

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust

(www.lockerbie-wildlife-trust.co.uk)



Scottish Charity No:
SC 005538

Eskrigg Reserve December 2024 News Bulletin

1. Eskrigg Pond on the 28th of December



2. Reported wildlife sightings at the Reserve during December

a. Birds:

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brambling, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Common Gull, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greater Egret, Greenfinch, Greylag Goose, Heron, Jackdaw, Jay, Kingfisher, Lesser Redpoll, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Robin, Rook, Siskin, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Woodcock, Woodpigeon, Wren.

b. Mammals:

Badger, Grey Squirrel, Hare, Mole, Rabbit, Red Squirrel, Roe Deer, Stoat, Woodmouse.

Photographs by Jim Rae

3. Maintenance Work

Tue. 03 **Jim Rae** tidied the Middle Walk and the area around Pearl's Place.



Fri. 06 Volunteers **Gordon Reid, Mary Johnston, Sam Pattinson** and **Derek Campbell** helped **Jim** to resurface the entrance to the Forest Road and filled in the pot holes along the first section of the Forest Road itself.

Sat. 07 **Jim** carried out his weekly Saturday morning 'Poo Patrol'. He emptied the three dog bins and picked up any dog dirt and litter he found at the sides of the path between the Reserve Car Park and the Cemetery entrance and through the Reserve. Recently, the number of bags per week has been in single figures but on this particular Saturday he was very disappointed to have to pick up **25 bags of dog dirt**. Most local dog walkers do act responsibly, but !!!!!!!



Fri. 13 Volunteers **Brian Mauson, Gordon Reid, Sam Pattinson** and **Mary Johnston** helped **Jim** fill up the pot holes down the second section of the forest road.

Sat. 14 **Jim** started to rake up the mud and dead leaves from the area of the forest road in front of the storage container.



Sun. 15 Volunteer Maintenance Sunday:

In the morning, **Gordon Reid** raked the area leading to, and in front of, the **Red Squirrel Hide**.

Meanwhile, **Jim** tidied up the path to the **Kingfisher Hide**.



In the afternoon, **Jim** finished raking up the mud and leaves from the area of the forest road in front of the storage container and bird food store.

Photographs by Jim Rae

Sun. 22 During the afternoon very strong winds brought down several conifers and an oak tree, across the forest road just north of the storage container. Jim didn't expect to be able to clear the trees before Christmas and thought the Castlemilk Forestry Staff would be on holiday until after the New Year.



Mon. 23 However, at 8.30am the next morning, two of the **Castlemilk Staff, Matthew Inman and Callum Scott**, arrived fully equipped and started to cut up the trees and clear the road. The finished by 10.00am in time for a well-earned mug of tea. Jim had the road raked soon afterwards and the road was re-opened.



Well done lads.

Eskrigg Nature Reserve and Woodland Walks were able to remain open over Christmas.

Great Support from Russell Roof Tiles

Kyle Lynch of Russell Roof Tiles invited **Jim Rae** to represent **Lockerbie Wildlife Trust** at the firm's **'Give for Good'**

event at Halleaths, Lochmaben on Tuesday 17th December.

The staff at Russell Roof Tiles had been fund-raising all year (as they do every year) and Lockerbie Wildlife Trust was just one of five local charities to be invited along on the day.

After hearing about the charitable work done by the staff of Russell Roof Tiles, both at home and abroad, the representative for each local charity was asked to give a brief account, to the assembled company, of the work done by their own charity. Each local charity was then presented with a cheque for £5,586.60 in support of their work.

Jim thanked the Staff at **Russell Roof Tiles** for their generous support.

**Total people count for December = 1,365 Average number per day = 44
Boxing Day = 104; Sunday 29th = 112**

Jim Rae (Eskrigg Reserve Manager)

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