



WELCOME

As the leaves blow past my window, I am made all too aware of the rapidly passing seasons, as my favourite time of year the dark nights and bracing winds are most welcome!

This edition brings the usual mix of member stories, staff updates as well as relevant links and publications that we feel our members should be made aware of.

As the newsletter is slowly evolving, this edition brings a new section for members questions and answers. With our first question from Gearrhoille Community Wood Group, Should you wish to post a question to CWA members through the newsletter please email rosslyn@communitywoods.org I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter.

Ros Mills West Central Scotland Woodland Advisor

CONTENTS

CWA NEWS

CWA STAFF MEETING
NEW MEMBERS 2009
KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS EXCHANGE FUND
SUMMER FESTIVALS 09
SRDP, RDC COLLABORATION
FINAL REMINDER - CWA CONFERENCE

MEMBERS NEWS

LAIDE & AULTBEA COMMUNITY WOODLAND
ANAGACH WOODS
MAY-TAG WOODLAND PROJECT
ISLAND OF EIGG
DRUMCHAPEL WOODLAND GROUP
ALVA GLEN HERITAGE TRUST
DRUMCHAPEL COMMUNITY WOODLAND

OTHER INTEREST

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY
WOODS FOR HEALTH STRATEGY
DARK SKY SCOTLAND
WWF CLIMATE CHANGE INFO

QUESTION & ANSWERS

RECYCLED POND DIPPING PLATFORMS

STAFF CONTACTS

CWA NEWS

CWA STAFF MEETING SUMMER 2009

Social Enterprise Training & Forres Mountain Bike Trail

CWA staff all work from home in various locations across Scotland, we try and get together on a regular basis, whether by conference call or face to face at a convenient location. In July we all made our way to Forres, Moray for a meeting at Jon's house.

Following the meeting we each took the opportunity to explore the areas woodlands, taking in a visit to Sanquhar Woods on the outskirts of the town, home to a very impressive community owned mountain bike trail. The trail was opened in October 2008 and is one of the best examples of an all ability MB course that I have seen. Jake and Andrew visited Culbin Forest, where they admired the observation tower (albeit a bit misty to fully appreciate the views).

We had a lovely evening in Forres and the following day we all attended "Understanding Social Enterprise" a one day course provided by the Social Enterprise Academy and hosted by Milton Community Woodland. It was an interesting day, with debates and lengthy discussions about the pros and cons of Social Enterprise in Scotland. CWA staff are now fully equipped to advise our members on the process and potential successes of social enterprise within their woodland. For more information on the Social Enterprise Academy please visit www.theacademy-ssea.org



NEW MEMBERS 2009

Welcome to our new members who have joined the CWA in the past six months. We hope that you are accessing and benefiting from our services and we look forward to seeing you at the conference in November.

Group Memberships Since April 2009

Ullapool Community Trust,	- Ross-shire
Aigas Community Forest	- Kiltarlity
Westmuir Community Development Trust,	- Kirriemuir
Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company	- Caithness
Ardrihaig Community Trust	- Lochgilphead
Falkland Conservation Group	- Falkland
Ladyurd Community Woodland	- Borders
Monimail Woodland Group	- Cupar
Raasay House Community Company	- Raasay
F.R.I.E.N.D.S (Stevenston)	- North Ayrshire
Aberlady Community Woodland Association,	- East Lothian
Applecross Community Company	- Wester Ross
Comrie Development Trust	- Perthshire

Individual Memberships Since April 2009

Jane Bower	Morag Ballantine
Christine Bell	Alistair Ballantine

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS EXCHANGE FUND

This fund (£120,000 over two years) is available to CWA community group members. The grant has come from Scottish Government (Housing and Regeneration). The key principle behind the fund is that it is to be used to facilitate learning and the exchange of knowledge and ideas between CWA members and within the wider community sector.

The fund can be used to cover all reasonable expenses incurred in the course of the visit or activity. The intention is to minimise the burden of administration, both for applicants and participating networks. CWA members have been making the most of this fund, with 5 groups benefiting from funds so far:

ABC Group Spean Bridge - and Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust visited Knoydart Forest Trust in Inverie to learn about Log Building

Greenferry, South Queensferry - have been awarded funding to attend a Public Participation course to assist them with community consultations

Laggan Forest Trust, Strathspey - and Borders Forest Trust, Borders were awarded funding to attend an international community woodland networking conference

For more information on the Knowledge and Skills Exchange Fund, and how it may be accessed by your community group please contact your community woodlands advisor.

