



Community
Woodlands
Association

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR APRIL 2005 TO MARCH 2006

**Support for CWA is provided by
Community Land Unit of HIE, Forestry Commission Scotland,
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Scottish Natural Heritage.**

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Contents

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. MEMBERSHIP

Information Sharing
Visits to Member Groups
Membership Benefits Development
Contact With Non Member Groups
Membership Development
Membership Statistics
Renewals/Cancellations
Feedback
Location Distribution

2. REPRESENTATION AND NETWORKING

Networking
Rhona Brankin MSP
National Fora

3. TRAINING

Conference
Training Opportunities Project
Seminars

4. PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Financial Control
Financial Planning and Fundraising
Project Monitoring, Reporting and Administration
Member Satisfaction Survey

6. INFORMATION

Egroup
Website
Woodland Voices
Handbook

7. ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

The Northern Periphery Project – ELAV
Knowledge Share Project
Biodiversity Training for Community Woodlands
Forest Partnerships Research Project
Trees for All
Social Enterprise Trip
CW Conference
Highland Year of Culture 2007

CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been another busy, nay hectic year for the Community Woodlands Association, as summarised in the body of this report. I sometimes find it hard to believe that so much can get done by such a small, young organisation, but then I remember that the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our member groups is matched by our staff and directors.

Of course we would be nowhere without our staff: Diane and Matilda took us forward in leaps and bounds through the year, providing a range of services to an ever-increasing membership as well as developing training and biodiversity projects. Diane remains at the helm, whilst Matilda is now on maternity leave – congratulations to her and Fred on the arrival of Ria on the 22nd of Feb.

Michaela Hunter took up the Maternity Cover job in February, and has hit the ground running. Also new for 2006, in January we welcomed Ailsa Spindler as project officer for the ELAV project, based in Golspie. This is two year post, co-ordinating the development of community – led strategic plan for forestry in East Sutherland.

The directors too have played a vital role in guiding, promoting and representing the CWA. There have been a number of changes to the Board during the year: Joan Higginson stepped down due to family circumstances, and we welcomed Brigitte Geddes, Jamie McIntyre and Ian Whitehead at the AGM. The golden rule for CWA directorship is “no passengers”, and I’m glad to report that all directors have contributed extensively.

The year to come looks to be equally busy, not least for the directors, as we are in the process of revising our Business Plan, and gearing ourselves for the future beyond our current funding packages, which mostly end in March 2007. Whilst I’m sure our new business plan will reiterate our twin objectives: to promote and represent benefits of Community Woodlands to wider world, and to provide services to member groups, present and future, we also wish to expand the range and depth of services that we can provide.

But I’ll conclude by mentioning my two highlights of the year. The first was the conference in Grantown on Spey, to my mind the most exciting and inspiring CW conference since the first one I attended at Laggan all those years ago. My second highlight was the visit of Rhona Brankin MSP to Abriachan – because we weren’t merely talking about the possibilities and potentials of community woodlands, as we would have been just 5 years ago, but were able to demonstrate actual achievement – “delivery” - on the ground.

And that’s what it’s all about really – Community Woodland Groups across Scotland getting things done for the benefit of local communities, and an Association that exists to bring groups together, help them when it’s needed and promotes their achievements to the wider world. Long may it continue, and may you all live, work and play in sunlit forests.

Jon Hollingdale, Skerray, May 2006

I. MEMBERSHIP

Information sharing

We have instituted the distribution of a monthly ebulletin, which collates all the relevant information CWA receives during a one month period. It covers current news from groups around Scotland, the work CWA has been doing in the previous period, training events, jobs, conferences / seminars of relevance and funding opportunities. This has cut down on the number of emails groups receive and has proved very popular. An important function of the bulletin is to showcase successful projects for individual community woodland groups (CWs) and to provide a space for groups to seek advice from those in the network more experienced in specific projects.

Development Officers (DOs) correspond regularly with the sector at an average of 40 emails per day. These include member and non-member communications, Director and DO communications, non-government organisations (NGOs) and Agencies as well as funders and other interested parties. DOs also communicate regularly with all of these by telephone.

Networking between groups is progressing with many new groups visiting well established groups for guidance and ideas. Some groups are now working together with specific projects. This includes North Highland Forest Trust and Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Woodland working together on a biodiversity event and Milton Community Woodland working with GalGael to develop a project offering training in boat building in Milton near Inverness.

