

Community Biodiversity Action

Feb/March 09 Bulletin

The Community Biodiversity Action (CBA) Project is now in full swing, seeing the conclusion this year of some projects such as Ae Banking and Rhonehouse Fair Green and the start of new ones, such as those at Amisfield, Langholm and Whithorn. Here's a update on what's been happening and some exciting things to come.

Allanton Wildlife Garden

This summer, a wildlife garden is to be created within the beautiful walled garden at Allanton House, near Auldgirth the Scottish HQ of the World Peace Prayer Society. A winning design from the Dr Finlayson Challenge, run by DGC Countryside Rangers, will be chosen from amongst primary school groups taking part. As many children and parents as possible will be involved in the creation and ongoing development of this garden. Local schools have been invited to 'adopt a patch' and get involved in exploring wildlife habitats not just in the garden but also in the wider grounds which include a woodland, a pond and a young orchard.



THE FAIR GREEN

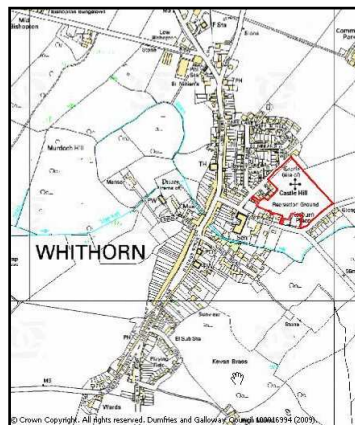


*Extract:
Rhonehouse Fair
Green
wildlife
board*

April 25th -a grand opening event at Rhonehouse Fair Green where the new interpretation boards and seating will be revealed. Activities for all the family are planned.

Rhonehouse Fair Green committee continue to manage the grassland on the Fair Green attending to the gorse stands and the trees. More trees will be planted this spring.

Whithorn Evergreens Castlehill Park Biodiversity Project



A large public space on the eastern edge of Whithorn with some games facilities but very few trees, shrubs or flowers to support wildlife.

The Evergreen group have decided to take on the task of improving the situation for the birds and the bees! No easy task! The group have been busy consulting the community at a public meeting, in the library and involving others through the school, the family learning group and the community council. Approximately 150 metres of new footpath with a seating area will



form a structure around which the group hope to create oases of various plantings to support wildlife and to encourage more local people to use and enjoy this special area.

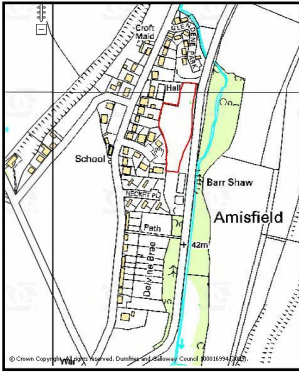
Idea for a project? Contact 01387260127 or ruth.paterson@dumgal.gov.uk



If you'd like to write something about your CBA project in this bulletin—we'd like to read it! Please send text to me at ruth.paterson@dumgal.gov.uk 100-200 words—next deadline 3rd April



Amisfield Gardening Group Amisfield Community Woodland



Roughly a hectare of land, this young woodland provides a buffer between the A701 and the village. Gifted to the community, it was planted up nine years ago by the house builders with a mixture of silver birch, alder, beech, oak and larch. At one end of the site a willow hedgehog feature

was created with the local school under the Mammal Guardians project run by Solway Heritage for the D & G Biodiversity Partnership during 2005 – 2006. The other end of the site shares a border with a play park by the Village Hall and tennis courts.

The local Gardening Group are keen to develop the site as a community wildlife area. The school are happy to give their ideas and get involved in educational events and starting this week some pupils will be making nest boxes—as part of National Nest box building week.



The Gardening group trimmed some paths last year which meant the children and adults found it easier to use the site. Meetings are underway to consider ideas and consult further about a possible trail linking the park to the willow hedgehog.

Lockerbie Wildlife Trust—Environmental education centre

Plans for the Environmental education centre were submitted to planning over the winter. Some adjustments were required and the Wildlife Trust are waiting for these to be completed

Check out these websites for wildlife info and resources:

<http://www.wildlifefestival.org.uk/>
<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/>

<http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/>
<http://www2.btcv.org.uk/>

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

Langholm Community Initiative

The Community Biodiversity Action Project has teamed up with the Langholm Initiative to help local people develop Galaside Community Woodland.

The wood is sandwiched between two areas of housing to the west of Langholm and includes footpath links to the local sports complex and the Academy. The paths will be upgraded and the wildlife value of the wood enhanced.



Ae Banking Wildlife Project

The children at Ae primary school are organising a clear up of any unwelcome rubbish on the site. They have also taken on Salmon in the Classroom project and will be learning about the fish in the Goukstone Burn this spring when the salmon fry are released.

On a walkabout at the site on the 2nd Feb, the older primary children came up with some ideas including seating by the pond; planting wild flowers in different places; a bird hide; someone to come and talk about the wildlife in the pond.



School visits and Wildlife Learning Events

Between spring and autumn seven community groups will each host between one and three wildlife learning events. More details about the programme in the next bulletin.

In addition an experienced environmental educator will visit the following schools and organise a one off hands on, on site wildlife event.

- Ae Primary
- Gelston Primary
- Whithorn Primary
- Amisfield Primary
- Langholm Primary

and

- The winning primary school in the Dr Finlayson Challenge for the wildlife garden design

