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Welcome to the January 2019 issue of the CWA e-bulletin, with news of two CWA networking events and a £5m Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund for the Highlands and Islands. Don't forget to get your entries in for Scotland's Finest Woods Awards! Please send items for inclusion in future e-bulletins to admin@communitywoods.org by the 15th of the month.

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CWA Central Scotland Networking Event Blackridge, 15 February 2019 10am – 4pm

Our second Networking Day for community woodland groups from across the central belt will be held in Blackridge, West Lothian on Friday 15th February. There will be morning presentations from Forestry Commission Scotland, the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Volunteer Scotland whilst three community woodland groups (Doune, Dunbar and Craigmillar Castle Park) will be telling their own stories, relating experiences from project work and generally getting the discussion going. After lunch, our hosts Beechbrae will take us around their 35-acre site on the outskirts of the village to see what they do and how they do it.

Details of how to book (it's free!), how to get there and a finalised agenda have been circulated to our Central Scotland mailing list – but if you've been overlooked or are keen to get involved please contact Chris at chris@communitywoods.org. We are very grateful to the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland for funding this event and can therefore support reasonable travel costs of 25p/mile or face-value public transport fares.



CWA Argyll “A Wood of Our Own” networking event

The next meeting of this Argyll community woodland networking project will be hosted by Ardentenny Community Trust. As with previous AWOO days, the format is to spend the morning indoors (Village Hall) where we can catch up with news from other Argyll groups with a range of 10-minute presentations and general discussion/networking. After lunch, delegates will explore Ardentenny Walled Garden on a guided tour with Lynn Kerr and other ACT volunteers. The walled garden was acquired by Ardentenny Community

Trust from Forestry Commission Scotland - one of the earliest NFLS applications - and has been a valuable resource for all manner of community participation, activities and celebration since then.

A booking form and full agenda will be circulated to the AWOO mailing list as well as posted on the CWA Facebook page in February. Funding through the FCS Community Fund means that delegate travel expenses can be reimbursed (public transport costs or 25p/mile) so with that in mind we look forward to seeing you there! Please contact Chris Marsh, chris@communitywoods.org with any questions or comments.

Events (click to return to contents)



Wild Scotland Annual Conference

Wild Scotland - the Scottish wildlife and adventure tourism association – is holding its annual conference at the Birnam Institute on Friday 8 March, promising a range of inspiring and interesting speakers and plenty of opportunities to network over lunch and refreshments with like-minded folk throughout the day.

For more information and booking see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wild-scotland-annual-conference-tickets-49888112688>



Carbon Literacy for Highland Communities

The Energy Advice Service funded by the Climate Challenge Fund is hosting a two day training course “Carbon Literacy for Highland Communities”, facilitated by Keep Scotland Beautiful. This course will inspire community members to explore innovative and practical ways to lower their carbon footprint and reduce their impact on climate change. Attendance on the course is free but participants will be asked to cover the cost of certification (£10 plus VAT). The training is 9.30 – 4.00, 6 & 7 February 2019 at the Muir of Ord Hub with lunch provided.

More details, including how to book, [here](#).

General News (click to return to contents)



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2019.

Entries are open for the 2019 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, which includes ten competitions across six categories.

The **Community Woodland category** has 2 competitions, for large and small community woodland groups (turnover above and below £20,000 respectively), with a £1,000 prize for each competition and the Tim Stead Trophy for the overall winner.

The **1919 Forestry Act Centenary Award** is a one-off competition which celebrates what woodlands have contributed to our lives, economy and environment, providing a platform for further growth in the next century: a specially commissioned trophy and £1,000 are being made available.

Other categories are Farm woodland, New native woodland, Quality timber and Schools. The closing date for entries is Sunday 31 March 2019, winning projects will be presented with their prizes at the Royal Highland Show on Friday 21 June 2019.

Full details on eligibility and how to apply are at <http://www.sfwa.co.uk/>



Consultation on Scottish Charity Law

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on Charity Law. This seeks views on potential improvements to the statutory charity regulation framework in Scotland, in light of proposals put forward by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). The proposals broadly focus on improvements to charity law that are intended to increase transparency and accountability in order to maintain public trust and confidence in charities and OSCR. The consultation closes on 1 April 2019. You can read or download the consultation document at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-charity-law/>



Forestry Grant Scheme Briefing Note 21: Future of the Forestry Grant Scheme & Update on Budget and Threshold Scores

FCS Briefing Note 21 provides an update on:

- the future of the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) post Brexit
- the current FGS budget situation
- availability of 2020 budget as the first claim year
- Forestry Commission Scotland policy on FGS contract variation requests for woodland creation schemes looking to move from 2019 to 2018 and vice versa
- changes to clearing category threshold scores

The note is available to view on the FCS website at:

<https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/grants-and-regulations/forestry-grants>

[Funding \(click to return to contents\)](#)



SNH - Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund opens

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund supports new opportunities to promote the outstanding scenery, wildlife and culture of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland in ways which support inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It will help to retain jobs and sustain populations and services in rural communities. £5m is available from the fund, with each project to receive at least £250k. Applicants can come from the public, voluntary or third sectors. The funding round opened 14 January 2019 and closes 22 April 2019. Decisions on the successful projects will be announced in September 2019.

