



North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd  
Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QS  
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Charity no. SCO37336 Company no. 287343

## Summer Newsletter 2013

### Harvesting and Transport

Harvesting continues to progress well in Langamull with a good break out of saw logs. The haul road surface is still in good condition and only a few, minor repairs have been necessary. The prolonged dry spell was beneficial to both the harvesting and transport operations. There has been some wind blow in the recent high winds but nothing serious enough to disrupt the harvesting schedule. Negotiations are taking place to allow the safe felling of trees near the power lines that cross Langamull. Harvested timber continues to be exported by boat via the floating pier at Fishnish. Construction of the Forestry Commission fixed pier at Fishnish continues and a pier user group has been set up. It is hoped that we will be able to start exporting from the new pier, using larger boats, by the end of August.

### Briefing Visit by BSW and UPM Tilhill

In February 3 board members of UPM Tilhill (our harvesting partners) and 2 directors of BSW (the sawmill operators) visited for a briefing on our activities and discussion about the ongoing project. The feedback was very positive with both companies expressing a wish to assist with some of our social projects with specific reference to involving the younger members of the local community. We were also offered a visit to Kilmallie to see the sawmill in operation including new lines that will accept smaller diameter logs. This could mean more of our timber product going to the sawmill and a reduction in logs going for pulp. The Board have accepted the offer of a visit to Kilmallie with a view to organising the trip sometime in September. There will be space on the minibus (kindly being donated by Turus Mara) for some Members as well as Directors and staff to go for what promises to be a very interesting outing. Details will be emailed to Members nearer the time.

### White Tailed Eagles

A young pair of white tailed eagles built a nest earlier this year, in our Langamull woodlands near to the Kildavie settlement. NWMCC worked with the Mull Eagle Watch Partnership (Strathclyde Police, RSPB, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and MICT) to protect the site but it has recently become clear that the nest has failed. There were plans in place, in conjunction with the local rangers, for safe public viewing of the eagles had they successfully hatched a chick. Access restriction notices in the area have now been removed but visitors should be aware that there are ongoing forestry operations in Langamull and that warning notices about these must be complied with. Sadly we will have to wait another year to see if the eagles choose Langamull as a nest site again and we will continue to work closely with Dave Sexton (RSPB) and the Mull Eagle Watch Partnership if they do.



The Minister's Path  
in a soon to be harvested area of Langamull

### Forest Croft to Let

**Applications are invited for the tenancy of the newly created Forest Croft known as Croft Seven Langamull Woodland.**

The croft will comprise 2.09 hectares of clear felled land within the community woodland project. The tenant will have to manage the land in line with the requirements of the NWMCC Ltd Long Term Forest Design Plan including an obligation to replant at least 80% of the Croft. The Croft will be allocated in accordance with the NWMCC Ltd Croft Allocation Process which has been approved by the Crofting Commission. Priority will be given to applicants with a strong family connection to the area.

Applications should include a well thought out, achievable, outline business plan and financial plan, demonstrate relevant forestry or agricultural skills and show a strong commitment to the local community, so all the factors in the scoring matrix are addressed.

An information pack including a copy of the Allocation Process, ingo premium, rent and lease, and a location map for Croft Seven is available from the Office. Please email [admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk](mailto:admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk), or call 01688 400600 for these to be sent, or if you have any other questions about your application. Please send your completed application to: NWMCC Ltd, Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull. PA75 6QS. All applications must be received by 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 to be eligible for consideration.

### AGM 2013

The AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> March was very well supported with 35 members and 13 Non/Associate Members attending. After the Minutes of the previous AGM had been adopted the Chairman Colin Morrison gave a report. He covered many aspects of the year's activities including harvesting and transport, access and amenity, forest crofts, micro hydro, woodland burials and the forest school. He also gave feedback about the 5 Year Review, fundraising and community events, and interactions with other community organisations. Colin thanked the three Directors who were stepping down at the AGM. Ian Hepburn, Development Manager, then gave an illustrated report about the year's events, going into more detail about several of the projects touched on by the Chairman. He told the meeting that our project has been chosen by the UK Forestry Commission as their contribution to the World Wildlife Fund website for Social Case studies ([www.newgenerationplantations.com/social\\_forestry.html](http://www.newgenerationplantations.com/social_forestry.html)). After the presentation came the Election of Directors. Three Directors stood down as required by the Articles of Association and one new Director, Neil Munro, was appointed. John Morrison then gave his Treasurer's Report and presented the Annual Accounts for 2011-2012 to the Meeting. He informed everyone that he would stand down as Treasurer at the next Board Meeting having held the position since the idea of a community purchase first came about. Members and Directors thanked John for his dedicated work over the years. There being no other business the Chairman closed the AGM but invited those attending to stay on for a community question and answer session. Before the Q&A Dave Sexton (RSPB Officer for Mull) talked about the young pair of white tailed eagles he had observed building a nest near Kildavie and explained the implications of this for NWMCWC, visitors and the archaeology group. (More on the eagles on page 1). There followed a variety of questions from the floor about timber transport, access rights on the haul road, plans for footpaths etc all of which were answered as fully as possible by the Directors and Ian. A Member proposed a vote of thanks to the Board and employees of NWMCWC and there was spontaneous applause.

### Woodland Burials

The tests on the ground at the proposed woodland burial site were put on hold until they could be carried out without risk of disturbing the white tailed eagles nest at Kildavie. It is hoped that things can now be moved forward. Once the burial ground is up and running it is unlikely that any future breeding by the eagles will be disturbed by traffic for funerals.

### Annual Accounts

We would like to give details of the way our Annual Accounts are prepared and presented. The NWMCWC Ltd financial year runs from August to July. This means the Annual Accounts that were signed off by the Directors, circulated to Members and published on our website in February 2013 are the Annual Accounts for the completed financial year August 2011 – July 2012. These are the accounts that were presented to the AGM and have also been sent to Companies House and OSCR. The Annual Accounts for the financial year August 2012 – July 2013 will follow the same time line and should be available sometime early in 2014.

### Micro Hydro Project

We are still waiting for responses about the applications to SEPA for a license to extract water and Argyll and Bute Council for planning permission for the Micro Hydro plant. Options to fund the building of the plant are still being explored, including the possible Debenture Scheme mentioned in previous Newsletters. Although progress has slowed slightly the Directors are fully committed to moving forward with this project as it provides the best chance of a steady income to secure the overhead costs of running NWMCWC.

### Chainsaw Course

Due to many factors, including the availability of candidates and the trainer, it has been decided to defer the Chainsaw Training Courses until the autumn. All those who have already expressed an interest have been informed about this but if anyone else would like to be notified about the next courses please contact the Office.

### Firewood

Our volunteers have worked very hard over the years to supply firewood to local people. Now that harvesting is well under way there is plenty of 2 year old fuel wood available which can be supplied as poles, rounds or cut and split. Firewood is supplied by volume rather than by weight as it is easier to keep load sizes consistent. One cubic metre of firewood makes a pile approximately 6ft x 3ft x 2ft deep. Prices include delivery but for addresses outwith the Dervaig/Calgary area a minimum order of 2 cu m is requested to help cover transport costs. We are looking at the possibility of selling bags of firewood and kindling and will provide further details when this has been set up. For more information about buying firewood from us please contact the Office.

### 100 Club

The second 100 Club Draw of 2013 was made on 6th May by Diane Dewhurst. The lucky winners are: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Barry Prater, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Andy Mayo, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Jo Austin and 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – Ailsa Morgan. Congratulations to all our lucky winners. The third draw will be made in July 2013.

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