

Pentland Post

May 2024



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**Friends of the Pentlands is a
Scottish Charitable Incorporated
Organisation**

**Registered in Scotland Number
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A very warm welcome to the Spring edition of the Pentland Post.

As mentioned in the last edition I have taken on the role of editor of the Pentland Post from Peter Moore who has undertaken this role over the past 5 years. I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his splendid editorial efforts during this time and this includes the 'difficult' period during Covid when our activities were much reduced. In addition to the Pentland Post Peter has also arranged the Friends Calendar which continues to sell extremely well even in this digital age.

Although by no means dormant over the winter months the activities of the Friends of the Pentlands have started to increase again as we move into Spring and it's good to see so much activity over a number of fronts.

I hope you find the Pentland Post to be informative and I'd like also to take the opportunity to ask any member who would like to contribute to future editions to get in touch with me at john.surtees@pentlandfriends.org.uk



John Surtees, Editor

Winter work day - preparing a path near Paties Mill, Carlops for eventual resurfacing.

Photo Donald Sandeman

Photo on front cover Raj Bhopal. Winter Warmer Walk - see page 12

Views expressed in the Pentland Post are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Pentlands

News from the Board

Life never stands still, and the pace of change seems to get more hectic. So the Board has been extremely busy over the past year, and a lot of real progress has been made. But some key projects have encountered unforeseen obstacles and delays. So - like the weather outside as I write - we have had a mixture of sunshine and showers.

The Pentland hills have a complicated pattern of land ownership, so much of our work depends on cooperation with others and can be influenced by a whole chain of external events. Our closest partnership is with the Pentland Hills Regional Park who, as most Friends will know, are currently engaged in a major project to upgrade the four main car parks on the edge of the hills. The Regional Park staff are included in a City of Edinburgh Council service review, due to be completed in 2024.

Many Friends will have seen the media controversy last autumn about access issues in the Pentlands, particularly regarding organised hill races. This is primarily an issue for other bodies but the Friends published a statement setting out our position. Since then the Park has taken the lead in trying to negotiate an events policy acceptable to all parties, and there are promising signs of progress.

Elsewhere, the Board noted with approval plans for woodland regeneration at Rullion Green/Turnhouse Hill (Edinburgh University) and Faw Mount (Baddingsill estate). Continuing the theme of cooperation, we have made real progress in carrying on the work begun by George and Janet Burke at Patieshill wildlife reserve. With the help of The Conservation Volunteers and carbon offset funding from GMP Print we acquired and planted 1000 hedge saplings in a variety of species. This will hopefully improve boundary protection and also increase habitat diversity. Still in the same area, we have recently forged links with Sustainable West Linton and District and have begun work on a wildflower meadow as a contribution to their admirable Roamer's Wood project. And we are in discussion with Carlops Community Council about improving the local path network.



Winter work day at Roamer's Wood

As all members should know, we activated our new online membership system (Membermojo) in December. This involved a quantum leap in complexity but - following one or two teething problems - the system seems to be working well. And - the good news - the new facility for online payment has proved very popular and we have seen a marked rise in new memberships.

Meanwhile the background work grinds on. Board member Bob Cook has drafted a policy defining how the Friends should work with children and vulnerable adults and has convened a small working group to get things off the ground. We have also produced a new policy document on working with corporate volunteer groups (an area where surging demand threatens our limited abilities).

At its meeting in April 2024 the Board undertook a major assessment of the risks facing the Friends and formalised these into a register which will be regularly updated. They also approved a more detailed approach to financial planning and agreed to develop an online shop selling publications and possibly other merchandise through the website. To ease this cautious step into e-commerce, the Board made some minor adjustments to the privacy notice that was published in November 2023.

Last but not least, we are progressing with plans for a memorial to founder-member John Stirling who died at the end of 2019. Early discussions on this were cut short by the Covid crisis, and some subsequent leads led nowhere. But happily we now have a firm project in hand, with a site selected, and we hope to announce details in the coming months.

Dennis Smith, Secretary

Where am I? Answer at the foot of Page 9



View From Scald Law

Looking back over 5 years as Editor of the Pentland Post is a bit like looking at the view from the top of Scald Law on a grey drizzly day – the furthest away bits are very indistinct, whilst the middle and near distance can be occluded as the approach dips down steeply away from the summit. All of which encourages me to think it may not be such a good idea to look back, as memories are clouded and recessed.

