

NESCAN HUB NEWS

News, stories and
events from North
East Scotland's
Climate Action
Network



MAY 2023




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Welcome to our Nescan Hub May newsletter

All links in this newsletter are clickable!

They will be **bold and underlined**



Summer is approaching now, the first Swifts were officially spotted on 10 May in Huntly and there are a lot of events on throughout May. All the info you'll need is in this newsletter.

If you'd like your story or event to be featured in an upcoming newsletter or if you have any questions, please email [**alyssa@nescan.org**](mailto:alyssa@nescan.org)

Enjoy!

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

A REFUGE FOR SWIFTS!

Written by Cally Smith of NES Swifts

In early May Common Swift will arrive on our shores after an 8,000 mile migration journey from Sub-Saharan Africa to the UK to breed. This incredible bird will complete its entire journey without once touching the ground! Swifts spend more time airborne than any other species, eating, sleeping, drinking and mating on the wing. A more fascinating bird you will be hard pressed to find, an iconic bird of summer but one that has been sadly overlooked in recent years.



Common Swift are solely reliant on our urban environment for their breeding success. They access nesting sites via small holes in the pointing of our buildings, under loose tiles and slates landing immediately on the wall head or available ledge as they enter at a mind boggling 40mph! Don't assume they make a nuisance of themselves, they are clean and quiet living birds. Since they nest almost within the structure of the building they make no external mess and the nesting space is kept spotlessly clean throughout the breeding season, which is early May – early September. Sadly, Common Swift, a bird that has existed for at least 49 million years, was classified as a Red List species in December 2021 on the

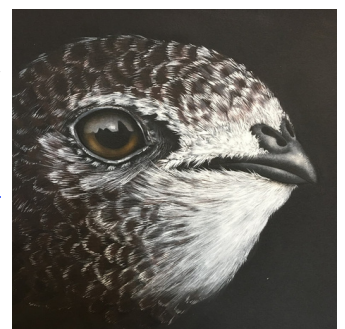


BofCC (Birds of Conservation Concern) listing compiled by the RSPB and other organisations. There are several reasons for this, Swifts have suffered losses of 63% over the last 25 years. Climate change and reduction in insect food supply are significant and nest site loss is certainly a contributing factor. Building renovations, demolitions and various upgrades have meant these little aviators are in trouble as each year, they are losing nest sites and they are also losing their lives to certain building repairs made during the breeding season. We do not advocate buildings fall in to disrepair but there are simple and inexpensive solutions available to renovate and protect an endangered species.

The Huntly Swift Group (NES Swifts) began in 2017 to address the serious decline of Swifts, Swallows and Martins across the North East of Scotland and we are about to embark on an exciting project at the West Church in Inverurie. We will install nesting chambers for Swifts

as a way of providing safe, permanent nesting opportunities for the declining Inverurie swift population. We are delighted to have the support of everyone at the Church as we join forces to offer safe refuge for the swifts! We are also extremely grateful of the Seed Funding we have received for this project from NESCAN Hub. The nest boxes will sit behind the louvres of the tower on two aspects and wont be visible from the outside nor will installation do any damage to the Church structure. It may take a year or three for the Swifts to find them, but once they do they will return each year to breed. This will not only be a vitally important conservation project but a wonderful way to engage the local community and raise awareness and we look forward to promoting our project together through Church events, talks and activities. Please do offer your support as the project develops.

For more information on our work and how you can help us, please contact Cally:
Huntly Swift Group (NES Swifts)
huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com
T: 07411 808 573
[Facebook](#) and
[Instagram](#)/huntlyswiftgroup



Upcoming Events

12 MAY

SCCAN member networking & skillshare meetup -

11AM - 12:30PM

Talking about Community Food Growing. Come learn & share ideas/experiences about food growing and starting community a garden.

[Book free tickets](#)

13 MAY

Join Community Planning Aberdeen for a Community Gathering

This event is for the people and community groups of Aberdeen to connect with each other and learn how they can get more involved in their community.

[Sign up here](#)

22 MAY

The Oil Machine - Online

7:00PM - 9:00 PM

The Oil Machine explores our economic, historical & emotional entanglement with oil by looking at the North Sea Oil's imperatives.