The CWA website (<http://www.community-woods.org.uk>) has been developed through the year. The site contains a brief introduction to community woodlands and has available for download past issues of the quarterly magazine, Woodland Voices, and the ebulletin as well as CWA responses to consultations, conference reports and annual reports.

Visits to member groups

There have been a total of 28 visits to member groups in the year. Visits were arranged either by request of the group or a direct approach by DOs. Eleven of these visits incorporated a meeting with the committee of the woodland group.

Visits generate a greater understanding of the function of CWA and the benefits available to groups. They also increase communication from groups visited as confidence in services is higher and they feel that they now 'know a face' within the CWA.

The standardised visit form, implemented in 2004/05, has been withdrawn. CWs activities have proved to be too diverse and questions found to be too restrictive. Specific statistical information and general project information is now collected through the renewal notices sent out annually.

Membership benefits development

DOs have continued to develop benefits for members.

- The monthly ebulletin (as detailed previously), which collates all the relevant info CWA receives during a one month period. The egroup is used to post urgent messages throughout the month and now has a distribution of 150 email addresses. Groups are encouraged to have more than one member receiving the ebulletin directly and are also asked to forward it to their own distribution lists. CWA has attracted several new members from external distribution of the ebulletin.
- The group insurance scheme is proving difficult to finalise with insurers but we are continuing to pursue this with the hope of setting up a scheme during the coming year. This has progressed through contact with Finance Redirect, which is an

Insurance Agency, and also a social enterprise. They have helped to establish schemes for voluntary organisations such as the Development Trust Association. A questionnaire was issued in September 05 to a selection of 15 different types of member group across Scotland collecting information for the insurers to strengthen the case for a group scheme.

- Five groups benefited from earning a hosting fee and have built capacity through organisation of the Biodiversity Training events offered through CWA. We hope to extend this model to our new Knowledge Share Project. (see Additional Projects Section pages 12/13)
- We are continuing to work closely with CLU in the Highlands and Islands Regional Training programme and several groups have benefited from hosting courses in a similar way to the biodiversity training events. The budget for these events includes payment to host groups for their services in organisation and administration.
- All new groups continue to receive the Woodland Information Pack at the start of their membership as well as subsidised places at the CW annual conference for eligible members.

Contact with non-member groups

The DOs contact potential new groups recommended to us and are also regularly contacted by new groups seeking advice on various issues. CWA has developed close working relationships with government and non-government organisations working with developing community woodland initiatives and we encourage them to pass our contact details on to new groups. These organisations include: Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Reforesting Scotland (RS), Community Land Unit of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (CLU – HIE), Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT), North Highland Forest Trust (NHFT), Borders Forest Trust (BFT), Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS), Scottish Native Woods (SNW) and newly recruited councils. During this period Highland Council has joined CWA as an Associate member. Presentations have been made to Glasgow City Council and Aberdeenshire Council. Both councils will be processing membership applications early in 2006/07.

CWA has also developed a strong network of woodland groups many of whom are found by, and offer guidance to, new woodland groups in the early stages of set up. Established member groups recommend that new groups contact CWA in the first instance to connect to this network of sharing experience. This is a demonstration of the value of CWA's work with its members and shows that members are satisfied with progress and development to date.

Membership development

DOs give advice on first contact with non member groups but will always encourage groups to join the CWA and send out a membership form. If on second contact the group has still not paid a membership fee then they are given advice but informed that we are a member organisation and as such must encourage membership for further advice to be given. At the end of March 2006 we have 11 potential members who have either contacted CWA or have been contacted by us. Of these 11 potential members, 6 are community groups, 3 are local area councils and 2 are individuals.

Membership statistics

The following is a breakdown of the statistics for membership throughout 2005/06

Increased membership

Date	Members	Cancellations	New Members	% increase
1 st April 2005	75			
31 st March 2006	104	6	35	38.6%

Breakdown

The total membership of 104 at 31st March and percentage change is shown below.

Category	Members 1/4/05	Members 31/03/06	% increase
Standard	24	32	33%
Full	36	44	22%
Individuals	10	17	70%
Umbrella	4	5	25%
Associate	4	6	50%
Founder	1	1	0%

Renewals / cancellations

Six members did not renew their membership during 2005/2006. Three of these were standard members who did not become fully established groups, three were full members - two that did not achieve the land purchases they had been set up for - and one was an individual. Three groups have upgraded their membership from Standard to Full membership.

