



On your Way

News from Bo'net about the John Muir Way

SPRING 2015

Walk this Way for John Muir events

WALKERS, nature lovers and music fans are being encouraged to join in a week of events to celebrate the first anniversary of the launch of the John Muir Way.

The 134-mile trail, which passes some of the Falkirk area's biggest tourist attractions, was launched in April last year.

A spokesperson for Falkirk Council - which is helping to co-ordinate some of the anniversary activities - said: "A range of events, on or near the route, have been organised to celebrate the first anniversary of the John Muir Way.

"The Kelpies will be turned purple - the official colour of the John Muir Way logo. There will also be linked events around the Helix Park during the week, plus Kinneil House open days in Bo'ness; an 11-mile walk around part of the Way; and a shorter walk from Bo'ness to Blackness. People can also expect a mini-adventure for toddlers and an environmental festival at Callendar House in Falkirk; as well as a badger watch at Muiravonside Country Park for older children and adults.

"The local celebrations will end with a folk night, supported by Falkirk Folk Club, at the Corbie Inn in Bo'ness - yards from the trail - on Sunday, April 26. Hopefully people will join in the fun events and get out and explore some of the great bits of the John Muir Way we have in our area."

Local groups have joined forces with the Council, Falkirk Community Trust, Historic Scotland, Scottish Canals and Scottish Natural Heritage to celebrate the anniversary. Many events are free, although places may have to be booked in advance. You'll find the full programme at www.visitfalkirk.com - and inside this newsletter.

You can also get information by emailing: rangers@falkirk.gov.uk or calling 01324 504950.

This year's local programme is being supported by Falkirk Football Club, which is promoting John Muir events to their fans. Kieran Koszary from the Club said: "We're encouraging all our supporters to learn more about Falkirk's unique history and wildlife during this special week of events."

THE John Muir Way is a 134-mile, coast-to-coast path, running from Dunbar to Helensburgh. It was opened in April 2014 to celebrate the life of John Muir, the Scottish-born naturalist and author, often dubbed the 'Father' of national parks in America.

In Falkirk district the trail passes by Blackness Castle, the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway, Kinneil House and Museum, the Union Canal, Callendar House and Park, The Falkirk Wheel and stretches of the Roman Antonine Wall.

The route is way marked by the distinctive purple John Muir Way logo. It is accessible for users of all abilities and there are access points for short and long walks.

The route was formally launched last year with an arts and community festival which included a spectacular light show at the Kelpies and Helix Park, which is a short distance from the official trail.

Since its launch, the trail has attracted people from all over the world.

For more information, pick up a leaflet in libraries and local attractions - or visit www.johnmuirway.org



The John Muir Way leading to Blackness Castle.



Romans

THE John Muir Way crosses parts of the Antonine Wall - most notably at Kinneil, Bo'ness; at Callendar Park in Falkirk; and at the Falkirk Wheel. Look out for talks, walks and special events during the Big Roman Week festival every September. Visit the website for more details or email: info@kinneil.org.uk

www.bigromanweek.org.uk

Ale tale

JUST west of Bo'ness Harbour you'll find the Kinneil Brew House - brewing beers behind the Corbie Inn pub since November 2011. It's a true microbrewery, producing 368 litres per brew (about nine casks or 80 gallons).

www.kinneilbrew.co.uk

Movie magic

THE John Muir Way passes by the historic town of Bo'ness, which boasts Scotland's first purpose-built cinema, the Hippodrome. The building was recently refurbished and is now open six days a week.

<http://bit.ly/hippo-cinema>



Walkers at Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness.

Route at heart of Scotland

IT'S been a year since the launch of the John Muir Way: Scotland's coast-to-coast trail stretching 134 miles (or 215 km) across Scotland's heartland. The Way runs between Helensburgh in the west through to Dunbar on the east coast and Muir's birthplace.

Walkers, cyclists and horse riders can enjoy the coastal scenery, sweeping landscapes, wildlife sites and historic visitor attractions across Scotland's heartland.

From the Clyde coast the route travels inland to Gouk Hill with splendid views of Scotland's first national park - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. John Muir would surely approve!

Moving east the route takes in the unique Falkirk Wheel, the Roman remains of the Antonine Wall, Arthur's Seat

volcano in Edinburgh, and on to the rocky coastline of Dunbar, where Muir played as a boy.