[Book free tickets](#)



Community Planning Aberdeen

COMMUNITY Gathering

Free Admission Saturday 13 May 10-1.30pm Cowdray Hall (via Aberdeen Art Gallery)

Drop in and join the fun

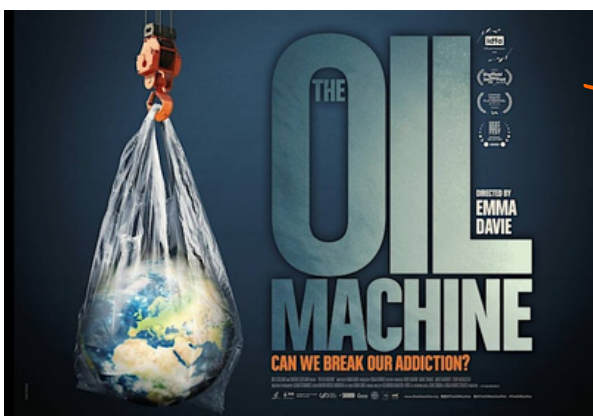
COME AND JOIN US

Find out what's going on in your community, connect with community groups, find out how to volunteer.

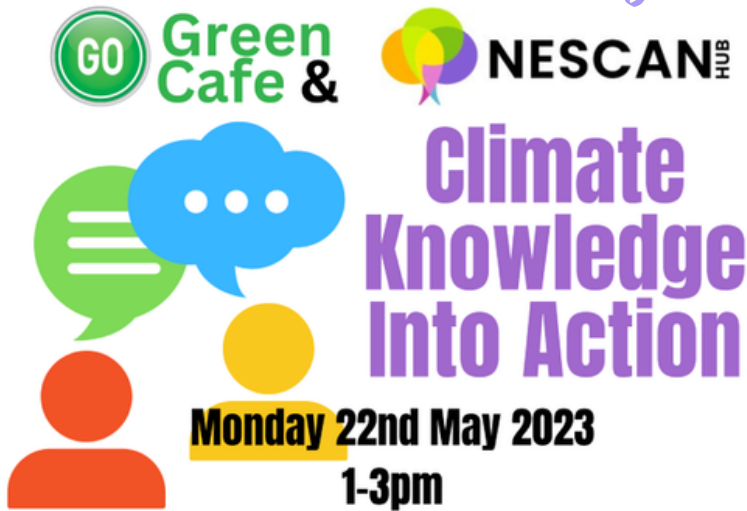
Sign up → to participate in workshops on the day.



Tea, coffee, food, stalls, raffles, activities for children.



22 MAY



**Grampian opportunities and NESCAN Hub:
Go Green Climate Cafe -
Climate Knowledge Into Action**

1:00PM – 3:00PM

Learn how your community and place is affected by climate change now and in the future, and how adapting and becoming resilient helps reduce inequalities. Explore what climate action projects are already happening and which ones can be linked and planned for the future.

For further info/to book please contact:

Tracey@grampianopportunities.org.uk

01467 629675

Grampian Opportunities Activity Area

- Learn how your community and place is affected by climate change now and in the future and how adapting and becoming resilient helps reduce inequalities.
- Create a future vision of your community
- Explore what climate action projects are already happening and which ones can be linked and planned for the future

Refreshments Will Be Available

For Further Information or to Book Your Place,

Please Contact:

tracey@grampianopportunities.org.uk

01467 629675

or speak to a member of staff in the office



25 MAY

**SCCAN Active Hope
Practice Session - Online**

11AM – 12:30PM

Being engaged in climate action can carry an emotional toll.

This workshop for SCCAN members will focus on honouring our pain, Eco-anxiety relief & meditation.

[Book free tickets](#)

**6 & 10
JUNE**

Aberdeen Climate Action

Upcoming ACA 'Climate Café' and 'Aberdeen Coast Walk and Learn'

[See what's on](#)



31 MAY

North East Communities for a Just Transition

10:00AM – 3:00PM

A whole day event that will offer sessions exploring:

- Practicalities of running community assemblies
- The value of deliberative democratic processes on climate change
- How do we embed real change and what does this look like
- Interactive tools to build confidence and community engagement
- Developing climate action plans with children and young people

There will be opportunities for plenty of discussion, lunch, networking, and exploring and finding out about community engagement work and research that has been going on across the North East of Scotland as part of this Just Transition partnership project.

To attend the event – [visit the website](#), and select 'Registration' to enter your details and confirm your place.



CWNE23 AT THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE'S ABERDEENSHIRE RESEARCH FARM

Climate action takes many forms and a wide range of these are being tested at [The James Hutton Institute](#)'s Aberdeenshire research farm – the gates to which were thrown open during NESCAN Hub's recent Climate Week North East.

Over two days, more than 60 visitors were taken on walking tours of the farm at Glensaugh, just south of Cairn o-Mount, to learn about the research being conducted there as part of its Climate-Positive Farming Initiative.

For those who didn't make it, we caught up with the Initiative's lead Alison Hester. She explains that "Agricultural land management can play a big part in addressing both the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Glensaugh has been a research farm for 80 years and we are uniquely placed to explore transformative and innovative approaches to farming to address these urgent challenges.

