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## Forth Estuary Forum

### E-News Bulletin

September 2018

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## **Tay and Forth Estuary Forums joint conference - Friday 28th September, National Museums of Scotland, Lothian St., Edinburgh**

The Tay and Forth Estuary Joint conference is fast approaching. Be sure to book your place! A programme is available [here](#) and full details of how to book can be found [here](#).

This year we will have a soapbox session again; please get in touch with Forum staff if you would like to stand up for five minutes and talk on any Forth/Tay related matter, or find a member of staff on the day.

**Please note: the conference starts before the main museum entrance opens on Chambers St., so do please enter for the conference at the Lothian St. entrance, where our registration desk and refreshments will be.**

## **Forth Estuary Forum seeks new Chair**

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The Forum is inviting expressions of interest and nominations for a new Chairperson to lead its Board. The Board meets quarterly and is responsible for all aspects of governance of this charitable company.

The chair should have a keen interest in the sustainable planning, management and use of the Forth and its environs and be able to demonstrate effective communication, leadership and team-working skills. A business background and / or experience of work with Local Authorities would be advantageous.

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The chair is appointed in a personal capacity. The position is voluntary and unpaid, although the chair can claim for travelling expenses. **The role is for three years, with re-election if so desired according to our Articles.**

In addition to chairing the Board, the chair also oversees quarterly management group meetings - eight meetings per year in total, plus one AGM and annual conference.

More details can be found [here](#)

## **Map reveals 'scourge' of Scotland's coastal litter problem**

**A map identifying litter hotspots along Scotland's coastline has been launched.**

Aerial photographs of plastics and rubbish washed up and blown up on to beaches have been [posted online](#).

The aim is to help organisations and volunteers involved in clean-up work better target their efforts - particularly in remote areas where litter often remains "hidden". Those behind the project hope it will become an invaluable tool in the fight against marine litter.

The Scottish Coastal Rubbish Aerial Photography (SCRAPbook) is a collaboration between three charities - the Marine Conservation Society, Sky Watch Civil Air Patrol and the Moray Firth Partnership. Other coastal partnerships, including the Forum, will become closely involved in managing volunteers to assess the photographs for litter abundance.

Pilots and observers have been taking to the skies to photograph thousands of miles of Scottish coastline, and more information can be found [here](#).

## **Japanese garden nestling in Ochil Hills brought 'back to life'**

A historic Japanese garden destroyed by vandals in the 1960s is open to the public again.

The garden at Cowden Castle in Clackmannanshire - described as a "jewel in the Forth Valley" - was created in the 1900s by Scottish adventurer, Ella Christie, and one of Japan's first female garden designers, Taki Handa.

As part of the regeneration two bridges have been replaced - one gently curving, the other zig-zag, leading to a small island. There are peaceful views fringed by plants and trees, some of which are more than 100 years old.

The garden may be pure Japan, but the backdrop is the Ochil Hills. Working from old photographs of the site, the experts pinpointed where a particular view was in the garden, sometimes not easy because everything was so overgrown. They then cleared and restored to what they could see in the photographs.

There is still more work to be done here, the restoration work is about three-quarters done and it will change and mature with time.

More details can be found [here](#).