

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Mull
12 – 19 July 2022

Holiday participants
David and Steph Bennett
George Malcolm and Sonia Donaghy
Mark and Julian Elliot

Leader: Ruth Fleming from Mull Magic www.mullmagic.com.

Photos by David Bennett and Ruth Fleming, all taken on the holiday.
Cover: puffins on Lunga and Tobermory (DB). Below: the group on Staffa.



The holiday was based at the Western Isles Hotel in Tobermory www.westernisleshotel.com



[View from Western Isles Hotel in Tobermory \(DB\).](#)

As on every Honeyguide wildlife holiday, we contributed to a conservation project. The conservation contribution of £40 per person, supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, totalled £300 for the RSPB's work on Mull. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £143,587 (September 2022).

David Sexton, RSPB Scotland Mull Officer, says: "Thank you very much for the donation. An amazing amount and we're very grateful. It's all much appreciated."

ILLUSTRATED DAILY DIARY

Wednesday 13 July – Glengorm

Today was a short trip to Glengorm Castle and estate, a 19th-century country house just six kilometres northwest of Tobermory.



Glengorm, estate and castle.

Wildlife here included spotted flycatcher, meadow pipits and meadow brown butterflies; flowers included harebells and fragrant and northern marsh orchids. On and near seaweed-covered rocks by the shore, there were common seals and good views of an otter.

Thursday 14 July – Craignure

Common sandpiper and oystercatchers were on the beach at Craignure, plus hooded crow and wheatear. A family party of otters was both on the seaweed-covered shoreline and swimming and fishing in the adjacent sea. Out at sea the group saw two red-throated divers.



Otters at Craignure.



Red-throated divers; common sandpiper.

Friday 15 July – Iona

A journey to southern Mull today and the ferry from Fionnphort to the island of Iona. There was then a walk to the bay at the 'Back of the Ocean', which has a fine area of machair and where the group had its picnic lunch. Much to enjoy here including corncrakes calling in the fields behind Martyr's Bay, eiders by the shore, wheatears and the wildlife pictured below.



Iona Abbey; garden tiger moth.



Dunlins and a heron, both at the 'Back of the Ocean' area on Iona.



Starlings in a mixture of plumages, Iona.

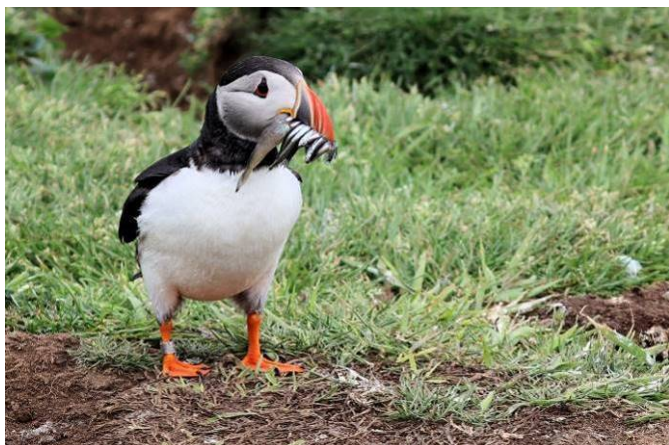
Saturday 16 July – Staffa and Lunga

Today was the day for the boat trip to the Treshnish Isles on the boat from Tobermory with Staffa Tours. The first visit was to Staffa, including Fingal's Cave, to walk among the amazing volcanic basalt columns.



Staffa, from the boat.

That was followed by Lunga, with its tame seabirds, puffins especially. At one point on the return trip to Tobermory, nosed dolphins were surfing ahead of Staffa Tours boat.



Puffins are very tolerant of people on Lunga; they seem to have learnt that the presence of people helps to keep away predators such as great black-backed gulls.

Sunday 17 July – Calgary Bay

Another coastal area today, with machair and mixed habitats. A low-flying golden eagle, a juvenile, allowed David B to get some good photos. Butterflies included common blue, meadow brown and speckled wood, and later a dark green fritillary was still enough to be photographed – so often this species is flying quickly past. Another star invertebrate was golden-ringed dragonfly.



Dark green fritillary, upperside and underside.



Golden eagle; golden-ringed dragonfly, with a bee.

Later the group was happy to enjoy the Calgary 'Art in Nature' exhibits, natural sculptures set in the lovely landscape here.



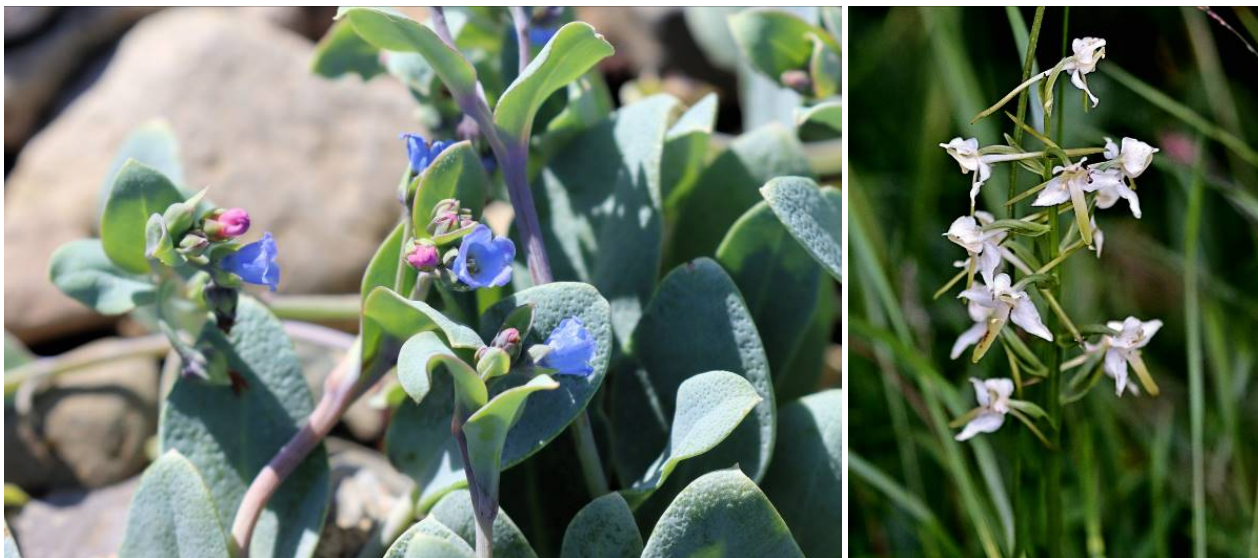
Group members in the field, then relaxing at Calgary.



