



ISLAND WOODFUELS

North West Mull Community Woodland Co Ltd

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Autumn Newsletter 2015

Recruitment

As mentioned in our summer newsletter, administrator Jenna Poole unfortunately had to leave us due to family circumstances. We would like to thank Jenna for her hard work during her short time with NWMCWC. Our new administrator, Louise Liddell, started at the end of August. Louise has recently returned to live in Dervaig after several years studying and working for a small charity in Edinburgh.

Micro-hydro

Following the huge efforts of our Development Manager, Malcolm, we have been able to gain planning permission for our Micro-hydro project, and beat the Feed in Tariff application deadline with minutes to spare. We are now awaiting a response to this and are hopeful that we will gain pre-accreditation before proceeding further with the project.

Kildavie

For the second year running, we welcomed HARP Archaeology to Langamull for their excavation of abandoned 18th Century township, Kildavie. Eighteen students from the UK and America attended the field school and hosted an open day which was attended by over 40 members of the public. You can find out more about "The Kildavie Story" via our website. HARP hope to bring more students to Mull next year to take advantage of this great opportunity for learning and discovery.



Happy excavators at Kildavie

Sea Eagle update

We're pleased to report that both White Tailed Sea Eagle chicks successfully fledged in August. There is optimism that the breeding pair will return to the nest, which is in a safe and sheltered location. We are considering the possibility of creating viewing opportunities should this be the case.

NWMCWC would like to thank Dave Sexton of the RSPB for his support and guidance over the past few months. We are also grateful to our forest managers and harvesters whose co-operation has proven that timber harvesting and wildlife conservation can work side by side.



*Fledged!
One of our two successful eagle chicks.*

Barbara Hartley memorial

We would like to thank the family and friends of Barbara Hartley who chose to donate to NWMCWC in her memory. The donations will be used to provide a bench at our woodland burial site, overlooking views to Coll, Tiree and even as far as the outer isles on a clear day. We hope that this will be a fitting tribute to Barbara.

100 Club

The third 100 Club Draw of 2015 was made at the end of September 1st Prize went to Carolynne & Somerset Charrington, 2nd to Ailsa Morgan, 3rd to Joan Hepburn and 4th to Barry Prater. Congratulations to all our lucky winners. The next draw is at the end of October.

Landward

Make sure you tune in to BBC Landward over the next few weeks, as you may see some familiar faces! We were recently visited by Dougie Vipond and the rest of the Landward crew ahead of a programme on land reform. Keep an eye on our facebook page and twitter feed (@NWMullCommunity) for any updates on when we'll be on air!



Development Manager Malcolm Ward and Woodfuel Operator Alan Quinn with the Landward team.

A visit from South West Mull and Iona Development

We were pleased to host a meeting with representatives of SWMID in early September. SWMID won the Community Right to Buy for Tiroran Forest in 2013, and they are now nearing the end of the purchase process. Their visit to NWMCWC was a great opportunity for us to pass on some of our learning over the past 9 years, and look back over our achievements so far. We wish SWMID all the very best in their endeavours!

Winter deliveries

As the cold weather sets in, we are preparing for a busy season with our new delivery vehicle. The 7.5 tonne truck will be in operation within the next few weeks, and will mean that your woodfuel deliveries can be made much more efficiently. We will also be using cubic vented bags for quick and easy delivery from stock. If you wish to keep your delivery bag, you will be able to do so for a £10 deposit.

As always, orders can be made through our website, www.islandwoodfuels.com or by emailing info@islandwoodfuels.com.

New wood shed

Progress has been made on the groundwork for our new woodshed at West Ardhu, and we are now awaiting design certification before going further. We are very much looking forward to moving our woodfuel processing to its new home, with dry facilities for stock

Housing plots

Our two West Ardhu plots are now on the market via West Property - a sales notice is displayed in the Church Hall window for more information.

We are in discussions with potential partners and other island housing projects regarding letting policies and housing need. If you feel that you would benefit from social housing, please ensure that you are on the waiting list in order to be eligible when properties become available for rent.

Forest Design Plan

A first draft of the forest design plan has been received and discussed by the board. We are now working with our consultants, Tilhill Forestry, to produce a revised and agreeable second draft.

Kildavie bridge

As you may have noticed, the bridge at Kildavie has now been replaced, completing the circuit so that it is now possible to walk all the way round.

We'd like to say a huge "thank you!" to the volunteers who made this happen. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you're able to give some time to community projects, please get in touch! You can call, email or just drop in to our office at Dervaig Church Hall to chat about how you may be able to help out.



Volunteers wanted!