Feedback

Throughout 2005/06 the renewal form has been changed to incorporate several questions designed to gather key information from our membership, results as shown below. Since implementation of this in June 05, of the 76 groups managing woodland, we have received 35 replies, a return of 46%. The following stats were compiled.

- 10016 hectares of woodland under community management
- 3093 people are members of CWA member groups
- 196 people are directors
- 374 are active volunteers

In addition to the statistical information we have asked what type of woodland, what type of management whether wholly owned, leased or in partnership, whether a newsletter is issued and what projects are being carried out.

All renewals will be complete by June 2006. This has proved to be an effective way of collecting information from groups without extra effort from them and will be incorporated as a means of collecting further information at renewal.

Location distribution

Following the annual conference in November in Grantown on Spey the location map compiled during 2004/05 was updated with all new members and incorporated into the conference report. This map shows the distribution of all members, both community groups and organisations. The map serves as a reference for groups wishing to enter into the informal twinning suggested at the conference. Twinning was an idea put forward at the Glasgow CW conference in Feb 2005. The concept will bring together groups to work in partnership on projects and to support each other in development of their woodlands.

This map clarifies the wide distribution of groups across Scotland and demonstrates CWA's strength to other organisations and funders. It also highlights regions that CWA should target to raise awareness of community woodlands. The conference report can be downloaded from the CWA website.

2. REPRESENTATION AND NETWORKING

Networking

- The Community Woodlands Association Conference was held in Grantown on Spey in November. Entitled 'Building a Forest Culture' the conference encompassed sustainable building, forest crafts, wildlife tourism and was extremely beneficial in developing networking opportunities. Members and non-members attended as well as a wide range of representatives from Scottish Executive agencies and NGO's, increasing the visibility of CWA and encouraging others to take a more positive view of community woodlands and the contribution they make.
- Twinning was promoted further during the conference and several groups have established informal working partnerships to take projects forward.
- CWA are continuing to work closely with CLU in the Highlands and Islands to develop their training programme, which will benefit both Community Land Initiatives and Community Woodland Groups. Each event is a great networking opportunity for groups. Groups are encouraged to build capacity by hosting events and are paid through the budget for their organisation and administration. CWA had hoped to extend these training days and incorporate "Awareness Days" but due to funding restrictions this has not yet been successful. Please see information on Knowledge Share Project (Training Section pages 8/9) and H2007 Development Worker (Additional Projects Section pages 12/13).
- Groups use the e-group regularly to request information from others on various issues. Topics have included; ideas for events, ideas for developing funding streams, which contractors to use, how to renovate a pond and calls for particular species of wood for boat building.
- Woodland Voices, our quarterly magazine, has been redesigned. It has a new look and carries articles covering woodland activities in more depth. Articles are encouraged from organisations we are working with such as Paths for All, FWAG, ASHS and Native Woodland Discussion Group. We are beginning to theme the magazine and have plans for an issue on Biodiversity and future issues may carry themes on current affairs for CWs.
- The website is regularly updated and holds information on training courses, funding opportunities and other useful contacts as well as Scottish Executive and other consultations CWA has responded to. There are also downloadable copies of our magazine Woodland Voices, the Annual Report and Conference Reports.
- The DOs, as well as the directors, regularly meet with many agency and NGO representatives and are continuing to build strong working relationships with them. Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Community Land Unit - HIE, Central Scotland Forest Trust, Borders Forest Trust, North Highland Forest Trust, Paths for All, Development Trust Association Scotland, Senscot, The Woodland Trust, Small Woods Association, Reforesting Scotland, BTCV, Greenspace Scotland are a few but there are many more we contact and we are continually building ever closer partnerships with these bodies.
- Other promotional events – One of the directors travelled to a conference in Ireland to deliver a presentation on community woodlands in Scotland. Representatives from Ireland have kept in touch and will hopefully be attending the conference in Nov 06. Two directors attended an open meeting for an emerging

group in Fife and delivered a presentation on the overview of community woodlands in Scotland. One of the directors attended a seminar in Oban arranged by Development Trust Association Scotland and presented on Non Timber Forest Products. Directors have also been actively involved in promotion at events across the country such as Edinburgh Treefest, Perth Wood Fayre and the Royal Highland Show.

