

WATSON BIRD FESTIVAL 2012 A GREAT SUCCESS

This year's Watson Bird Festival held in St John's Town of Dalry, Galloway was a great success. Over 500 people attended the weekend's events and the village was buzzing with activity and visitors. An exhibition by 14 well known bird artists attracted a great deal of attention. Music making with a group of vocal volunteers led by Jo Miller was exhilarating. Jo played a concert with her two sons to a sell out audience in the Town Hall, preceded by a wonderful community musical performance by Langholm players based on the Langholm raptor project. A packed audience attendance the Watson Raptor Science event and heard the scientific results of research on hen harriers in different parts of Scotland and expressed concern about the continuing persecution of this species. The presentation and summary of the discussion will be placed on the Watson Birds web site. A demonstration of bird ringing introduced watchers for the first time to this important technique and walkers had a stimulating guided bird walk in the locality. Our weekend concluded with wonderfully mellow music on the harp, cello and flute by the Rhona Mackay trio.

The Watson Birds Feathers fund raising campaign was formally launched by Dame Barbara Kelly, one of Watson Birds Patrons and Roger Crofts the Project Director. The Campaign got off to the best possible start with an anonymous donation of £10,000. Roger said "This is marvellous news and I hope that many others will follow suit and join one of our three Feathers Clubs. These funds will enable us to develop further our activities and events programme and prepare for our mini festival on birds nests and eggs next Easter and for our annual festival in autumn 2013."

Roger Crofts