



North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd

Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA756QS

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Charity no: SC037336 Company no: 287343

Spring Newsletter 2011



Bridge Building

Haul Route

The road is now well on the way to completion. Most of it is laid apart from the final surfacing. Once the last few kilometres have been put down and the bridges finished the road will be surfaced down its entire 17 kilometre length. This is still on target for May/June which means harvesting will begin this summer. The Langamull woodlands are due to be felled first. Parts of West Ardu will reach maturity in about 3 years. As well as allowing the transport of felled timber, the road will enable us to press ahead with other long awaited projects such as the Forest Crofts, Cycle Paths, Multi-use Building and Woodland Burial Ground. All these projects will contribute huge amenity value to NW Mull. We are hoping to have a Grand Opening of the road later in the year. We will keep you posted about who, when and where !!



Children from Ulva and Dervaig Schools explore the old settlement at Kildavie

Contributions to Newsletter

Bill Patterson very kindly contributed the article about the Archaeology weekend at Kildavie. If anyone else would like to write a short piece on any matter related to NWMCWC we will be very happy to consider it for publication. So if you have been to one of our fundraisers, seen something interesting in the woodlands or enjoyed a volunteering experience, please share it with our readers.

Micro Hydro – Ardhu Burn

A full feasibility study has been commissioned and should be completed by April 2011. If the report is favourable a planning application will be put to Argyll and Bute Council. This project could play an important role in providing income to cover overhead costs when our Lottery funding finishes. It would have virtually no visual or environmental impact once it was up and running and would supply 'green' electricity to the National Grid.

AGM

The NWMCWC Annual General Meeting was held in Dervaig Village Hall on Thursday 17th February. A total of 36 people attended which is very gratifying in such a small community. The Chairman, Colin Morrison, gave a brief résumé of the past year. This was followed by an illustrated presentation from Ian Hepburn (Development Manager) about how much has already been achieved and the plans for the future. The Treasurer, John Morrison then showed extracts from the Annual Accounts for 2009/2010. Three Elected Directors, Chris Baker, Colin Morrison and John Morrison, stepped down at the end of their second term of office as required by the Articles of Association. Six nominations had been received for Directors and there were no objections to them all being elected to the Board. They are: John Addy, James MacPhail, Alistair Scarlett, Iain Thomson, Ailsa Morgan and Matthew Reade. The last two were already serving as Co-opted Directors. The outgoing Directors were thanked for their hard work, and the new ones welcomed. Bill Patterson gave a brief update on the work at Kildavie. Finally, all the volunteers who work so hard to keep NWMCWC viable were thanked. Although the AGM is a focal point for community information we welcome interest and questions throughout the year. Please contact any of our Directors or pop into the Office if there is anything you would like to know.

Archaeology Weekend 15-16 January 2011

Archaeologists Phil Richardson, Helena Gray, Ian Hill and Richard Tuffin joined 11 of the Archaeology Interest Group to work at Kildavie on Saturday and Sunday 15/16th January. Trenches on Structures 1 and 13 were excavated further despite the rain. These will both be dug further on the next excavation on 25/26th February. The West wall of 12 was drawn graphically. We learned how to measure and draw accurately and improved our speed of work as the weekend progressed. Photography technique for recording walls was explained. A 15th structure and a cliff-face quarry probably used for the village buildings were found on the hillside to the West.

On Saturday 15th Phil and colleagues delivered a public lecture on their work on Ardnamurchan, the Adopt-A-Monument scheme and Kildavie. This gave the 41 strong audience an idea of plans for working on Kildavie for interest and education of local people, children and visitors alike. Ian Hill is preparing a project plan and we hope to meet with the archaeologists for excavation monthly. There are also a number of ruins we want to survey and record for SRP to register before their 5 year contract ends. It is hoped we can form several small teams in the group for this purpose.

Bill Patterson 30th January 2011

Race Night and Grand Draw

Our pre Christmas fundraiser was a very well attended and most enjoyable Race Night held in Dervaig Village Hall on 10th December. As well as the hilarious and hard fought horse and turkey races, there were games of skill and luck for prizes ranging from biscuits to a bottle of whisky. The mulled wine was a star attraction at the bar and the seasonal snacks helped everyone keep up their strength for the excitement of the races! Our other main fundraiser for December, the Grand Draw, was made at the Race Night. A full list of winners was published on our website. We would like to thank all the individuals and local businesses who contributed in so many ways to making these events such great successes. In total they raised around £1500.00 for the Charity.



The youngest jockey at our Race Night really got into the spirit of the evening!

Fundraising

Although we receive a certain amount of funding through grants from the Big Lottery and Highlands and Islands Enterprise we are only allowed to spend this money in specific ways. This means our fundraising efforts are absolutely crucial for the continued viability of NWMWC. In 2010 we raised just over £3830.00 through a variety of fundraising events. We would like to raise even more in 2011. Some of you will already have enjoyed our Bingo Night and we are planning more events throughout the year. We try to organise a variety of events to appeal to lots of different ages and interests. If you have an interesting idea for a way we can raise funds for the Charity please contact one of our Directors or pop into the Office.

100 Club

The first 100 Club Draw of 2011 took place on Friday 21st January. Dougie Allen made the Draw in Dervaig Post Office and Shop. 1st Prize £35.00 Georgia O'Neill, 2nd Prize £15.00 Jan Morrison, 3rd Prize £5.00 Barry Prater and 4th Prize £3.50 Lesley Hastie. Congratulations to our lucky winners. The next 100 Club Draw will be made in April.

Christmas Trees

We sold more Christmas Trees than ever at the end of last year, to people all over the Island. Despite the snow covered roads John Morrison and Pete Pinnington delivered trees all the way to the Ross of Mull, and Calmac took some across to our Iona customers. A big thank-you to all the volunteers who cut, dragged and bagged the Christmas Trees, and an even bigger thank-you to John who manned the collection point in Dervaig Village Hall Car Park on two consecutive Saturdays despite the freezing conditions. In total the Christmas Tree sales raised around £1100.00 for the Charity.

Chainsaw Course

Our recent Chainsaw Training Course was a big success. All four candidates passed the basic and higher level assessments and now have nationally recognised certificates in chainsaw maintenance and use. Congratulations to them all! The email we sent out to gauge interest brought enough replies for us to consider running another course later in the year for those who couldn't get on this one. Providing training opportunities in the community is one of our core objectives so we are delighted to have had such a positive response to this project.

Bingo Night

We held another fundraising Bingo Night on Friday 4th March. Numbers were small but everyone had a lot of fun. A big thank-you goes to the local individuals and businesses who generously donated such fantastic prizes. Volunteers provided and served a good selection of home baking and beverages. This was an evening of fun for all the family and we raised £210.00 for the Charity.

Cycle Paths and other Access

In the last Newsletter it was reported that a source of funding towards the costs of the feasibility study for this project had fallen through. Much hard work has gone into replacing this and we are delighted to report that we are now in a position to instruct the consultants to proceed. We hope to receive their report by the end of this year. In the meantime we are planning to have signage and rest areas for part of the road in West Ardu by the school summer holidays.



View from West Ardu

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