



## WELCOME

As the snow clears from our community woodlands and the spring brings them to life, CWA are delighted to bring you our latest newsletter. Our members have persevered with the bad weather, battling their way through conditions that brought our southern friends to a stand still to lead walks, construct log buildings, break records and meet with MSPs.

We at CWA are incredibly proud of the work our members do, the dedication they show time and time again to the preservation and protection of the areas they hold dear. In this issue of the Newsletter we ask for your support in a time of financial uncertainty, to raise the profile of CWA to the wider population.

You can now see the feedback on the Returning to Roots conference held in November. [Click here](#) to go to the 4min video—a wee taste of the of the conference if you weren't able to make it.



## CONTENTS

### **CWA NEWS**

CWA Welcome French Students  
New Administrative Assistant for CWA  
Scotland's Finest Woods Awards  
CWA Funding support request  
Jon Hollingdale - Online blog

### **MEMBER NEWS**

Knoydart Foundation  
Laide & Aultbea Community Woodland  
Woodland Croft Update  
Isle of Bute  
Isle of Eigg  
Friends of Leadburn Community Woodland  
Wooplaw Community Woodland  
Borders Forest Trust

### **OTHER INTEREST**

Greenspace Scotland  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
NHS Forest  
Central Scotland Green Network

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

## **CWA NEWS**

### **CWA WELCOME FRENCH FORESTRY STUDENTS TO SCOTLAND**

Jake Willis welcomed two French students from Nancy's National School of Forestry Engineering to Morvern at the start of February. Samuel and Alizee will be on placement with CWA until 20 June, and are here to learn how forestry and more specifically, community forestry works in Scotland. CWA hope that during their time with us that they will be given the opportunity to contribute their skills with surveys, management plans and report-writing.

Samuel and Alizee have previously done placements in New Zealand and Costa Rica. Initially they will be working in Morvern, Laggan, Perthshire and Fife, and Assynt. They speak excellent English, are currently living with Jake and his family, however they will shortly be moving into a flat in Lochaline.



The students would like to acquire a wide a range of experiences during their time with CWA and we would like our members to help us to provide this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your local woodland advisor if you feel that they can offer some work experience in the coming months. Alternatively you can contact the students directly by emailing them and introducing yourself [student@communitywoods.org](mailto:student@communitywoods.org)

## **INTRODUCING CWA ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**

CWA are pleased to welcome Caroline Derbyshire to the team. Caroline started with CWA in January and will be taking on the administrative duties for CWA. Based in Jon's office in Forres, Caroline will be working part time for the association as we seek funding post June.

Caroline can be reached by email: [admin@communitywoods.org](mailto:admin@communitywoods.org)

## **SCOTLAND'S FINEST WOODS—COMMUNITY WOODLANDS AWARD**

The prestigious **Community Woodlands Award** and **Tim Stead Trophy** is awarded to Scotland's best community or urban woodland project or other social forestry project which engages people with their environment.

*All over Scotland people are working to support their local communities, our judges want to recognise their achievement!*

There is a **cash prize of £500** for the winning project and custody of the stunning Tim Stead Trophy for one year; the **second prize is £250**. Both also receive a wooden display plaque to record their achievement.

Previous winners have included Blarbuie Woodland Partnership and Drumchapel Woodland Group.

The winning project will be presented with their prizes on Friday, 25th June 2010 at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston. An additional presentation can be made on the project site so that all those involved can join the celebrations

Simply complete a short entry form with basic project and contact details and state in no more than 500 words why you think your project would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award.

Closing date for entries is 31st March go to [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) for more details and an application form.

## **CWA FUNDING ENDS JUNE 2010 - PLEASE GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT!**

Thank you for your support and best wishes as we continue the search for funding past June 2010. Many of you have been in touch offering to distribute the link to 'Wha's Like Us' and advertise when you put out your own press releases. Every little helps so please do keep sending it out there.

### **There are a several ways that you can do this:**

- Send all your friends, family and colleagues this Link to 'Wha's Like Us' the Woodland Culture Presentation by Eoin Cox, that went down a storm at the conference in November.  
(<http://www.communitywoods.org/youtube>)
- Encourage those on your own membership list, and anyone else who may be interested, to sign up for the free e-newsletter [www.communitywoods.org](http://www.communitywoods.org)
- Raise the profile of CWA, mention you are members of the Association in all your media communications.
- Anyone can contribute directly using the donation button on our website. [www.communitywoods.org](http://www.communitywoods.org)

We will keep you up to date as things develop with regard to funding but in the mean time.....

