

When the Year of Natural Scotland 2013 was first mooted during the latter part of 2012, I had the idea of having an Artist in Residence for Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve. I first thought I might be fortunate to get the interest of a student at Duncan of Jordanstone College, however, I thought Derek might want to be involved for a month or so; I crossed my fingers and phoned Derek. Derek said he would cut off my right arm to do the Artist in Residency... my arm by the way!

Derek's output has been inspiring - designing a specific title, 'Between Tides,' for the years work and a website to go with it. Derek was also innovative, designing a Virtual Trail using QR codes on small posters with paintings of animals and birds, linking the user directly to Derek's website and more images and information. Derek has been utterly fantastic. I have had many highlights in my career as Reserve Manager here, but without doubt, securing Derek as our Artist in Residence has been the most rewarding in terms of personal satisfaction, and in the amazing benefits for the Reserve and SNH.

Tom Cunningham, Reserve Manager. Tentsmuir

It has been an absolute delight and privilege to have Derek as our Artist in Residence at Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve to celebrate 2013 Year of Natural Scotland.

We had hopes of what a residency could produce for the NNR but Derek has far exceeded our expectations in every respect. Not only has Derek captured the many facets and species of the NNR through a collection of truly stunning artwork but has opened up the NNR to new audiences through media coverage and an innovative programme of collaborative and outreach projects such as creation of the first virtual trail.

Derek's work to explore the links between science, art and nature lead him to bring together a collection of artists and scientists for some exciting events exploring the boundaries and connections of these disciplines and challenging our knowledge and understanding of this very special place.

Derek's knowledge of the natural world, undoubted natural talent and infectious enthusiasm has inspired new and old visitors to the NNR and produced a lasting legacy which will extend well beyond this year.

Caroline Gallacher Area Manager Scottish Natural Heritage



'Virtual' nature trail launched

Visitors have the chance to see an exciting new project from Tentsmuir's artist in residence

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Visitors to Tentsmuir national nature reserve are to be given the chance to enjoy a 'virtual' trail, thanks to artist in residence Derek Robertson.

This Tuesday, May 28, sees the launch of a new online gallery that lets people see even the shyest animals close up.

As they walk around the trail, they can stop at marked points and use a smart phone to scan QR codes on special signs carrying some of Derek's sketches.

Visitors will also be able to call up a web page showing Derek's sketches and paintings of wildlife that can be seen in that part of the reserve. The page links to video footage of wildlife filmed by Derek with remote-sensor cameras.

The web pages, paintings and video can also be

viewed on-line on Derek's residency website at www.memoryofhides.com.

Between 9.30am and 11am on Tuesday, the public will be able to see the project first hand when Derek shows visitors around the trail and demonstrates some painting and sketching techniques. A party of S2 and S3 art students from Dundee High School are among those taking part.

Derek, an internationally-recognised wildlife artist, was appointed as Tentsmuir's artist in residence as part of the Year of Natural Scotland celebrations.

He's spending the year creating a new series of wildlife paintings in oils and watercolours to help stimulate the public's interest in Scotland's nature.

Paintings from his residency will be included in a series of exhibitions later this year and viewers will be able to see his work on BBC's Countryfile on June 2.

"I have very fond memories



Derek with Countryfile presenter Matt Baker.

of Tentsmuir," said Derek.

"When I was about 13 or 14, I would spend days there sketching and painting. It was one of the first places I began to build my artistic skills, so I was absolutely delighted, and honoured, when SNH invited me to be artist in residence at the reserve."

He continued: "The new online gallery means that visitors will be able to see close-up footage of the

individual animals from those locations on the reserve: even shy, hard-to-see and nocturnal species like deer, badgers and otters."

Tom Cunningham, Tentsmuir's reserve manager, said: "We think the virtual trail will be a terrific adventure for visitors to the reserve. It's a great way to learn about the wildlife on the reserve, and to know what to look out for on their next trip!"

The Year of Natural Scotland is a celebration of Scotland's outstanding natural beauty. It's a partnership between SNH, the Scottish Government, VisitScotland, EventScotland, and a range of public and private sector organisations.

For more information on Year of Natural Scotland, visit www.snh.gov.uk/natural or www.visitscotland.com/natural.

'Walk along the beach'

THERE'S LOTS TO DO DURING A VISIT TO TENTSUIR NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE AND EDEN ESTUARY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE.

WALK ALONG THE BEACH TO TENTSUIR POINT AND YOU MAY SEE HUNDREDS OF SEALS BASKING ON THE SANDBARS OR VISIT TAYPORT HEATH FOR FANTASTIC VIEWS ACROSS THE RIVER TAY.

THERE ARE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO WATCH WILDLIFE. LOOK OUT FOR RED SQUIRRELS AND ROE DEER.

To see more of Derek's work, visit www.derekrobertson.com or www.creativepastures.com

Science Arts Project with Dundee University around the Tentsmuir Residency

https://www.flickr.com/photos/corinnemills/sets/72157649057332806/?ytcheck=1&new_session=1

<https://scotlandsnature.blog/2014/10/29/tentsmuir-nnr-an-inspiration-for-artists-and-scientists/>

<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/news/2014/between-tides---riddles-of-tentsmuir--new-lamb-gallery-exhibition.php>

Between Tides Art-Science event produced at Tentsmuir NNR

https://www.dundee.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/between_tides/

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/corinnemills/albums/72157636407377645>

SNH Report

<https://scotlandsnature.blog/2013/12/23/derek-robertson/>





