CWA E-Newsletter - Issue 21

Welcome to the CWA E-newsletter, Winter 2013-14 Edition. Thank you to everyone who contributed, we had a great response from our members offering their stories which we hope will inspire and motivate, and give you the opportunity to catch up on what other CWA members have been up to over the past year.

CWA Health in Woods Seminar: Report by Di Oliver

CWA has been raising the profile of the work community woodland groups do to support people with poor mental and physical health.

In November 2013 a Health in Woods Seminar was held in Lochgilphead, in partnership with Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise, Abriachan Forest Trust and NHS Highland. 29 people from a range of organisations including NHS, community woodlands and other health groups gathered to share experiences, listen to presentations and participate in workshops.

We heard inspiring stories, were challenged to think about our own approach to our own health and how our organisations relate to others.

It was great to hear about the NHS approach and changes within their systems, while Forestry Commission Scotland shared some examples of the partnership work they are involved in with the NHS, Branching Out and Green Exercise Partnership.

During the workshops we learned practical activities for working with vulnerable groups, saw first-hand the work undertaken at Blarbuie Woods and shared ideas about how to link with the NHS and access local funding.

One participant said "I gained funding application tricks, forest school information and the knowledge that I am not alone in trying to do what I do!"

CWA Growing Woodlands Workshop, Leckmelm Woods Ullapool

On a calm and sunny Saturday last October, 24 community woodland folk gathered at the off-grid forest base of the founders of Reforesting Scotland, Leckmelm Woods near Ullapool for a Forest Gardening workshop hosted by pioneering permaculture practitioner Emma Planterose Magenta. The event was part of the CWA Enterprising Woods Project and run in partnership with Ullapool Community Trust.

The day was delivered without flipcharts and PowerPoint as everything was around to see and demonstrate, however the hand built blackboard and chalks were made good use of by the children. The programme was designed to allow space for networking and exploring in depth.

The group looked at design, light, water, competition, orientation, access and materials as they toured the site, seeing progressive manual clearing of rhody, thinning of spruce at the vulnerable edges, terracing with brush, soil-building with biochar, mulching and composting.

Rhody has been turned from a problem into an asset, used for cooking wood, crop supports, temporary and decorative fencing and charcoal. Ponies were used for hauling logs, clearing land, rhody control, building soil, spreading fertility and for teaching. Ducks are used for slug control, dog and cat for predator and deer deterrent. The polytunnel extends the growing space, season and produce.

Emma described the development of the West End forest garden, from the felling out of the spruce through ongoing rhody removal and soil building to its productive present. She explained that, in Permaculture, a design is usually drawn up, but that here, due to changing circumstances and needs, a more organic approach is taken.

Leckmelm Wood is a south-facing 33 hectare plantation of Sitka spruce, Scots pine and Douglas fir with a matrix of native broadleaves and understorey of Rhododendron ponticum. It was bought from the Forestry Commission in 1993 by Em, Bernard Planterose and Martine Howard, and has been gradually inhabited and converted ever since.

After lunch Keyhole gardens and hugelkultur were introduced and the knowledge that I am not alone in trying to do what I do!"

Cardboard held in space with fresh cut alder branches until ready to plant. There was extensive discussion about soil building, composting, slugs, ducks and biochar.

Afternoon tea was followed by a tour of the long-used and well adapted “fishbox nursery”: Tree and shrub growing from seed and cuttings was demonstrated and discussed with much interest, followed by going through to the mature garden to show and collect herb and vegetable seeds. Several participants stayed another night and continued the exchange, with food, around the fire, well into the early hours.
Abriachan Forest Trust New Outdoor Learning Annex: Report by Caroline Derbyshire

I thought it would be apt to start this section with Abriachan Forest Trust, as I was delighted to have the opportunity to join them for the opening of their very impressive forest school learning annex.

Most of our readers will know who Abriachan Forest Trust (AFT) are and what they do, but for any new members: in 1998 AFT purchased 534 hectares of forest and open hill ground from Forest Enterprise. Since then the Trust has managed this land to create local employment, improve the environment and encourage its enjoyment by the public through a network of spectacular paths, family suited mountain bike trails and innovative educational opportunities.

