

Heather Routes



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TICK PREVENTION WEEK 7-13th April 2008

Tick Prevention Week aims to raise awareness regarding the dangers of tick bites, and how to reduce the chance of infection.

The campaign week is held in early spring, when the weather gets warmer, people spend more time outdoors, and ticks become more active.

Tick Prevention Week is organised by BADA-UK (Borreliosis and Associated Diseases Awareness-UK), a registered charity, which aims to increase awareness; to counter the increase in cases of Borreliosis and other tick-borne diseases (TBDs), and the increasing risks of being bitten by an infected tick.

Ross Montague of the SCA said, "ticks and tick borne disease are dangers that we should all be aware of, especially those that live and work in rural Scotland. It is also important to keep up to date with findings on the best methods of tick removal and bite prevention. Some of the 'old favourite' methods have now been proven to be less than effective!"

Please visit the website to find out more about how to protect yourself from tick bites and tick-borne diseases : www.tickpreventionweek.org

SCOTTISH WILDCAT SURVEY

The Scottish Wildcat is the only native cat in the British Isles. Although originally distributed throughout Britain, the species suffered a marked decline in numbers in the 19th century due to deforestation and persecution, and is now restricted to Scotland.

Scottish Wildcats are now one of Britain's rarest mammals and may be in serious danger of extinction.

The last survey of Scottish wildcats took place over 20 years ago. The purpose of this survey is to provide updated information on their distribution to allow conservation measures to be implemented efficiently and effectively.

Please help to determine the current status of the Scottish Wildcat by submitting any recent sightings of wild-living cats in Scotland to the questionnaire at the following link: <http://www.naiadecology.co.uk/wildcatsurv.html>

CALLING ALL SCA SUPPORTERS IN AND AROUND LONDON

The SCA has recently introduced a new initiative to try and bring rural Scotland closer to those living and working in London. SCA London has been established to provide a forum for young London dwellers that have an interest in rural Scotland. Over the course of the year SCA London will be staging a number of events, the first being a drinks party at the Caledonian Club in Belgravia on Thursday 17th April from 7.30pm - all welcome to come along.

The SCA's Megan Dee, organiser of SCA London said: "SCA London is an exciting new initiative which aims to reconnect those who live and work in London with what is happening in Scotland's countryside. The focus is very much on providing a social network and forum for those who have a love for our countryside - whether they are originally from Scotland or just visit for country sports or holidays."

"If you live in London and would like to find out more about the SCA London initiative, or would like to attend the first event at the Caledonian Club, please get in touch."

In order to book your ticket please contact Megan on 0131 335 0200 or megan-dee@scottishcountrysidealliance.org. Tickets cost £30 each with cheques made payable to the Scottish Countryside Alliance.

**ATTENTION SHEEP FARMERS:
PLEASE SIGN THE FOLLOWING PETITION CALLING FOR THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION TO APPLY
COMMON SENSE ON SHEEP ID**

We, the undersigned, call upon the European Commission to:

1. Remove the current requirement to double tag low-risk sheep, in particular home-bred ewes.
2. Scrap plans to individually identify sheep and their movements. Any future sheep ID and movement recording system must be on a batch basis.
3. Review the cost-effectiveness of EID prior to considering implementation.

Sign the petition at: www.thescottishfarmer.co.uk/sheep taggingpetition/petition

DRAFT FES FRAMEWORK STRATEGIC PLAN

The Scottish Government's Forestry Strategy was published in October 2006. The draft FES - Framework Strategic Plan defines how Forestry Commission Scotland will implement this strategy on the national forest estate and what other actions it requires from its operating arm.

The plan provides direction for 14 individual Forest District Strategic Plans. Drafts of these documents are available - [click here](#) - for comment, as well as the Strategic Environmental Assessment for each of the 14 district plans. Printed copies of these documents can be requested by calling 01463 232811 or emailing Strategic.Plans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Comments are welcome on any or all of the strategic plans. The consultation period is open until Monday 9 June 2008.

Forest Enterprise Scotland will hold seven public meetings during the consultation period to explain the FES - Framework Strategic Plan and staff will be available to answer questions about the Forest District Strategic Plans. The locations and dates of these meetings are as follows:

- 23 April 2008 - Dumfries
- 25 April 2008 - Perth
- 28 April 2008 - Edinburgh
- 29 April 2008 - Glasgow
- 30 April 2008 - Lochgilphead
- 6 May 2008 - Inverness
- 9 May 2008 - Aberdeen

For details on the venue and starting times please call 01463 232811 or email Strategic.Plans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk stating your preferred location.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For details of forthcoming Northern Area P2P fixtures, including the Fife and the Lauderdale, visit www.northernp2p.co.uk

12th April

SCA Thistle Ball, Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh
TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED BY MONDAY 7th April
Email megan-dee@counttryside-alliance.org or phone 0131
335 0200 for tickets and further details.

17th April

SCA London drinks party, Caledonian Club, Belgravia
Email megan-dee@counttryside-alliance.org or phone 0131
335 0200 for tickets and further details.

NOTES TO READERS AND EDITORS

Heather Routes is a good summary of some of the current issues that we at the SCA have been working on in the past week. Some articles are based on press releases and letters circulated to the media, and others are written especially for Heather Routes. We encourage news editors to use Heather Routes as a form of press release, and use any of the content in their publications. There is already wide spread use of Heather Routes in this way, and we are grateful when readers notify us of references to the SCA in their local press. In today's world the media is an extremely useful tool for relaying the SCA message to the widest possible audience.

SUBSCRIBE YOUR FRIENDS - FREE!

We at the Scottish Countryside Alliance produce and email Heather Routes directly to thousands of free subscribers every Friday afternoon. Regular feedback from existing subscribers rates Heather Routes as a very interesting read, and by far the most convenient way of keeping up with Scottish rural issues on a weekly basis. We welcome any comments you may have, and there are links to contact article authors directly.

For more information, or should you wish to unsubscribe please email info@scottishcountrysidealliance.org

Do you have friends who would also enjoy Heather Routes? Rather than forwarding it on every week why not pass details of your contacts on to us at the SCA and we can then subscribe them to Heather Routes? Simply email info@scottishcountrysidealliance.org

GRASS ROUTES - THE COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

Some of you may find that by subscribing to Heather Routes, you automatically also receive the Grass Routes e-newsletter, and occasionally other news updates from the Countryside Alliance in London. Whilst many of you will no doubt find these of interest, we appreciate that some of you may only want news from Scotland (Heather Routes). Should you wish to change what you receive, please email info@scottishcountrysidealliance.org

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