Rhona Brankin MSP – Depute Minister for Environment and Rural Affairs

In January 06 four of the directors and the DO met with Rhona Brankin MSP at Abriachan Forest. CWA had invited the minister to a meeting to introduce her to the work of the CWA. Projects being carried out by CWs throughout Scotland were also covered. The meeting was very successful lasting around 4 hours with a presentation on CWA a walk around Abriachan Forest and discussion on specific Scottish Executive policy affecting CWs.

National Fora

The directors, DOs and active members represent CWA on a range of national and regional fora.

- Scottish Forestry Forum
- 3 Regional Forestry Fora – Highland, Grampian and South Scotland
- Parliamentary Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Forestry and Forest Products
- Healthy Environment Network
- Forest Habitat Networks Steering Group
- Native Woodland Partnership for Scotland
- Forestry & Rural Development Scheme Steering Group
- SFGS users group
- H2007 Year of Culture Forestry and Environment Steering Group
- Forest Education Initiative Borders Cluster Group
- Forest Schools Scottish Steering Group

CWA directors have responded to the following consultations;

- Review of the Scottish Forestry Strategy
- Highland Council Forest and Woodland Strategy
- Highland Council Renewable Energy Strategy

Directors will continue to respond to relevant consultations on behalf of the community woodland sector and always consult members before submitting their responses.

3. TRAINING

Conference

The sixth annual Community Woodland Conference was held in Grantown on Spey in the Cairngorm's National Park. The local community woodland group Anagach Woodland Trust hosted the conference. The conference was over subscribed for the first time and there were great opportunities provided for networking and learning for over 100 people who attended the two day event.

Entitled 'Building a Forest Culture' the focus of the conference was to bring groups together to learn from each other's experience and to inform delegates about the growing interest in Forest Crofts, Sustainable Building and Wildlife Tourism as well as keep them up to date with many other projects taking place around Scotland.

The main aims of the event were to;

- Discuss ways of getting people back onto the land, living and working in a sustainable way.

- Facilitate networking and sharing of knowledge and experience between community woodland groups, agencies and NGOs in both rural and urban locations.
- Highlight the possibilities for groups to become involved in sustainable building in a variety of ways and to increase the understanding of topics such as wildlife tourism and NTFP's for future development.
- To identify ways groups can work together for success, with an emphasis on encouraging twinning.
- Provide useful information for these groups through various means including printed information, presentations, displays, workshops, informal discussion and site visits to community woodlands, wildlife tourism and sustainable housing projects.
- Raise awareness amongst groups of opportunities for enhancing and conserving the natural heritage of their woodlands, as well as opportunities for timber and non-timber products, access improvements, social enterprise, education, green tourism and community development.
- Support, promote and represent community woodlands in both rural and urban locations through focusing on the positive aspects of what community woodlands deliver.

Training Opportunities Project

Please see 'Additional Projects' pages 12/13 for information on the pilot Knowledge Share Project, which is providing Train the Trainer courses, networking events and subsidies for volunteer participants to attend non subsidised courses.

DOs have also been working closely with organisations offering training to ensure that all subjects identified in the curriculum, arising from the training analyses carried out in 2004/05, are offered.

Seminars

CWA assisted in delivery of 3 woodland management courses funded by CLU. They also supported 5 Biodiversity events held across Scotland, through the Biodiversity Action Grant secured during this period. CWs were encouraged to focus their events on local biodiversity issues. A total of 86 participants benefited from the events and the CWs increased their capacity by taking part in the organisation and administration for participants.

4. PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY

National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) Launch

In June 05 the Forestry Commission chose Abriachan Forest as the location to launch the NFLS. Speakers at the launch included Lewis Macdonald, then Depute Minister for Environment and Rural Development, George Hawco, Abriachan FT chair, & Jon Hollingdale (CWA chair)

The launch event was televised and an item appeared on the BBC Scotland news – Jon was amongst those interviewed. In addition our DO, Diane Campbell, gave an interview to the press and several linked articles appeared in national papers. This national coverage highlights development in the community woodland sector and the benefits it provides to the public.

BBC Television - Landward

During summer 05, the DOs worked with researchers from Landward to develop an item for inclusion in the program. This led to two community woodland groups, Milton near Tain and Crossgates in Fife, featuring in a program aired in Nov 05. The CWA chair was also interviewed for this item. This was well timed, just before the CW conference held a week later.

BBC Radio – Out of Doors

One of the directors was interviewed for the programme and was questioned about the CW conference and Anagach Woods Trust in Grantown on Spey. This interview was aired on the morning of the first day of the conference.