Although I’ve heard much about Abriachan Forest School it was only when I had the opportunity to join them at the official opening of their “new Annex”, on 15th November 2013, that I saw it for myself. The new building is amazing, it suits its surroundings, it’s fit for purpose, allowing the warm thanks to the wonderful log burner, a great size and it’s fit for purpose, allowing the youngsters just enjoying being their and feeling like they belong.

Life Cycles Project
The Life Cycles Project is about encouraging participation in activities which helps improve health and wellbeing and has been one of AFT’s success stories. It incorporates a variety of different physical exercise options in programmes that are offered to pupils and groups.

Leader funding has enabled the forest to be mapped for orienteering, and also funded archery leaders and angling leaders, whilst Forestry for People funds through Apex enabled fixed O courses and a learning trail. This has resulted in a wide range of physical activity being offered to many forest users.

AFT have listened to users requests and are developing their recreation provision through:

- A pre-cycle practice/mini-skills area with examples of green berms and blue gnarlies over the windblown patch behind the toilets;
- Developing a fixed literacy trail;
- Creating a low challenge course for the team building/confidence raising;
- 2 days of activity leader time each week.

I am always inspired by the hard work and dedication that community groups, such as Abriachan Forest Trust and Suzann Barr and her team, put in to give children, adolescents and adults the chance to turn their lives around, give them a purpose and the confidence to live their lives to the full and move on in the right direction. I can’t wait to take my boys there so that we can enjoy it for ourselves and hopefully tire the boys out too!

For more information on Abriachan Forest Trust please visit: www.abriachan.org.uk

Stop Press:

Congratulations to Aigas Community Forest who have been awarded £221,000 from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase part of Aigas Forest, which is adjacent to Crask of Aigas, Beauly, Inverness-shire. ACF will also lease the remaining area of commercial woodland, bringing the whole forest into community control. The group plan to develop the forest to create economic and social benefits for the local community.

Andrew Leaver, Secretary of ACF said, “All of us at Aigas Community Forest are delighted that the Scottish Land Fund has recognised the value of our project with this grant. It’s been a long, and at times dispiriting, five years to get to this stage but I hope that we can act as an example to other groups that sticking with your project is worth every ounce of effort involved. Thank you to the Scottish Land Fund and to everyone else who has supported us to date and who will support us in the future.”

http://www.aigasforest.co.uk

Anagach welcomes New Caledonian Woodlands

Anagach Woods Trust put some willing volunteers from New Caledonian Woodlands to work recently. A team of 10 led by Donald McPhillimy assisted with exotic removal (beech and rhododendron) from the pinewood, thinned out dense pine regeneration closing in on the paths and cleared a section of the all-ability path to the River Spey.

Whilst local volunteers were thin on the ground, three kitchen angels topped up the volunteers’ piece rations with home-made soup and extra pieces. As far as the job list went, it really was a case of many hands make light work and the results were pretty impressive, so a big thank you to New Caledonian Woodlands – haste ye back!!

The only cost to the Anagach Woods Trust was the bunk house accommodation.

For more information visit www.newcaledonianwoodlands.org and www.anagachwoods.weebly.com
Cree Valley Community Woodlands Trust (CVCWT) are perhaps better known for their work in creating a network of native broad-leaved woodland along the Cree Valley, near Newton Stewart in Dumfries and Galloway, enhancing these woods for wildlife and improving access for people to enjoy the woods.

However one of the Trust’s objectives is to promote enhancement and interpretation of conservation, landscape, archaeological, natural and built heritage features. To this end they are investigating some interesting archaeological features and researching the history of the woodlands as part of a 3 year Heritage Lottery Funded ‘Cree Valley Woodland Heritage Project’.

Guided walks carried out in 2010 and 2011 covering the archaeology and woodland heritage of Knockman Wood, were very well attended and generated a lot of local interest. A Woodland Heritage Seminar run in June 2012 as part of the CWA Knowledge Share programme was attended by 41 people who showed great interest and keenness to find out more.

