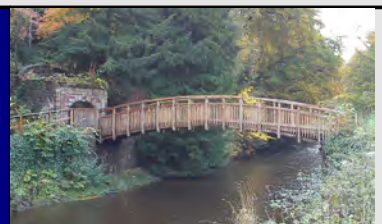


# Lord Ancrum's Wood Newsletter Winter

**Welcome to the Winter edition of the Lord Ancrum's Wood Newsletter brought to you by the Forestry Commission Staff at Newbattle Abbey College.**

## **New Grotto Bridge wins award!**

The New Grotto Bridge was entered into the 2010 Wood Awards. The Wood Awards celebrate and promote the use of wood as highly sustainable and adaptable material. This was reflected in the varying entrants in the awards. After the judging panel visited Newbattle Abbey College to assess the bridge it was awarded the Best use of British Timber. You can read more about it at [www.woodawards.com](http://www.woodawards.com)



## **Celtic Festival a great success**

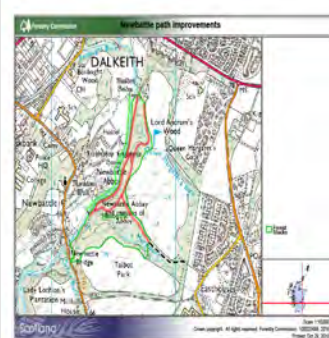


The Celtic festival that took place on 29 May this year was a huge success. With around 3000 visitors to Newbattle Abbey College and grounds our guided celtic themed walks around Lord Ancrum's wood were extremely popular, so popular in fact that we had many more walkers than we expected! Altogether we counted 64 participants over the three walks! We look forward to next years Celtic Festival on 21 May 2011

## **Path Improvements and Woodland Management Plan Update**

On 8<sup>th</sup> November we will finally be starting work on path improvements in Lord Ancrum's Wood. Our aim is to make the main path network more accessible to a wider range of people from local communities, but in keeping with the woodland environment. This will involve improving drainage and surfacing the main paths north of the Mary Burn (as indicated in red on the map). The finished surface will be whindust (not tarmac), similar to the new path between the College entrance and the new Grotto bridge. Work will last until January 2011 and will cause some short-term inconvenience. For health and safety reasons, please avoid paths closed for work and follow diversions where in place. The main diversion will be on the west side (College side) of the river. Most paths will be open at weekends.

We are also in the process of producing a new Forest Design Plan (our name for a woodland management plan), to guide the longer-term management of Lord Ancrum's Wood. Dates in December and January for community consultation will be publicised soon.



For more information please contact John Ogilvie on 07877 822525 or [john.ogilvie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.ogilvie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

[www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

## Winter Wander in Lord Ancrum's wood

To coincide with the Christmas fair at Newbattle Abbey College this year, we will be leading two guided walks at 10:00 and 13:00 on Saturday 4 December. You can find out how to identify trees in winter and hear some winter woodland folklore. Places are free.

Meet at the Forestry Commission office, at Newbattle Abbey College, Newbattle Abbey Road  
Booking is essential- please call 01555 660190 or email [scottishlowlands@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:scottishlowlands@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) to reserve your place.

## Creation of new outdoor classroom/butterfly glade

We have recently begun the creation of a new open glade within the wood that will be used for school group visits as an outdoor classroom, and will also encourage more wildlife into the wood such as bees and butterflies. These insects, as well as sun-loving plants, benefit from sunny open areas. These areas are important structural elements within woodland and provide a valuable habitat that is quite different from the high forest areas. We began the work by mowing the area and high pruning some of the surrounding trees in order to increase the amount of light. Ongoing management will include controlling the return of bracken and bramble, although some will be left at the glade edge as these species do have several conservation benefits. These include providing cover and shelter for nesting birds and protection for small mammals from their predators, as well as a food supply in late summer and autumn.



## Mink spotted on riverbank



We have had a few sightings of mink spotted along the riverbank. American Mink (*Neovison vison*) was first introduced into the UK in 1929 primarily for the fur trade. Numbers of mink escaped and were released by animal rights campaigners from the fur farms and have become a threat to game birds, fish poultry and other wild indigenous species. Unlike most wild animals mink will kill even when it is not hungry! Like most introduced species the mink has very few natural predators.

Signs to look for -

Wild mink tend have a brown coat although the farmed mink which are found in the British isles can vary from white to almost black.

They can reach a size of 70 - 80cm (2 ½ feet) and weigh up to 1kg

## Green Team Visit Lord Ancrum's Wood

The Green Team visited Lord Ancrum's Wood on 10 October to help with some removal of rhododendron and opening up of one of the old pathways.

The Green Team runs activities in the outdoors for young people, a wonderful mix of learning and doing. They offer opportunities to take part in environmental projects all over Edinburgh and the Lothians for 14-25 year olds led by adult volunteers trained by the Green Team.

We look forward to them returning again in the new year.

To read more about the Green Team visit [www.greenteam.org.uk](http://www.greenteam.org.uk)



We would love to hear from you with your views, comments or stories.

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Or Telephone **01555 660190**