



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

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Summer Newsletter 2015

Recruitment

There have been some significant personnel changes over the last few months. Belinda Hale retired from her job as Administrator in March after more than five years in the role. Chris Liddell also left the company in February, and former Development Manager (now Director) Ian Hepburn kindly agreed to keep an eye on things until new staff were recruited. The company would very much like to thank Belinda and Chris for their hard work and dedication, and wish them well in their future endeavours. The two vacant positions were advertised in March.

Malcolm Ward, who has regularly visited Mull for over 20 years and was married on Calgary beach in 2013, has now relocated to Dervaig with his wife Allison and started as Development Manager in May. Unfortunately we are losing our new Administrator Jenna Poole as she leaves the island, and reluctantly leaves the job, due to family circumstances.

Our white-tailed friends

We are pleased to announce that our woodlands have become the first under community ownership to have a successful nesting pair of white-tailed eagles! The new pair have hatched two big, healthy-looking chicks that continue to do well under the watchful eye of the RSPB and ourselves. The female is one half of a pair that have been unsuccessful in the past, but little is known about the male. The five week old chicks were ringed at the start of June.



Woodland burial ground

On a very wild, wet and windy day in early January a brave (and qualified) man came to carry out the ground depth survey in Langamull north. Much of the ground was found to be of sufficient soil depth to meet the legal requirement for graves. Local contractors were invited to tender for building an access track onto the site, and quotes have now been sought for de-stumping and fencing. Although it is eventually intended to provide shelter and toilet facilities, it will be possible to offer funerals without these facilities in the interim. Lairs will be arranged in cross formations with one tree in the centre of each.

100 Club

The first 100 Club Draw of 2015 was made at the end of January. 1st Prize went to Tracy Mayo, 2nd to Bill Patterson, 3rd to Cath Mayo and 4th to Ailsa Morgan. The second draw for 2015 was made a little behind schedule at the beginning of June. 1st Prize went to Cath Mayo, 2nd to Jo Austin, 3rd to Matthew Reade and 4th to John Austin. Congratulations to all our lucky winners. The next draw is at the end of July.



North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd

are recruiting a

Part-time Administrator

(21 hours per week)

An opportunity has arisen for a well-organised, computer literate person to fulfil all the administrative duties of this community charity. The job requires good communication skills and a flexible attitude towards a variety of work that includes routine responsibilities and one off jobs that sometimes have short deadlines. The ability to prioritise and manage a fast moving workload is essential.

A job description and application form is available from:
www.nwmullwoodland.co.uk

Applications may be emailed to the above account or sent to Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull PA75 6QS

NWMCWC Ltd is a community charitable company limited by guarantee.
Company No 287343 Charity No. SCO37336

Harvesting

Harvesting continues on the West Ardhu site, and work should be completed by the end of the summer. We are working closely with the RSPB to monitor the white-tailed eagle activity and minimise disturbance at all times. This will be the end of the first phase of felling on NVMCWC Ltd owned sites.

Woodfuel

Winter sales of firewood and woodchip have been high, keeping our volunteers very busy processing and delivering the orders. We are now actively looking for another vehicle suitable for firewood and occasional bagged chip deliveries. This will not only give increased flexibility, but will take the pressure off our volunteers who currently use their own vehicles and trailers for firewood deliveries.

A new wood shed!

To enable us to leave the wood processing site at Crannich, we are currently planning the erection of a new wood shed on the West Ardhu site. The shed is intended to provide purpose-built processing and storage facilities. The development has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council and we are currently working on a redesign of the interior, and awaiting drawings of the new drying floor.

Woodmizer

NVMCWC Ltd is the proud owner of a fantastic piece of equipment known as a Woodmizer, which has the ability to cut a variety of different timber products to exact sizes and shapes as required. Are you in need of some timber for raised beds or cladding for a new shed? What could be better than using local timber, cut and delivered to your exact specifications? Please contact us anytime to discuss this service, we may just be able to help.



Kildavie bridge repairs

As many of you may have noticed the bridge at the Kildavie archaeological site is currently in a slight state of disrepair. Materials have been bought to completely replace the bridge. We hope to have resolved this access issue in the next month or so.

Housing plots

Permission in principle has been granted by Argyll and Bute Council for two individual housing plots at Kengharair. We are in the process of getting tenders from local estate agents for the surveying and marketing of the plots. These will be offered at full market value and the proceeds put towards the Micro Hydro project. Although NVMCWC Ltd is still completely committed to the provision of affordable housing and building plots at West Ardhu, the Scottish Government have changed the way they originally agreed to fund the 'Our Island Homes' project. Directors are in negotiations with the Council and a housing association to see if an acceptable, alternative agreement can be reached. The Board feel it is essential that any houses built should be offered to people with local connections, rather than being added to the general housing stocks for the whole county.

AGM and EGM

The Annual General Meeting for NVMCWC Ltd was held on Tuesday 14th April in Dervaig Village Hall. The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were signed as a true record of the proceedings, proposer John Morrison, seconded by Linda Paterson. The Chairman, Colin Morrison, gave his report covering many aspects of the year's activities. There have been significant changes in staffing, and Colin thanked all involved and confirmed that new staff had been appointed and would be starting soon. Ian then gave the Development Manager's Report on all aspects of the Island Woodfuel business and community woodland projects. Two Directors, Colin Morrison and Andy Mayo, stood down and were duly re-elected under the Director's rotation rules. Andy, Treasurer, then presented the Annual Accounts and noted that Clements have been re-appointed as auditors.

There being no other competent business the AGM was closed and was followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. Matters raised included: Ian's attendance at an international meeting in Brussels, where community woodland buyout and formation of NVMCWC was much envied by other delegates; a discussion of the type of wood being grown and the superiority of Sitka spruce; and the need for more people to join the board, noting the lack of representation of women at present.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held directly after the AGM, to consider the recommendation from the Directors that the company name be changed to North West Mull Community Company Ltd – i.e. removing the word Woodland. The members voted against this proposed change.



LOTTERY FUNDED