Knockman Wood, being close to Newton Stewart, with good potential access and known for its archaeological features, was suggested as the best area to concentrate on. After consultation and site meetings with consultant archaeologist Becky Shaw and the Dumfries & Galloway County Archaeologist Jane Brann, it was agreed to reveal, conserve, preserve and record features of Knockman Wood and to include other choice sites in CVCWT’s woods.

These sites were presented to CVCWT volunteers, community groups, the Scottish Rural College (SRUC) and local schools as a potential for their involvement. Much enthusiasm for archaeological events was generated. Archaeological methods were selected to enable the involvement of as many people as possible, e.g. using more traditional recording methods rather than laser measurements, etc. Turning Point Scotland and the Newton Stewart Activity and Resource Centre stressed the need for good access paths.

After talks with Matt Ritchie, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) Archaeologist, it was suggested that a Resource Box could be made up from the archaeological tools required for the project and be made available to schools and community groups wishing to carry out further research and recording work even after the project was finished. This had been done with a previous project in Western Scotland (The High Morlaggan Project) and was very successful and popular.

More knowledge of the heritage of the woodlands is needed to inform management and disseminate knowledge to the public. The desire for this activity has been driven by local enthusiasts such as the Newton Stewart Museum and also local schools who desire projects to fit in with the Curriculum for Excellence.

Some records are readily available, but specific research, including searching the national and regional archives will be needed for estate records, etc. Advice on research methods and sources of historical documents and maps etc has been given by Dumfries & Galloway Council’s Archivist, Graham Roberts.

Contractors were employed to build a new access path to the site as the existing track was very poor. The first of archaeological ground activities were organised for May 2013 when work was carried out on revealing the features of a small farmstead known as Clau-chrie on the edge of the early 19th century Earl of Galloway deer park in Knockman Wood.

Three main features were investigated including a suspected dwelling, a kiln barn and another ruined walled structure. Many people and groups were involved including regular CVCWT volunteers, other volunteers, Wig-townshire U3A members, and Students from the Scottish Rural College.

Children from Penninghame Primary School visited the site to learn about the archaeology and history and were shown how to sketch the buildings.

Pupils from the Newton Stewart Douglas Ewart High School also came to the site and were given a guided tour as well as being taught how to record the features using the taped offset method.

What they found of the revealed buildings greatly exceeded our expectations. The dwelling house was believed to have formally been a barn, with opposing doorways and a flagged central area of flooring with cobbled floor either side of this. Pottery, porcelain and glass finds suggested that the building was lived in later. The Kiln Barn proved to have a baked clay excellent route of mortar and the work was carried out in September revealing the kiln part of the structure which contained a large amount of charred grain. This could be carbon dated to establish a date of use and with a little more work the flue and fire position should reveal charcoal remnants which could also be carbon dated.

In this second period of activity they also carried out work on an existing corn kiln which also appeared to have had an attached barn. A potentially older building was also investigated and after work had revealed a post hole, it was believed that this building had been of cruck-framed construction with an animal quarters and a higher living area.

A great bonus to the project came from the visit of staff from the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) led by Eve Boyle, who came for 2 days to teach us and our volunteers archaeological recording methods and particularly the use of plane tables.

In early November, CVCWT staff and volunteers paid a visit to Scotland’s Community Heritage Conference 2013 near Birnam, Perthshire. This included presentations and very useful workshops as well as displays of many community led projects. It was an excellent source of information with great networking opportunities and would be highly recommended if your CWA project includes any archaeological or social history aspects.

More work is planned for 2014 and the results of all of their efforts will be announced in their project final conference planned for the spring of 2015.

For more details and information please visit their website at www.cvcwt.org.uk or on their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cree-Valley-Community-Woodlands-Trust/602088216469842
Ullapool Community Trust: Approved application to lease burns for Hydro Project

UCT: Ullapool Community Trust's application to lease the Allt a’ Mhuilinn and Allt a’ Bhraghie burns for the Lael Forest Community Hydro project has been approved. Malcolm Wield of FCS praised the quality of the application saying, “The proposal from UCT was a text book example of a National Forest Land Scheme application. The community benefits that could arise from the project as well as the technical feasibility were clearly demonstrated and the FCS wishes the venture well”.

