

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

### **WATSON BIRDS ARE FLYING HIGH IN DALRY**

Come to St John's Town of Dalry, Galloway next weekend, 30 September to 2 October, Dalry to participate in our celebration events. As part of the Day of the Region Programme, we will be hosting a series of exciting Watson Bird Celebrations. A weekend of activities for all includes a bird art exhibition, films, The Conference of Birds music concert, a poetry and music concert, the award of the Watson Raptor Science Prize, drop in bird art activities, a chance to build a bird box, RSPB guided walks and a bus trip to the Red Kite feeding station. All activities are in or start at the Town Hall, Dalry. See the programme below.

Commenting on these activities Roger Crofts, the Director for the Watson Bird Centre and Celebration Project, said:

“We have a major celebration weekend in Dalry with something for everyone. We are particularly delighted to welcome pupils, parents and teachers from Dalry Road School in Edinburgh to join us on Friday 30 September: a unique twinning engagement which I hope is the start of a longer term association. To celebrate the scientific endeavours of Donald and Jeff Watson, we will be awarding the first ever Watson Raptor Science Prize. Representatives of the winners, an RSPB team led by Dr Jen Smart, will give an illustrated talk for all. Two concerts will capture the imagination. The renowned Conference of Birds led by Peter Cowdrey will perform their amazing musical interpretations of birds on the Saturday evening and the well known Scottish poet Kenneth Steven will read some of his evocative works accompanied by the atmospheric strains of the celebrated Rhona Mackay trio of clarsach, cello and flute.

Many thanks to our funders, sponsors, the local businesses and many others who have contributed to making this, the first Watson Bird Celebration, an event that will inspire and enthuse the local community and the many visitors who will be attending our various events.

Do join us and contribute to what I am sure will be a fabulous weekend.”

For further information please contact  
Roger Crofts 07803 595267

Sarah Keast or David Whyte  
(01644 430 457) (07716170871) (07767401084)  
[sarah@watsonbirds.org](mailto:sarah@watsonbirds.org)  
[david@watsonbirds.org](mailto:david@watsonbirds.org)

## PROGRAMME

### Friday 30th September

- **10am-5pm** Dalry Town Hall **Creative Explorer Exhibition**
- **10am-5pm** Dalry Town Hall **Bird Art Exhibition** John Threfall, Lisa Hooper, Paul Collin, Silvana McLean and others.
- **10am-4pm** Dalry Primary School **School Twinning Dalry, Dumfries and Galloway and Dalry in Edinburgh** Dalry Road School in Edinburgh school come for a day visit to show bird sculptures, make bird boxes and see the red kite feeding station and exhibitions.
- **7.30pm** Dalry Town Hall **RSPB film “Eagle Odyssey”** With a short introduction about Jeff Watson's work on Eagles.

### Saturday 1st October

- **10am-5pm** Dalry Town Hall **Creative Explorer Exhibition**
- **10am-5pm** Dalry Town Hall **Bird Art Exhibition**
- **10.30am-4pm** Dalry Town Hall **Stalls and information** RSPB, SNH, Dalry School crafts for sale
- **10.30am-12.30pm** Dalry Town Hall **RSPB Guided walks** with Chris Rollie and Andrew Bielinski. Low level gentle walk or longer and slightly harder walk. *Poor weather alternative - A guide to local birds and bird watching - Bothy Room The Clachan*
- **11.30am-2.30pm** Dalry Town Hall **Drop in Workshops for families** Making bird boxes & making bird sculptures
- **3pm-4pm** Dalry Town Hall **Watson Raptor Science Prize** Award ceremony and public lecture by Dr Jen Smart lead author of the prize winning paper.
- **7.30pm-9pm** Dalry Town Hall **The Conference of Birds** Musical entertainment by Peter Cowdrey and his team.

### Sunday 2nd October

- **11am-4pm** Dalry Town Hall **Creative Explorer Exhibition**
- **11am-4pm** Dalry Town Hall **Bird Art Exhibition**
- **1.15pm-3pm** Community Bus **Red Kite Feeding station** £2 adults, children free. Meet at Dalry Town Hall.
- **11am-12.30pm** Dalry Town Hall **Guided Walks** With Chris Rollie & Andrew Bielinski. *Poor weather alternative - film in The Bothy at The Clachan*
- **2pm-2.30pm** Dalry Town Hall **Glenkens Bird Race winners and prizes**
- **2.30pm-3.30pm** Bothy, The Clachan **Poetry and Music** Kenneth Stevens and the Rhona MacKay Trio (clarsach, flute and cello)
- **4pm** Dalry Town Hall **Festival closes**