

Lothians Conservation Volunteers

In support of the Scottish Wildlife Trust

puggled mucker

Spring 2010

Issue 149

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**Lothians
Conservation
Volunteers**

www.lcv.org.uk

Last time I wrote this column I was confidently predicting that the new LCV bus would soon be on the road. Nothing, of course, is quite that simple. Its first trip out was scuppered due to malfunctioning keys; the second was cancelled due to heavy snow. The omission of some text from the new livery we'd requested forced a second trip to the signwriter in mid January but, touch wood, everything is ticking along nicely now.

The old yellow bus moved on to pastures new—thanks to a group of headtorch wearing, hairdryer toting volunteers who stepped in at short notice to peel off its livery and spruce it up for the last available auction before Christmas, where it found a new home.

Thanks to Ken, the garage water supply is coming along nicely. Despite discovering at nine o'clock on a Friday night that in order to allow the plumbers access to dig the necessary holes the bus had to be out of the shed by nine o'clock the following morning—thanks Calvin—we now have a very shiny if, as yet, unconnected tap.

Finally, tasks and social events continue to be well attended. We've been out to two new sites recently—Whitmuir Farm in the Scottish Borders and Gartmorn Dam in Clackmannanshire—and we enjoyed a glorious pub quiz victory in February!

Louisa Martin—Co-ordinator



Lothians Conservation Volunteers

We are a Scottish Charity, run entirely by volunteers, and we've been doing conservation work in and around Edinburgh for nearly forty years.

We belong to the BTCV Community Network. Our funding comes from the clients that we work for, and also by grants from organisations like Scottish Wildlife Trust and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Charity number SC020384



Supported by grant aid from
Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Editor Writes...

I hope this finds you all comfortably defrosted and in one piece after the icy challenges of 'The Big Freeze'. Our winter programme was not seriously disrupted by the extreme weather conditions, with only one cancellation due to heavy snow; a testament to the all round hardiness of LCV.

We are now set for a packed programme of spring tasks thanks to Matt's hard work on the programme behind the scenes, with a number of Saturday tasks on offer in addition to the usual Sundays. The Taynish residential is already booked up and we hope to confirm a summer residential soon.

In this issue Edel Sheridan has provided a write up of LCV's mince pie-fuelled festive social activities, find out more on page 15. Both David Nutter and Trevor Paterson responded to my plea for this issue's *resi recipe* so we've printed both; to add a couple of delicious calorie packed puddings to your residential catering repertoire look no further than pages 19 and 20.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the *Mucker*. This is your newsletter, and contributions from all LCV members are welcome. Most formats can be accommodated—handwritten, drawn, photographed, electronic. Just get in touch with me by 25 May if you have something you'd like to see included in the next edition.

Task Programme

March 14

Whitmuir Farm: tree planting and fencework

Whitmuir Farm is a small, organic farm in the Scottish Borders where fruit and vegetables are grown and poultry and livestock are raised in natural and chemical-free and conditions. Pigs roam free through the forest and chickens are truly free-range.

The farm sits in a very exposed position where strong prevailing winds cause soil erosion. Trees were recently planted in a wide alley system between which crops are grown. This not only helps reduce soil erosion but planting native tree species—beneath which will be an area of uncultivated ground cover—will also benefit biodiversity and increase soil fertility as nutrients cycle through the trees.

On this visit we be fencing off an area around a pond that will be used to supply a cattle trough. We will also construct simple shelters to protect oak trees in an area used for grazing livestock.



March 19 – 21

Taynish Residential: woodland management

The ancient deciduous woodland at Taynish is one of the largest in Britain. Oak trees have flourished here for 6,000 years or more—a little longer than people have lived here. Once a source of timber and charcoal, these woods now form one of Britain's largest remaining native oakwoods. The importance of the site was recognised in 1977 by designation as a National Nature Reserve and it is now managed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Taynish lies on a scenic peninsula overlooking Loch Sween, which was scoured out by glaciers 11,000 years ago and has an atmosphere all of its own.