**...keep shouting about the wonderful work you do for the benefit of the woodlands and your communities!**

## **JON HOLLINGDALE - CWA ONLINE BLOG**

The Community Woodlands Association CEO, Jon Hollingdale has been publishing regular blogs on the CWA website since November 2009. Previous headlines include: “**time to drop the S word?**” “**its a good thing that trees are made of wood**” and “**a bit rich**”, with discussion and ponderings regarding the overuse of “sustainability” in the environment sector, the positive impact that Climate Change is having on the Forestry Sector and Ridley Scott’s dystopian classic “Blade Runner”!

To read and comment on these and Jons latest blog “Where the money goes,,” please visit the CWA website:

[www.communitywoods.org/blog/](http://www.communitywoods.org/blog/)

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **KNOYDART FOUNDATION, Inverness-shire**

#### ***The Log Building Project***

Five weekend courses in Log-Building have resulted in the amazing Log Cabin being constructed on the Knoydart Peninsula, located at Long Beach Campsite. Intended as a shelter for campers and other users of the beach area the final result exceeded all expectations for Swiss-chalet prettiness!

We ran four 3-day courses each with 5 or 6 people plus a final weekend to finish the roof etc. The 4 courses got the walls up and the ridge on. The final weekend we invited everybody back as volunteers to get the thing finished. The group charged £100 per person for a 3 day course - which is a bargain, we didn’t bring in much from training fees. With good publicity perhaps we could have charged more. However, if we hadn’t got the people then we wouldn’t have finished the building.

The process was great, lots of different diverse people working together to achieve something. The social aspect of the training was important, big army mess tent for teas and soup, beer at the end of the day, pub meals at night, BBQs and of course the final party. Building team spirit and “camaraderie” was essential to the success of the build. The completed structure is dry, potentially warm, and an ideal place for campers to dry off their clothes, or take shelter from those sheets of rain that (occasionally) make their way up the loch.



The project was largely funded by BBC Breathing Spaces as part of the KF Ranger Service's Long Beach Phase Two project, and was sub-contracted to Knoydart Forest Trust.

*Text and Photographs submitted by Knoydart Forest Trust*

**LAIDE & AULTBEA COMMUNITY WOODLAND, Sunderland****Laide Wood Photographic Competition**

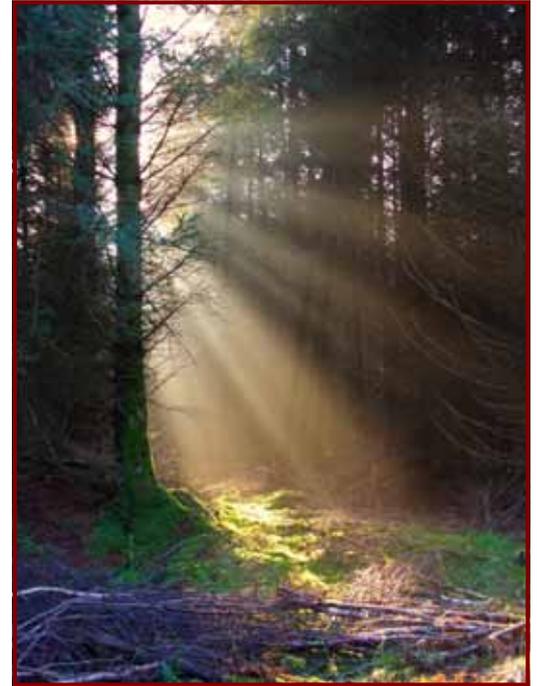
Our 2009 Photographic Competition was a big success, attracting entries from all over the UK. The twelve best entries were selected by an independent judge, and can be seen on the Laide and Aultbea website.



2nd prize winner – K. Ginty, Aultbea

The Laide Wood calendar (for 2011) will be on sale throughout the year, locally and via the website. The calendar will feature the winning entries from this year's competition, so keep checking the website for details...