SUMMER FESTIVALS 2009

What a summer! Andrew and I have had the pleasure of showing off our new CWA display at a few of the larger environmental festivals that have been taking place in the central belt over the summer months and we would like to thank everyone who made themselves known to us at these.



Despite poor weather, and mud to rival Glastonbury the summer festivals were well attended and considered a success by all involved.

We hope that everyone who visited our stall enjoyed the fun and games and we would like to congratulate:

Helen Binks, West Linton and junior winner: Sophie Stuart (age 8), Edinburgh, who identified all the native seedlings at the Edinburgh Treefest & Woodmarket.

Catherine Dickey, Markinch, Fife and junior winner Mark Faulkner (age 12) Ft. William who identified the native seedlings at Falkland Big Tent event.

And Adrian Miles, Newburgh, Fife and Caidee Lee, Dundee and junior winners Julian Scott (age 12), Dundee and Abby Millar (age 9), Newtyle, Angus who successfully identified all the specimens in the fruit and nut quiz at Dundee Flower and Food Festival

Our winners were delighted with their prizes of a standard native tree (species of their choice) from Alba Tree Nursery in East Lothian.

We are sure that our attendance at these festivals has raised our profile within networks that were previously unexplored and are pleased to welcome new members that joined at these events. We will continue to attend more festivals and networking events as the year moves on and look forward to seeing many of you at festivals in 2010.

Contribution Rosslyn Mills (CWA Staff)



FESTIVALS 2009/10

Are there any festivals that you think that CWA should be taking a presence at in the coming year? There are so many taking place throughout the country that we are sure we are missing out in someway. Perhaps you have had a good or bad experience at a festival this summer, we would like to hear from you and value your opinions.

SRDP, RDC COLLABORATION

Hilary MacDonald at Culag Community Woods Trust has rightly argued that we should be sharing more info about how our members are managing to get into SRDP. This would mean that the uninitiated can turn to old hands like yourselves for advice, copies of documents, or even just for a moan. By the way, old hands in my book is any group with an amber rated SOI!

The other benefit is that there are instances where you can score a high for collaboration if you find another group doing something similar albeit on the other side of Scotland. Hilary's example is: "I was advised by a Case Officer to think out of the box about collaboration and not to limit ourselves to other SRDP projects in our geographical area. As a result I am collaborating on our community cabin proposal with another group who are building a shelter on the East Coast and hope to gain a 'high' for this!"

So, the first easy step is for you to plug your RP Online case details into a form which is available from Jake and email it back to him asap. In doing so, please also confirm if you are happy to make this info available to other CWA members. The next step will be for us to make the compiled list available to the network and try to update it periodically.

A year ago, agents were bemoaning the fact that SRDP seemed all set up to benefit communities rather than lairds, let's try to prove them right though so far I think you'll agree it's been an uphill struggle!

Contribution Jake Willis (CWA Staff)

! FINAL REMINDER !

2009 SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE

This year CWA are celebrating the 10th Annual Community Woodland Conference in Drumnadrochit, by the banks of beautiful Loch Ness.

Returning to Roots the 2009 CWA Conference will take place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November. The weekend activities will aid attendees in the development of their woodland, for biodiversity, recreation, non timber products and forestry. Speakers at the conference include Mark Lazzeri of the Assynt Foundation, Hugh Fife – Blarbuie Hospital Project and Murdo MacDonald author of Highland Bumblebees. The schedule also allows for various site visits to several of the community woodlands in the area.

The conference will be the usual social affair with plenty of opportunities to network with member groups from across Scotland, as well as the dinner and Ceilidh on the Saturday night. The conference is free to CWA members, as well as this CWA will cover your travel and contribute towards accommodation costs. For more information on this event please visit www.communitywoods.org or contact your local woodland advisor.

Roots to Health the 2009 CWA Seminar will take place on Friday 6th November, prior to the conference. The day will focus on the various ways that community woods might be used for health and well being projects.

Places for these events are limited, booking is essential. Booking forms were sent to members in August, and should be returned no later than the 23rd October, alternatively booking forms for both events are available from www.communitywoods.org.

