



## BIODIVERSITY NEEDS YOU!

Everyone can help protect our local wildlife. This might mean forming a community group and starting a conservation project in your neighbourhood or simply installing a birdfeeder in your garden. It all helps.

One easy way to encourage biodiversity is by wildlife gardening. This does not mean abandoning formal planting and design. In larger gardens there will be space for perhaps an area of wildflowers (butterflies and bees will feed on the nectar), a log pile (shelter for hedgehogs, wrens, frogs, toads and a host of invertebrates) or even a 'natural' pond (great for amphibians, dragonflies and damselflies and many other small creatures).

In smaller gardens and for people living in tenements and flats, containers, patio pots and window boxes can be planted up for wildlife.

Although native plants are best for attracting birds, butterflies and other animals, there are many other garden plants such as **Buddleia**, **Lavender** and **Marigolds**, which are good for butterflies, bees and other insects. These in turn attract insect-eating birds. Berry bushes such as **Hawthorn** and **Rowan** also provide food for birds in autumn and winter.

Once the wildlife starts flocking to your newly created haven, any interesting sightings can be sent to: Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, 200 Woodhead Road, South Nitshill Industrial Estate, Glasgow G53 7NN.

Tel: 0141 276 9300

Email: [biological.records@cls.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:biological.records@cls.glasgow.gov.uk)

There are a number of leaflets and booklets available, which explain what you can do in your garden and which plants to choose to maximise benefits (see back page for details).



# GLASGOW

# MOTHING 2006



Brimstone Moth - image by Neil Gregory

Two public events were held in Glasgow by Butterfly Conservation's South-West Scotland branch volunteers and Glasgow's moth recorder Neil Gregory, to encourage people's interest in moths and to have some fun too. The events were held at the Botanic Gardens and Pollok Country Park.

Over 20 people, including children, came to the Botanic Gardens and saw a wide variety of moths caught at the light traps. July Highflyer, Brimstone Moth and newly resident Svensson's Copper Underwing were amongst 23 species caught and identified.

At Pollok Country Park 16 species were recorded, including Ear Moth and Flame Carpet. A good show of shooting stars in the clear night sky was a bonus!

If you would like to encourage moths into your garden, a colourful display of flowers is ideal. Plants such as Verbena, Buddleia and Michaelmas Daisy are good nectar sources.

Other moth and butterfly events will be held in 2007 so why not go along and find out more about these beautiful insects. See [www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.southwestscotland-butterflies.org.uk) for details.

## LOCAL NATURE RESERVES NEAR YOU



With five Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) in the City, there is likely to be one near you. Management groups are now being set up to discuss what is needed in each LNR to benefit wildlife and to encourage use by the local community.

If you live near **Hogganfield Park, Cardowan Moss, Garscadden Wood, Robroyston Park** or **Bishop Loch** and would like to find out more, then contact **Dave Garner, Glasgow City Council's Ecologist** on **0141 287 7960** or **Email: [david.garner@ls.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:david.garner@ls.glasgow.gov.uk)**.

### Hummingbird Hawk Moths - New Records For Glasgow

A beautiful Hummingbird Hawk Moth (pictured) was seen in an Annesland garden in September, attracted by a flowering buddleia bush planted in a garden managed for wildlife. There have been several records sent in this year for this species.

The moth, looking just like an exotic humming bird as its name suggests, is a migrant arriving from Southern Europe and North Africa.



Hummingbird Hawk Moth - image by Jim Coyle



## KIDS PICK-UP PARKS PACK

Children from St Bride's and Battlefield Primary Schools learned about the wonderful wildlife to be found in Glasgow when they participated in minibeast hunts and pond dipping activities as part of the celebrations to launch Glasgow's latest school wildlife education pack – **Glasgow Parks**.

The launch of the education pack took place at Queen's Park in June 2006 and was sponsored by the Glasgow Tree Lovers Society. The pack is for use by Glasgow Primary Schools across the City, all of which have now received their copies. It is designed to be used in any park or green area such as a school playground and covers such topics as birds and plants of the park, minibeasts,

the pond, people and parks, and using your senses. Ten of the City's seventy parks have been highlighted in the pack with information on their history as well as activity sheets and maps all being included.