Examples of 'Art in Nature' exhibits at Calgary.

Monday 18 July – local flowers, and Ulva

The value of local knowledge and contacts were clear today. The first example was visiting the garden of a friend of Ruth, to see lesser butterfly orchids. The second was that Ruth had seen a picture of oysterplant on social media, a shore species from northern latitudes, and she recognised the locality. With a little searching, we found it. Both are rather special plants and great to see.



Oyster plant; lesser butterfly orchid.

Next stop was Ulva, reached after summoning the ferry by moving a small wooden board fixed to the wall. Here we had lunch in The Boathouse followed by a local walk. Lunch is a reminder to highlight Ruth's "heart-warming delicious soups and her home-made cakes, which really spoiled us," as one group member put it.



Common blue butterfly on Ulva; The Boathouse, Ulva.

Plant list, compiled by Sonia Donaghy.

Alpine Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum alpinum</i>	Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Amphibious Bistort (terrestrial form)	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Common Centaury ?	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>
Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Common Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
Bitter Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Bluebell in seed	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Common Marsh-bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
Bog Asphodel	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Common Milkwort ?	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>
Bog Myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>	Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Bog Pimpernel leaves	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Common Spotted x Heath	<i>Gymnadenia borealis</i> x
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Fragrant-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> =
Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>		<i>Dactylogymnadenia</i>
Charlock	<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>		<i>cockeri</i>
Chicory	<i>Chicorium intybus</i>	Common Spotted x Heath	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> x
		Spotted-orchid	<i>D. maculata</i> = <i>D. x transiens</i>
		Common Spotted x Northern	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> x
		Marsh-orchid	<i>D. purpurella</i> = <i>D. x venusta</i>

Common Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Lesser Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Lesser Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>
Corn Spurrey	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Lesser Sea-spurrey	<i>Spergularia marina</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Lesser Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Cross-leaved Heath	<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>
Cut-leaved Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium hybridum</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
Dame's Violet	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Marsh Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Marsh Pennywort lvs	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>
Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Marsh Ragwort	<i>Senecio aquaticus</i>
Dog's Mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Marsh Willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
Enchanters Nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Marsh Woundwort	<i>Stachys palustris</i>
English Stonecrop	<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia</i> sp	Meadow Crane's-bill - blue	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Fairy Flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill - white	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Field Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Field Gentian	<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Northern Marsh-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Oysterplant	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>
Grass-of-Parnassus lvs	<i>Parnassia palustris</i> <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> (<i>uliginosus</i>)	Pignut	<i>Conopodium majus</i>
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>
Greater Butterfly-orchid	<i>Spergularia media</i>	Purple-loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Greater Sea-spurrey	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Green Alkanet	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Ragged Robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>
Hard-fern	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Harebell	<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites verna</i>
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Gymnadenia borealis</i>	Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
Heath Fragrant-orchid	<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>	Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Heath Groundsel	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Red Fescue (grass)	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Heath Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Heath Spotted-orchid - white	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Heath Spotted x Northern Marsh-orchid	<i>D. purpurella</i> = <i>D. x formosa</i>	Sanicle lvs	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Sea Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritima</i>
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium album</i> (<i>mollugo</i>)	Sea Aster	<i>Aster tripolium</i>
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Sea Campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i> <i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>
Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Sea Mayweed	<i>Plantago maritima</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Sea Plantain	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> ssp <i>maritimus</i>
Hoary Ragwort	<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Sea Radish	<i>Cakile maritima</i>
Hoary Willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Sea Rocket	<i>Glaux maritima</i>
Ivy-leaved Toadflax	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Sea-milkwort	<i>Centaureum littorale</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Seaside Centaury	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Selfheal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
Knotted Pearlwort	<i>Sagina nodosa</i>	Shallon	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	Silverweed	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>
		Skullcap	

Slender St John's-Wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
Smith's Pepperwort	<i>Lepidium heterophyllum</i>	Watercress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>
Smooth Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Welsh Poppy	<i>Meconopsis cambrica</i>
Sneezewort	<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Soft Lady's-mantle	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Soft-rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Wild Garlic	<i>Allium ursinum</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
Spear-leaved Orache	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Sticky Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Wood Speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i>
Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Thyme-leaved Sandwort	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Yellow Iris - leaves no pods	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Yellow Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Yorkshire Fog (grass)	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>		
Upright Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>	160 species recorded	
Water Avens GO	<i>Geum rivale</i>	? difficult to identify without	GO = gone over (not in
Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	detailed examination	flower)
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Names mostly after Stace C.	
		<i>New Flora of the British Isles</i>	



Heath spotted orchid; northern marsh orchid; heath fragrant orchid.