

DALRY BIRD TOWN

We have too good pieces of news to report on the planned Dalry Bird Town project to celebrate the work of father and son Donald and Jeff Watson. And as I write we are awaiting more news.

Funding for a Project Development Officer

In addition to the £10,000 already received from the Big Lottery, we have been awarded a grant of £9,000 by Scottish Natural Heritage over the next two years. We are waiting for the final outcome of our application to Rural Dumfries & Galloway LEADER for over £40,000. This would complete the funding package for the next stage and allow us to employ a member of staff for 4 days a week to work with us on developing the project. We are actively seeking office space in the village. We want to concentrate on two key elements. First and foremost, we will be putting together the funding package for the purchase and refurbishment of Barone, the former Watson family home. This is a big project for Dalry and will take time to come to fruition. That is why we have a second element of a series of events to keep the pot boiling so to speak. The project officer will have responsibility for developing our volunteer network further and keeping the community informed of progress.

A date for your Diaries

Put the dates Friday 30 September to Sunday 2 October in your diaries. This is when we are arranging the first Dalry Bird Festival in and around the village and The Glenkens. We have lots of ideas to appeal to all of the family, all ages, all abilities and all interests. Among the ideas for indoor events being developed are a children's fancy dress parade, talks about the birds of The Glenkens, demonstrations on how to make bird feeders and bird boxes, a chance to see Donald Watson's original studio, art exhibitions by children and professional artists, a book stall, and a chance to buy cards, calendars and posters all created by local children. Outdoor activities being considered are guided walks to bird locations, visits to Donald Watson's favourite painting sites and how many birds can you spot in the village. In the evening we are considering concerts around bird song and bird related music. So if you have ideas please let me know. More information will be available over the coming months.

The Steering Group set up to led the project has been active in drawing up plans and seeking funds. It comprises: Cathy Agnew, Chris Rollie, Louise Watson, Andrew Mellor, Gill Khosla, Steve Davie and Roger Crofts.

If you have ideas, free time to help or wish to know anything please contact me on roger@dodin.idps.co.uk or 07803 595267

Roger Crofts
Dalry Bird Town Steering Group Chair