The peninsula has a wide range of habitats, including shoreline, grassland, scrub, bog, heath and woodland, each home to a host of plants, insects, birds and mammals that thrive in the clean, humid air. In all, between the woodland's dripping ferns and mosses and the marsh and grassland, over 300 plant species and more than 20 kinds of butterfly are supported. To help the woods keep their near-nat-

ural character and rich wildlife, SNH is encouraging the spread of native trees by controlling deer, which browse on young trees. SNH is also removing rhododendron, which crowds out other plants.

On this visit to the site we will be removing invasive beech, gorse and rhododendron. Accommodation is in the luxurious Kilmartin 'bothy' with cosy beds, en-suite showers and a useful 'drying room' for your gear in the possible event of rain. Duvets and pillows are provided, but please bring (single) bed linen with you. This task is now fully booked.

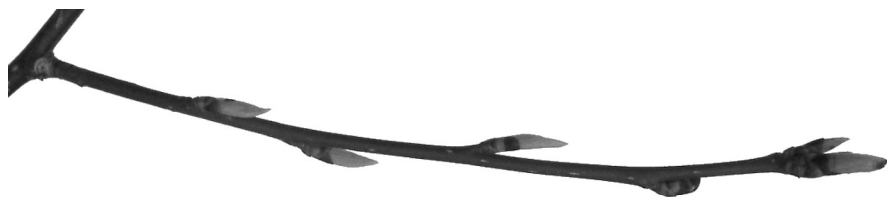
March 28

Spottiswoode: tree planting

Dr David Long from the Royal Botanic Gardens has purchased land near Lauder that contains a spruce plantation. He has gradually removed the spruce and replaced it with natural broadleaf woodland, to increase biodiversity. LCV has visited Spottiswoode a number of times in the last couple of years, clearing and burning spruce and planting trees. On this task we will be continuing the tree planting work—planting native species on the land cleared of spruce and brash, and protecting the trees with guards and stakes.

April 4

Easter weekend: No task



April 10 SATURDAY

Addiewell Bing: tree planting

Addiewell Bing is a long, narrow reserve of 21 hectares just south of Bathgate in West Lothian, which is leased and managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT). It is an excellent example of how a derelict industrial site—part of the oil shale industry—can be converted into an important wildlife refuge.

Most of the reserve is covered by woodland and scrub, but there are also patches of bracken, heather, open grassland and marshy ground with a rich variety of plants and birds. Originally, the area was planted with lodgepole pine to help stabilise the steep sides of this old spoil heap. More recently, these trees

have been replaced with native species including oak and ash.

In the past we have felled lodgepole pine, upgraded the footpath and cleared invading broom from areas of heather. On this visit we will be planting Scots pine.

April 11

Addiewell: tree planting

This task will be a continuation of the work begun on April 10.

April 18

Beecraigs Country Park: path work

Beecraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow, is owned and managed by West Lothian Council. It spans 370 hectares over the Bathgate Hills and comprises a commercially active conifer plantation, a deer attraction, a loch, a caravan and camping site and a large play area. Beecraigs is navigable by several way-marked trails and offers both the shelter of deep woodland and access to fantastic views over the Forth Valley. LCV has done a variety of tasks here, including tree planting and coppicing, drystone dyking, footpath work, boardwalk construction, bridge building and step building. On this occasion we will be carrying out pathwork to improve access.

April 25

Leadburn: tree planting

Leadburn Community Woodland was recently purchased from the Forestry Commission by a small group of individuals known as the Friends of Leadburn Community Woodland. The group intend to replace the previous plantation of conifers with native trees such as silver birch, ash, oak and rowan, among others, and planting at the site has recently begun. On this visit we will be planting trees. The area is boggy in places, so wellies are recommended if you have them.

May 2

Beecraigs Country Park: path work

This task will be a continuation of the work begun on April 18.