In response to the approval of the application the chair of UCT, George Farlow, said “This is really fantastic news and will allow UCT to progress the project by carrying out a detailed feasibility study on the burns. If this finds that they are viable and appropriate for small run-of-river hydro schemes and the community remain in favour of the opportunity then the Trust will look to develop the schemes. The Trust’s staff and directors would like to thank the community again for supporting the project as this was critical to the success of the National Forest Land Scheme application. UCT would also like to thank Rob Gibson our local MSP and local Councillors Richard Greene and Ian Cockburn for their support and the National Forest Land Scheme evaluation panel for accepting our application!”

The project could be one of the first community-owned hydro schemes in Scotland and generate up to £50,000 a year for the Ullapool area. For more information on the project visit: ullapoolcommunity.org

UCT are now looking for people to join a project team. To find out more, contact Local Development Officer Ewan Young on 01854 613 132 or by email at sustain@ullapoolcommunity.org or visit www.facebook.com/UllapoolCT

Paths for All: Halloween lantern walk a great success.

Over 250 people joined a Halloween lantern walk, at Easterhouse, hosted by the Commonwealth Woods Project and the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network. The spooky evening walk took them deep into a very dark wood, where ghosts, zombies and serial killers were waiting to entertain and scare the lantern lit walkers.

Walkers had a spooktastic adventure on the 30 minute walk, and many wanted the chance to “go round again”. Sadly there was no time for this as their woodland spooks were waiting in the courtyard at haunted Provanhall House to share ghost stories (and a cup of tea).

The event concluded with a best fancy dress competition, 5 children (4 -13 years) were awarded a prize for best costume, but all children were declared winners and lucky dip bucket was circulated full of sweet Halloween treats.

The event finished as the rain began, and the witches, werewolves and other walkers returned to their homes smiling and promising to return for more fun next year.

A big thank you should be made to everyone who turned up and made the Halloween Lantern walk a success. Special thanks must go to Claire the artist who created all the wonderful lanterns and to the volunteers from Provanhall House who gave up their evening to ensure the event was spooky and ran smoothly.

Register for Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards 2014

Last year CWA members Dunnet Forestry Trust and The Falkland Centre for Stewardship won categories in the Scottish Finest Woods Awards: if you think that your group could be amongst this years’ winners and you would like to see the hard work from your community group recognised and acknowledged, then register your interest in entering the 2014 Awards by emailing admin@sfwa.co.uk

Dunnet Forestry Trust, Caithness were the winners in the Viable Livelihoods category of the Community Woodland Awards. The judges’ verdict was: “A very effective development of a difficult and exposed conifer site, which now offers considerable social and economic benefits as is well used. The judges praised Dunnet as a very impressive submission saying that a great deal have been achieved in challenging circumstances and there is a clear and significant community support. The woodland site delivers in terms of economic and social benefits.”

The winner of the Healthy Lifestyles category was The Falkland Centre for Stewardship for the Forest of Falkland, Falkland Estate, Fife. The judges said: “The Forest of Falkland is a shining example of the range and depth of benefits that can be achieved in a community woodland. There is a balance between long-term forest management and delivery of short and medium term projects. There is a broad base of motivation and knowledgeable people planning in delivering projects and engaging with the community in a very broad way. The scale and ambition of work is quite remarkable and deserves to be better known across Scotland.”

For more information on Paths for All visit their website www.pathsforall.org.uk
Fintry Development Trust news

It’s been a busy year for FDT and below are just some of their recent events:

Forestry Commission Scotland, Biomass Network East of Scotland, in Association with Fintry Development Trust, held on 5th December 2013 at Culcreuch Castle

Faced with rising energy costs, Local Authorities, community groups, Housing Associations, other third sector organisations and commercial businesses are increasingly looking for ways to reduce their heating bills. Designed to promote the production of heat from low-carbon technologies, using renewable energy sources rather than fossil fuels, the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) provides a guaranteed, index-linked payment for 20 years for the production of renewable heat.