However, it did feel like a privilege, and an opportunity to imagine myself in charge of a Fleet Street newspaper, finding the stories and features to inform, entertain, amuse, shock, or even infuriate the readers – not that the latter two were intended consequences. Apart from feeding my fantasies, the experience brought me into contact with interesting, energised and dedicated people, both within and external to the Friends, all of whom were brought together by a shared motivation – that of caring for the Pentlands. For some, it was for the access to open spaces, so close to Scotland's capital city, which afforded opportunities for physical exercise, for others it was the wildlife to be admired and supported to flourish, for many it was a desire to maintain and improve the environment. Some enjoyed the Pentlands for the space to breathe, contemplate and perhaps be creative, while for others it was the means of making a living, but through nurturing rather than exploiting.

Geology reminds us that much of the Pentlands rock was formed 430 million years ago, so 5 years is an insignificant time period, and I can say with certainty that future history books will not be noting any even trivial editorial impact on the hills. However, the effect on the editor was certainly more noticeable, learning more about the geography, history and ecology of the hills, not to mention publishing software and Edinburgh printers. Having said I would not be looking too much at the past, if one speculates into the future, I feel very secure suggesting that the Pentland Hills will continue much as they have in the previous 430 million years, while the efforts of the Friends will continue to preserve and enhance the hills. Volunteer numbers are healthy and tree planting, flower meadow creation, path maintenance and litter picking for example, means that those who use the hills will continue to benefit greatly from their efforts.

One essential was knowing when my time was up, and applying the same principle to this article, I will quit now. I wish John Surtees all the best as he takes over the role into the future.

Peter Moore

The masts at Boghall Farm – relic of the Cold War?

The majority of walkers passing by these large masts will have wondered about their provenance. Here fellow member Richard Maguire shares his research into their background

On the south facing slope of Caerketton Hill, above Boghall Farm, there are two wooden masts about 30m high. They are supported by guy wires, and there are a few wires stretched between them. For years I wondered what their purpose was. A helpful lady in the Communications Museum in Burntisland pointed me to people who knew the answer, some of

Beginning in 1964, the masts themselves were supplied and erected by the General Post Office. The GPO handled telephone and radio communication as well as mail, so they had plenty of experience of this work. The rest of the installation was built by university technicians and students.

The masts formed part of an aerial



whom had worked on the project.

The story begins with Sir Edward Appleton, who was Principal of Edinburgh University from 1949 to 1965. He had received a Nobel Prize for discovering the ionosphere, and wanted ionospheric research to continue in Edinburgh. First he tried asking the Astronomy department, but got the brushoff from the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, so he turned to the Department of Electrical Engineering, and in 1961 brought in Dr Louis Muggleton, who had worked on communication using the ionosphere during WW2. The masts were Muggleton's project.

aimed at the pole star. Wires strung between them formed one plane of a corner reflector, and the other plane was on the uphill slope to the north. They reflected radio waves from the area around the pole star onto a receiver mounted in the middle.

Assuming that the radio waves from space were constant, variations measured on the ground would indicate changes in the opacity of the ionosphere. The apparatus was called a Relative Ionospheric Opacity Meter (Riometer).

Dr Muggleton published numerous papers about his research, but

curiously, none of them mentions the Boghall riometer. There are a couple of possible explanations:

The Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty had come into force in 1963, banning nuclear tests in the atmosphere. Monitoring changes in the ionosphere had been proposed as a possible way to detect illegal tests. If this was the purpose of the Boghall riometer, it might have been kept secret. One of Muggleton's students commented that he didn't tell them much.

The other, much less exciting possibility is that it didn't work so there was nothing to write about. Other riometers have been built, but they are all in

remote locations far from sources of interference and closer to the North or South poles. Perhaps Boghall was the wrong place.

There is more information about the Boghall masts at <https://boghall-radio-masts.blogspot.com/> which gives the names of the people who kindly provided this information.

Richard Maguire

In recent years the Friends of the Pentlands have used willow wands successfully in a number of locations for willow spiling. Here Angus Ogilvy has penned the following poem.