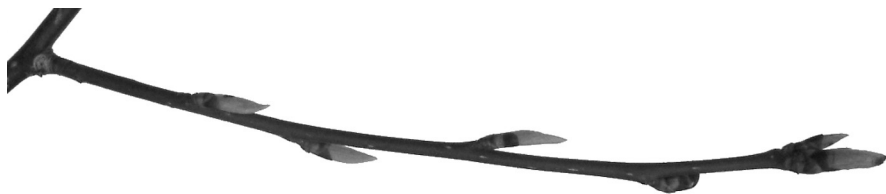
May 8 SATURDAY

Bawsinch: giant hogweed removal

Bawsinch and Duddingston Loch are found on the southern edge of Holyrood Park, just below Arthur's Seat and only three kilometres from the city centre.

Formerly a derelict industrial site, Bawsinch is a triangular area next to the south shore of the loch. This 26 hectare reserve, partly owned and managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, is a bird sanctuary and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The area boasts breeding and wintering wildfowl, marshland with reedbeds and willow, patches of scrub and woodland, some freshwater ponds and an area of grassland named Goose Green. In the past LCV has felled trees, cleared ponds, built log bridges and cleared invasive vegetation. On this task we will be removing giant hogweed.

Giant hogweed has a corrosive phototoxic sap that can cause serious skin and eye damage. This would normally preclude us from working with this dangerous invasive plant but as the sap doesn't form until later in the year it is possible to safely remove giant hogweed from Bawsinch at this point in the calendar.



May 9 Roslin Glen: pathwork and woodland maintenance

Roslin Glen is a 19 hectare reserve to the east of Roslin village and on the south bank of the River North Esk in Midlothian. The site is owned and managed by Midlothian Council. It is a relatively undisturbed mixed deciduous woodland largely made up of native sessile oak, wych-elm and ash, with a shrub layer of hazel and holly. There are also some introduced sycamore, beech and Norway spruce trees which are gradually being removed.

The area boasts a rich woodland flora which includes dog's mercury, ramsons, wood-rush and various ferns. Dippers and kingfishers can be seen in the fairly clean waters of the Esk. The area has been put under a Millennium Forest for Scotland grant scheme to return the woodland to a native mixture of trees such as ash, alder, oak, pine and birch. On this task we will maintaining the woodland habitat and improving access by working on steps and paths in the glen.

May 15 SATURDAY Beecraigs Country Park: path work

This task will be a continuation of the work begun on April 18.

May 16

Beecraigs Country Park: path work

This task will be a continuation of the work begun on April 18.



May 23

Gullane: Pirri pirri burr removal

Gullane Links are part of the beautiful and dramatic coastal scenery in East Lothian, which includes sand dunes, mudflats, sandy beaches, rocky headlands, steep cliffs and a scattering of small islands. Gullane Bay is about two miles north-east of Aberlady and is one of the finest and most popular sandy beaches within easy reach of Edinburgh.

Pirri pirri burr is a low growing, evergreen perennial native to New Zealand. The plant has become invasive along parts of the East Lothian coastline, where it outcompetes native grasses on the dune system. On this task we will be helping the East Lothian Rangers remove pirri pirri burr.

May 29 SATURDAY

Bawsinch: Himalayan balsam removal

See May 8 for a description of this site. On this task, we will be controlling the invasive weed Himalayan balsam.

May 30

Bawsinch: tree weeding

See May 8 for a description of this site. On this task, we will be weeding around young trees.

June 6

Easter Craiglockhart Hill: meadow raking

Easter Craiglockhart Hill is above Craiglockhart Sports Centre and is one of Edinburgh's seven hills offering excellent views across the city towards the castle and Arthur's Seat. The area is owned jointly by the City of Edinburgh Council

and Napier University. We will be working with the Friends of Craiglockhart Woods and Nature Trail—a local group supported by the Scottish Wildlife Trust—who have produced a management plan and a trail leaflet, and continue to manage the site for wildlife. In the past on this site LCV has put in log steps, improved the footpath, cleared Japanese knotweed and built a nesting platform for mute swans. On this visit we will be raking up strimmed grass to continue the development of a wildflower meadow.

June 13

Beecraigs Country Park: path work

This task will be a continuation of the work begun on April 18.