The RHI represents a significant opportunity for organisations to reduce their heating spend and benefit financially from the use of renewable heat, thereby enhancing business sustainability as well as boosting green credentials and reducing CO2 emissions. Woodfuel is a key source of sustainable, low carbon renewable heat and where organisations own or have management rights over woodlands, considerable opportunities exist to obtain economic, environmental and social benefits from the production of woodfuel alongside other timber products.

The management of woodlands by community groups can provide valuable employment and training opportunities, a source of low cost fuel for local woodfuel boilers and a chance for communities to engage with each other and their local environment. There are also potential benefits for private and public woodland owners who allow communities to manage their woodlands, especially if they were previously neglected or under-managed; through active and sustainable management the value of the woodland can be enhanced.

FREE Winter Wood Fuel

FDT hosted another FREE Winter Wood Fuel giveaway on the 9th November 2013. Over three tonnes of Fintry logs were given away to Fintry homes. Special priority was given to Fintry’s older residents helping to ensure they all stay warm this winter. If you received wood at this event or at any of their previous wood fuel events and need help splitting it you should contact the Fintry Splitters (more details below). Many thanks to all their volunteers and to the Drapper family for kindly donating this wood. If you would like to volunteer at their next Winter Wood Fuel event please get in contact.

Native Tree Planting Day

On Saturday the 9th November FDT also planted a biodiversity friendly hedge around the community garden. The hedge is made up of Hawthorn and Blackthorn saplings and they hope it will grow to provide a safe haven for Fintry’s wildlife.

Other native saplings of Oak, Rowan, Berch, Hawthorn and Blackthorn have been planted around the Fintry Sports Field. Many thanks to all their volunteers, with their help they managed to plant all 420 saplings. Native saplings were kindly supplied to the community by the Woodland Trust.

Open Orchard Workshop & Harvest Festival

As part of their ‘Four Days in Fintry’ event FDT hosted an Open Orchard Workshop & Harvest Festival. The workshop was a great success and thanks to the help of their community volunteers, volunteers from Ballfron High School and Fintry Primary, they extended their Community Orchard by a further 33 trees!

These apple, pear and plum trees will grow to provide a local and sustainable food source for residents of Fintry and the surrounding communities in years to come.

The workshop also looked at maintenance of young trees and what can be done to maximise survival – expert advice was provided from John Hancox of the Scottish Orchard Project. Many thanks to John!

The Harvest Festival was a great success and celebrated the production of local foods. Volunteers learned what you can do with local produce through fresh apple pressing and their ‘Great Harvest Bake Off’ competition. Congratulations to the bake off winner Catherine Cowtan.

FDT would like to thank the Forth Environment Link and the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund 2013 for their support. The Forth Valley Orchard Initiative is funded by the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund. The Central Scotland Green Network Orchard Grant Scheme 2013/2014, which is part of the initiative, covers the whole of the CSSGN area.

Finally...

Fintry Development Trust have awarded a new local community group ‘Fintry Splitters’ a grant to set up a log splitting community initiative. This will become a self-funding long term sustainable project with the aim of developing a self-sufficient wood supply in the village. This will reduce the amount of fossil fuel used in the community, make cheaper wood fuel more readily available and encourage the community to work together in keeping everyone warmer! Fintry Splitters have used the grant to buy a community log splitter.

Anyone in the community can become a co-owner of the log splitter and use the machine to split logs for their own use. To find out more information on how the scheme works and to become a member contact William Kay on: 01360 860077 or 07778373336.

For more information on Fintry Development Trust contact Kelly McIntyre, FDT Project Manager, email: kelly@fintrydt.org.uk mobile: 07765 204 560; web: www.fintrydt.org.uk; film: www.windofchangefilm.wordpress.com

You can also like them on www.facebook.com/FintryDT

NW Mull Community Woodland Company invest in Woodchip Business

North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd has purchased island based woodchip supplier Crannich Woodfuel to continue the expansion of their woodfuel business. Trading under the new name Island Woodfuels, the company will sell woodchip as well as logs and kindling. This makes the business large enough for the company to hire a new employee.