Willowing

Something about a willow makes you want to sit beside it, or to hide behind its veil, and listen to the breezes weaving through its leaves as it were music wafting hair.

And then there is the subtle way it shivers, not in fear, but with delight at all that flickering dance of water and the cool within the shadows playing there.

But there's something in the willow too of tears, a hanging sadness through which we hear the song that speaks to us of all the losses we have ever known in the blue passing of a summer afternoon, knowing those leaves will soon glow briefly gold before they fall.

©Angus D.H. Ogilvy

Working with children and young people

Bob Cook is the Friends of the Pentlands trustee who has been leading on the development of activities for younger people and creating a Safeguarding Policy. In the following article he explains why he believes this is an important step for the organisation.

A glance around the audience at various FoP gatherings recently has drawn my attention to the fact that we are predominantly – how can I say this without causing offence? – of mature years. In fact, it's something to celebrate that our love of the hills and our commitment to the aims of FoP remains undiminished in our 7th, 8th and 9th decades, and beyond! And what was it that inspired that enthusiasm in the first place? For many of us it might have been our parents, a school trip, membership of a youth organisation, or even sheer boredom. Let's face it, TV wasn't the cornucopia of delights (and drivel) that it is today, we had no 'screen time', Fortnite was a mis-spelling of two weeks and a telephone was a bulky device that can only be seen today in a museum. So we roamed. We wandered, and if there were hills nearby we wandered into the hills, and our passion for the outdoors was kindled. Is 'wandering' as exciting as shooting aliens about to take over the planet? We might answer that question differently from a ten year old. A BBC survey has shown that a majority of parents are concerned about the increase in children's screen time since the pandemic.



Photo Iain Tinkler, Cargilfield School

However, outdoor education is increasingly seen by schools as a way of delivering part of the 'Health and Wellbeing' curriculum and many schools are looking to accessible areas like the Pentlands; the best equipped outdoor classroom imaginable and, in these days of education budget cuts, virtually free, offering minimum risk and maximum variety of landscapes and ecosystems. Small wonder then that FoP are increasingly being approached by schools to facilitate outdoor experiences for young people. We have recently collaborated with teachers to engage school groups in activities that are of mutual benefit to the young people and the farmer: planting trees that they will show off with pride to their children and grandchildren in years to come; planting hedgerows and wildflower meadows;

and activities that on the face of it seem less appealing, like litter-picking, which children engage in with gusto.

A school group recently spent an afternoon removing stakes and tree guards in a woodland area. They swarmed over the area like locusts and filled 15 builders' bags in an hour. Their excitement outstripped anything they could have experienced with a smartphone. There is potential to expand our work with young people.

We have to tread carefully; to extend but not overstretch. There may be members not currently volunteering, who would turn out to help supervise activities with young people. The scope for engaging with young people is limited only by our capacity to identify suitable experiences which we have the means to arrange and facilitate, but we have made a start. Let's see where it takes us. What better way of meeting the aims of FoP than by passing on to future generations our love of the hills and our commitment to preserving, protecting and enhancing?

Bob Cook

Where am I? Page 2. At an old sheepfold, Baddingsgill Burn, nr. Baddingsgill

Work Days

The relatively mild winter has allowed the Friends work days to continue without too many cancellations. Since the turn of the year our teams have been out as follows:

Wildflower meadows for butterflies at Roamers Wood, West Linton. Ditch/drain and culvert clearance at Phantoms and Maidens Cleuch. Path improvements at Kirkburn, Silverburn, Poets Glen and Boghall. Tree planting at the wild life reserve at Paties Hill. Footbridge repairs at Ferniehaugh. Gorse clearance above Bonaly.

Andrew Marsden and Rob Melville describe the work also carried out on two large projects. The materials for these two projects were supplied by Pentland Hills Regional Park with some of the costs borne by the Friends using grants donated from a number of sources including, particularly, the Carnethy Hill Running Club

Mind the Gap (Boghall Bridge replacement)

In full spate the burn through the glen at Boghall (NT 242 651) is an impressive sight. With increased force and rising water levels as seen in the winter flooding of 2022 it became a sinister threat and the footbridge crossing the water was demolished. A year of traversing gingerly on stepping stones and old planks came to an end when, in the autumn of 2023, the Pentland Hills Regional Park entrusted the repair of the bridge and surrounding approaches to the Friends of the Pentlands.



