



Let there be light Anne Errington of New Galloway with her bird silhouettes

Bird festival fans flock to Glenkens

Stuart Gillespie

Organisers of the Watson Bird Festival are thrilled with the success of this year's event.

The third festival took place over the weekend with visitors coming from across the country to join in.

Among the activities were guided walks, bird ringing, art exhibitions and puppet shows. There was also a lecture from Spanish Professor Miguel Ferrer, the winner of this year's Watson Raptor Science Prize.

The Watson Bird Project was set up in a bid to raise the funds to buy the Watson family home in Dalry and turn it into a cultural and educational centre. Donald Watson, along with his son Jeff, were well known for their illustrations and knowledge of the study of birds.

Roger Crofts, director of the Watson Bird Project, said: "I am delighted with the response from the performers, speakers, artists and all of the volunteer helpers and especially from visitors from around Scotland and from south of the border.

"The festival brings great benefits to visitors and also brings some welcome business locally as well as putting Dalry and The Glenkens on the map.

"The new brochures of a walk around Dalry and a car trail around The Glenkens, for example, show people where and what Donald Watson painted, and they have received a lot of praise. The brochures are available in shops in the village for all to enjoy this new experience.

"I was also pleased that one of our new art exhibitors who lives in Crossmichael sold all of her paintings and gives her great encouragement to paint more bird pictures.

"Listening to the brilliant bird artist Darren Woodhead talk about his work and at the same time paint a picture was just amazing and a great stimulus to the artists present and those who aspire to be artists.

"And having top rate scientists talk about their work gave us all new insights on emotive issues such as birds being killed by colliding with wind turbines and how we have lost so many golden and sea eagles over the centuries due to poor management of land and persecution."



Art The director of Watson's Birds Roger Crofts with one of Watson's paintings

www.sco.org.uk

MOZART'S PRAGUE

Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries
The Crichton, Bankend Road, DG1 4TA

Wednesday 9 October, 7.30pm

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

ALEXANDER JANICZEK
Director/Violin

LLŶR WILLIAMS
Piano

DVOŘÁK Notturmo
MOZART Piano Concerto 23 in A
JANÁČEK Concertino
MOZART Symphony No 38 'Prague'

Photo © John Ferris Sims

Charity No. SC015039

TICKETS £18/£16 (reserved seating, front stalls)
£16/£14 (unreserved seating, rear stalls)

BOX OFFICE 01387 253383 or www.ticketweb.co.uk

The Midsteeple, High St, Dumfries, DG1 2BH
(Tuesday to Friday - 10am to 4pm, Saturday 10.30am to 1.30pm)

40th Scottish Chamber Orchestra



Display Callum Murray, of Crossmichael, with drawings by local schoolchildren