Robin Sedgwick, who set up and developed Crannich Woodfuel, will stay on with the new company to encourage and provide guidance to people considering the switch to woodfuel.

Robin will continue deliveries for the company while they train up the new employee, and also help maintain good quality woodchip ensuring a seamless transition for existing customers.

The primary benefit of the purchase is that it will allow the company, who own and manage over 1500 acres of woodland, to ensure the long term security of supply for customers.

Robin stated “I am delighted the woodfuel business that we have built up over the last 8 years will be carried on by Island Woodfuels, a community led company with their own forests providing secure future timber supplies. The business can now really expand and provide local job creation, ensuring a sustainable local fuel supply for existing customers and those contemplating investing in a biomass boiler in the future, driven by the community for the community.”

Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Island Woodfuels on 01688 400559 or visit www.islandwoodfuels.com
Tarzan in Evanton Woods!

Evanton Community Wood in partnership with the Forestry Commission ran two demonstration days on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th November at Evanton Community Woods. As part of the on-going management of the wood and to support the development of a woodland cabin, timber was extracted from the wood using traditional techniques including Horses to pull logs from the felling area. Local wood carver, Ian Chalmers was onsite to create a wooden carved bench based on designs from four local primary schools.

The event ran for two days with local schools visiting on the Friday to see their designs being brought to life and to feed Tarzan an apple or two. Saturday was for the community to view practical management in action.

Dougal’s Visit to Sleat Community Trust – A Blog from Applecrosslife, A view on Fishing, Community and life on the NW Coast of Scotland - By Alasdair Macleod

The following are extracts from a blog “Dougal’s visit to Sleat” by Alasdair Macleod, a creel fisherman and a director of Applecross Community Company. For the full blog visit: applecrosslifeblog.wordpress.com/2013/11/26/dougal-visits-sleat

A fine day for a trip to Sleat (www.facebook.com/SleatCommunityTrust) so Dougal thought. He had decided he wanted to go and see a community run forest and to see if they could learn any lessons from this operation. The visiting group from Applecross were given a background history of the Trust and the purchase of the forest, a lot of which had been learned over the years but still interesting to pick up on the dedication over a long period of time of a group who see the potential of a vision and can do something about it. Problems such as de minimis were shared. Applecross are about to go into a period that will restrict them applying for grant aid just as Sleat are coming out of theirs.

Chris Marsh, Sleat Community Trust, gave a fascinating insight on the actual workings and future plans of the forest while not hiding the problems from us. Lots of facts and figures with the main thrust of the project showing that money can be made from trees, wood fuel and create an amenity and all at the same time.

Very impressive is the long-term forestry plan that stretches up to two generations ahead where replanting is already taking place and there is no anticipated gap in supply throughout the period. They have secured supply and are seeing demand rise which is overcoming the chicken and egg situation where you cannot encourage people to convert to wood burning without them knowing if they can find the wood to burn. The replanting has both amenity and wood fuel in mind.

Far more expensive than first predicted and the eighteen feet dig for the foundations did not help. The end result, storing the chips in a fairly rudimentary process which is being improved with the building of a new shed.

After lunch it was out on to the Tormore Forest to see the practicalities of managing a community forest. They first saw the chipped wood, at least the tarpaulin covering the chips, being moved. A fairly rudimentary process which is being improved with the building of a new shed. Not a project without its hassles.

For the full blog visit: applecrosslifeblog.wordpress.com/2013/11/26/dougal-visits-sleat

For more information please contact the education co-ordinator Simon Harry at simon.harry@forest-education.co.uk

For the full blog visit: applecrosslifeblog.wordpress.com/2013/11/26/dougal-visits-sleat
CWA News

New Woodland Creation Project

CWA is investigating the feasibility of a new model of woodland creation adjacent to settlements based on partnership working between landowners and communities. We envisage the new woodlands will be relatively small, on under-used land adjacent to settlements and designed for community use with appropriate recreation provision etc.

We expect that land would usually remain in the existing ownership, with the woodland creation taken forward under a lease. CWA (through our trading subsidiary Community Woodland Enterprise) would be responsible for organising contracts with landowners, grant applications, and managing the establishment operations, with significant community involvement in design and planning, planting and maintenance operations, and ultimately in long term management.