[www.laidewood.org.uk](http://www.laidewood.org.uk)



1st Prize winner, G.MacFadyean, Dalbeattie

Well done to all those who took part in what has proved a well supported and competitive event. Our grateful thanks to the sponsors who have made this inaugural event possible: Aultbea Butchers, Aultbea Hotel, Hardwood Café, Eweview Holidays and SR Webservices Ltd

Details of the 2010 Laide Wood Photographic Competition will be posted on the website in the coming weeks. With spring fast approaching, there should be lots of opportunities to get into the wood and photograph the forest as it comes to life, so get those digital images ready!

*Photographs and Text Submitted by Kevin Ginty*

**WOODLAND CROFTS UPDATE****EMBO, URRAS EURABOIL –SUTHERLAND**

Embo, Urras Euraboil, submitted their funding application for the purchase and development of Fourpenny wood to the BIG Lottery Fund, but the group has since received word that they have not been successful. Although very disappointed, they intend to look at alternative approaches to delivering their project. They are also putting in place a series of training courses which will give their directors greater understanding of woodland-related issues, including practical training such as chainsaw operation.

**FERNAIG COMMUNITY TRUST – WESTER ROSS**

The Trust's consultants have completed the first two (general) phases of its feasibility study. These conclude that acquisition of a part of South Strome Forest for either woodland crofts or more general community management is worthy of more detailed investigation. This was also the outcome of a community meeting held in October. Next steps will include a detailed consultation with potential woodland crofters in the area.

*The Scottish Government published their new Crofting Reform Bill in December, with some of the key proposals from the draft bill withdrawn following consultation. Provisions relating to the function and duties of the Crofters Commission, and the establishment of a new crofting register, remain. For more information on this please follow this link <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/35-CroftReform/index.htm>*

*Text Submitted by Jamie McIntyre*

**ISLE OF BUTE, Western Isles*****Rhubodach Forest Purchase***

Islanders on Bute recently voted yes on plans to buy almost 2,000 acres of land currently owned by film director Richard Attenborough. More than 5,000 islanders had a vote in what is Scotland's biggest ever ballot on a community buyout proposal, the results of which were announced on the 12th February and can be viewed in full on the Bute Forest website: [www.buteforest.com/category/news/](http://www.buteforest.com/category/news/)

The forest, which lies at the northern end of Bute, offers spectacular views of Argyll and is valued at £1.4m. Bute Community Land Company, which has been set up to organise the buyout, is confident it can raise enough cash for the project through public grants and loans. Christine McArthur, a director of Bute Community Land Company, admitted that the size of the ballot had created difficulties. However campaigners were confident that the islanders would turn out to support the purchase. The community have shown that they believe community ownership could allow the forest to become a destination for eco-tourism, with improved access for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders. Wood from the forest would also be used to provide carbon neutral heating for homes in Bute, while many local business owners believe the plan could help attract a new generation of visitors to the island.

CWA staff have been involved, giving advice to the group as their plans progress and we would like to congratulate them on a superb turn out and wish them luck with the tasks that lie before them. .

*Submitted by Bute Community Land Company*

**ISLE OF EIGG, Western Isles*****Green Eigg Win Big!***

Two years ago Eigg did not even have mains electricity! Now the tiny Scottish island, population 95, has won a UK-wide award for its leap forward in harnessing renewable energy and its approach to tackling climate change. Among the measures it has adopted, the islanders are using spent cooking oil from the local ferry in its community vehicles, running public conveniences by solar power as well as developing a sustainable supply of woodfuel on the island – with the wood fuel resource assessment being carried by CWA.

Eigg is one of three groups each receiving a £300,000 share of a £1 million prize offered by the Big Green Challenge, a competitive fund organised by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts to reduce carbon emissions. Sharing the jackpot were The Green Valleys, a project based in the Brecon Beacons, and the Household Energy Service, based in Ludlow, Shropshire. Low Carbon West Oxford received £100,000 as runner-up. Of all the finalists the residents on Eigg managed the greatest decrease in CO2 emissions, with a cut of 32 per cent. Well Done!

