

This was our second season and despite the exceptionally long dry period throughout the spring and summer, the crops recovered well and have provided rich benefits to a range of wildlife.

Five sites were sown this year: four fields and one extended garden. The local contractor, John Kirk, prepared three of the sites.

SFW was granted Charitable Status during the summer (SC048467) and welcome grants were received from CNPA and the Banister Trust.

We hosted outings for supporters and interested locals to view the fields and the wildlife on 6th August and 3rd February. Interpretation notice boards were erected at three sites.

BBC Winter Watch featured our work and Chris Packham gave us very good publicity on air. As a result, we received very positive feedback, and were also inundated with enquiries and received donations from viewers.

Coulmakyle 1 ha

By way of experiment to increase our experience, we left part of the corn annual strip from 2017 uncultivated this year. It proved to be very colourful from mid May and provided early pollen and nectar for a range of insects. The image below was taken on 12th July.



The main field was not sown till June 1st and despite the prolonged drought, developed well. The site was prepared and sown by the owner Alister Clark. Seed strips were: corn annuals 1.5kg and 100gms Phacelia, 10kg fodder radish and 1.5kg rape, 7kg linseed and 2kg of quinoa.

Sadly Alister Clark the owner of Coulnakyle passed away in November. Members of the SFW steering group extend our deepest condolences to Mrs Clark and her family.

Selected Wildlife records:

11/12/18	200 linnets, 20 bramblings, 20 chaffinches
01/01/19	200 linnets, 20 bramblings, 12 chaffinches, 2 pheasant
03/02/19	700 linnets, 750 bramblings, 100 chaffinches, 1 pheasant



Mousa Nethybridge 0.5 ha

This site was hand broadcast on 19th May with a corn annual strip (1.5kg corn annuals and 100gms Phacelia) on the roadsides and a bird crop (5kg radish, 6kg linseed and 1kg quinoa) in the middle.

The site was topped by JK on 25th March.

Selected wildlife records:

19/11/18	50 bramblings, 40 chaffinches and 20 linnets
21/11/18	150 linnets, 20 bramblings, 20 chaffinches
11/12/18	100 linnets, 40 bramblings, 15 chaffinches, 1 robin
13/12/18	150 bramblings, 20 chaffinches, 10 linnets, 1 pheasant
27/12/18	100 linnets, 20 bramblings, 12 chaffinches
01/01/19	60 linnets, 40 bramblings, 15 chaffinches
11/01/19	60 bramblings, 50 linnets, 25 chaffinches, 1 wood pigeon
19/01/19	600 bramblings, 300 linnets, 100 chaffinches, 1 sparrowhawk



Balliemore

Nethybridge

1 ha

Seed was hand broadcast on 20th May. Mixtures were: 2kg corn annuals and 200 grams of Phacelia, 6kg linseed and 9kg of radish..

The site was topped by JK on 25th March.

Selected Wildlife records:

11/12/18	50 linnets, 12 bramblings, 4 reed buntings, 4 pheasants, 1 wren
27/12/18	100 bramblings, 12 chaffinches, 4 reed buntings, 6 linnets, 1 wren, 1 dunnoek
01/01/19	7 pheasants, 4 reed buntings, 10 linnets, 2 dunnocks, 2 wrens
17/01/19	400 linnets
03/02/19	12 reed buntings, 9 pheasants



Site visit to Balliemore on 6th August.

Croftallan Nethybridge 0.75 ha

Seeds were sown by hand on 19th May and harrowed and rolled on 28th. Seed mixtures were: 4kg perennial Heritage mixture, 11kg linseed and 1kg radish. The site was topped by JK on 25th March.



Site visit on 6th August.

Selected records:

26/11/18 150 linnets, 90 bramblings, 50 chaffinches, 2 roe deer

Eilean Donan

extended garden approx. 25 x 25 m

Site was hand sown on May 25th with 1.5kg Mavisbank perennial meadow mix with 200gms of corn annuals to give some colour in the first year. A handful of radish was also added. Excess herbage was cut and cleared in the autumn.



Members of the SFW steering group would like to extend their thanks to all our patrons, supporters and helpers for their help and support during the year.

Aileenemfox@gmail.com

Desmonddugan@btinternet.com

Jean.burns@live.co.uk