

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland

PRESS RELEASE

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THE FUTURE OF GALLOWAY'S LANDSCAPES

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS), the charity which promotes the care of all of Scotland's rural landscapes, is holding a Members' Day on Saturday 23 August in Gatehouse of Fleet, in association with the Galloway Preservation Society (GPS).

In the morning Anna Johnson, National Scenic Areas Officer with Dumfries & Galloway Council, will speak on connecting landscapes and communities in Galloway. Ecologist, author and lecturer Dr James Fenton will speak on what kind of landscapes the new Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere should seek to conserve. There will be an open discussion on the Future of Galloway's Landscapes, and a brief meeting of APRS advisory Council.

A buffet lunch will be available for those who have booked in advance. The afternoon will feature site visits to the Knocktinkle NSA Viewpoint and to Dromore and Gatehouse Station, including an optional short walk (maximum three miles) on fairly level ground. The idea is that the site visits will illustrate some of the issues discussed in the morning by giving views over some of Galloway's varied landscapes – mountain, moorland, forestry plantations, hill grazing and ancient woodlands.

John Mayhew, Director of APRS, said: "The landscapes of Galloway's three National Scenic Areas have been given special attention for over thirty years, but what has this designation achieved in practice? And now Galloway has a new Biosphere designation, part of the point of which is to conserve its landscapes – but which of these landscapes do we value and want to conserve? Or should Galloway really aspire to become Scotland's third National Park? We hope to encourage a lively debate on these issues at our Members' Day in Gatehouse, which is open to all local people and visitors as well as APRS members, friends and families".

The Member's Day will be held in the Faed Gallery, Mill on the Fleet, High Street, Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2HS, starting at 10.30 with coffee and chat available from 10.00. All APRS and GPS members, friends and family are most welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please book in advance by Wednesday 20 August, to help us assess catering numbers. The cost is £10 per person, payable on the day, which includes coffee, lunch and a contribution towards room hire. To book or for any queries please email info@ruralscotland.org or ring 0131 225 7012.

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