This was one of the most complex projects we have undertaken. The first challenge was to secure the “stringers” – the larger and long timber cross-members which act as a base for the treads. This required the use of a

power generator to drill and attach the sleeper bases with three masonry bolts to the concrete block foundations at either end of the bridge with the stringers then being deeply checked into and secured to the sleepers. Then came the routine bit of screwing down the decking planks before attaching the extensions, uprights, handrail and bracing supports. Because the path leading down to the bridge was sinuous on either bank, it was not possible to have a standard structure crossing the water at a right angle – accordingly the decking planks were laid in a wedge at the far end and the handrail gently splayed so that the bridge assumed the shape of a smooth curve connecting the paths.

The construction work had to be combined with efforts to prevent a recurrence of the flooding – heavy boulders in the stream which had become dislodged had to be re-positioned to dam the flow away from the foundations and deep side channels were created to channel the water flow away from the path.

This task occupied two full days involving a dozen volunteers assisting

Victor Partridge and supported by his Regional Park rangers. The special expertise and construction skills of Iain Rushworth and Andrew Gallacher were particularly appreciated. To this work was added a couple of separate trips to complete the “finishing” – fixing non-slip treads to the decking and re-surfacing, and edging where necessary the stair flights on either side. Heavy duty aggregate and fine whin dust contributed to a firm, smooth, resilient and smart-looking path surface producing a satisfying aesthetic finish to the whole project.

Andrew Marsden, Chair



Step Upgrade: Good News for Walkers - Dreghorn steps repairs

Over the summer successive groups of volunteers reconstructed the much worn and damaged flight of steps on the steepest section of the popular path between Bonaly and Dreghorn.



This was done to minimise restrictions on access. Fortunately a support Ranger with Land Rover and trailer was able to deliver the many planks, poles and surface material to the start

of the path at Dreghorn. The volunteers then had to carry the considerable load of timber and several tonnes of a mix of aggregate and whin dust, up to the section under repair.

Despite the relatively narrow and steep path with the bank falling away on one side and a high bank on the other, walkers including groups of Duke of Edinburgh's Award candidates among others, continued to pass up and down the limited access and around the bodies of the volunteers. It all added to the challenges of the task but some were appreciative of the work in process.

The new steps will give users more confidence in passing up and down the track, especially in wet and muddy conditions.

Rob Melville

Walks

Under the enthusiastic leadership of John Hutton we have continued with a varied walking programme. Here members report on a number of recent walks.

Winter Warmer Walk - Longer Saturday 6th January 2024

Auspiciously, the sky was blue and the wind light, as 20 of us set off on the Friends "strenuous" 6th January walk from Silverburn. After successfully negotiating the busy A702, and posing for a group photo, the serious business of tackling South Black Hill and Scald Law commenced.

Soon the steep incline and the narrow path through the heather had us strung out. The Lothians landscape stretched out below us south-eastwards, towards the Lammermuir Hills poking out above misty wreaths.

We climbed steadily towards the skyline, soft peat underfoot, but this particular skyline at 400m altitude, turned out to be deceptive, and not the



summit.

The top of South Black Hill at 563m was reached by 11.20, and after a brief rest, on a rather uncomfortable stone cairn, admiring the 360 degree views and discussing lunch arrangements, we headed south down towards the Kips, taking care not to tumble down the steep slope.

Lunch was consumed at the

crossroads of the Kips/Scald Law paths, with some discussion about the sturdiness of the nearby way marking post, which the writer remembers helping to secure some four years back.

Having fortified ourselves, we were ready for the final ascent up to the summit of Scald Law. The path was in the shade for a while and treacherously slippery in places, but the top (579m) was attained safely by 12.30.

The return path took us east towards Carnethy Hill, again icy in the shade requiring considerable care or alternatively taking to the adjacent grass and heather to secure footing. At the foot of the slope we joined the Kirk Road and resumed our descent towards Silverburn and the waiting mulled wine and mince pies, provided by the village Community Hall volunteers. On the way there was speculation about how the path came by its name, with the consensus being that it referred to the journey required for Balerno parishioners to attend the church in Penicuik. Possibly coffins required transporting over this path to the graveyard.