Full details of eligibility and how to apply are available at:

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/funding/natural-and-cultural-heritage-fund-nchf>



Scottish Community Alliance - Community Learning Exchange 2018/2019

The Community Learning Exchange is a fantastic opportunity for communities to learn through the exchange of ideas and the sharing of common solutions. The Exchange will fund up to 100% of the costs of a visit by members of one community to another community project up to a limit of £750, including a host fee. In exceptional circumstances (where travel distances are greater or certain aspects of the visit are particularly expensive) this limit can be increased. Similarly visits outwith Scotland, but within the UK will be considered where a similar project does not exist in Scotland. The Exchange operates through the networks like CWA that comprise the Scottish Community Alliance. Applications to the Exchange are processed through the CWA's designated member of staff (Jon). Application forms for 2018/2019, for visits taking place until March 2019, are available on the CWA website [here](#). For more information, please contact Jon jon@communitywoods.org.





Forestry Commission Scotland Community Fund 2018/19

The FCS Community Fund supports community groups and organisations that encourage people to use woods more. You can apply for activities taking place up until 31 March 2019. The Community Fund leaflet and guidance are available for download at <https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/communities>

For application forms, questions, or to discuss a potential project, contact your local [FCS Conservancy](#).



Zero Waste Scotland Circular Economy Investment Fund

£18million is available as grant funding to SME and non-profit organisations. They are interested in: exploring markets for new circular economy products, development and adoption of innovative business models for new circular economy products and services, development and uptake of innovative technologies, products and services to support a circular economy. For more information see

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy/investment-fund>



GreenspaceScotland – Young Placechangers Ideas Fund

The Young Placechangers Ideas Fund supports Youth Groups to engage with others in their communities to take action to improve the environmental quality, biodiversity, playability and vibrancy of neighbourhoods. Young Placechangers are young people between the ages of 12-25 who want to change their local environment for the better. This could be their local greenspace, street, community centre garden, whole village, neighbourhood or town. The Young Placechangers lead community placemaking projects in their local communities.

You can apply to the Ideas Fund at any time. Seed corn grant applications for up to £500 are awarded at a rolling basis. However, there are set points when Ideas Fund applications (up to £3000) are reviewed and awarded: the next deadline for applications is 28 February 2019.

Find out more at <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/young-placechangers-ideas-fund> or contact Angela Houghton, Young Placechangers Development Officer, to discuss your idea further: angela.houghton@greenspacescotland.org.uk



Co-op Foundation Interest-Free Loans

The Co-op Foundation has launched an opportunity for not-for-profit organisations, including social enterprises, co-ops, charities etc. who manage community spaces. This includes “green space” focused organisations including those managing woodlands for community benefits. Interest-free loans of up to £50,000 may be awarded to organisations, and depending on circumstance, there may be some grant funding. More information [here](#).



SRDP Forestry Grants Scheme

The Forestry Grants Scheme (FGS), part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme, is open for applications. Details of eligible operations, application process and grant rates can be found at <https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grant-scheme/>



SRDP LEADER Programme

The aim of LEADER is to increase support to local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills and encourage innovation and cooperation to tackle local development objectives. Grants are awarded by [Local Action Groups](#) to projects that support delivery of a Local Development Strategy.



SRDP Agri-Environment Climate Scheme opens for applications

The next round of the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) has opened for applications. The 2019 application window will run for 12 weeks from 17 January to 13 April, with 31 May for collaborative projects which involve five or more businesses. AECS is part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme. It supports environmentally-friendly land management practices that aim to safeguard and improve Scotland's natural heritage and help businesses adapt to climate change.

For more information see: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/>



Big Lottery Fund - The Scottish Land Fund

The Scottish Land Fund supports communities to become more resilient and sustainable through ownership and management of land and land assets. Funded by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership by the Big Lottery Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the fund offers grants of up to £1 million to help communities take ownership of the land and buildings that matter to them, as well as practical support to develop their aspirations into viable projects.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scottishlandfund
www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-assets/



Voluntary Arts Scotland Guide for funding for arts or cultural projects

Looking for funding for arts or cultural projects? Voluntary Arts Scotland has produced an excellent guide, [click here](#) or email info@vascotland.org.uk to request a hard copy.