To mark the first anniversary, SNH and partners are running events and activities around the Way, helping people celebrate Muir's love of the outdoors. Find out more about what's on at:

www.snh.gov.uk/johnmuir2015

There is also a dedicated website for this way-marked route. It provides people with all sorts of useful information on completing all or part of the Way, places to stop for a bite to eat and local points of interest worth a visit. Much of the Way links with public transport, making it easy to reach, so why not give it a go this spring?

www.johnmuirway.org

Events for all the family . . .

HERE are some of the local events taking place to mark the first anniversary of the opening of the John Muir Way.

Saturday, April 18

The Kelpies turn purple for the John Muir Way anniversary. Helix Park, Falkirk, (time TBC). www.thehelix.co.uk

Kinneil House Open Day, Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness, noon to 3 p.m. See inside this renaissance building, right beside the John Muir Way, for free.

www.kinneil.org.uk

Sunday, April 19

John Muir Way "Walk Falkirk Challenge", 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join Falkirk Council Ranger Service on the first leg of a walk of around 11 miles along the John Muir Way in Falkirk district, from Banknock heading east. The walk will stop for a short break at Falkirk Wheel at lunchtime (bring your own picnic). En route walkers will learn about Falkirk's history and wildlife.

Booking essential. More information: 01324 504950 or email:

rangers@falkirk.gov.uk.

Kinneil House Open Day, Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness, noon to 3 p.m. See inside this renaissance building for free – and go for a walk along the John Muir Way in the grounds of the surrounding Kinneil Estate and neighbouring Nature Reserve.

www.kinneil.org.uk

Monday, April 20

Toddling O'Clock - Poppy's Garden, 10.30 a.m. Callendar House, Falkirk. Sensory drama, music and a mini-adventure for two to five-year-olds and their adult. More information: Cost £3.50 (admits one child and up to two adult carers). Booking essential: call the Steeple Box Office on 01324 506850

Friday, April 24

John Muir Way Badger Watch, 7.45 p.m. Muiravonside Country Park near Whitecross. Suitable for adults and children six years and over. Price £3 per person. Booking essential: call the Steeple Box Office on 01324 506850

www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/heritage

Saturday, April 25

Environmental Festival, Callendar House, Falkirk 10 a.m. Come along and meet representatives from Falkirk Community Trust, the Forestry Commission, Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre, the RSPB, the local Nature

Fest festival and Scottish Badgers in front of Callendar House. Find out how to become more eco-friendly, make use of your parks and woodlands, and re-discover nature.

Call Callendar House on 01324 503770.

www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/heritage



The people of Blackness and Bo'ness mark the first anniversary of the John Muir Way with a community walk from Carriden, Bo'ness, to Blackness Castle. Meet at Carriden Church car park at 1 pm. Round trip, around five miles. Bring a picnic to enjoy in the castle grounds.

<http://j.mp/blackness-walk>

Sunday, April 26

Music session with Falkirk Folk Club, featuring Carron Cast. Corbie Inn, Corbiehall, Bo'ness, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Free. The real ale pub, which also boasts a micro-brewery, is just off the John Muir Way.

www.corbieinn.co.uk

Reserve team

IN recent years Kinneil Foreshore – at the western edge of Bo'ness – has become Kinneil Nature Reserve. The former pit site is currently managed by Falkirk Council in conjunction with the charity The Friends of Kinneil. Wildlife experts say you can spot bats, owls, deer, butterflies and a range of plants and trees on the site. Come winter, the sheltered waters and mudflats are home to species like curlew, dunlin, eider duck, shelduck and pink-footed geese!



The Friends are always looking for volunteers to help with environmental improvements. Email: info@kinneil.org.uk

www.kinneil.org.uk/reserve

Virtual visit

BLACKNESS Castle, just off the John Muir Way, is one of the historic buildings that has recently been added to Google Street View. You can now explore the Castle from anywhere in the world – although there's nothing like a visit in person!

goo.gl/x0ZyKZ

Free outdoor diary

FALKIRK Council has published its annual Outdoor Events Diary. The guide – available from libraries, museums and tourist outlets – lists lots of events, many free, to encourage people to enjoy the great outdoors, just like John Muir!