By 13.30 we were back at Silverburn all in good shape and fortunately no coffins were required.

Peter Moore

Winter Warmer Walk - Shorter Saturday 6th January 2024

For the shorter Winter Warmer Walk 17 members set off from Silverburn Village Hall to walk the short length of the Silverburn Glen which makes its way through some delightful mature woodland towards Lowries Den and the Penicuik Estate. The Silverburn runs to one side in an increasingly steep sided glen. Although a cold but bright day the generally dry underfoot conditions meant the walk took, as expected, a little over an hour to complete before the party were able to join up with the members of the longer walk who had arrived at the hall a little earlier to enjoy welcome refreshments.

Some years ago the route between

Silverburn and Lowries Den was way marked and various improvements carried out by the Friends of the Pentlands and Midlothian Rangers path group to make it possible to walk from Penicuik to the Pentlands avoiding long stretches of road.

John Surtees



Winter Warmer Walks - Hospitality at Silverburn

On return from the walks, we were very well catered for at Silverburn Community Hall. Maggie and Kath went above and beyond to welcome us with homemade mince pies and cakes, biscuits, mulled wine, soft drinks and tea/coffee. The Hall was such a lovely venue to round off our big day out.

John Hutton, Walks Leader

Water of Leith Craiglockhart Circular Wednesday 7 Feb 2024

In defiance of an earlier weather forecast and against the run of recent greyness, Wednesday dawned clear, crisp and cold; perfect for our planned walk, though it was to be a little frosty higher up. Twelve of us gathered at the Water of Leith Centre - a perfect base - clad in a variety of gear, ranging from full winter layers and woolly bunnet (me) to lightweight jacket and shorts (our hardy walk leader John). We set off down-river from the Centre, then immediately right, up the steps to the Union canal, walking in an eastwardly direction. After a few hundred yards on the tow path, giving way to cyclists and runners as necessary, we turned right over the first foot bridge and then left onto Craiglockhart Road North.

We crossed Colinton Road to the Tennis Centre and continued down their access road, turning left past the buildings and towards the pond. John offered a reward for the most bird species spotted. I saw Mute swans, Mallards, Tufted Ducks, Goosanders, Canada Geese, Moorhens and Coots. There may have been a Little Grebe but I find it difficult to distinguish them from female Tufties without my binoculars. And I did hear someone mention Sea Eagle but there was humour involved!

Walking left from the the gate and along the edge of the pond we then turned right up the steps through the woods and, on reaching open ground, left along the lower path which wound around to the right and the summit of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (158m high) ahead.

I had a lovely chat on the way up with two women who volunteer as litter pickers - one for The Friends and the other for the aforementioned WOLC. Both found their duties really rewarding, firstly the tangible improvement to the environment and

secondly the feelings of virtuousness from clearing up after the less-conscientious. We also covered the perils of wet wipes (please don't flush them down the toilet - they end up in the river and cause tremendous damage) and those essentials of a trek to Kilimanjaro that are not in the tour brochures.

That's the thing about walking; you get to have such wonderful and wide ranging discussions with strangers it's something about our biology being designed to work best on the move. Descending from the beautiful views on the summit back to the open grassy area we this time went left and down the many steps through the woods (with a brief detour to play Good King Wenceslas on the xylophone) to Glenlockhart Road.

Across the road and to the left of the wall we walked up the gently rising track to "The Most Ridiculous Place to Put a Golf Course", on the side of Wester Craiglockhart Hill where we spotted a Kestrel, all the more attractive in the sun and seen from above where its beautiful chestnut colour was visible.

The narrow path to the left of this spot took us steeply (and a little icily) up through gorse, to the top for more fabulous views and an unscheduled coffee stop / group photo.

These two hills are both volcanic remnants, in a landscape that has been scoured by ice so, despite being relatively diminutive, provide stunning vantage pointsyou'd think they should have been chosen for prehistoric fortresses.

Leaving the top in an eastward direction (towards The Braids) we picked our way carefully down a more gentle (but still slippery) slope, glad of our walking poles and the advice of our guide.

