



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008

BIG NEWS!!!!

The Big Lottery Funding application was successful. This will enable us to finally employ a development manager and will help get things moving in the woods. The funding was secured from the Big Lottery's Growing Community Assets Programme and from Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Funding was also secured to ensure that the post of administrator, held by Michelle, would be able to continue on a part time basis. The advert for the development manager will be posted in the local press and relevant websites. Please feel free to pass on the details of this position.

Development Manager

Full-time (35 hours)
Salary £23,500-£25,000

An opportunity has arisen within North West Mull Community Woodland Co. Ltd. (NWMCWC) for the employment of a Development Manager, initially covering a three year period. The successful candidate will plan and further develop a range of exciting community woodland projects, including affordable housing, renewable energy, community facilities and access and habitat improvement.

Purpose of Post

To plan and co-ordinate the development activities of North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd (NWMCWC) projects

To identify potential funders, liaise with the funders, and secure successful project funding packages for identified development options.

Further details can be viewed at www.nwmullwoodland.co.uk

Send CV and covering letter to:
NWMCWC, Penmore Mill, Dervaig,
Isle of Mull PA756QS

Or by email to: nwmull@btconnect.com
by Friday 27th June 2008.



LOTTERY FUNDED



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 'n nan Eilean

Michael Russell MSP

Michael Russell, Minister for the environment, visited at the beginning of March and made a stop in Dervaig to meet a few of the directors, he then went onto Langamull to see the forests and to hear about the issues relating to extraction of timber. Michael Russell was very supportive and interested in our project.



Signage Project

The signage project carried out last year has provided us with 2 beautiful signs at the entrance to West Ardhu and Langamull that contain paintings done by the Children of Dervaig and Ulva School. The structures were created by volunteer work parties over the winter months.

An office sign was also created using artwork by John Wilson; it can often be seen in the Dervaig Church Hall window when the office is open. This sign will be finally mounted when we can build our own office in the woods.

Many thanks to the children and teachers of Ulva and Dervaig.





Affordable Housing

West Highland Housing Association carried out a study into our land at West Ardhru for the provision of affordable housing to rent. However once complete the study showed that due to the high infrastructure costs and standards imposed upon housing associations they decided that it was uneconomic for a West Highland Housing Association Development to go ahead at West Ardhru.

The report did conclude that a development by individuals eligible for Rural Home Ownership Grants (RHOGs) may be a good option towards provision of affordable housing.

Valuations have been carried by the District Valuer and we await the final report from him.

From our initial questionnaire on housing need carried out January 2007 the majority were interested in affordable rental accommodation. We are continuing to investigate ways of delivering this. There is a pilot scheme being run by the Scottish Executive at present that we will be applying to.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/investment/ruralhomesforrent>

Forest Crofts

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) recently held a seminar in Inverness to discuss Woodland or Forest Crofts. This was attended by Michelle and Alastair. Due to new legislation we are able to create new crofts within the woodland. We have been contacted already by a number of interested parties and we are hoping to get a pilot scheme running soon. FCS has appointed a Woodland Crofts Officer who will be available from the beginning of June to guide us through this process.

Volunteering Opportunities

Work parties will commence again this summer. There is still a small amount of fencing material available so we will continue to do what we can.

We have some blue paint to cover the old Forestry Commission green posts at the entrances to West Ardhru and Langamull. The dates will be emailed nearer the time so if you are keen to help and don't have email please telephone the office and Michelle will call you when there are volunteering opportunities.

New Director

Alastair Taylor was voted onto the board at our Annual General Meeting held 28th March 2008.

Alastair and his partner Janet Evans (of Torraclachan) are now living on Mull and have successfully created their own contract farming business. We hope that Alastair's youth and enthusiasm will keep us all going!!

Company Logo

This was designed by Julie Thompson of Aros Bridge. She has given us a selection of artwork and we decided that the one on the front of this newsletter was the most appropriate for headed paper and signs. The other ones (example, left) will be used for posters and invitations when required.

Archaeology

We have recently purchased survey equipment in partnership with The Mull Historical Society. A course carried out recently by Scotland's Rural Past,

<http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk>, arranged by John Addy, at Antuim and Kildavie trained a number of NWMCWC members & directors, other island dwellers and even a few who came to Mull especially for the training in using survey equipment. We will continue with surveying the ruins on the community land over the summer. Please contact the office if this is something you would like to get involved with. Thanks to John Addy, Dr Bill & Suzanne Patterson and to the Mull Historical Society.

Local Fundraising

Recently a 70's Night was held in the Village Hall. This proved to be a huge success with plenty fun being had by all ages. The evening was well attended and raised £674 for NWMCWC. The evening was arranged by Ester Nailen and Al Morrison. The event was well advertised and managed with an excellent choice of 70's music and dubious costumes!! Many thanks to all who attended, Dervaig Village Hall, those who helped out and especially Ester and Al for making it all happen. Rumour has it that there may be an 80's night next.....

If anyone has an idea for local fundraising please get in touch.



**Thank you for your continued support
of NWMCWC**