

KIRKTON WOODLAND AND HERITAGE GROUP

COUNTRY DAY 30TH JULY 2010

The Kirkton Woodland Groups aim is to purchase the 92 hectare Kirkton Woodlands in Lochcarron from The Forestry Commission as a community asset. The community has in the past identified that the woodland may be able to help us address the need for improved recreational opportunities, affordable housing, environmental enhancement, jobs, renewable energy sources, and timber products.

Our Country Day Event at Kelso Farm, Strathcarron, on 30th July, attracted some 326 locals and visitors. The various demonstrations and diversity of local foods and craft stalls made it a fun day for all.

Demonstrations were themed towards biodiversity and those offering their services included;

Henry Fosbrooke (Milton Community Woodland) performed with his woodland orchestra

Terry Hitchin (Lochcarron) Woodturner

Leslie Kilbride (Applecross) "Colours from Nature" the art of dying lichens, their historic uses and how lichens are a good indicator of air pollution.

Margaret Beaton (Applecross) - Spinning

Leslie Bates (Torridon) is a gardener, tree grower and planter and creates edible landscapes and wild gardens. He brought along some willow rods to create simple woven hurdles and as Gandaft of Muckle Earth he told a few stories, simple myths and allegories using nature as a vehicle to carry the story.

Jim Glazzard (Lochcarron) an archaeologist and historical craftsman demonstrated the art of metal casting. The method he used is based on evidence from the Viking age.

Paul Swan (Lochcarron) Wildlife photographer – Wildlife Quizzes using a variety of animal skulls etc.

Peter Cunningham and Bob Kindness (Lochcarron & Wester Ross Fisheries) Electro Fishing and Angling tuition.

Christopher MacDonald (Forestry Commission) gave away trees to plant in local gardens and advice on where to plant them, how big the trees would get and what wildlife species they will attract and explained about the projects that the Forestry Commission is involved in.

Norman MacLellan (Inverness) Walking stick maker. Handles made from natural resources i.e. antler and horn.

Monique Berveots (Sallachy) – Willow weaver

Lochcarron Fire Brigade – Muirburning and land management.

Torridon Mountain Rescue, ably assisted by Midge – the role of a SARS (Search and Rescue Dog).

Information Tent

Lois Canham (Scottish Wildlife Trust Wild Mink Project Officer) was on hand to explain the impact American mink are having on our wildlife and fish farms.

Amanda Calvert (Highland Birchwoods) - the benefits of renewable heat for homes and businesses.

Use Green Heat is a partnership of renewable heat advice and support organisations.

Nicola Tallach (SNH) Gardens for Wildlife

RSABI is a modern charity providing financial and practical support to individuals across a range of occupations with the common theme of working on the land.

Stallholders – Local Producers provided a huge variety of crafts and local produce including venison, cheese, bread, jams, smoked salmon, ice cream and plants.

FEEDBACK INFORMATION

Attendees Information

Male/Female	40 - 60	26 – 39	16 – 25	Under 16
40/60	45%	30%	10%	15%

Summary of feedback from stallholders

How did you hear about this event?

An Carrannach

Producers' Day Market

Kirkton Woodland Group (member)

Kristine MacKenzie

Number of Feedback forms completed by demonstrators and returned = 19

	V Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V Good
Location		1	3	10	5
Organisation			1	12	6
Catering				14	5
Facilities		2	8	9	

Why did you want to take part in this event?

Selling my product

To meet local people – adults and children and find out what their thoughts were

A bit of fun with workshops for children

Good atmosphere, interesting stalls and information. Nice visitors plus promoting my own name as well.

The opportunity to show/ sell my work to a different audience.

Support the local event and make a few pounds for myself.

What benefits do you feel you gained from attending the event?

Advertisement, sharing information – locally, nationally and in Europe.

Gained new customers.

Sales opportunities, networking opportunities, educational.

Fun, meeting people, interesting information, made contacts and sale of baskets an unexpected extra.

Thank you for the Great Day! Very well organised and great food. Until next year!

More please

Enjoyed the craic

What will you do with the experience/skills you have had from attendance?

Experience working with willow and children I can use for my workshop at schools – with adults as well.

Follow up contacts; look into information for further conservation. Some new ideas.

Bake less if it's a rainy day.

It will inform our website and leaflet. www.spanglefish.com/westcoastrecycling.

Work harder to make things people can't resist.

Would you recommend others to take part in such an event?

Yes.

Why do you feel it would be beneficial?

The more varied the stalls the more attractive it will appeal to the public. Always good for personal experience.

Friendly atmosphere. Opportunity to network locally.

To support local groups and business.

A pleasant and informative day out.

Same as mine.

What would you like to see Community Woodlands Association do next in relation to these issues?

I don't know enough about the CWA.

Keep moving forward with existing projects and spearhead conservational/environmental projects of benefit to community and beyond.

Don't feel able to comment.

They seem to be making an excellent effort already but if I have any genuine ideas I'll let you know.