On reaching the woods we turned left

and followed a muddy track back to the wall, where a Buzzard glided overhead. Back across the Glenlockhart Road, we retraced our steps through the woods of the Easter hill, this time going to the left which took us again to the pond and thence to the canal.

Turning left / west over the Slateford Aqueduct (avoiding looking down) we took the muddy path right just before the bridge (a haunt of Kingfishers, I'm told), up and over the canal into Colinton Dell where three of our number departed for home.

The remainder of the group turned left along another muddy path down

towards the river and followed it, over a footbridge, downstream to return to the Centre, where their delicious coffee provided welcome sustenance after our efforts.

We learned of a proposed new route through the Pentlands, part of the E2 long distance path, which will connect to the Water of Leith path at Poet's Glen. A discussion of hedge layering and the perils of over-zealous vegetation-clearing provided the end of an enjoyable day.

Many thanks to John who led the walk, for his enthusiasm and guidance. A Guid Day on the Hills of Hame.

Ali



3 Reservoirs circular walk with Susan Falconer Saturday 23rd March 2024

Susan was a countryside ranger with the Pentland Hills Ranger Service and Biodiversity Office for a local authority

Seventeen of us set out westwards from Bonaly into the face of a robust wind. In front was our guest leader, Susan Falconer. In fact, she was taking us on Walk 4 of her Cicerone book of Pentlands Walks - albeit taking the route in reverse to make the ascent a bit easier and mitigate the wind higher up.

We paused before too long by a holly tree while Susan explained why some leaves are jagged and others aren't. We appreciated someone well informed and skilled in getting information over to a group. We found subsequently that a wall we might have passed by without a thought contained all sorts of interesting flora! And that you get different types of dandelion!

Up to Torduff and Clubbiedean Reservoirs, we were getting a fair skelp of wind, but it was bright enough and there was no rain. As anticipated, we had to negotiate a few path-wide dubs as we got round to the Ranges Road, but we were well up to it. Seventeen still going strong, and Susan keeping us well informed. The woods adjacent the path provided a nice wee spot for a snack.



Onwards, and now upwards too, as we climbed to the col between Bells and Harbour Hills. In deference to the wind, Susan decided to cut along the flank of Harbour and, from there, down to the woods at Bonaly Reservoir. A quick hop over the handily-placed stile and a few yards through the woods, and we were at the side of the reservoir. It was bright, dry, and surprisingly calm! A perfect spot for lunch, and no-one lost time in getting their rucksack open. A goosander was quickly spotted on the water, and we made some effort (I think ultimately unsuccessful!) to get an actual glimpse of the crossbills which we could certainly hear overhead!

We could have tarried longer, but time was marching on, and so we did too. The descent back down to the start point had a few quads nipping, but we all got there safe and sound. And dry! A most enjoyable and educational outing!