June 20

Pishwantan: TBC

This 60 acre site is located two miles south of Gifford, near Haddington in East Lothian. The Life Science Trust was established in 1992 to research, teach and promote education methods that enable people to rediscover connections with the natural world and develop a partnership with their environment. It purchased the woods in 1996 and the site sits at 700 ft on the edge of the Lammermuir Hills. Occupation of the area dates back to prehistoric times and there is a large Iron Age burial mound. Research and teaching is carried out on a wide variety of topics—medicinal plant study, herb growing, land and craft skills and ecological building methods to name a few. On previous tasks, LCV has planted trees and cut gorse for weaving into a fence. This site can be wet so wellies are strongly recommended if you have them! For up-to-date information about what we'll be doing on this task please consult the LCV website at www.lcv.org.uk.

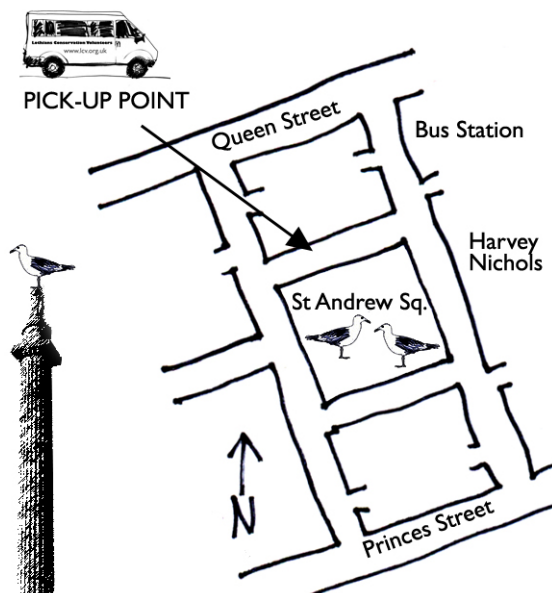
June 27

Vogrie Country Park: path work

Vogrie is a popular country park four kilometres south-east of Dalkeith run by Midlothian Council. About half the area is covered by woodland and scrub, with smaller patches of grassland, three ponds, an alder coppice and a conifer plantation. Over the years we have carried out a variety of tasks, including clearing the ponds and sections of the River Tyne, cutting some of the grass on the meadow, repairing part of a drystone dyke, clearing scrub, coppicing alder and planting trees. On this task, we will be helping to improve access by carrying out path-work in the park.

How to book and what to bring

Day tasks



We meet on the north side of St. Andrew Square at 9.30 a.m. prompt—look out for our white minibus. We normally aim to return around 5.30 p.m. Bring warm clothes, a hat, waterproofs, a packed lunch, plenty of drinking water and boots or wellies—steel toe-cap wear is recommended. If you have your own work gloves, you might want to bring them, though we do have gloves that anyone can borrow. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Transport is free, but please phone Debbie, the Transport Secretary, by the Friday evening before the task if you are coming—this is so that we know how many tools to take, whether there's room in the minibus and so that we don't go without you. Tasks are very popular, so you're advised to book early. We also only have 12 seats in the bus, so please come if you've booked, or someone else will miss out. If the bus is full, or it's easier for you, you can of course meet us at the site of the task, but again please inform the Transport Secretary, so we can let you know the meeting point and also when we expect to arrive.

Before you come on any task with us, please make sure that your tetanus vaccination is up to date. We don't cancel the task if it's raining.

Residential Tasks

Residentials are great fun—see the review in the Views section—and they allow LCV to undertake larger tasks further from Edinburgh. They involve a weekend away to work on the Saturday and Sunday. We leave on Friday night and usually take in a chip shop on the way. We get back to Edinburgh on Sunday evening.

Regardless of the time of year, bring a complete change of clothing so that you can get out of your work clothes in the evening. Remember that the weather can be very changeable, so bring a warm jumper and hat and above all don't forget a waterproof jacket and trousers and sturdy footwear. A sturdy bottle for drinking water is recommended. Unless otherwise indicated you'll probably need to take a sleeping bag and, if sleeping on the floor, a Karrimat or air-bed.

On residential tasks, breakfasts, lunches and the evening meal are organised by a volunteer. Everyone helps to prepare the food. The fare is usually vegetarian and there is plenty of it. Food for a weekend usually works out at £6 – £7 each. Pick-up is from St. Andrew Square at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, unless otherwise stated. If you want to go on a residential task, please book with the Transport Secretary. Normally, bookings will be accepted for weekend residential tasks up to the preceding Wednesday evening.

