



NORTH WEST MULL COMMUNITY WOODLAND COMPANY LTD

SUMMER 2006 NEWSLETTER

Dear North West Mull Folks

Acquisition

Forestry Commission Scotland requires that the sale of the woodlands must be completed by 26th October 2006.

At present we have a shortfall of £9,540.86. This represents approximately 2.78% of the total cost.

Applications have been made to Lloyds TSB Scotland, Garfield Weston Foundation and The Hugh Fraser Foundation. These trusts/foundations work to their own timescale so hopefully we will be successful and funds will be available by the above date. The Robertson Trust has generously pledged £5000 towards the purchase.

Gift Aid

We are registered for Gift Aid now which means that for any donation to the company we can claim an additional amount from The Inland Revenue (currently 28p for each £1 you give). Please ask Michelle Cowe (Community Animator) or John Morrison (Treasurer) if you wish to donate and to obtain a Gift Aid Form.

Future Funding

An outline application is being prepared for submission to The Big Lottery Fund. This application may secure funds for 2 posts initially, a project manager and an administrator and an office premises. This outline application will also investigate funding for future management of the woodlands which may include:

- Social housing
- Creating woodland and educational enterprises
- Developing biomass fuel sources and creating supply chains
- Regenerating native broadleaf woodlands
- Improving recreational facilities

This outline application is very broad, BLF will consider it and if required commission another feasibility study in order for them to decide what aspects of the application are likely to succeed and therefore which parts they are most likely to fund. We hope to submit this outline proposal by the end of September. By date of acquisition we should know what funding is going to be available and have a future management plan in place.

Fundraising

Locally we have raised £6896.64.

Over the summer months we have been selling tickets for a **200 prize draw** with a prize of £500. The tickets were all sold by the beginning of August with the draw taking place at A Night at the Races on 11th August in Dervaig Village Hall. The winner was Colin Morrison, the chairman of NWMCWCL. Colin has very generously donated his £500 prize money to the company towards the purchase.

Fundraising Continued

Thank you to all local businesses that have helped to sell these tickets and to Ian Hepburn who helped sell tickets and bird boxes at the Producer's Market. We are planning another **200 Draw** with £500 prize money. This draw will hopefully take place on Pig Day (Monday 16th October) at the Bellachroy.

Throughout the summer NWMCWCL have had a small stall at the **Producers Market** selling surplus garden produce, 200 draw tickets and Bird Boxes (made by Matthew Reade) The bird boxes can be bought for £15 or you can sponsor a bird box for £10 and it will be sited within the woodland once community ownership is secured. We will be at the Producers Market again this September getting the next 200 prize draw started and selling the remaining bird boxes. Hope to see you there.

The Night at the Races raised £1,032.85. Thanks to all who attended and who supported it by providing fantastic raffle prizes, sponsorship of the horses or their time. The Bellachroy Hotel has been selling locally caught mackerel (caught by the Morrison Family) on their menu with £1 given to the community woodland company for every mackerel meal sold. This has to date contributed £130 to the funds. Thank you Debbie, Nick, Stevie, and all staff at The Bellachroy.

The Football 7's kindly offered to share their profit in exchange for help with the bar on Saturday 19th August. This brought in a further £353. Thank you.

Future Fundraising Events for your diary:

Muddy Mayhem (great family fun day with a raft race) will be held again this year at Croig on Saturday 9th September at 2 pm. NWMCWCL will be there this year and will run a BBQ. All profits from the BBQ will go towards the purchase of the woodland. Look out for posters.

24 hour Rally Café

The Rally Café will be open again this year providing soup, burgers, teas, coffee etc round the clock from Friday evening 13th October until lunchtime on Sunday 15th October.

Bonfire Night

The Village Bonfire will be held on Saturday 4th November with a ceildh/dance at Dervaig Village Hall at 8pm.

Channel 4 Big Art Project

The Mull focus group is in discussion with Channel 4 Big Art Project. As soon as any significant information becomes available to NWMCWCL from Big Art Project we will inform the community. www.channel4.com/culture/microsites/B/bigart

Annual General Meeting of North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd

The AGM will be held on Tuesday November 7th at 7pm. All welcome.

Membership

Membership is **free**. Please contact Michelle Cowe if you require a membership form or to check if you are already a member.

At present we have 129 full members, 2 juniors and 4 associates.

Thanks again for your interest and support – if you have any questions or queries, please contact Michelle Cowe, Community Animateur or one of the Directors (Tom Addy, Chris Baker, Calum Duffy, Ann Evans, Julie Paton, Colin Morrison, John Morrison, Andy Mortley, Matthew Reade or Rob Strachan)