

Kintyre Way Newsletter

June 2010

Introduction

You are receiving this eMail as you have either requested it or entered the competition at the Birmingham Outdoor Show. If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter please let us know.

After the winter it is great to see some of the elements of spring emerging. For one thing the fields are full of lambs and calves which have been basking in the spring

sunshine after the cold winter. Spring flowers are coming up and the first swallows have arrived. Any day now the Rhunahaorine terns will be arriving closely followed by the Skipness Sand Martens. The local dolphins have even made an appearance swimming up Kilbrannan Sound and the first basking sharks won't be far behind.

Talking of Terns



Terns are just wonderful wee birds, returning to Kintyre, among other places year after year. They travel some 10,000 miles to return to Argyll to breed each year: one fledgling made it from NE England to Melbourne! They certainly get about. Birds ringed in Argyll have been found in South Africa and Angola and birds ringed elsewhere in Britain have been found in Argyll.

They are in general medium to large birds, typically with grey or white plumage, often with black markings on the head. They have longish bills and webbed feet. They are

lighter bodied and more streamlined than gulls, and look elegant in flight with long tails and long narrow wings, just lovely to watch, some folk refer to them as "sea swallows".

But it is very important not to disturb their breeding. Terns nest on the ground so are of interest to a number of predators and don't need two footed ramblers adding to their problems.

All pictures are courtesy of Eddie Maguire at the [Machrihanish Seabird Observatory](#) .

Photographic Competition

Win a Camera and a Year's supply of milk. We have joined up with Wiseman Dairies and Olympus to launch our first annual photo competition. The prize, apart from a state of the art compact digital camera, an FE 5030 which is perfect for quality hounds who want a decent camera to keep in the, is a whole year's supply of milk, regardless of where you live, from Wiseman Dairies. An interesting combination but it reflects Kintyre's dairy industry and our pride in

good local produce. We are looking for pictures taken while walking a section of the Kintyre Way, they can be of the wonderful seascapes, the diverse flora and fauna or weary walkers. Closing date is 30th October 2010. See our web site for rules, but entries should be sent to photo@kintyreway.com .



KW Ranger Blog

You can pick up news of the Kintyre Way at his [blog](#). Always worth a look at Owens laconic humour and some fine pictures.

Planning your Visit to Kintyre

There are many different strategies for walking the Kintyre Way. Most visitors drive to Tarbert and park, then, after a nights stay set off early for Clachan (21 miles) via Skipness and Claonaig, then onto Tayinloan (9 miles). Some walkers then overnight on Gigha before a prompt start over the hill to Carradale (16 miles). Day four sees your walk to Campbeltown (20 miles). The first part is largely road so some walkers get the bus (or a lift) to Saddell, visit the old Abbey established by Somerled, before striking out for Campbeltown. The Campbeltown to Machrihanish section of the Kintyre Way is still under development so it is largely road work and many



take the bus out before the final section (16 miles) from Machrihanish to Dunaverty.

Some walkers take their car to Campbeltown and then get the bus back to Tarbert before setting off on the walk.

Another strategy, especially if the group has access to two cars is to take the option of a central base, often self catering, utilising either their own transport or local taxis to get to and from the start of a days walk.

Bus timetables can be found at [West Coast Motors](#).

Sign in Sign out

We are offering a free sew-on Kintyre way Badge to any walkers who sign onto the walk in either Tarbert or Campbeltown Visitor Information Centre (formally Tourist Information Centres) and then sign out again at either Campbeltown or Tarbert VIC. Just pop in and speak to the Centre staff who will respond. You will not be asked for your address (just post code so we can see where in the UK or world folk are visiting from and you will not be contacted as part of a sales promotion. Thank you

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