The pack was produced by GCC Land Services in conjunction with GCC Education Services, the Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and Starling Learning.

It is the fourth in a series of Education packs produced by Glasgow City Council Land Services and follows the widely acclaimed Special Education Needs Woodland pack launched in 2003.



### Wild Glaswegians

Find out more about local wild plants and their historical uses in a new book written by **Louise Bustard**, Curator at Glasgow Botanic Gardens. **'Chickweed, Willow and other Wild Glaswegians'** looks at the wild plants growing around us in the City and the folklore or superstitions attached to them. This includes medicinal remedies used over the years, with varying efficacy.

The central feature of the *New Herb Bed* at the Botanic Gardens is the *Scottish Bed*. All the plants within it have been used by Scots for centuries. Many of the plants discussed in Louise's book can be found growing there.

The book is **free** and can be picked up at Visitor Centres in the Botanic Gardens and Tollcross Park or at Queen's Park shop, by contacting the Biodiversity Officer or you can download it from the Council's website (see contact details).

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD LAUNCHED (UK)

**The Conservation Foundation and O2 have come together to launch a new award scheme to help people improve their local environment.**

**"It's Your Community"** will provide awards of **up to £1,000** to local organisations and individuals to support environmental projects such as turning derelict land into an amenity park or wildlife area, tree planting, creating a wildlife pond, renovating neglected river and canal footpaths, providing water butts and recycling facilities in village halls, etc.

The fund is open to local amenity groups, parish and village councils, schools, youth clubs, heritage groups, environmental and conservation groups, and individuals who can show that their project will benefit their local environment.

For more information look at the website: <http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/ActLocalAwards.php>

If you don't have access to the internet or would like to discuss your ideas with the Biodiversity Officer, please contact Carol MacLean.



Scottish Wildlife Trust Team managing grassland at Early Braes

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has been busy cutting and baling wildflower meadows in Glasgow. Specialist machinery has been used which cuts, rakes and bales. The machinery is very similar to agricultural equipment used for harvesting crops and hay meadows but it is designed to work on much smaller wildlife sites. Cutting the grassland this late in the season allows the wildflower species to set seed, and provides a food supply for small mammals and birds.

The removal of the cut material, either by raking by hand or mechanically baling, is essential for retaining the diversity in wildflower meadows. If left, the nutrients (from the decomposing plants) return to the soil and act as a fertiliser. In these conditions vigorous grass species will eventually dominate the grassland.

This work is part of the *Habitat Restoration Project* funded by the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme, and is carried out in partnership with Glasgow City Council's Biodiversity Officer.

**Scottish Natural Heritage** - Available from SNH Clydebank office. Tel: 0141 951 4488

- Garden for Butterflies
- Garden for Birds
- Garden for Life
- Garden for Life in Pots and Containers
- Garden for Food

**Royal Society for the Protection of Birds** - Available from RSPB Glasgow office. Tel: 0141 331 0993

- Gardening with Wildlife
- Feeding Garden Birds
- Garden Hedges
- All About Bird Tables

You can search on-line for bird tables, bird feeders and bird food at [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**Glasgow City Council**

**Allotments and Biodiversity** - Available for download from [www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity)

**Froglife**

**Pond Heaven. How to Create Your Own Wildlife Pond** (an excellent booklet).

Available by sending a Stamped Addressed Envelope (A5 size, 2 second class stamps) to Froglife, White Lodge, Peterborough, PE7 0LG.

The LBAP is supported by the following organisations



**NEWS, VIEWS, OPINIONS** - Write to the Biodiversity Officers

The Biodiversity Officers, *Carol MacLean, Keith Watson* and *Cath Scott* can be contacted at:

**Land Services  
Glasgow City Council  
37 High Street  
Glasgow G1 1LX**

Email:  
carol.maclea@land.glasgow.gov.uk  
keith.watson@land.glasgow.gov.uk  
catherine.scott@land.glasgow.gov.uk

Phone:  
0141 287 5665/7026

Further information is available on the Council's website:  
**[www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity)**



