



North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd

Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA756QS

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Charity no: SC037336 Company no: 287343

## Winter Newsletter 2011

### Bonfire and Fireworks

Remember the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> November? We do! It was the bright and frosty night we supported yet another fantastic bonfire and fireworks display down beside the Loch. Children and adults enjoyed sparklers before the main display and a substantial crowd had gathered by the time the first rockets were launched. The excellent fireworks were supplied by John McLachlan. Hot punch, home baking and lovely soup were served and we would like to thank everyone who contributed these. The bonfire builders and fireworks lighters were rewarded by a spontaneous round of applause at the end of the display, many thanks to all of them.

### Directors Review

The Directors of NWMCWC Ltd recently held a review of all the current Projects to examine in detail what their priorities should be. It was agreed that harvesting, haulage, fencing and replanting are the top priority as they are key to everything else the Company does. They will remain an important, ongoing part of the Business Plan. The Board agreed that the second priority is the Micro Hydro Project as it offers the opportunity for income that could cover the overhead costs of the Company. They decided that this Project should be progressed as quickly as possible. The third priority will be the Housing Project including affordable housing for local people. As local need fluctuates it was agreed that flexibility should be built into the designs so that they meet whatever the requirement is on completion. Other Projects will be worked on as needed. It was also agreed that the Business Plan contains some items that have been changed or have amended time-scales. A subcommittee has been set up to work on the necessary revisions and present them to the Board for adoption. The Board were unanimous that their priorities are now in the right sequence and they will pursue them accordingly.

### Chainsaw Training

We recently ran two very successful Chainsaw Courses for local people. On a two day course the candidates learned about basic chainsaw maintenance and safety, and how to cross cut felled logs. A five day course covered the same basics for another group, who then went on to learn how to fell trees. We are delighted to say that everyone who completed the courses passed their assessments and now hold nationally recognised qualifications. Congratulations to all of them! We aim to continue to provide training opportunities on Mull which allows local candidates to save a lot of money on accommodation, travel and subsistence. This can mean an overall saving of up to 30% compared to an equivalent course on the mainland. If anyone is interested in gaining a chainsaw qualification please contact the Office and we will let you know next time we are planning a course. We are happy to look at the possibility of organising other courses if we are shown that there is a demand.

### Use of the new Timber Haul Road

As you are aware the new Haul Road has been officially opened. The road, which has been designed for use by heavy vehicles, crosses land that is managed or owned by five different people. NWMCWC Ltd only has the right to use the parts of the Haul Route that are not on its own land for road construction and maintenance, and for vehicles engaged in agricultural and forestry activities. This means that no other vehicles are allowed to use the road. As with other land in Scotland, access by walkers, cyclists and horse riders cannot be restricted but access by motor vehicle is. NWMCWC Ltd would like to continue to enjoy a good relationship with the neighbouring landowners/managers, so we must ensure that only authorised vehicles use the Haul Road. We have a notice stating this on our website, and if any of our readers are asked we would appreciate them explaining that the Haul Road is not a public road. If there are any queries about this please contact the Office on 01688 400600.

### Christmas Trees

NWMCWC Ltd will be offering Christmas Trees for sale again in December (see ad below for details). All the cutting, dragging and bagging is carried out by volunteers who work tremendously hard to fulfil all the orders received. We would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who gets involved.

**Locally Grown  
Christmas Trees**  
Only £3.00 per foot  
Collection from Dervaig Village Hall  
On 17th December  
Between 9.30am and 1.00pm

**There will also be a delivery to the Ross  
of Mull on 14th December**

Please order your tree in good time by ringing  
**NWMCWC**  
on **01688 400600**  
or emailing **admin@nwmullwoodland.co.uk**

We will make a small charge towards the costs of delivery  
to the Ross.

### Forest Crofts

Following the publicity surrounding the signing of the first three Forest Croft leases, BBC Alba came to Mull to film an article about them for one of their local news programmes which was aired in September. The Oban Times featured the Forest Crofts in their farming section. Since then BBC Radio Scotland have been to the Office and recorded another item featuring Iain Thomson talking about the Forest Crofts. The media interest reflects the importance of this innovative NWMWC Ltd Project which is delivering the first Forest Crofts in Scotland to local people.

### Access Project

We were delighted to welcome many of you to the Consultation Event in September when the results of the postal questionnaires were presented. Those who attended were given the opportunity to comment on the results so far and offer opinions on questions that were raised by the initial survey. The first draft of the Consultant's Report has now been submitted and will be studied and considered by the Access and Recreation subcommittee. They will make recommendations to the Board about the best way forward with this Project based on the information contained in the Report. It is hoped that the final Report from the Consultants will be available for public viewing by Christmas.

### Felling

Due to changes in procedures that are outwith our control we have had to delay the commencement of felling in Langamull until January 2012. This is disappointing but will not seriously affect the long term felling and replanting programme. In the meantime, the timber felled to clear the road line is being moved off Island and sold at full market value.

### Micro Hydro

The feasibility study for the Micro Hydro Project has now been completed and the report received. The next steps will be to file a planning application with Argyll and Bute Council, apply to SEPA for a CAR license for water extraction and obtain an estimate from SSE for the costs of connecting to the National Grid. The feasibility study has confirmed that once the Micro Hydro is up and running it should provide sufficient income to cover the basic overhead costs of NWMWC Ltd.

### Archaeology

Mull Archaeological and Historical Society and the Adopt a Monument team continue to make progress mapping and starting to excavate the old settlement at Kildavie in our Langamull Woodlands. At an open meeting of the SWRI in October Bill and Suzanne Patterson and Kevin Luscombe gave a fascinating presentation about the work at Kildavie this year. They also showed that there are many more Bronze Age burial cairns at Croig than was first thought. This reinforces the possibility that the existing ruins at Kildavie may be built on the site of a much older settlement. Kevin has been to lot of trouble to provide GPS co-ordinates for every known place of historical interest in the Woodlands so that they can be protected during the clear felling of the area. The new road has already made access to the Kildavie site much easier for all those working there and we eventually intend to have a marked path suitable for visitors.

### AGM 2012

The NWMWC Ltd AGM is scheduled to take place on Thursday 1st March 2012 at 7.30pm in Dervaig Village Hall. The required notices will be put up nearer the time but you may like to note the date in your Diary as the AGM is a great opportunity to see a presentation about this year's activities. The Annual Accounts will also be presented and explained. The Board will be looking for new Directors with a variety of skills to help build on the work already delivered by the Company. 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. After the AGM there will be an opportunity for attendees to have informal discussions with the Directors about any questions they may have. The Board would like to maximise this opportunity for communication with the local community, so it would be helpful if complex questions were notified in advance so full and accurate answers can be given.

### 100 Club

The fourth and final draw of 2011 was made by Dougie and Moira in Dervaig Post Office on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Barry Prater £35.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Pinnington £15.00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Hepburn £5.00 and 4<sup>th</sup> Arthur Brown £3.50. Congratulations to all our winners. The first draw of 2012 will take place in January.

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