MEMBERS NEWS

LAIDE & AULTBEA COMMUNITY WOODLANDS, North West Highlands

Dragonfly Day 2009

Laide & Aultbea Community Woodlands (LACW) would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of their first Dragonfly Identification Day, which took place between torrential rain showers on Saturday 23rd August 2009. The day was lead by Dragonfly expert Jonathan Willett, Highland Council Biodiversity Officer who gave on site briefings and tips on species identification to the enthusiastic attendees.

Laide Wood was the ideal location for this event, as it boasts several areas where the habitat is perfect for both Dragonfly and Damselfly. Several species were identified during the morning and afternoon sessions, including Black Darter, Large Red Damselfly and a Four Spotted Chaser.

Jonathan has supplied LACW with a comprehensive document on dragonfly identification which they hope to make available as a pdf download on their website www.laidewood.org.uk.



As this event has been so successful the group hope to hold a similar event next year, this is likely to be a little earlier in the summer when dragonflies are there in greater numbers and will be advertised to CWA members in the locality when the date is announced.

Although this had been staged as a free event a collection box was placed in the vicinity of the refreshments, also supplied gratis and the group would like to thank everyone for the donations given so generously. The group would also like to thank Jonathan for making the day such a huge success.

*Contribution John Rippin
Photographs Kevin Ginty*



ANAGACH WOODS, Strath Spey

Mid Summer in Anagach

Some thought I was crazy. Others with a young family were disappointed. I was starting a guided walk well after “bed time”. Well, it was mid-summer in the North of Scotland and the long days don’t encourage sleep...

So, I met my audience, 30 strong, at 11pm on the edge of the Anagach Woods and walked them into the twilight world of trees. Our stops did not dwell on the natural history of the forest, but instead we met elves playing with fire and an old lady from the 18th Century who remarked on our strange attire and told us stories from the past – when ships were built in Kingston on Spey from logs floated down the river, when brownies made mischief and a young girl came to life from the snow. The walk finished with a bonfire in a clearing, more fiery tricks from the elves, live music from two musicians and booze for those who’d brought it.



www.freewebs.com/flyagaric/

The idea of a midsummer walk in the woods was the idea of the local Highland Council Ranger, supported by the Anagach Woods Trust, because it would be a new way to engage people in the life of the community wood. The evening was very well received. Yes, it would be a good idea to do it again, although it was not financially self supporting. We had to pay for our performers and limited the ticket price to £5 as the “going rate” for this type of show, and limited audience numbers to 30 as story telling in the open air needs a small audience.

Contribution Piers Voysey

MAY-TAG, South Ayrshire

Lack of Funding Closes May-Tag

We are sad to announce that a lack of funding has closed Maybole’s One Stop Shop (MOSS) and many of the projects under its umbrella, including Maybole woodland project “May-Tag”. May-Tag was established in 2006 as a partnership scheme with South Ayrshire Council, the project aimed at using the local woodland (approx 600 acres) as a resource for those seeking employment in the sector. Developing skills and knowledge in forestry practices and woodworking techniques.

South Ayrshire Council had provided MOSS with 3 months’ rent free accommodation in the hope that funding could be acquired following a failed lottery fund application; despite the efforts of the board of May-Tag Ltd and local elected members this was not achieved.

MOSS, originally an 18 month pilot exceeded all its targets set by Fair Share, with more than a quarter of a million pounds generated for its 1000+ clients. There is no doubt that the project has greatly increased the quality of life of these clients, allowing them to be able to pay for the care they need, buy equipment to support themselves, the knowledge and experience to return to work, and in some cases regain their mobility and independence, as well as giving them the peace of mind which comes with financial security.

The project will be greatly missed in the local area and is a sad reflection on the limited funding opportunities available to community groups.

Contribution from www.may-tag.co.uk

ISLAND OF EIGG

Big Green Challenge Finalists

While politicians and leaders of all hues have been queuing up to pledge to cut carbon emissions, islanders on Eigg have been showing how it's done. Residents aim to slash the island's carbon footprint by 50% through using renewable energy, insulating homes, walking and cycling more and eating local food.