Arts & Business Scotland - Culture & Business Fund

This fund promotes collaboration between Scottish businesses with arts and heritage organisations to deliver new arts and heritage projects. If an arts or heritage organisation attracts an eligible business to sponsor an aspect of their work, the Culture & Business Fund Scotland will match that sponsorship, £ for £. Organisations can apply for match funding up to the value of £40,000 in any one financial year (running from 1 April to 31 March). <http://www.aandbscotland.org.uk/culture-and-business-fund-scotland/>



Heritage Lottery Fund - Resilient Heritage grants

Resilient Heritage grants of £3,000-£250,000 can help to strengthen your organisation and build the capacity of your staff and volunteers to better manage heritage in the long term. Grants can fund activities to acquire new skills or knowledge, or new models of governance, leadership and business. Whether organisations are facing challenges around income and fundraising, or preparing to take on new forms of investment, such as social investment, Resilient Heritage can support these processes. More about the fund [here](#)



Heritage Lottery Fund - Sharing Heritage

This programme is for any type of project related to heritage in the UK.

Outcomes for people: developed skills; learnt about heritage; changed their attitudes and/or behaviour; had an enjoyable experience; volunteered time. Outcomes for heritage: better managed; in better condition; better interpreted and explained; identified/recorded. Grant programmes expect projects to achieve one or more of the below outcomes:

Outcomes for communities: environmental impacts will be reduced; more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage; organisations will be more resilient; local economy will be boosted; local areas/communities will be a better place to live, work or visit;

Eligibility: charities or trusts; community or voluntary groups; community/parish councils; community interest companies; local authorities; other public-sector organisations, such as nationally funded museums; social enterprises.

Amount: £3,000 - £10,000. More about the fund [here](#).



The Henry Smith Charity

The Henry Smith Charity aims to bring about lasting change to people's lives, helping them to benefit from and contribute to society. They achieve this by funding organisations that work with people to reduce social and economic disadvantage.

The **Improving Lives** programme provides grants to charitable organisations that help people when other sources of support have failed, are inappropriate, or are simply not available.

The **Strengthening Communities** programme is designed to support small charitable organisations working at grassroots level and targets places that are economically marginalised and affected by poverty.

Further information [here](#).

Deadline: There are no deadlines. Trustees meet four times a year.



The Robertson Trust - Education and Training Funding

The Robertson Trust Education and Training Funding is available for community-based activities which increase opportunities in education or which nurture talent and develop positive life skills opportunities. Applications may be submitted at any time, for more information please visit: www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/what-we-fund



The Tudor Trust

The Tudor Trust is an independent grant-making trust which supports voluntary and community groups working in any part of the UK. They particularly want to help smaller, community-led organisations that work directly with people who are at the margins of society: organisations that support positive changes in people's lives and in their communities.

They have a two-stage application process: more details at <http://tudortrust.org.uk/how-to-apply/>



The Mickel Fund

The funding priorities of the Mickel Fund are the advancement of education, the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of health and the saving of lives, the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture & science and the advancement of public participation in sports.

Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications: the next meeting will be in March 2019. More details at <http://www.mickelfund.org.uk/>



The Pebble Trust – Grants up to £5,000 available for projects which promote a more sustainable society

The Pebble Trust, established in 2014, has a vision of a more sustainable, equal and low-carbon society, where constraints on fossil fuels lead to a more localised economy with stronger, more resilient, communities, and where human activities take account of climate change and the wider environment. The Trust supports projects in Scotland, and particularly in the Highlands and Islands. For more information visit the Pebble Trust website: <http://www.thepebbletrust.org/> The Pebble Trust is also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/thepebbletrusthighlands



Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme

Tesco Bags of Help can provide up to £5,000 for your activity if you are a community group, school, charity, local authority, public body or not for profit. All you need to do is fill in a short application online, get landowners permission agreed and hit submit! If you need a bit of help then they have a team of friendly [Community Enablers](#) ready to lend a hand.

Projects that can get the green light include volunteer training, horticulture workshops, forest school sessions, community events and sports and leisure activities. Bags of Help is a rolling funding scheme and permanently open for applications, the scheme is administered by Groundwork, working in Scotland with greenspace Scotland. Full eligibility criteria and detailed application guidance is available online [here](#).