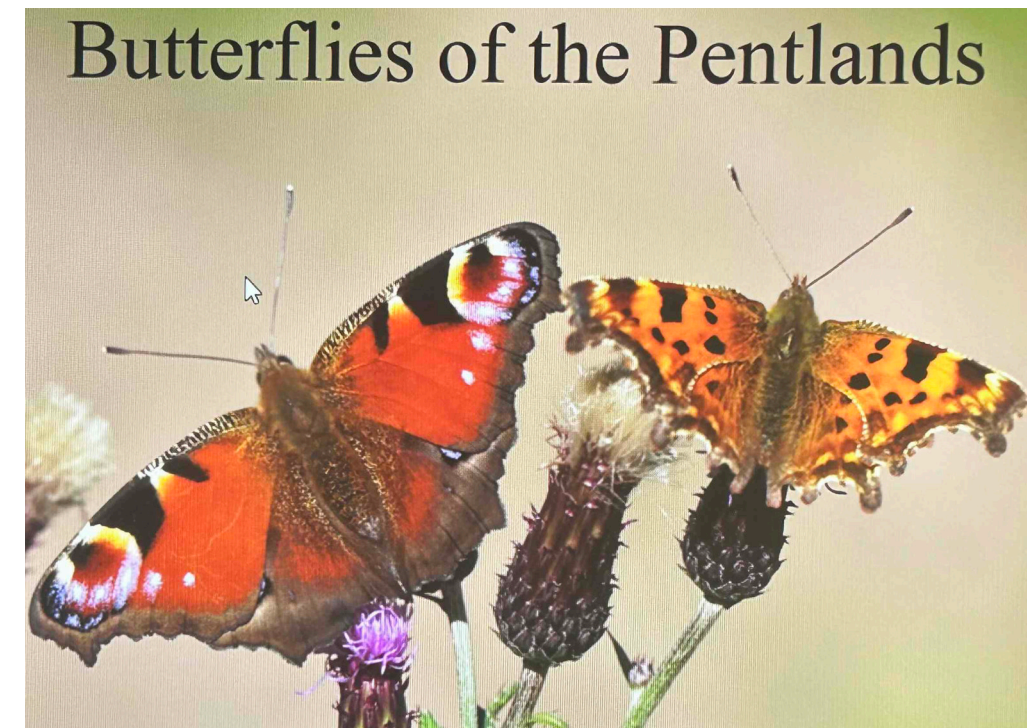
John Hutton

Talks

Butterflies of the Pentlands Tuesday 14th November 2024 at Merchiston School

Over 30 members assembled at Merchiston Castle School to attend an excellent talk given by fellow member Bob Douglas about Pentland Hills butterflies.

With Covid easing during 2021 Bob decided a new challenge was required and started to explore the fascinating world of butterflies and in particular those found in Pentland Hills, an interest that would fit in well with his love of photography.



With the help of some superb images Bob described the recorded species in the Pentlands of which there are 22 - several new species have appeared in the last 3 years or so as a result of the climate change. A number of species are being seen migrating northwards although there is also a natural waxing and waning of numbers.

The good news is the Friends of the Pentlands Green Hairstreak appears to be safe with numbers looking stable!

Bob concluded his talk by describing the work that the Friends have been involved with recently in creating and maintaining a number of wildflower meadow habitats in the hills. There are 7 locations with 3 on the east side of the Pentland Hills being focussed upon in particular including Paties Hill, and Baddinsgill. The work involved is labour intensive, particularly in the formative stages, involving the cutting back and raking of thatch and then the planting of many many wild flowers.

Andrew Marsden in thanking Bob for an excellent talk took the opportunity to mention that more volunteers are needed to help with the meadows.

The Colinton Tunnel Mural Project

Tuesday 5th March 2024 at Merchiston School



Some 40 members attended a most informative and enjoyable talk by two trustees of the project who were instrumental in its creation, Mike Scott and Eddie Banks. They told the story behind Scotland's largest heritage mural which extends for 140 metres through the old railway tunnel near Colinton. It is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's short poem *From a Railway Carriage*.

With the help of colourful illustrations we were told how the tunnel was transformed by using the talents of the lead muralist Chris Rutterford, volunteer artists, pupils from local schools and members of the local community.

They explained why it will require a renovation schedule and that plans are being put in place, including fund raising, to enable this to happen. Schools and the local community will be further involved.

Snippets

Volunteers Meeting at Currie Tuesday 30th November 2023



Another very well attended volunteers meeting in November at Currie heard team leaders review 2023 and the prospects ahead. One of the highlights of the meeting was a special presentation of the 'Quartermasters Volunteers Award' to Chair Andrew Marsden by QM Ian Combe for special culinary services rendered at a work weekend at Garvald.

Work Day Volunteers Christmas get together



It's not all hard work when work day volunteers get together!. This photo by Andrew Gallagher was taken December last

Volunteers Wanted!

With the forthcoming AGM in May and the start of a new business year, we are once again calling for potential Board members (charity trustees) to help with the governance of our organisation. If you think you could assist please contact our chair, Andrew Marsden (andrew.marsden@pentlandfriends.org.uk) who would be happy to discuss. We are always on the lookout for members with specific skills - is anyone able to help us with graphics illustration for one or two projects and has anyone any experience of drawing or painting (for outdoor illustration) with acrylic paints?

Andrew Marsden, Chair

Calling all photographers! 2025 calendar

The Friends of the Pentlands calendars have been a regular fund raising feature over the years. The theme for the 2025 calendar is *Pentland Hills throughout the seasons*.

Entries, in landscape format, which will be gratefully received, should be sent to John Surtees by 31st July 2024 at john.surtees@pentlandfriends.org.uk

John Surtees, Editor