*Text Submitted by Jake Willis*

**SHARE YOUR NEWS VIA THE CWA NEWSLETTER  
FORWARD ANY STORIES / NEWSLETTERS / PHOTOGRAPHS TO ROSSLYN:  
[rosslyn@communitywoods.org](mailto:rosslyn@communitywoods.org)**

## **FRIENDS OF LEADBURN COMMUNITY WOODLAND, Edinburgh**

### ***Successful Partnership Work with SWT***

At Leadburn, on the A703 between Edinburgh and Peebles in the Borders, there was once a raised peatland bog but the dense planting of Sitka spruce drained the naturally boggy ground and denuded the habitat. Now community woodland, after being clear-felled and sold by the Forestry Commission some seven years ago, Leadburn is changing back. Native trees are being planted and soon the raised peat bog that formed part of this landscape before the march of the blanket plantation will flourish again.

Leadburn Community Woodland approached Scottish Wildlife trust in 2009 to undertake a range of habitat restoration activities funded by SRDP. Consequently Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) was contracted to install dams, and also remove lodgepole pine and silver birch regeneration from selected areas on the bog surface and surrounding area.



The SWT Tweed Valley conservation team, supervised by Eddie Degan undertook the work. His team of conservation workers installed 330 dams to help retain water within the bog, keeping the water table high and allowing organic matter to build up, thus in the longer term recreating conditions for a raised peat bog habitat dominated by sphagnum moss and heather.



Each dam was constructed of lengths of interlocking plastic piling, up to 3 metres in length which were hammered into the ground to create a watertight dam. The team used clearing saws to remove regenerating tree species, particularly lodgepole pine, which were encroaching from surrounding woodland.

The project has been a success with dams working successfully. Tree regeneration will continue to remain an issue but a high water table will create more healthy conditions for the bog habitat.

This is the first time in many years that SWT has worked with a community woodland group. We have 11 conservation teams, based around the Central Belt, the Borders, Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife and Tayside, and are able to provide a full contract service to a client including a wide

variety of habitat management or improvement tasks of interest to community woodland owners, such as fencing, planting, footpath improvements and hazardous tree surveys. In some areas we can offer a full arboricultural service.

*Text and Photographs Submitted by Peter Gilbert of SWT*

## **WOOPLAW, BORDERS**

### ***Blowing Away Cobwebs Walk & The White Green Woodwork Building***

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January brought a very snowy walk through Wooplaw Community Woodland. Despite the several inches of snow, several hardy "stalwarts" made it along for a beautiful wander. The group managed to walk down to the green woodwork building which was looking very white. The group received a delivery of shingles for the roof before Christmas but any chance of getting them onto the roof vanished with the arrival of the snow. However when the snow cleared the group were delighted to get these shingles up, nearly completing the structure. The building looks great, well done everyone.

*Photographs and Text Submitted by Bob Fleet*



## **BORDERS FOREST TRUST**

### ***Environment Minister Visit to BFT & Wood School***

The Environment Minister, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, paid a visit to Borders Forest Trust on Tuesday 15th December and saw at first hand the inspiring work the Trust is undertaking across the south of Scotland. It was the Minister's first visit to the Monteviot Nurseries premises of BFT where she met with Director Willie McGhee and other BFT staff as well as the makers at Real Wood Studios.

*Extract Taken from BFT Website*

## **OTHER INTEREST**

### **GREENSPACE SCOTLAND**

#### ***Greenspace is Good... So Prove it!***

Greenspace Scotland invites urban community greenspace groups to take part in Social Return on Investment programme, Greenspace Scotland's two year research programme *Greenspace is good - so prove it!* Funded by the Big Lottery Fund research programme is seeking applications from community greenspace groups wishing to take part.

This groundbreaking project will work with 12 urban community greenspace groups to enable them to understand, calculate and demonstrate the impact of their projects using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) model. SROI is an approach which measures the multiple social, economic and environmental outcomes and calculates a monetary value to represent these impacts.

