



Coll Bird Festival May 8/9/10th 2020

Welcome to Coll Bird Festival 2020! Staff and volunteers from An Cridhe Community Centre will be working alongside Ben Jones (RSPB Coll), John Bowler (RSPB Tiree), Mark Mitchell (RSPB Coll), Prof Rhys Green (world's leading corncrake expert), David Palmar (volunteer RSPB, SOC), Greg Smith CIEEM (Wildlife Guide) to provide a varied programme of events for your enjoyment. If you need any information about the events, or need help with transport or directions, call into the office in An Cridhe (open 9.00 – 3.00 Mon to Fri) or telephone us on 01879 230217. Office hours are 9-3, Mon-Fri but if you leave a message, or email info@ancridhe.co.uk, we will get back to you.

Customers can choose individual events or a package rate. Booking is essential for the boat trips and Saturday evening buffet. Please register for walks as some have limited numbers. Priority on boat trips will be given to package purchases.

Package rate: £68 (£60 for RSPB Members). This includes 3 x walk tokens (equiv. 2 hours each), 1 x boat trip, 1 x ceilidh ticket and entry to all the talks. For walks, you can choose from the RSPB-led 'off the beaten track' walk (2 tokens), the dawn watch (1 token), Hen Harrier watch (1 token), Arinagour walks (1 token per walk). Booked as individual events the cost would be £75 (£67 RSPB members)

David Palmar is a volunteer conservation photographer for RSPB Scotland, most recently at the Garnock Connections project. David will be taking photographs of the festival on our behalf and is happy to help with any camera problems, or give advice on photographic techniques. Take a look at David's website to see examples of his work www.photoscot.co.uk.

Friday 8th May

Registration: 9am-12pm call into An Cridhe between to collect your package deal, book individual activities, ask for directions, a lift or anything else you need to know about the festival.

Visit the RSPB Reserve

Drop in at Totronald RSPB information centre Friday morning 9am to 12noon

Start time: any time to suit you

Take time to listen to and look for corncrakes from the viewing platform. Watch lapwings, possibly see a hen harrier, hear snipe drumming, see what has been spotted in recent days, or read the interpretation boards in the information centre. Saunter down to beautiful Hogh beach. Ben will be in the office during the morning and is happy to answer any questions you have about the birds, the reserve and their work.

How to get there: Turn left out of the community centre and follow the left-hand road past the now closed Free Church on the right; the Lodge also on your right (there is a heronry in these woods); Old Hall on the left which is now a second-hand shop, and worth a visit while you are here; past Coll medical practice on the right; the twin lochs where geese can often be seen and sometimes red throated divers. There are great views of Mull and the Treshnish Isles and look out for hen harriers along the way. Keep following the road until you see the two castles over to the left and shortly after the airport on the right, carry straight on to the T junction. Turn right here



Coll Bird Festival May 8/9/10th 2020

and follow the road to the RSPB car park at the end. The information centre is on the left, just before the car park. From here to the afternoon walk go straight across at the T junction and follow the road until you reach the RSPB car parking area.

12.30 pm 'Off the Beaten Track 1' - guided wildlife and bird watching walk (3 – 4 hours) booking essential.

Start time: 12.30pm

Meeting point: Crossapol car parking area

What you might see: Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling, Lapwing, Twite, Great Northern Diver, Grey Seals, Arctic Tern and even a bit of archaeology

Led by: Ben Jones RSPB

Cost: £10 per adult (RSPB members £6.00), children free (hand in your tokens or payment to the walk leaders)

Equipment: Walking boots and waterproof clothing recommended (bring lunch/refreshments for a stop on the walk)

How to get there: From the village follow the directions above for Totronald RSPB information centre, turning left instead of right at the T junction; follow the road until you come to a grassy car parking area.

1.30 pm 'Off the Beaten Track 2' - guided wildlife and bird watching walk (3 – 4 hours) booking essential.

Start time, cost and details as above

Led by: Mark Mitchell RSPB

Evening Talks – bar opens 7pm

7.15pm start

Talk by John Bowler RSPB Tiree "The Birds of Coll and Tiree"

Talk by Prof Rhys Green "Living dangerously: how do corncrakes survive?"

Where: An Cridhe

Cost: £5 (£3 RSPB members), children free. Hand in your token or payment at the door.

Saturday 9th May

Registration: contact us in advance if you are not arriving 'til the Saturday so we can ensure you know where to collect tickets, and have a chance to register for any lifts you may need.