Before you come on any task with us, please make sure that your tetanus vaccination is up to date.

Monthly committee meetings

Every second Tuesday of the month, we have a committee meeting at 16 Forth Street, off Broughton Street, at 7.30 p.m. We leave a notice near the door with a mobile number to call so we can let you in. You are welcome to join us while we discuss LCV business. We often go for a drink in a local pub afterwards.



News

Our Victorious Pub Quiz Team: The LCV 6—Emma reports.

On Monday 1 February, a small but merry band of LCVerS entered the pub quiz at the Cumberland Bar in Edinburgh's New Town. After six rounds of questions and a few drinks, the 'LCV 6' emerged victorious, beating numerous rival teams to win a coveted sticker each and a bottle of wine—a bottle I have saved for a suitable occasion!

The quiz was lighthearted and fun with questions ranging from sport, film and music to geography and where to buy the best fitting bras on the high street. If you would like to join us for another bash at the quiz our next social date at the Cumberland is Monday 10 May. Details over the page in the Social Programme. All welcome and if we win this time someone else can take the wine home—it could be you!

Emma Brown



Leading tasks and driving for LCV

We are always looking for new volunteers to lead tasks. There is a description of how to lead a task on the LCV website—look under 'how to'—and training courses are run from time to time. Normally an experienced leader would be around for backup for the first few tasks. Minibus drivers are also needed—if you are a relatively experienced driver, the first step is to do an LCV familiarisation session with the minibus to see how you get on. Our aim is that all LCV drivers will also receive MiDAS training, which involves theoretical and practical aspects of safe driving. If you might be interested in either leading tasks or driving for LCV, please get in touch with Simon Bonsall, contact details inside the back cover.

LCV clothing

Our range includes LCV tops (S, M, L, XL sizes in deep navy or khaki with the LCV logo on) and fleece neckwarmers with drawstrings, so they also double as hats (one-size in charcoal). Costs are: £25 for a hooded sweatshirt, £20 for a sweatshirt, £12 for a T-Shirt and £7 for a neckwarmer. If you're interested in adding to your wardrobe, please send your order to Mark Herron—address inside the back cover of the Mucker—noting the item, size and colour. We need payment with your order: please make cheques payable to 'Lothians Conservation Volunteers'.

Newsletter subscriptions

If you would like to receive the *Puggled Mucker* newsletter, the cost to cover printing and postage is £4 per year (£2 unwaged). Please send a cheque payable to 'Lothians Conservation Volunteers' to Mark Herron—contact details in the LCV web site *Contact Us* section—and let him know if your contact details change.

LCV Online

Don't forget that you can check the task and social programme online at www.lcv.org.uk. The website is a mine of useful information for leading tasks, working the kettle and catering for large groups on residential.

Keep up with LCV news

Join our Yahoo! online discussion group, where we publish LCV news, discussions about LCV activities and social events. If you want to subscribe contact David Monaghan—contact details in the LCV web site *Contact Us* section.

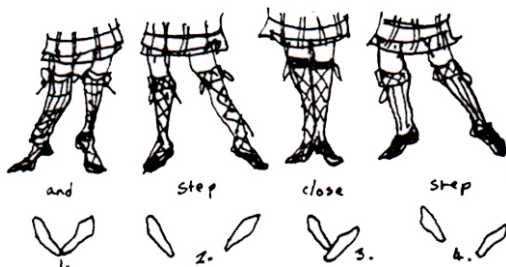
Social Events

For all events it is better to book beforehand by emailing either Alexandra or Emma, social convenors—contact details in the LCV web site *Contact Us* section—giving your contact details, this way you can be updated if there is a change in arrangements. But, if you are not sure what you're doing until the last minute, for most events it is possible to just turn up. Updates on social events are sometimes circulated on *LCV News* our online newsgroup, see above for details. The previously advertised April walk in the Pentlands has been rescheduled for July 10—apologies for any inconvenience.

