



THE HEATHER TRUST

Promoting Integrated Moorland Management

Heather Highlights

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 7th October at Newtonrigg, Holywood, Dumfries.

A buffet lunch was followed by an afternoon visit to the Tro-loss Estate, 20 miles north of Dumfries, where the visit was hosted by one of the owners, Mr Ben Weatherall. The recovery of reseeded heather was appreciated by delegates and the local grouse.

Northern England Raptor Forum

A presentation at this event in Calderdale on 20 November was an opportunity to present the arguments for land management, and heather burning in particular, to an audience I would not normally have access to. I was struck by the knowledge and enthusiasm shown by many of those present although there were some inevitable areas of disagreement.

December 2010

Clara's Column

The Country Market & Sporting Sale catalogue for 2011 is beginning to take shape, however, we still need your help to make it a success. Please keep your thinking caps on and remember we're open to all offers of lots, both great and small. You may prefer to make a cash donation or even take out an advert within the catalogue to promote your own business, it all helps and is much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.



Phytophthora: Ramorum, Kernoviae and now Lateralis

A programme of inspections, control and monitoring is underway throughout the UK to detect these new diseases, more commonly known as "Sudden Oak Death". It is clear that vigilance and early treatment of outbreaks will aid the control of this new pest. The diseases capacity for affecting heather & bilberry (blaeberry) is not yet clear, although these species are reported as hosts. For those seeking to know more and to see photographs of the disease, I suggest the [Scottish Government's website](#) which has links to the guidance available on the Food & Environment Research Agency's site.



You can now follow the Trust on Twitter. We will Tweet when there is something new on the Blog. Stay up to date with The Heather Trust! @heathertrust

Upland Management: Rights & Wrongs

The topic for the second event in the trilogy was Heather Restoration, and it was held on the Glenlethnot Estate, near Edzell, Angus, on Friday, 12 November. Kenny Wilson, formerly the Headkeeper at Leadhills Estate was on hand to comment about muirburn and the re-introduction of sheep for food production, the management of the habitat and sheep ticks. Geoff Eyre, who has developed innovative techniques for gathering, treating and re-seeding with heather, provide experience of more interventionist techniques. The estate's headkeeper, Gavin Hannam, who has done some great work to improve the condition of the heather over the last six years, also provided input. The final event of the series is about muirburn and will be held on the Candacraig Estate, Strathdon on 1 March (weather willing!)



From The Blog <http://heathertrust.blogspot.com/>

IUCN UK Peatlands Programme



The Trust was examined on written evidence submitted to the Open Inquiry that was held on 3 November 2010 in Edinburgh. The evidence stressed how important it was to engage with the land management community. This view appears to have been accepted and the Trust has been asked to set up a land managers event in the north of England in early March. More details soon.

(IUCN is the International Union for Conservation of Nature and it helps the world to find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges)





THE HEATHER TRUST

Promoting Integrated Moorland Management

Heather Highlights ~ Page 2

Board Members



Robert Benson

We were delighted to welcome Robert Benson to the Board, in October 2010.

Robert has been a supporter of the Trust for many years, through his donations of a Lot to the Country Market & Sporting Sale.

Robert is the Sporting Manager for Lonsdale Estates, near Penrith. He is also Chairman of the Penrith Red Squirrel Group and the North Lakes Red Deer Group.

We were sorry to lose Steve Redpath from the Board in October. Steve will be concentrating on his research work, based in the North East of Scotland. We hope to remain in contact with him through the Moorland Forum and his work with RELU.

I would like to thank Steve for his contribution to the Trust, during his time on the Board, and wish him well for the future.

Steve Redpath



Director's Assistant

My Assistant, Alison Young, was married in August, to Michael Poole. Alison has recently arrived at the decision to hang up her Heather Trust boots in February 2011. She will be pursuing a new life with Michael as they 'poole' their skills and talents in a different way, in the service of others.



Alison has worked for the Trust since September 2003 and, like a pair of comfortable boots, is just getting broken in! Her words, not mine, I can assure you.

We wish Alison every happiness as her life takes a new direction. She will continue to live in the Southern Uplands, and is likely to be found with a dog and stick on the hills near Moffat, inspecting heather and looking for Black Grouse.

Carbon in the Uplands Conference

The Report from the Carbon in the Uplands Conference is due to be published on the website in the coming days. The Conference was held in Moffat, on 20th and 21st April, and was organised by the Trust, in conjunction with the Crichton Carbon Centre and the Southern Upland Partnership.

The Report will only be available in electronic format, and those who are interested in obtaining a copy, should download it from the website.

And finally

We would like to wish our Members and supporters a Happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2011.

Simon, Alison and Clara

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@heathertrust.co.uk or call 01387 723201