Eigg is the only Scottish finalist in the £1M NESTA Big Green Challenge and as the contest enters the final stages judges have been on the island to assess the latest innovations. Eigg, which has a population of just 86 residents, have their own electricity supply powered by wind, hydro and solar energy. NESTA judges have seen how through improving energy efficiency, fitting solar panels, cutting motorised journeys and exploring options for an island-based wood fuel business islanders are reducing their dependency on fossil fuels even further.

More and more residents have been growing their own fruit and vegetables, harvesting wild foods and eating fish from the seas round the island and venison from the neighbouring island of Rum.

They are sharing progress and ideas and encouraging others to follow in their green footsteps through their website www.islandsgoinggreen.org which now has links with communities from Orkney and the Black Isle to Cheshire.

“There’s never a dull moment on the island! We’ve had a really busy time of it over the summer and there’s still lots of hard work going on as we enter the final stages of the Big Green Challenge,” said spokesperson Lucy Conway.

“We’ve got a lot of projects on the go, many of them focused on energy efficiency in the home, which makes a huge difference to carbon emissions. Residents on the island here are really energy savvy and know how much power they use – people signing up for the 10:10 campaign can learn a lot from what's been happening on Eigg!”

Residents are finding that being greener is really making life better on the island. More energy efficient houses, solar heated hot water, delicious fresh, local food, more walking and cycling; taking green footsteps is bringing benefits galore.

Jake Willis has been working on behalf of the Community Woodlands Association with the residents on Eigg to ascertain if they can establish a reliable, ongoing wood fuel supply on the island.

Contribution Teen Ross

DRUMCHAPEL WOODLAND GROUP

Founding Members Bid Goodbye to Award Winning Woodland

Following their resignations from the Drumchapel Woodland Group, CWA would like to wish Terry Forey and Willie Forey the best of luck for the future. It is thanks to the drive and enthusiasm of Terry and Willie that the group has become the success it is, their presence will be sorely missed. Terry tendered his resignation in September following his brothers in March.

The future of the group is unknown, however CWA have been supporting the steering group through this process, in the hope that an active community woodland group remain active in the area.

ALVA GLEN HERITAGE TRUST, Clackmannanshire

Surprising Find on AGHT Herb Walk

The programme of new workday events in Alva Glen has been proving very popular. Amongst the path workdays (mentioned in the previous newsletter) there have been a few other diversions to enjoy. In July the group were treated to a Herb Walk led by local medical herbalist Glen Elliot, the walk started in the Glen car park and took the group through the glen, stopping at various points along the way. Glen identified several plants and talked us through their diverse properties and uses, including a small example of St Johns Wort, which is a surprising find in the rocky Glen, as its preferred habitat is meadow.



Glen has a passion for the subject that was quite infectious and he happily answered any questions posed by the group. At the end of the walk the group returned to the car park and tucked into some herby treats which had been provided by Glen and the AGHT members. Glen also very kindly provided everyone with some printed notes to take away which included the dos and don'ts of picking herbs from the wild.

Contribution Alva Glen Heritage Trust

OTHER NEWS

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY

The Scottish Government has published revised guidance on using Part 2 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (community right to buy provisions). For an electronic copy please visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Rural/rural-land/right-to-buy/Community/Guidance.

They have also produced a Rural Communities Mapping Tool designed to help Community Bodies define their communities and identify areas of excluded land – to view the tool on-line please visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Rural/rural-land/right-to-buy/MappingTool.

There is also a revised application form for registrations of interest under the legislation, which is the same form for preregistrations. To download a copy please visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural/rural-land/Community/applicationform

Contribution DTAS

WOODS FOR HEALTH STRATEGY

An ambitious new strategy which will use woodlands to tackle a number of underlying causes of ill health in Scotland, was launched by Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham, at the Royal Highland Show, Ingliston on Friday 26th June. As part of the strategy, Forestry Commission Scotland, NHS Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) are working together on a number of new health improvement projects which include:

- *Greening hospital grounds to promote recuperation;*
- *Green Gyms tackling physical jobs outdoors;*
- *Encouraging natural play for children;*
- *Woodland health walks on prescription; and*
- *Encouraging ethnic minorities to visit woodlands.*