Sat 27 March Scottish Wildlife Trust Lothians Annual Ceilidh

8 pm 'til Midnight with the Crowdie House Band at the Southside Community Education Centre, 117 Nicholson Street. Come and support the Scottish Wildlife

Trust—Lothians Members' Centre—working for 'homes for wildlife' in the Lothians. The bar will be run by LCV and half of the bar profit goes into LCV funds. Guaranteed to bring colour to your cheeks and a spring to your step. Come along and have a go—all the dances are easy and fun. Tickets at door: £8 /£6 (£5 under 16s)



Sat 10 April

Alexandra's Birthday gathering

Thought it would be fun to meet up with some friends for my birthday—always a good excuse—and everyone is welcome. We will meet at 80 Queen Street at 7.30pm then we can either go to the cinema or go on to a club—I am open to suggestions. Please let me know if you would like to come along—contact details in the LCV web site *Contact Us* section—I hope you can!

Thurs 15 April

The Stand Comedy Club

For an evening of laughs, why not come along to *The Edinburgh Show*, The Stand, 5 York Place: 0131 558 7272. The show starts at 9pm but get there early to get a seat, £8 full price or £7 concessions. Please arrange to buy your own ticket and we can meet from 8pm in The Stand.

Mon 10 May

Pub Quiz at The Cumberland Bar

In light of our recent victory, come along and join team LCV at this pub quiz in the Cumberland Bar on Cumberland Street in the New Town. The quiz starts at 8.30, so meet in the bar at 7.45pm. You can turn up on the night but if you can, contact Emma or Alexandra—contact details in the LCV web site *Contact Us* section—so we have an idea of team numbers—teams are restricted to seven members.

Sat 19 June

Scottish Parliament Tour

Booking for this event is essential. The tour of the Parliament lasts 1 hour and it takes you from the Main Hall to the Garden Lobby then the floor of the Cham-

ber to see where the MSPs meet to debate. You also visit a Committee Room and explore further into the building, to allow views of the MSPs office block and historic Queensberry House.

I intend to try and book the 1.40pm tour, but this may change depending on availability of places. We could head to the Tun Bar after the tour for coffee/ drinks. If you are interested then please email Emma before Sat 10th April.



Sat 10 July

Walk in the Pentlands

Head into the Pentlands for a days walk. Meet at 10.30am in the Bonaly Country Park car park. The No 10 bus runs to the bottom of Bonaly Road, and you can walk up to the car park from there. Bring lunch, warm clothes, waterproofs, drinking water and suncream. If you are interested then email Emma—contact details in the LCV web site *Contact Us* section

Views

LCV At Home

With no New Year residential to start the year, LCV activities during a snowbound festive season featured several social gatherings, a lot of food and a little bit of fresh air.

One of my favourite LCV social gatherings is the annual mulled wine and mince pie evening the last Sunday before Christmas. This year's event was generously hosted by Sarah MacConachie, who has a sufficiently large kitchen to enable a big group of LCV volunteers to socialise, relax and consume lots of traditional mince pies, stollen, cake and mulled wine.

With Dutch courage afforded by the wine, the musically inclined enjoyed some mellow carol singing in the lounge, supported by Sarah's fine piano playing skills. Well... I'd like to think our singing was mellow and tuneful, but I suspect an independent observer might offer a different view. At the end of the night, given the amount of snow outside on the street, we couldn't resist having a lively snowball fight to round off a wonderful festive gathering.



'The Big Freeze'—prints in Edinburgh

photo NM

Sarah further offered to host an LCV dinner for volunteers on January 1 as a salve for those who normally go on the New Year residential (resi). Yes—it's

true—without the resi you miss the camaraderie and fun to be had sitting around a large table with friends whilst preparing industrial quantities of ingredients for a shared dinner.

Can a person loose weight just by using their arm muscles to chop numerous vegetables and squeezing twenty limes? I hoped so. The vegetables were especially tasty, which was no surprise given that they were either fresh from Keith and Christine's allotment or Sarah's organic vegetable box delivery. Sarah's main course of curry, roasted vegetables, rice and various relishes went down a treat, followed by Tim's renowned cranachan, my jelly and fruit dessert, and a variety of treats brought by various folk including traditional black bun, cheese and biscuits, chocolates and wine.



