

Who was David Stephen?

David Stephen was born in Airdrie in 1911. He was initial director of Palacerigg Country Park. He was also a world renowned naturalist/conservationist consulting on and becoming involved in literally thousands of animal and environmental projects around the globe. He bought over 40 hectares of what was once an upland farm and planted it with thousands of native trees and shrubs. This environment provided a sanctuary for thriving populations of roe deer, badger, fox and hares as well as hawks and owls

In 1947 he became nature writer with the "Daily Record", then nine years later moved to "The Scotsman" where worked for a number of years. He published many books (paperback and hard back); wrote many official journal papers and pretty much had his finger in every aspect of global animal/environmental welfare. One of his first and best known books was called: "How to watch wildlife, by David Stephen" a title copied by Bill Oddie in his own book.

Above information was sourced from:

http://www.monklands.co.uk/memories/skinner1.htm#David_Stephen

Set in almost 700 acres of countryside which had been a run down farm on the outskirts of the town, Palacerigg Country Park can be described as the jewel in Cumbernauld's crown. It was opened by Cumbernauld Burgh Council in 1974 under the guidance of the first Warden, local naturalist David Stephen.

David Steven was an internationally recognised self taught naturalist, writer, photographer and Journalist, writing columns for the Daily Record and The Scotsman. He was passionate about wildlife and was violently opposed to hunting, trapping and factory farming. Sadly his books are all out of print now but if you look hard enough, you can buy them [second hand](#). Harry Reid, editor of the *Glasgow Herald* between 1997 and 2000, worked closely with David Stephen and had this to say about his books.

"They are valuable not just for his wonderful empathy with animals but also for their superb descriptions of the Scottish landscape."