The link between improved health and woodland greenspace, particularly in deprived areas, is well known. Over 80% of Scots agree that woodlands are great places to relax, reduce stress levels and exercise in but more work is needed to ensure health experts are made more aware of this. Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland is backing the new woodlands health strategy: "Levels of physical activity are still low across Scotland and we need to find ways to reverse this trend. The good news is that woodlands can play a key role in better physical and mental health as they are our natural green gyms." More information on the Woodlands for Health Strategy, or to download a copy of the strategy please visit www.forestry.gov.uk/woodsforhealth

The strategy and the thoughts of professionals such as Dr Burns will be discussed at CWA's annual seminar Roots to Health in Drumnadrochit on Friday 6th November. For more information on the seminar please visit www.communitywoods.org

Contribution Forestry Commission Scotland

DARK SKY SCOTLAND

Dark Sky Scotland is inviting Community Woodlands in urban and rural areas to host community and family events to celebrate International Year of Astronomy 2009. Since 2007, nine Community Woodlands have been involved in DSS events. These have been among our most vibrant events and we are very keen to work with community woodlands again. We have recently piloted new Dark Sky community projects which led to the launch of the world's first local Dark Sky Discovery Sites at Newbattle Abbey in Dalkeith and Glen Nevis in March 2009. DSS events and projects provide simple, inspirational ways for communities to discover - and strengthen their links with - the night sky above their doorsteps and local woodlands.

Training is central to the DSS programme. We intend to run a workshop in December for Community Woodland leaders to show how, with our support, the programme can work in their local communities. Local activities would then take place during January to March and these can also include training for local people. The events will be free or at a subsidised rate.

To register your interest by 19 October, and to claim a FREE set of pocket starcharts, please contact:

Dave Chalton
Dark Sky Officer
dave.chalton@stfc.ac.uk
0131 668 8406

For more information about Dark Sky events and activities see www.darkskyscotland.org.uk.

Contribution Dave Chalton

SCOTLAND LEADS THE WAY TO COPENHAGEN

Scottish Climate Change Act will soon receive royal assent and become the strongest climate change legislation of any industrialised nation. Scotland's new act will provide a blueprint for other developed countries to follow in the lead-up to the international climate change talks in Copenhagen this December.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Scotland ran an 18 month-long public campaign as part of the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, which resulted in thousands of supporters contacting the Scottish Government and their MSPs to demand legislation that reduces Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions drastically and urgently. For more information on WWF Scotland and the Scottish Climate Change Act please visit: www.wwfscotland.org.uk/how_you_can_help

Contribution WWF Scotland

MEMBERS Q & A

GEARRCHOILLE COMMUNITY WOOD ARDGAY, Ross-shire

CALL TO MEMBERS: Recycled Plastic Pond Dipping Platforms

The GCWA committee have asked me to find out whether any of the other CWs have any experience with using pond-dipping platforms made from recycled plastic. If so, would they please let us have details of supplier and send a photo and/or contact details to Rhonwen Copley: r49323@yahoo.co.uk

For more information on GCWA please visit www.gearrchoillecommunitywoodardgay.org.uk

Many thanks, Brigitte Geddes

Information used in this newsletter has been provided by CWA members directly, from their websites or newsletters, we will not knowingly publish information without the permission from the group or member.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

**JON
HOLLINGDALE**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

jon@communitywoods.org

Steading Cottage, Craigfield Farm, Kintessack, Forres Moray. IV36 2SP

TEL: 01309 674004 MOB: 07792 028675

**DIANE
CAMPBELL**

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

diane@communitywoods.org

69 St Valery Place, Ullapool. IV26 2TD

TEL / FAX: 01854 613737

**JAKE
WILLIS**

COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ADVISOR (NORTH SCOTLAND)

jake@communitywoods.org

Lochaline House, Fiunary, Morvern, By Oban PA34 5XU

TEL: 01967 400030 MOB: 07875 752264

**ANDREW
THOMPSON**

COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ADVISOR (SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND)

andrew@communitywoods.org

Belvue, Thimble Row, Dunning, Perthshire. PH2 0RT

TEL: 01764 684789 MOB: 07881 846984

**ROSSLYN
MILLS**

COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ADVISOR (WEST CENTRAL SCOTLAND)

rosslyn@communitywoods.org

Flat 4/7 Park Place, Denny, Stirlingshire. FK6 6NN

TEL: 01324 825695 MOB: 07795 157178