For more details contact Sophie sophie@communitywoods.org or Jon jon@communitywoods.org

CWA Policy Briefing

In addition to CWA’s work directly supporting new and existing member groups and organising conferences and training events, we also have an important but sometimes less visible role in representing the community woodland network and engaging with policy makers to ensure that the circumstances and needs of community woodland groups are understood and catered for.

This has been a particularly busy time recently, with formal and informal responses to consultations from the Land Reform Review Group, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill and the Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry into Land Reform. Another important on-going strand of work relates the the various consultations around next round of CAP funding, in particular the Scotland Rural Development Programme. With downward pressure on budgets and some very powerful vested interests involved it is vital that we make a strong case for continued support for the work of community woodland groups. You can find all CWA consultation responses at: http://www.communitywoods.org/about-documents.php

Knowledge Share Programme

The 2011-13 Knowledge Share programme comprised 36 events (some held over multiple weekends) which attracted a total of 830 participants. The 36 events were widely distributed across Scotland, with 17 in the Highlands & Islands Enterprise area and 19 in the Scottish Enterprise area. Subjects covered varied from mountain bike trail design and woodland processing to governance and aspen silviculture, while event venues ranged from city centres to community woodlands.

This was the second two year training programme funded by the Scottish Government Skills Development Scheme (SDS) and the Robertson Trust, and taken together these programmes accounted for more than 10% of the participant places funded by the entire SDS programme.

A detailed report on the Knowledge Share programme can be downloaded from the CWA website at: http://www.communitywoods.org/about-documents.php

Forthcoming CWA events

Argyll Networking - Wednesday 26th February 2014

The next FCS ‘A Wood of Our Own’ event will be held on Wednesday 26th February 2014 in Lochgilphead and includes a site visit to Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise. These events are open to any community woodland related group in Argyll.

Conflict Resolution Workshops - Following feedback from the CWA Conference, we are organising 2 one day conflict resolution workshops. Dates and venues are now confirmed as Tuesday 25th March at Craignish Village Hall (Argyll) and Tuesday 1st April at the Highland Hospice (Inverness). For more information on either event or to register interest please contact Di Oliver on di.oliver@communitywoods.org or 07701 029819.

CWA Conference 2014

The date and venue of the CWA Conference 2014 will be announced soon!

CWA Staff & Directors

Jon Hollingdale, CEO

Jon is responsible for the promotion and representation of the community woodland sector and offers specialist forestry advice to member groups across Scotland.

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Diane Oliver, Training and Development Manager (p/t)

Diane is responsible for CWA’s program of training events and supports member groups with social enterprise and project development. Tel: 01852 310 955 | Mob: 0770 102 9819

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Sophie Deas, Research Intern

Sophie is carrying out survey and feasibility work to help us develop our new woodland creation project

sophie@communitywoods.org

Caroline Derbyshire, Administrator (p/t)

Caroline provides administrative support to the CEO and is responsible for the CWA e-bulletin, newsletter and conference. c/o Steading Cottage, Craigfield Farm, Kintessack, Forres, Moray IV36 2SP Tel: 01309 674004 admin@communitywoods.org

CWA Directors:

Charles Dixon-Spain (Colintraive and Glendaruel Dev. Trust)
Jean Barnett (Dunnet Forestry Trust)
Amanda Calvert (Kingsussie Community Development Co.)
Gordon Gray Stephens (Argyll Green Woodworkers Assoc.)
Ian Hepburn (North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd)
Isobel Knox (Dunbar Community Woodland)
Mark Lazzeri (North Harris Trust)
Alison Macleod (Applecross Community Company)
Chris Marsh (Sleat Community Trust).

Keep up to date with what’s happening by following CWA on Twitter (@communitywoods) and liking us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Communitywoods Di Oliver is compiling a ‘list’ of CWA members’ Twitter names: if you would like to be included please email her at di.oliver@communitywoods.org with your group’s ‘name’ on Twitter.

Please send news & stories for the next newsletter to caroline@communitywoods.org by 15th April 2014.