

# Another busy year at Castle Loch

## Some of the 2015 achievements...

- ✓ Over 750 hours donated by volunteers (with a value of over £6700).
- ✓ Winner of the RSPB's Nature of Scotland best Community Initiative award.
- ✓ Built a new bird hide.
- ✓ Created new sections of footpath.
- ✓ Improved path access by replacing bridge steps with ramps and removed kissing gates.
- ✓ 1400 people walking the loch circuit each month.
- ✓ Cleared invasive/unwanted plants such as Himalayan balsam, American skunk cabbage, and rhododendron.
- ✓ Surveyed the grassland and discovered 120+ flora species.
- ✓ Over 80 bryophytes (mosses) found across the site.
- ✓ National coverage on BBC Radio Scotland's 'Out of Doors' program and regular features in the local press.
- ✓ Lots of work with local youth groups: Jaybees Nursery, Lochmaben Primary and Nursery, Lochmaben 1<sup>st</sup> Girl Guides, Duke of Edinburgh Awards...
- ✓ Carried out questionnaires about future use of Lochfield Cottage.
- ✓ Cleared old fencing and did lots of litter picking.
- ✓ Put in new signage and fingerposts.

***Thank you for all the help and support***



## 2015 Images

Volunteering throughout the year:



Creating a Kindergarten Forest School



Path repairs



Building a new bird hide



Removal of invasive species

**New footpath official opening event – 11<sup>th</sup> April:**



The official path opening was well supported on a chilly April morning

**-Improving access - removal of bridge steps:**



## Castle Loch Community Engagement Activities:



Woodland den building with Jaybees



Scotia Agricultural Club site visit

## Clear up after the December Storms and Floods:



## What does the future hold?

Twice monthly volunteering (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs) – come along to Lochfield Cottage (next to A709 car park) and give it a try. Meet at 10am.

Post storm and flooding repairs to the woodlands and footpaths.

Look into developing Lochfield Cottage as a small visitor and education centre. A place to meet and learn a bit more about the site, to get out of the wind and rain and have a cup of tea.

Continue working with lots of local community groups, particularly the children at the nurseries and Primary School, spreading the word about the environmental importance of the loch and woods. Promote the site as a great place to spend your leisure time.

Put into action the revised Habitat Management Plan and carry on with surveying the site's flora and fauna.

