



North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd  
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Charity no. SCO37336 Company no. 287343

## Spring Newsletter 2013

### AGM

The Annual General Meeting of NWMCWC Ltd will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Village Hall. All the usual business of an AGM will take place including the Chairman's Report, presentation of the Annual Accounts (which are on our website and in the Office) and election of Directors. The Board of NWMCWC Ltd is made up of local people and nominations for new Directors with a variety of skills to help build on the work of the Company are very welcome. Any Full Member is eligible to stand for election as a Director. Nominations with the nominee's full name and the signatures of a Proposer and Secunder (who are also Full Members) must be received at least seven days prior to the AGM. Nomination forms can be collected from the Office. If anyone is interested in becoming a Director but is unsure what it involves we will be happy to sit down with you and give an outline of the role so you know what you will be taking on. The AGM will also include a presentation from the Development Manager reviewing the year's activities and progress. After the AGM there will be an informal question and answer session. If you have a complex question you would like to ask it would be helpful if you could notify us in advance so a full and accurate answer can be given.

### Micro Hydro Project

Over the last few months progress has been made towards the installation of a Micro Hydro Generation Plant at West Ardhu Burn. A connection offer has been received from SSE, accepted and paid for with availability from May 2014. A SEPA licence to extract water from Ardhu Burn has been applied for and a planning application has been sent to Argyll and Bute Council (A&B). The costs of all the above items are reclaimable from the special loan mentioned in previous Newsletters. As A&B have previously indicated that they are well disposed towards the Micro Hydro Project it is hoped that planning permission will be granted quite quickly. Progress has also been made concerning access for building and maintenance of the plant so it is hoped that construction will commence later this year.

### School Fruit Tree Project

The Parents Association of Dervaig Primary School approached NWMCWC Ltd with a proposal for a small orchard to be situated near the existing Forest School in the West Ardhu Woodland. The intended outcomes are that the children will be more knowledgeable about the environment, nurture, sustainability, where food comes from and working together. By engaging the children at an early age the project will help them have an awareness of their ownership of the Community Woodlands. The children will be healthier for taking part in physical activities in an outdoor environment. The project will also encourage community cohesion with people volunteering and working together across the age ranges. The idea was agreed in principle by the Board and a volunteer work party of adults and schoolchildren gathered on 25<sup>th</sup> November to clear the selected area of bracken and weeds. A small amount of funding was sourced from FCS Community Seedcorn to cover some of the costs of tools, weed inhibiting materials, compost and a water butt. The money set aside after the Forest Fun Day has been put towards deer fencing the plot (see photo).



Site of School Orchard at West Ardhu

### Woodland Burials

Now that harvesting has progressed so well in Langmull North, it has been possible to identify the most likely area for the Woodland Burial Ground. A 2 hectare site has been selected for further investigation. The site has extensive views out to sea and across to Coll and Tìree. There is potential for an access track and a good location for a shelter. Competitive quotes have been requested from companies able to carry out the soil depth analysis including ground radar and exploration pits. It is hoped that this work can be carried out in the next few weeks. If the area selected is found to be suitable, as we hope, quotes will then be sought for destumping and landscaping. Several local people have already expressed an interest in the proposed Woodland Burial Ground so the Directors are making every effort to make progress with this project. If you or someone you know may be interested in reserving a lair please contact the Office so we can get an idea of what the demand will be.

### Bingo Night

At the beginning of December NWMCWC Ltd held another successful Bingo Night in Dervaig Village Hall. John and Colin reprised their comedy double act as ball puller and number caller to the great delight of all who came. There was a wide range of prizes large and small and we would like to thank everyone who so generously donated them. Our loyal band of bakers also excelled themselves to provide seasonal refreshments and sweet treats. In all, the event raised more than £270.00 for the Charity, a great result.

### UKWAS Accreditation

NWMCWC Ltd was granted UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) accreditation in 2011 prior to the commencement of harvesting. The accreditation guarantees that our harvesting is carried out to the highest standards and that our forests are managed in a sustainable way. A routine audit was carried out by UKWAS recently to confirm that our harvesting and management continues to meet their high standards of best practice and we passed with flying colours.

### 100 Club

The first of the four 2013 100 Club Draws was made on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February by Joan Gleeson. There has been a slight increase in the number of participants so the prizes for 2013 have been adjusted to reflect this. First and second prizes remain the same but third and fourth prizes have been increased to £8.00 and £5.00 respectively. The lucky winners of the Draw were: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Andrew Womack, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Arthur Brown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – John Austin and 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Julia Reade. Congratulations to all our lucky winners.

### Chainsaw Training

It is likely that NWMCWC Ltd will be organising some chainsaw training courses in 2013. These have been very successful in the past and have resulted in many people on the Island gaining certificates in chainsaw safety, maintenance and use. The courses take place over 2 or 3 days and there are 2 levels – basic chainsaw safety, maintenance and use for logs already on the ground, and more advanced chainsaw use including felling small trees. The higher level can only be taken by people who already hold the basic certificate, but it is possible to take both consecutively in one week. At this stage we are just looking for expressions of interest to see if it will be viable to hold either or both of the courses. If you would like to learn how to use a chainsaw safely, or you have the basic certificate and would like to upgrade it to the higher level, please contact Belinda on [admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk](mailto:admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk).

### Articles for Newsletters

Please let us know if there are any topics you particularly like to read about in our quarterly Newsletters. Better still, why not write an article yourself!! If you have seen or done something that would be of interest to our readers we would love to hear about it. Photos of activities in the Woodlands or fundraising events are also very welcome. Please email any contribution you would like considered for publication to [admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk](mailto:admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk)

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