Dawn Watch with hot drink and croissants – a chance to see, listen and watch as the birds start their day.

5.30am

Led by: Ben Jones RSPB

Meet at: Totronald RSPB Information centre

Cost: £5 (£3 RSPB members), children free. Hand your token or payment to the leader.

Hen Harrier watch

Take the opportunity to watch for this rare bird of prey, with an expert on hand. The meeting point will be decided nearer the time, depending on where they are most likely to be seen.

8.30am



Coll Bird Festival May 8/9/10th 2020

Led by: Mark Mitchell RSPB

Meet at: TBC

Cost: £5 (£3 RSPB members), children free. Hand in your token or payment to the leader.

Seabird Safaris

Trips to Lunga

Lunga is the largest of the Treshnish Isles, currently designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and area of Special Protection under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Each trip allows for approximately 2 hours ashore and depending on the sea conditions trips take about 3.5 hours in total. Please note all boat trips are weather dependent and times may vary a little depending on the tide or weather conditions. If a trip has to be cancelled an alternative event will be organized, exploring the birdlife on Coll, led by one of the weekend's leaders. Transferring from the boat to the island can sometimes be tricky depending on the sea conditions. Please discuss this with one of the weekend's volunteers if you think there is likely to be any difficulty with this.

9.30am – 1.00pm: Trip to Lunga, led by John Bowler

1.00pm – 4.30pm: Trip to Lunga, led by Mark Mitchell

Cost: £45 per person (booking essential)

Meet at: Middle pier, Arinagour, 15 minutes before trips start

Activities for younger people

10.00 to 12 - "Wild Things" nature-themed activities for children aged 4 -14

Led by: Sarah Smith

Cost: £2 per child

Meet at: An Cridhe

Guided walk

2.30pm: Guided walk around Arinagour. A chance to test your bird identifying skills and find out which birds hang out around a remote Hebridean village

Led by: John Bowler

Cost: £5 (£3 RSPB members) children free. (Hand your token or payment to the leader).

Meet at: An Cridhe

Social evening at An Cridhe – film, talk, buffet and ceilidh

5pm: Bar opens for the evening

Showing of RSPB Film "The Eagle Odyssey" 49 minutes

6 pm – 7pm: talk by Prof Rhys Green "Is it too late to save the spoon-billed sandpiper?"

Cost: £5 (£3 RSPB members) children free (hand in your token or payment at the door)

Buffet meal re-fuel, socialise, relax between the talk and the ceilidh with one of Chef Darran's wonderful buffets.

Time: 7pm

Cost: £12 per person (booking essential by 26 April)

Coll Bird Festival May 8/9/10th 2020

Ceilidh with bar

Time: 8.15pm

Where: An Cridhe

Cost: £10 adults, £5 children 5 – 16yrs, Family ticket 2 adults + 2 children £25

Sunday 10th

Seabird Safaris

9.30am – 1.00pm: Trip to Lunga, led by David Palmar

1.00pm – 4.30pm: To be organised if there is demand

Cost: £45 per person (booking essential).

Meet at: Middle pier, 15 minutes before trips start

Arinagour Guided Walk

10.00am: Guided walk around Arinagour. Another chance to test your bird identifying skills and find out which birds hang out around a remote Hebridean village. Follows a different route to Saturday.

Led by: Greg Smith

Cost: £5 (£3 RSPB members) children free. Hand your token or payment to the leader.

Meet at: An Cridhe

BBB - Beach clean, barbecue and bird watching at Breachacha Beach

Time: 1pm

Barbecue: Food and barbecues provided

Cost: None

Beach clean: Bags for rubbish and gloves will be provided

Location: Breachacha Beach is approximately 6 miles away from the village of Arinagour. Parking is limited; if anyone can offer lifts it would be helpful. Please let us know if you require transport.

How to get there: Turn left out of the community centre and follow the road on the left (signposted 'airport') to the T junction. Turn left at the T junction and follow the road until you come to a bend to the right, with a gate and signpost for 'Stronvar' on the left. There is a small amount of parking just inside the gate. Please be careful not to block the gate. Alternatively park at the airport, then turn right as you leave the car park and walk along the road following the directions above.

That is the end of our programmed events but don't forget you can book a trip to the Cairns of Coll with IsleGo on Sunday evening Email: ahoy@IseGo.co.uk, Tel: 07867804573

We hope you have enjoyed the festival. Please fill in one of our comment forms before you leave?

... and thank you for joining us.