Over the last year greenspace Scotland has been working with Scottish Natural Heritage and local partners to explore how SROI can be applied in the greenspace sector. The earlier work with greenspace projects such as the Greenlink project in Motherwell and the Pacific Garden in Govan was very well received by the projects and partners taking part. Stephen Hughes, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with the Central Scotland Forest Trust said:

"We found it a very rewarding experience to go through the social return on investment process with Greenspace Scotland. It made us realise just how much the Greenlink's voluntary conservation work means to the residents in the area, the wider community and partners such as the Police, NHS and North Lanarkshire Council. The SROI report will definitely help us to better demonstrate the impact our work and attract funding for similar greenspace projects in the future"

Community greenspace groups who are interested in taking part can find out more information on the project and download an application form [here](#)

**Deadline for applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 9 March 2010**

## **FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND**

### ***Launch of Woods for Learning Strategy***

Forests and woodlands are "the new fuel for learning" said Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham today as she launched a major forest education strategy and a new forest kindergarten project in Glasgow. The *Woods for Learning* strategy, produced by Forestry Commission Scotland, aims to overcome today's risk averse, indoors society and provide an active hands-on approach to developing children's education.

During her visit to the Kindergarten site, Roseanna Cunningham referred to the importance of woods and greenspace in helping to "stimulate young minds, boost social skills and increase overall activity levels"

"With 90 per cent of Scotland's schools only a kilometre from woodland, most students have a natural learning environment on their doorstep." Many schools across Scotland are realising this and using this natural asset as part of the curriculum.

CWA would like to hear about your Forest School experience. Has it been a success? Could your woodland be used for a Forest School, but is currently inactive? Are you interested in learning more about forest education and the benefits of hosting a forest school or kindergarten? Please contact your local woodland advisor if you have any queries.

For more information on the *Woods for Learning* strategy please follow this link

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6CJDGL](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6CJDGL)

Submitted by Forestry Commission Scotland

## **NHS FOREST**

The NHS Forest is an exciting new national project coordinated by the Campaign for Greener Healthcare. The project's central aims are:

- Improving health of staff, patients and communities through use of green space. Largely due to increasing access to green space on or near to NHS land.
- Greening the NHS Estates and planting one tree per employee, amounting to 1.3 million trees within the next 5 years.
- Encouraging greater social cohesion between the NHS Estates and the local community.
- Encourage the NHS to ensure environmental benefits of their estates to include reducing the NHS' carbon footprint through offsetting from the 1.3 million trees planted.
- Bringing together a range of highly skilled professionals to produce woodland that includes the use of art, food crops and mapping.

The NHS Forest is currently in the pilot phase of the project with up to 10 sites in England being involved. Please see the UK map for further details. They have also had interest from trusts in both Wales and Scotland and are keen to involve Northern Ireland.

Do let the NHS Forest coordinator know if you would like to sign up to this innovative project. Please contact Sarah Dandy: [sarah.dandy@kintoa.org](mailto:sarah.dandy@kintoa.org)

## **CENTRAL SCOTLAND GREEN NETWORK**

The Central Scotland Green Network is an ambitious new greenspace project, the largest of its kind in Europe. If successful it will transform Scotland's central belt into a more attractive place to live and work. There will be a substantial increase in woodland cover and improvements to greenspace and outdoor recreation. The aim is to improve landscape settings for towns and cities, including bringing back to life the area's post-industrial legacy of derelict and vacant land. Some key outputs for the initiative, which stretches from Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Dunbartonshire in the west through to Fife and East Lothian in the east, will be:

- A significant increase in woodland expansion to further "green up" the area, boost recreation opportunities and contribute to climate change reduction;
- Improved networks for cycling and walking, encouraging more "active travel" to work and school which will also reduce carbon footprints;
- Building a strategic network of priority habitats which will improve biodiversity and protect many species;
- Restoring vacant and derelict land with aim of regenerating and restoring it to attractive landscapes for a range of uses, including new business.

Roddy Fairley from Scottish Natural Heritage is chairing the Central Scotland Green Network interim steering group. He said: "We very much welcome the determination to deliver the Central Scotland Green Network. This builds on a lot of work over many years and must be great news for lots of people. The environment close to where we live is vital. It is where our children are brought up. Its quality is critical to our economic future and the wellbeing of our communities. This new drive provides an opportunity for all parts of government to work together and re-double efforts to develop and safeguard a resilient environment that works for us across the whole of the central belt."

**Recent update:** A Central Scotland Green Network Prospectus has been prepared to communicate early thinking on the green network. It sets out the benefits of the CSGN and includes a draft Vision and 10 draft goals to direct action through to 2030. You can access the Prospectus at [www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org](http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org)

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