‘The Big Freeze’—snow in the Pentlands.

photo: Edel Sheridan

After consuming so much food, it's no surprise we retired to the lounge to relax and spread out. To further replicate the resi feel, Tim brought out his Scottish Quest board game and we formed teams to see who would be crowned the evening's King and Queen of Scottish trivia. Enthusiastic competition ensued and many near wins were thwarted either by an unlucky throw of the dice or an unfortunate choice of question category. Christine and Jackie put in a consistently strong performance and deservedly won the game. Thanks to Sarah for hosting both events and to everyone who attended and helped make them so enjoyable.

There was also an LCV social trip to the Peter Pan panto on 2nd January at the

Lyceum Theatre which, although I couldn't attend, I was reliably informed was all very good fun—oh yes it was...

Needless to say, all the food consumption over the festive period is best worked off by going out on task and getting back into regular exercise. The tree felling task at Addiewell on Sunday 3rd January was particularly good with snow on the ground, a bright and clear sky and the odd bit of sunshine. The tree felling was also relatively straightforward thanks to previous LCV tasks where volunteers had worked to make a clearing that we could safely fell the trees into.

That's the best festive combination for me—lots of food, indulgence and socialising accompanied by plenty of outdoor exercise. Thanks LCV!

Edel Sheridan

Thanks to Edel for writing up LCV's festive activities, to Sarah McConachie for being LCV's answer to Nigella and hosting two LCV socials in one fortnight—only better as I doubt Nigella plays the accordion—and to everyone who joined in with LCV's festive events to make them a success—Ed.

Further information:

See our task list for numerous diverting ways of burning off those lingering festive pounds.



Resi Recipes

Thanks to David Nutter and Trevor Paterson for providing these recipes for ten.



Trevor's Sticky Toffee Pudding

Notes:

I've cooked with these quantities a couple of times on a resi for eight to ten people.

Cake mix
150g dark muscovado sugar
260g self-raising flour
180ml milk
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
75g melted butter
300g chopped dates

Sauce
300g dark muscovado sugar
40g butter
750ml boiling water



Method:

- 1** Heat oven to 190C / Gas Mark 5.
- 2** Butter a 2.5l flat pudding dish—a baking tray will do at a pinch.
- 3** Beat the eggs, butter and vanilla into the milk, then stir into the premixed flour and sugar, then fold in the dates.
- 4** Spread the mix into the baking dish.
- 5** Sprinkle over the remaining sugar, and put some small nobs of the butter on top.
- 6** Pour the boiling water over the top—trust me.
- 7** Cook for 45-55 mins until the top is cooked, with the sticky sauce underneath.

Serve with custard, ice cream or creme fraiche.

David's Sponge Pudding with chocolate sauce.

Notes:

This is a pudding recipe that I used on the Lewis resi. Makes loads, and also works well with custard.

Sponge

370g self-raising flour
2tsp baking powder
2tsp bicarbonate of soda
4tbsp cocoa
300g caster sugar
4 large eggs, beaten
4 tbsps golden syrup
400ml milk
400ml sunflower oil



Method:

- 1 Preheat oven to 150C / Gas Mark 2. Grease two pudding basins
- 2 Sieve all the dry ingredients together into a mixing bowl and make a well in the centre
- 3 Pour the beaten eggs into the well with the syrup, milk and oil
- 4 Gradually draw in the dry ingredients and beat to a smooth batter
- 5 Pour into prepared basins and bake for 30 – 40 minutes until springy to the touch and a knife comes out clean

Sauce

200g plain chocolate
150ml water—approximately—adjust for desired consistency.
30g butter
4tbsp golden syrup
2tsp vanilla essence

