you are interested in being part of the Big Tent team then email bigtent@centreforstewardship.org.uk.

Funders thanks

With thanks to the following funders for their on-going support: Zero Waste Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage, Leader in Fife, Forestry Commission, Fife Council, Creative Scotland, Fife Environment Trust, Pilgrim Trust, the Big Lottery.



Sat 25th Feb, 11am to 4pm

All are welcome to come along and find out about the varied and many opportunities to get involved as a volunteer at Falkland Centre for Stewardship. Through the day there will be walks, talks and workshops introducing the range of activities that go on here.

A great chance to walk round the newly restored Stables building. Follow signs to the Stables Workshop.