BBC Television – Nature of Britain

BBC approached CWA to assist in finding suitable locations for the Nature of Britain program. Ten groups responded to the request and of these, two were chosen by the researchers to be proposed as possible sights for the program producers. Filming locations have yet to be decided but Anagach Woods Trust in Grantown on Spey and Sunart Oakwoods in Lochaber have been recommended to producers.

External Events

Directors and DOs have attended several events throughout the year talking to people and raising awareness of CWA. These events were: Treefest Glasgow; Belladrum Music Festival; Treefest Edinburgh; Aberdeen Treefest; Development Trust Association Conference; Chatelherhaut in Glasgow; Reforesting Scotland Gathering.

Leaflets

There have been two reprints of the current leaflet and most have been distributed during the above events. They have also been posted to events that CWA representatives could not attend such as Tim Stead Exhibition in Edinburgh Botanic Gardens and the BTCV CLAN Gathering. Funding for a new colour leaflet will be addressed during 2006/07.

Archive

The DOs now have digital cameras and are building a gallery of photos for use in Woodland Voices, on the website and to accompany articles in other publications. A publicity archive has also been compiled holding copies of the television and press coverage of CWA.

Articles

Several articles have been written for inclusion in other organisations' publications: Reforesting Scotland publications, Radical Rowan and Reforesting Scotland Journal, which have a distribution of over 700, Native Woodland Discussion Group and Dunning Community Woodland Newsletter.

Articles have also appeared in Swedish and Finnish newspapers about visits from Scottish delegates to the ELAV project regions in these countries.

5. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Financial Control

The cash book is now reconciled by a DO in cooperation with the treasurer and the chair. A new system set up in January 05 is working well and cash flow is constantly monitored.

Financial Planning and Fundraising

There has been increased income from admin support offered to groups hosting events through the CLU training programme. There has also been income earned from management of new projects such as the Forestry / Community Partnership Survey (see Additional Projects page 12/13).

New projects are being explored which have the potential to earn extra income for CWA but further substantial development will be required before these projects will see gains.

Project Monitoring, Reporting and Administration

Monitoring reporting and administration of the core business of CWA as well as additional projects is becoming more time consuming as services and membership increase. It is carried out on an ongoing basis. Funding claims and reports are submitted regularly for core business and additional projects ensuring cash flow is healthy.

Directors and DOs meet regularly through teleconferences and have held several meetings throughout the year to discuss CWA business. In addition to these meetings they have held two face-to-face meetings, one in August to discuss current business and future strategy and one in November following the AGM.

Three new directors were voted onto the board in November:

Brigitte Geddes, Gearrchoille Community Wood
Jamie McIntyre, Sunart Oakwoods Initiative
Ian Whitehead, Dundee Partnership

In August the Chair, Vice Chair and DOs met with main funders SNH and FCS for a strategy meeting.

Member Satisfaction Survey

It had been intended to carry out a formal, random sample, survey of member groups to assess the opinions of the work of CWA. Unfortunately, due to other project commitments, this has not been achieved in this period. However enquires have been made in an informal way during visits to 28 groups during the year. Members seem satisfied with the level of service they receive. Renewals and increasing membership indicate that there is continued support for the work of CWA with our existing members recommending membership to new groups.

6. INFORMATION

Egroup

The Egroup continues to be used by groups requesting information from others but it tends to be directed through the monthly ebulletin. Groups occasionally post events they are holding to inform other groups that they are welcome to attend.

There are now 150 individuals on the egroup who receive all emails posted and a further 17 have opted to receive only the monthly ebulletin.

Following discussions at the conference in Grantown a new egroup was established for groups particularly interested in Wildlife.

Website

Website development was progressed and plans are still in hand to develop this further. There has been a change in design and our DOs have taken over management of the site. Past copies of the ebulletin and Woodland Voices are posted on this site, as are other

relevant reference documents. Improvement of the site during 2006/07 will hopefully be progressed.

Woodland Voices

There have been 3 issues of Woodland Voices during this period with the 4th issue, number 10, being compiled and put to the designer. The 10th issue is due to be distributed in spring 2006.

Handbook

New members continue to receive the Information Pack developed by Reforesting Scotland. This has had three updated leaflets on Fuel Wood and Insurance during this year, which were distributed to members with the summer issue of Woodland Voices.

Discussion has taken place with Central Scotland Forest Trust on updating other parts of the pack. This was negotiated by the DO off on maternity leave so has not yet been taken further.

7. ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

The Northern Periphery Project, ELAV (Enhancing Local Activity and Values from forest land through community-led strategic planning) (£37,000 equivalent in Euros)

The ELAV project officer was appointed in January 06. An office premises has been set up in Golspie in the project area of East Sutherland. An exchange visit to Sweden took place in November/December 2005 and 5 representatives from the partner countries have visited Scotland. These representatives made presentations about their part in the project at the conference in November 05. A steering group has been established in the East Sutherland area and a new leaflet produced. Visits from Scotland to the other partner countries - Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland - will take place during 2006.

NPP – EU, Forestry Commission Scotland and CLU - HIE

Knowledge Share Project (Project Budget £15,000)

During 2005/06 CWA has taken forward plans to create a training scheme to benefit all members. This will be launched as a pilot scheme in the Highlands through funding from Highland Council, FCS Highland Conservancy and CLU. The project will;

- Train experienced members of community woodland groups, who currently pass on their skills informally, to become certified in training others. These individuals will then be contracted to deliver training where appropriate through the CLU training programme and will set up other courses independently.
- Subsidise volunteers from CWs to attend courses approved by CWA but not already subsidised in other ways.
- Enable an exchange programme to allow groups to learn from each other's experiences in project development.
- Provide seminars and courses in subjects not available through other programmes but identified through the training analyses of 2004/05 as a requirement of CWs.
- Monitor the success of this pilot to inform future funding applications when rolling out across Scotland.

Interest in providing funding was shown from Central Scotland Forest Trust and Greenspace Scotland but due to low capacity within CWA it was decided to collect more information on the success of a pilot before rolling the project out across Scotland. This will be carried out during 2006/07. Funding for a Scotland wide project will be sought for a 3-year period beginning in 2007/08.

The extended project will continue development of the proposal to provide 'Awareness Days' for the general public.

Highland Council, Forestry Commission Highland Conservancy and CLU - HIE

Biodiversity Training for Community Woodlands (Budget £27,000 over two years)

This is a Scottish Executive funded project. Five groups benefited during 2005/07 from organising and hosting a course. These took place across Scotland and benefited 86 people. A further five courses (or possibly six if budget allows) will take place during 2006/07. Three of these are currently in the planning stage.

Scottish Executive

Forest Partnership Research Project (Budget £10,000)

Funding from FCS and CLU was secured for this project and a contractor appointed in January 06. The survey is nearly complete and will be finalised by summer 06. At the proposal of CWA, a total of 91 partnerships between FCS and the community were surveyed. A Director and a DO facilitated the management of the contractor.

This project will provide a report to inform on best practise for the future of Community/FCS partnerships.

Forestry Commission Scotland and CLU - HIE

Trees For All (Budget £3,500)

During this period CWA worked closely with The Woodland Trust to develop a grant scheme to be administered by CWA. This allows up to 30 groups to apply for a grant of £100 for tree planting events. Eight groups were awarded grants during this period and CWA earned an administration fee.

The Woodland Trust

Social Enterprise Trip (Budget £4,000)

Funding was secured through CLU and Seeing is Believing Fund to visit two social enterprises which use woodlands or woodland products to generate income. This will take place in June 06. Ten representatives of member groups across Scotland will visit Hill Holt Wood in Lincoln and the WoodSchool in the Borders.

Seeing Is Believing and CLU - HIE

CW Conference Building a Forest Culture (Budget £13,000)

Additional funding was sought for the conference in Grantown on Spey as the CWA core budget does not cover this annual event. Funding was secured from CLU, Highland Council and Highland 2007.

Highland Council, H2007 and CLU - HIE

Total Additional Funding for Projects Secured during 2005/06 - £106,500

Highland Year of Culture 2007 (Potential budget £35000 over 18 months)

Throughout this period CWA have been part of the steering group for the Forestry and Environment Programme for Highland 2007. This has given the opportunity to explore the ways in which community woodland groups can participate in FCS events and be encouraged to take part by devising their own events. A proposal to apply for funding to appoint a Coordinator to strengthen ideas arising from this has been put forward to Highlands and Islands Enterprise and other funders will be sought during 2006/07.

The project will encourage participation, coordinate current activities and generate an active network of groups interested in offering their woodlands as performance venues.

The 'fun' element of this project will develop the 'Awareness Days' proposal by encouraging more members of the general public to become involved in events taking place in community woodland venues.

Community Woodlands Association,
April 2006