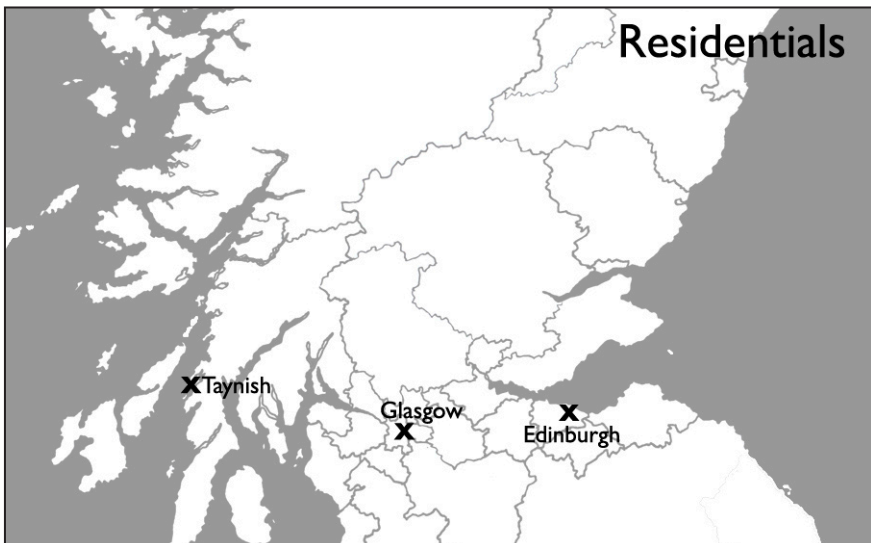
Method:

- 1 Break up the chocolate and place it in a pan with the water, syrup and butter.
- 2 Cook over low heat until chocolate melts, then beat in vanilla essence. Serve hot.

If you are willing to share your vegetarian culinary secrets send a recipe—for ten—to me and we'll pull one out of the pot for the next Mucker—Ed.



Task locations



LCV People

For email addresses please see the *Contact Us* page on our web site at www.lcv.org.uk.

Louisa Martin

Co-ordinator

David Monaghan

Treasurer

Matt McCabe

Task Organiser

Debbie Tribak

Transport Secretary

Mark Herron

Membership Secretary

Simon Bonsall

Leader/Driver Organiser

|

Martin Brownjohn

Publicity

**Alexandra Costello
Emma Brown**

Social Organisers

Tony Irving

Tree Nursery

David Nutter

Fundraiser

William McSporran

Minibus

Peter Gilbert

Training Organiser

Ken Humphreys

Toolshed

Nicola Murray

Newsletter Editor

Conservation Tasks

March	Sun 14	Whitmuir Farm	Fencework
	19 – 21	Taynish residential	Woodland management
	Sun 28	Spottiswoode	Tree planting
April	Sun 4	Easter	No Task
	SAT 10	Addiewell Bing	Scots pine planting
	Sun 11	Addiewell Bing	Scots pine planting
	Sun 18	Beecraigs Country Park	Path work
	Sun 25	Leadburn	Tree planting
May	Sun 2	Beecraigs Country Park	Path work
	SAT 8	Bawsinch	Vegetation clearance
	Sun 9	Roslin Glen	Pathwork/woodland maintenance
	SAT 15	Beecraigs Country Park	Path work
	Sun 16	Beecraigs Country Park	Path work
	Sun 23	Gullane	Pirri pirri burr removal
	SAT 29	Bawsinch	Himalayan balsam removal
	Sun 30	Bawsinch	Tree weeding
	Sun 6	Easter Craiglockart Hill	Meadow raking
	Sun 13	Beecraigs Country Park	Path work
June	Sun 20	Pishwanton	TBC
	Sun 27	Vogie Country Park	Path work



Other Events

March	Tues 9	7.30 p.m.	Monthly committee meeting
	Sat 27	8 p.m.	SWT Ceilidh
April	Sat 10	7.30 p.m.	Alexandra's birthday gathering
	Tues 13	7.30 p.m.	Monthly committee meeting
	Thurs 15	8.30 p.m.	The Stand Comedy Club
May	Mon 10	7.45 p.m.	Pub Quiz at Cumberland Bar
	Tues 11	7.30 p.m.	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
June	Tues 15	7.30 p.m.	Monthly committee meeting
	Sat 19	TBC	Tour of Scottish Parliament
July	Sat 10	10.30 a.m.	Pentlands Hillwalk