

Big Tent 2012

So we've had our year off but we are absolutely delighted to let you know that Big Tent will be returning on 21st-22nd July 2012. Scotland's environmental festival will again host a full programme of activities for all the family - workshops, performances, folk music and debates.

We are even more delighted to announce that **The Proclaimers** will be headlining on Saturday 21st July. The Proclaimers are one of Scotland's most prolific acts and also local lads who will be returning to perform less than 5 miles from the village of Auchtermuchty where they grew up. They'll be releasing their 9th studio album ahead of Big Tent. What could be more fitting....

Tickets for Big Tent are now on sale either on-line or through our office. Get your hands on pre-Christmas specials - www.bigtentfestival.co.uk.

Zero Waste news

Competition time!

Put your cooking skills to the test and enter our **'Love Food Hate Waste Christmas Competition'**.

We want to inspire home cooks and budding chefs alike to come up with some delicious recipes that turn Christmas leftovers into tasty meals, and that includes vegetarian ones, promoting the national 'Love Food Hate Waste' message. The star prize is a **Christmas hamper** (including an organic, free-range turkey) from Pillars organic farm shop. In addition, the recipes will be displayed on Zero Waste Scotland social media sites.

To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is send in your Xmas leftovers recipe to rod@centreforstewardship.org.uk by **Friday 16th December** - so get creative!



Compost bins

Pupils from primary schools around Fife have been in competition with one another to create a beautiful design for their school compost bin. Congratulations to **Megan Douglas** from primary 7, South Parks Primary School Glenrothes for her fantastic compost bin design. Megan worked with local artist **Lindi Knowles** to transfer the design on to the bin. Megan wins both art material vouchers for herself and gardening vouchers for the school.

New year's resolution?

Why not start off 2012 as a **Zero Waste Volunteer**? As a volunteer you will be helping to run and attend events, give talks to schools and community groups and will give advice to residents in Fife about reducing food waste, composting successfully at home and recycling. Full training and support are given and you can volunteer as much or little time as suits you. Contact kirsty@centreforstewardship.org.uk for more information.

Stables update - it's nearly complete!

After many months, we will be opening our new **Volunteer and Visitor Centre on Saturday 25th February**. Come along between 11am-4pm to find out about the many and varied opportunities to get involved as a volunteer with Falkland Centre for Stewardship. Through the day there will be walks, talks and workshops introducing the range of activities that go on here.



Megan and her winning design





Living, Working, Learning Woodlands

We are very pleased to welcome several new members to the Woodland Team in the Forest of Falkland. Our **Woodland Ranger, Sam Docherty**, started in early October, in a post supported for two years by Forestry for People Challenge Funds. **Shawn Gilmour, Colin Gray, Ross Greig, James Laing and Graham Smart** have joined the team as Forestry and Landscape Ranger Assistants for six months until April, with funding from Community Jobs Scotland. Finally, our new Forester will be joining the team in January.



Working with Schools

This Autumn we've been joined by pupils from Glenrothes and Bell Baxter High Schools and primary schools from across Fife for a variety of activities including conservation tasks, bushcraft, woodworking, arts and crafts. Boys from the House of Falkland School worked with local craftsman Tom's Byre at Westfield to make the attractive benches that now sit in front of the workshop – not just somewhere to enjoy the sun on mild days, but with integral planters to grow herbs for the kitchen and attract bees and butterflies next spring and summer. We're also delighted with the new wooden Tree Trail markers made by pupils from Sandy Brae Support Unit. We're very pleased to have secured support from the Forest Education Initiative to run another Introduction to Forestry work placement for Bell Baxter pupils next year.



Woodland awakening!

Come and celebrate the start of spring as part of Fife's Snowdrop Festival. An exciting new programme of events for all ages is on our website, including:

- Finding feathered friends: wildlife-watching for ages 7-12 on 5th Feb.
- Weekend craft workshops in February and March (willow weaving, felting, quilting & applique) with sessions for families and adults.
- Guided woodland walks on 23rd, 28th February & 9th March.
- 'Inside out woolly tree' community arts project starting 1 February.
- Skillshare sessions and suppers starting 22nd February 4-7pm.



Volunteering

A group of Conservation Volunteers meets every Monday to carry out a range of practical tasks around Falkland Estate. There's a range of tasks to suit everyone so why not come along and try it? There's also a number of people carrying out wildlife surveys e.g. red squirrels, birds, moths and plants. Training is available for anyone who'd like to learn more about this beautiful area and get closer to wildlife.



Easter Holiday Club

For ages 7-12 on 2-5th and 9-13th April

A great opportunity for children to spend a week on Falkland Estate trying out new skills and enjoying being outdoors with performer and puppeteer Hazel Darwin Edwards and Sam, our Woodland Ranger.



Thank you for your support -

have a lovely Christmas and see you in 2012!

From the team at Falkland Centre for Stewardship

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