"That includes looking at ways to manage the land for multiple benefits. For example diversifying grasslands to improve biodiversity, livestock health and nutrition and reduce emissions, restoring peatlands to reduce emissions, benefit associated diversity and buffer extreme rainfall events, and much more.

"Soils contain two to three times more carbon than all the vegetation on earth, and we have an active programme of soils research and monitoring underpinning much of what we do. This includes deploying state-of-the-art smart monitoring systems.

"Glensaugh is also home to our exciting new HydroGlen project, which is testing and demonstrating how we can realise the potential for green hydrogen in farming communities.

"Glensaugh, as a hill farm, is representative of much of Scotland's farmland, so what we do here is widely relevant. We appreciated the engagement from our visitors during these recent walks - from farmers through to investment fund managers, from the north-east, Angus, Perthshire and the central belt - and we are looking forward to holding more events in the near future."

Keep up with the Hutton's news and updates by signing up for their newsletter here:

[Newsletter | The James Hutton Institute](#)



Funding Opportunities

Nescan Hub seed funding opening soon.
More info coming soon.

- **Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund**

The Scottish Government has announced that the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund is to be made available for a third consecutive year to support more grassroots projects around Scotland.

The fund, which is distributed in the Aberdeen by ACVO, has already seen 160 City based projects share over £1.2million during years 1 and 2 and has made a huge difference to the lives of people within our communities.

[read more here](#)

- **WEA Scotland Green Award 2023**

The WEA Green Award has been created to recognise individuals or groups in Scotland who have adopted or promoted innovative educational approaches to green issues creatively and in a sustainable way. This may also involve inspiring and supporting others to consider taking action to promote a sustainable lifestyle.

The closing date for applications is 23:59, Monday 31st July 2023

[read more here](#)

Community Resources

15 to 21 May 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week



#ToHelpMyAnxiety



Consultation - Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

The guidance is intended to assist and support local authorities, communities, and others with an interest in local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. It is expected to be of particular relevance in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs), Local Place Plans (LPPs) and to support planning decision making.

Opened 27 Apr 2023 - **Closes 20 Jul 2023.**

[READ MORE](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week: On the theme of Anxiety 15-21 May

To increase people's awareness and understanding of anxiety by providing information on the things that can help prevent it from becoming a problem. At the same time, keep up the pressure to demand change - making sure that improving mental health is a key priority for the government and society as a whole.

[Read more](#)

Climate Emergency Newsletter

Emotional & Ecological Wellbeing Strategies to your Inbox. Join Jo for weekly support, nurturing words and practical tips to help prevent burn out!

[READ MORE](#)

Climate.Emergence



Plant and Share Month 2023

Taking place in spring 2023, Plant and Share Month is a campaign to get the nation growing and sharing produce with their community, school, family or friends. Plant and Share Month has four key themes: Growing for All, Growing for Joy, Growing to Eat and Growing for Nature. Each week has corresponding resources and tips to get your growing activities off the ground.

[DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT](#)



Community Climate Adaptation Routemap

A practical guide for communities to adapt to climate change.



DOWNLOAD

Adaptation
Scotland
supporting climate change resilience

 **sniffer**
knowledge brokers
for a resilient Scotland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

 **DEVELOPMENT
TRUSTS ASSOCIATION
SCOTLAND**
the community-led regeneration network

 Scottish Communities
Climate Action Network

 NORTH HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS
CLIMATE HUB

 **NESCAN
HUB**



What is it?

[The Community Climate Adaptation Routemap](#) is an accessible guide for local communities to take practical actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change to help build more thriving communities. It provides resources for practical, easily digestible actions which communities can use to build resilience and adapt while also addressing social issues.

Why is it useful for me (a nescan member)?

The Routemap features over 50 hyperlinks which signpost members to dozens of resources by top climate science specialists, organisations and experts from across Scotland and beyond. It also addresses the fundamental root causes of climate change (colonialism and development) in a way that sets the stage for meaningful, justice-oriented action in the future.

What should I do with it?

You could read it through first and follow the links. Then gather your local contacts together with the route map open in front of you. Follow the steps in the map so an idea or a vision for your community can be developed into a workable, effective project that will make a genuine difference to people and the environment in your community. Make sure to bookmark it as it will be useful time and time again!



NESCAN HUB

Are you looking for

- Help with your community climate action group or project?
- Help with funding?
- Interested in learning more about turning climate knowledge into action?

NESCAN Hub is here to help. [Become a member](#) or get in touch: info@nescan.org

Keep up to date and follow us @NESCANhub:

