

March 2016 (18th – 20th)

Signs of spring & a barrow-load of Puffins

The second weekend's manning saw the continuation of the fine early March weather with light winds and calm seas.

On the island, however, conditions underfoot are still quite wet despite the recent dry spell. The Gully is living up to its name and is full of pools of standing water.



The bulk of the Narcissi are still to flower, but the early daffs are out



And the Marsh Marigold is flowering in wet areas.



Catkins are appearing on the trees

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). The big catkin is male, as are the two small broken ones. Something has taken a bite out of them. They are protein rich. The small mini-cone ones are female.



Salix cinerea, the grey willow. This photo is of a male catkin



Shelduck are starting to gather on the island, looking for nest holes. These four birds lifted from near the cliff. Scrabo Tower can be seen in the background.



Puffin decoys were deployed





Evenings finished with a good fire...

