

MOUNTAINHALL

COMMUNITY
GREENSPACE

July update: Happy Lughnasadh

Lughnasadh, Lughnasa or Lúnasa is a Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season. Historically, it was widely observed throughout Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Traditionally, it is held on 1 August, or about halfway between the summer solstice and autumn equinox. In recent centuries, some celebrations have shifted to Sundays near this date.

* Referenced from Wikipedia

Thank you to our community members who responded to the ask for help for landscape management. It's also been lovely seeing photos of people using the space, and how they've made the most of the foraging potential at Mountainhall.

At the end of July, our stakeholder group met to discuss the upcoming Stakeholder and Community Panel meeting, which will be taking place at the end of August. This is the first time the Community Panel and Stakeholder group meet, which is an important step in developing the project.

• Foraging at Mountainhall Greenspace



Homemade mead - photo by community member

Thank you to the community member who sent in photos of their preparation of raspberry mead, made from the raspberries found at Mountainhall. We are most impressed and hope you enjoy your homemade drink!

We hope to encourage more foraging and skill sharing on how best to use foraged food found at Mountainhall. If you have any tips or recommendations please share them!

• Community landscape management

A massive thank you to Aidan, Alan and Maggie who responded to our call out for help managing the landscape at the Mountainhall greenspace. With their help, we have managed the arrival of Himalayan Balsam this year by picking it out before it flowered and seeded.

It is something we would like to keep an eye on, and next year we will be checking to see if any has returned.

Himalayan Balsam (also known as poor-mans orchid) originates from The Himalayas and was introduced to the UK as an ornamental garden plant in the 1830's. It is a very fast growing, persistent plant and has spread throughout Britain's landscapes.

It is however, very pretty and holds it's flowers for months at a time, which alongside Rosebay Willow Herb, helps cover our landscapes in pretty pink swathes. It is also edible, and you can eat the flowers and seeds. Though please be sure no one is using herbicides in that area.

The term 'non-native, invasive' can get used a lot when talking about Britain's biodiversity. Though some ecologists are arguing against these categorisations, as 'native' is not a fixed time in history. The linguistics associated with these categorisations are also wrongly getting used to exacerbate xenophobic views.

You can read more about this here: <https://www.jackwallington.com/you-say-native-i-say-indigenous/>



Maggie - photo by Alan Sprung

• Online community

We hope you enjoy seeing each others posts as much as we do. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the **Mountainhall Greenspace Community** facebook page. We know not everyone likes to share in this way, so if you would rather you could send photos, ideas and anecdotes to:

mountainhallgreenspace@gmail.com

Let us know if you would like to feature in our newsletters, either with your name or not.

We also encourage you to invite anyone you think might have an interest to join us. They can sign up to the newsletters or Community Panel here: <https://forms.gle/cqJmmfbfXWR8GXcL6>

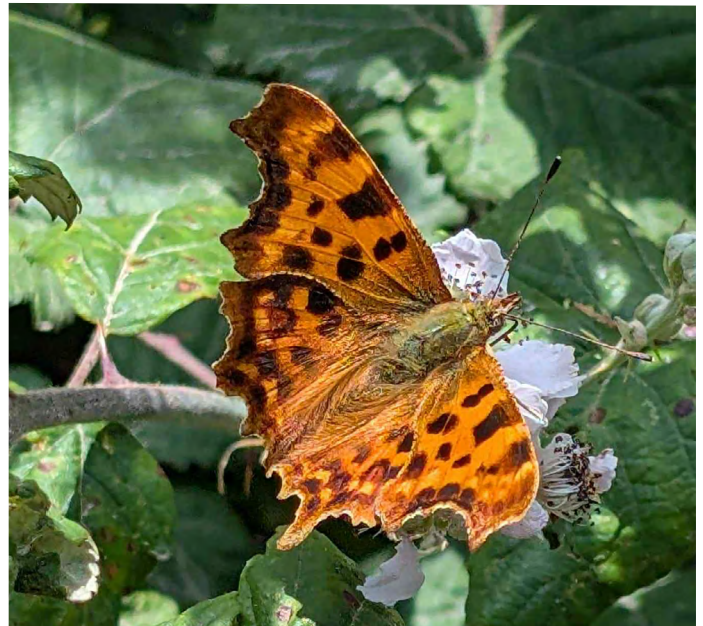
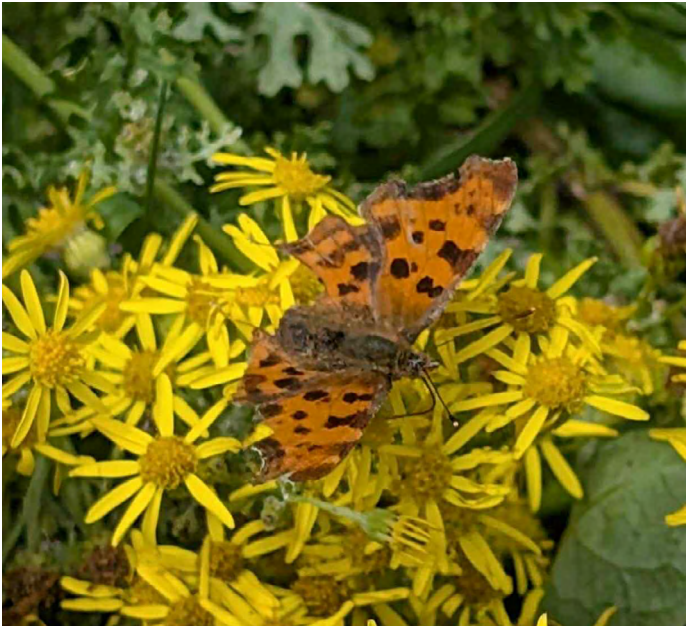
Having an online community presence helps us share and catalogue what is happening. It reaches a wider audience, builds up interest and can be an important source of communication for people less mobile. However, as time goes on we do hope to see more of you in person.