The guide is also available online: <http://j.mp/fc-eventsdiary2015>



Lots to do in Bo'ness and Blackness

VISITING Bo'ness and Blackness for the first time? Pick up a free leaflet developed by Bo'net, in conjunction with The Friends of Kinneil. You'll find supplies at Kinneil Museum and other local outlets. The leaflet contains a map and information on major attractions. www.unlockboness.com and www.kinneil.org.uk/bonet

Make a House call

HISTORIC Kinneil House in Bo'ness - right on the John Muir Way - is staging eight free open days in 2015.

The mansion – which boasts some of the best renaissance wall paintings in Scotland – dates back to the 15th century and was once home to the Dukes of Hamilton.

The free tours started in March. Further open days will take place in April, May, June, August, September

and October. Full details are online at www.kinneil.org.uk.

You can also pick up a leaflet at Kinneil Museum.

The events have been organised by the charity The Friends of Kinneil in association with Historic Scotland, which cares for Kinneil House, and Falkirk Community Trust. The House is the centrepiece of Kinneil Estate, a public park.

Maria Ford from The Friends of Kinneil said: "Last year was a bumper year at Kinneil, with a big growth in visitors and some great responses to our open days. We're hoping for similar success in 2015.

"All of the open events are free of charge and allow people to see inside this wonderful building.

"Kinneil is also packed with history – boasting links to Mary, Queen of Scots, the inventor James Watt, and of course the Romans ... who built the Antonine Wall right through the grounds. Our guides will be on hand to tell visitors about Kinneil's amazing story. We're also planning special surprises and activities to make Kinneil a place you'll want to come back to, again and again."

Amy Mack, Regional Tourism and Community Manager for Historic Scotland, said: "Although you can tour the grounds of Kinneil House throughout the year, you can only see inside the building on these special open days.

"We're pleased to be working with The Friends of Kinneil to run a new series of events in 2015. The events are free of charge and will offer a variety of experiences throughout the year. Look out for costumed interpreters, themed events and walks in the grounds."

Falkirk Community Trust is opening Kinneil Museum at additional times to tie in with Kinneil House open days. The facility is normally open from Mondays to Saturdays from 12.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum has recently been renovated in a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

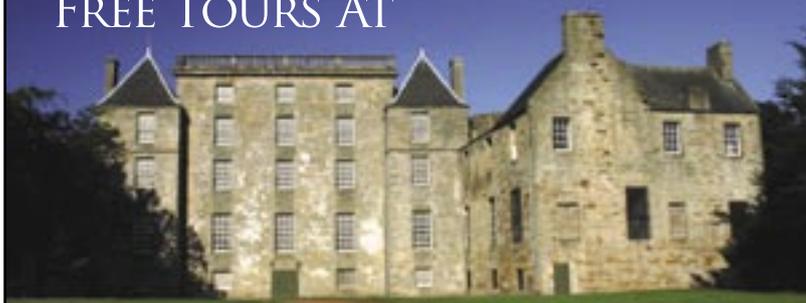
Keep in touch via social media:

www.twitter.com/kinneil or
www.facebook.com/kinneil



EVENTS IN 2015

FREE TOURS AT



KINNEIL HOUSE

KINNEIL ESTATE, BO'NESS

- March 21, 2015 (10 am to noon)
- April 18, 2015 (noon to 3 pm)
- April 19, 2015 (noon to 3 pm)
- May 15, 2015 (6 pm to 7 pm)
- June 27, 2015 (noon to 3 pm)
- August 29, 2015 (noon to 3 pm)
- September 19, 2015 (noon to 3 pm)
- October 31, 2015 (noon to 3 pm)

You can view the exterior of Kinneil House - and tour the grounds - all year. See inside Kinneil House during our free open days. Organised by Historic Scotland with the support of The Friends of Kinneil (Charity Registration Number: SC038368) and Falkirk Community Trust (Charity Registration Number: SC042403). Last admission to Kinneil House is normally 30 minutes before closing. Kinneil Estate is on the western edge of Bo'ness in central Scotland, just off the A904/A993 and is part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. For satellite navigation devices, use the postcode EH51 0PR. For updates visit www.kinneil.org.uk or www.twitter.com/kinneil or www.fb.com/kinneil or www.historic-scotland.gov.uk or www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org

THE FRIENDS OF KINNEIL
www.kinneil.org.uk

Falkirk Community Trust

HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALEX. ROSSMORRE