The Dulverton Trust

The Trust is keen to support the general conservation and protection of wildlife habitats within the UK. They also encourage projects concerning the protection and sympathetic management of trees and native woodlands, as well as projects with a focus on marine and coastal protection.

Amount: From £25,000 to £35,000

Contact: <http://dulverton.org>

Deadline: Trustees meet three times a year: February, June and October. No deadlines or closing dates.



The Weir Charitable Trust

The Weir Charitable Trust supports community and charitable organisations in Scotland with an income of less than £100,000 per year. Grants of up to £25,000 available in 5 Qualifying Categories - Sport, Health, Culture, Animal Welfare or Recreational Facilities - providing services to improve the quality of life for the people of Scotland. For more information see <https://weircharitabletrust.com/apply-now>



Big Issue Invest Scotland

Big Issue Invest Scotland provides social investment and loan finance to social enterprises, social ventures and third sector organisations in Scotland. Awards range from £5,000 to £1.5 million. Apply any time bigissueinvest.com/funds/social-enterprise/



The Big Lottery Fund – Community Assets

This £45m fund supports communities across Scotland to buy, manage or develop buildings or land. Contact BIG at advicescotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk or on 0300 123 7110 to discuss your idea. More details and guidance notes are available at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/community-assets



Big Lottery Fund - Grants for Community-led Activity

This funding aims to support communities to improve the places they live and the wellbeing of those most in need. Grants of £10,000 – £150,000 are available. It funds organisations to deliver the following outcomes:



- Everyone in the community has the opportunity to influence and get involved in community-led activity
- People in the community are better connected and work together to improve their well-being.

They want to fund work that is people-led, connected, and strengths-based. To get an application form and to discuss what you're planning, contact the Scotland Advice Team on 0300 123 7110 or advicescotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk More information is available [here](#)



Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All Scotland

Awards for All Scotland is an easy way for smaller organisations to get small amounts of funding. Groups can apply for a grant of between £500 and £10,000 for projects that aim to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need and is focused on organisations who have not received a grant from the programme in the last three years.



www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/scotland/awards-for-all-scotland



Action Earth – Scotland Funding

Action Earth is helping to get people and communities busy outdoors. The campaign has grants to give to groups of volunteers who are carrying out environmental projects in Scotland. Grants from £50 to £250 are available for practical activities that involve volunteers in improving outdoor spaces or creating habitats for wildlife. If you have any questions contact Robert Henderson on 0131 6227766 or email roberthenderson@volunteering.org.uk For more information and to apply online:



www.volunteeringmatters.org.uk/actionearth



Prince’s Trust - The Enterprise Programme

The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation was founded in 1979 and is now one of the largest independent foundations in the UK. There are no deadlines for this programme.

www.princeofwalescharitablefoundation.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant



The Ernest Cook Trust Grants Programme

Schools, charities and not for profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside and the environment, the arts or aiming to raise levels of literacy and numeracy can apply for funding to the Ernest Cook Trust. The grant programmes support state schools and small registered charities which would like to undertake projects which meet the Trust's objectives and require a small amount of pump-priming in order for such projects to take place.

Amount: Small grants: Under £4k; Larger grants over £4k.

Contact: <http://ernestcooktrust.org.uk/grants/how-to-apply/>

Deadline: Applications to the small grants programme can be made at any time. The next closing date for applications for the large grants is **31st January 2019**.

Transform Foundation – Funding for charity web presence

The Transform Foundation has launched a new funding programme to help charities to develop an effective web presence. In collaboration with Raising IT, the largest UK provider of charity websites, the £18,000 funding package will help to equip charities with: the technology to transform their organisation; a digital engagement focused strategy to futureproof the charity; a professionally designed website to inspire supporters; and measurement built in to help the charity track results and maximise impact. For more information visit: www.transformfoundation.org.uk/apply-for-funding



SCVO - Funding Search

SCVO has a new website 'Funding Scotland', an online funding database and valuable resource for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations of all shapes and sizes. Visit [Funding Scotland](http://www.funding-scotland.org)



Perth & Kinross Council - The Community Environment Challenge Fund The Community Environment Challenge Fund is for environmental projects. The projects are to be led and delivered by community groups and must make a significant difference to the local environment and be widely supported within the community. The project must also have the written support of all local Councillors in the Ward where the project is taking place. Projects can be from £2,500-£10,000 (with min 50% match funding). For more details please visit: www.pkc.gov.uk/CECF.

Some of the content of this e-bulletin has been taken from other e-newsletters received by CWA: TCVIFEVA, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Woodland Trust, New Caledonian Woodlands, FCFCG, Paths for All, amongst others.

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