• Biodiversity on Mountainhall Greenspace

Malcolm at SWSEIC finds a Comma Butterfly at Mountainhall:

“The Comma Butterfly *Polygonia c-album* is an uncommon butterfly in Dumfries & Galloway. It re-colonised the region in the 90s after an absence of 100 years. Since then the spread has been very slow indeed. For reasons we don't know it has fared much better in Ayrshire and The east coast of Scotland. This is quite surprising as the Commas main food plant is Nettle which is very abundant. The sighting at Mountainhall was therefore a good find as SWSEIC receives less than 50 records a year for this species in D&G most of which come from a single site, Kirkconnell Flow.”

South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) is the Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) covering Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire. LERCs are not-for-profit organisations that collect, collate and manage information on the natural environment for a defined geographic area. LERCs support and collaborate with a network of experts to ensure information is robust, and make information products and services accessible to a range of audiences including decision-makers, the public, and researchers. <https://swseic.org.uk/>



Comma Butterfly - photos by Malcolm Haddow

It's lovely to learn more about our greenspace and the wildlife found there. If you would like to help record the biodiversity found at Mountainhall, you could share your findings on our I-Naturalist account. I-Naturalist is a community platform which ID's plants and insects whilst recording important data on biodiversity.

I-Naturalist can be downloaded as an app onto your phone, which makes it easy to upload photos, get identifications, and contribute to our understanding of the Mountainhall greenspace. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mountainhall-greenspace>

• Survey

We have given the survey a new deadline of the 22nd of August. Please don't miss out the opportunity to feedback to us in this way, we would also appreciate if you could help us share it. <https://forms.gle/kvGZ8nhngtrUoXpn6>

You are also very welcome to get in touch by email:

mountainhallgreenspace@gmail.com I'll do my best to get back to you soon as possible.

- **Community Panel and Stakeholder meeting**

The Stakeholder group have busy behind the scenes organising for our Community Panel (CP) and Stakeholder meeting at the end of August. Please could Community Panel members keep **Wednesday 27th August 1.30pm - 4pm free to meet us, either online or in the Mountainhall Treatment centre**. Ticket links will be sent by email soon.

This important meeting will help identify committed Community Panel members who would like to keep evolving this project alongside the NHS and the other involved organisations. With a few proposals on how best to keep shaping this project together, this meeting holds some crucial conversations on communication strategy and group structures. We are lucky to have DesignHOPES, Strathclyde university research team, help guide these conversations. <https://designhopes.org/project/land-use/>

In the interim, we will be asking CP members to also join us for an online meeting. Please keep an eye out in your in-boxes for this invitation.



Rasberries - photo by Alan Sprung



Emily picking raspberries - photo by Euan Skinner

With best wishes,
Emily
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<https://www.propagate.org.uk>

Propagate are a regenerative food collective specializing in local, community and sustainable food projects.

