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Advertising Feature

Animal Action Week

Next week from the 4th to the 10th of October we will be celebrating Animal Action Week as well as World Animal Day which takes place on the 4th of October, with a host of events and activities up and down the country. Both events work to improve the welfare of both wild and domestic animals and birds throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation, protecting wildlife, preventing cruelty and to promote the welfare of animals. Animals play a diverse role in society providing food, companion and friendship, support and help to many people all over the world.

Animal Action Week, and World Animal Day aim to heighten public awareness surrounding the dangers of taking our wildlife and animals for granted and to encourage people to think about how we as the public,

relate to animals in general. Numerous animal parks, bird gardens, falconry and wildlife centres allow people to learn about and experience wildlife first hand, whilst remaining in a protected environment ensuring the welfare of the animals and their natural habitat. This year, Animal Action Week is focusing on the relationship between wildlife and young people, highlighting the importance of educating young people in animal and wildlife welfare, for it is this generation that will be responsible for our countries animal and wildlife for years to come.

Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre

High up in the Perthshire hills, the award-winning Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre has long been one of Scotland's family favourites. With over 100 acres of

Girl Guide reunion an appealing time

BY MATT ALLAN

AN EVENT planned to bring former Girl Guides from across the region together for a reunion looks set for success this week.

Former members of Perth and Kinross county executive, together with the programme and training committee, have been invited to a reunion at Kinross House to end this year's Big G appeal.

Jan Montgomery, one of the event's organisers, this week said that they were looking forward to a good turnout for the event this afternoon.

She told the Herald and Post: "We've had a lot of replies to the invitations. Around 80 people have got back but we're still waiting to hear from some others."

"As you can imagine, it has taken some work to get all the addresses together and we've been doing a bit of research."

"The majority of the Perth and Kinross people



PROMISING: Event organiser Jan Montgomery

have stayed fairly close but there have been some who have gone a bit further afield and we've also had responses from some people much further afield."

Jan said that despite the size of the task facing her and the other organisers everything seemed to be going to plan. "All the organisation has been going very well," she said.

"It's a lot of work but it will be very satisfying when we get a big crowd together. I've asked everybody to bring a photograph of a happy time with the Guides so we can pass them round and can all reminisce."

This is the first such reunion organised in Perth

but Jan says she hopes it will repeat the success of one recently arranged by Edinburgh Guides.

The reunion is the third event to be organised in aid of the Big G appeal.

Earlier in the year, County President Lady Smith hosted a lunch at Muthil and funds were further boosted by a fiddlers' rally and ceilidh at Methven Castle.

Jan said: "We are in the middle of this appeal to raise money in Scotland. We've never done anything like this before - asking for money for the Guides."

"But our new training centre, the Garden House, was opened last year and the bulk of our fundraising

went towards that. Now our focus is to raise money so that Guide groups from more remote areas of Scotland can visit the new facility."

The reunion will coincide neatly with the first anniversary of the opening of the Garden House, which was built in the grounds of the training and activity centre, Netherurd House, after members spent more than a year raising money for the Big G appeal.

The building includes a walled garden and accommodation for up to 60 people.

Ceremony

It is also fully equipped to accommodate members with disabilities.

The opening ceremony of the Garden House was attended by Girlguiding Scotland's President, the Countess of Rosebery, Chief Commissioner Liz Pitcairn and Deputy Commissioner Isobel Gray.

The new facility will offer a wide range of opportunities for Girlguides for many years to come and it is hoped that members from outside Scotland will visit as well.

hillside dotted with ponds, streams, paddocks and enclosures teeming with a huge range of native and exotic birds and animals including Highland cattle, the Scottish wildcat, meerkats, prairie dogs and many, many more.

For the youngster, there's a huge barn, an outdoor adventure playground. There are woodland walks, picnic areas and the famous Pine Lodge Coffee Shop guaranteed to give you the most fantastic views of the southern Highlands.

Scottish Deer Centre

Free roaming in 55 acres of beautiful countryside are 140 heads of deer covering nine different species. Under guidance of expert rangers you are able to meet these majestic animals or even enjoy a nose-to-nose encounter with a stag or watch the feeding of the centres three European wolves. A must for all the family with a bird of prey centre, falconry displays, treetop and woodland walks, inside shelter picnic areas, adventure play parks as well as the very best in courtyard shopping. Here you'll find souvenirs, tartans, woollens, traditional Scottish foods and whisky as well as our coffee shop.

Argaty Red Kites

After a hundred years, Red Kites are back in Central Scotland. As the result of a reintroduction programme masterminded by the RSPB, kites are now living and breeding again over our countryside. At the feeding station - Argaty Red Kites, Lerrocks Farm, Doune - visitors can enjoy these spectacular birds and their aerial displays and usually see them diving down for their food in competition with the local buzzards.

Cowal Bird Garden

Enjoy walks through ancient woodlands, the dry sledge run, the walk-through aviary and toddlers play areas. Meet and feed the animals including, Jasmine and Fergus, the goats; Snowy and Sparky, the donkeys; Snort and Snuffles, the pot-bellied pigs; Rabbits, Guinea pigs and peacocks.

Get close to the local wildlife, including red squirrels and owls. Meet Bluebell, the rare albino roe deer. Visit the shop for souvenirs and toys at very reasonable prices. Why not bring a picnic?

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