



In this issue:

- Report on activities In the last year
- Dates for the diary

Report on activities in the last year

During 2005 the group worked with MCDC in *Coille a' Challtain* (the Hazel Wood) to improve the views by coppicing hazel and to deliver low-cost sycamore firewood to pensioners in the village.

In January and March last year, several members benefited from chainsaw training in Fiunary Forest organised by Sgilean na Coille. The group now has five certified and insured chainsaw users.



Also in March, the Directors signed a 25-year management agreement for Achnaha Community Wood with Forestry Commission Scotland. A draft management plan is being prepared and community members will be invited to input when it is ready in Spring 2006.

During May, several MCW members took part in a forestry demonstration organised

by Forest Research and the Morvern Woodlands Project at the Uladail Oakwood on Ardtornish Estate. The oak extracted from the wood has so far been used for new signs in the two Morvern community woods.



During October, two MCW members joined an exchange visit to north Italy to meet the local equivalent of the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative. They visited a sawmill in the village of Capovalle set up by local farmers and woodland owners to make chestnut stakes for the vineyards. They were also able to give a demonstration of wood-turning to a gathering of local craftspeople.



Back in Morvern, work in Achnaha started in earnest during the autumn with the felling of 60-year old Norway Spruce from the middle of the wood. The logs are being milled on site with the Logosol M7 and a

shelter is now starting to appear. Some will recognise a Norwegian influence in the way the round timbers are supported on large boulders, with the frame sitting on top. In due course, MCW would like to see this shelter used for community events and by the school as a 'woodland classroom' for field visits. Other work in the wood has included a larch boardwalk and more work to extend the woodchip trails and put in a dog pass to the shore.



MCW has now completed the £24,000 works funded by Highland Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and Europe to restore the wood and open it to the public. Further funds and more volunteers will be needed to continue the work!

MCW and Sgilean na Coille ran two green wood-working courses in Achnaha Community Wood in October and February with participants from Morvern and Ardnamurchan. The resulting ash & sycamore gate was auctioned in De tha Dol and sold for £150. At the request of the bidder, the funds raised will go towards training in wood-working.



Fund-raising has carried on over the past year. Many thanks to Morvern Community Council for granting £300 from the Common Good Fund towards tools for woodland work, and to members who put

in time making benches to pay for the annual group insurance policy.

At the end of 2005, Borders Forest Trust (BFT) finalised their feasibility study for a community-owned wood-working facility in Morvern. The report recommends building a small-scale facility (250 m² internal space) on a site that has potential for organic growth in future, costing in the region of £125,000 (excluding land purchase). While we await the outcome of the planning process for Kiel, MCW is seeking funding to send Ken Henesy for a 6-month placement to Woodschool Ltd., a facility set up by BFT near Jedburgh that several group members visited in February 2006. If funding bids are successful, this will give MCW much-needed skills for the development of the facility.

In February 2006, MCW member Andrew Howard secured a position with Forestry Commission Scotland as a graphic designer based in Inverness. He tells us he actually held up a copy of Pulp Fiction to the interview panel to show them the MCW leaf logo that he designed in 2003. Congratulations Andrew!

Lastly, we were saddened to hear of the loss of two MCW members over the past year. Andrew Raven gave an extraordinary amount to improving woodland management and community involvement in woodlands across Scotland. He strongly supported efforts to take this work forwards in Morvern. Kees van der Meulen contributed to our first Pulp Fiction in 2003 with a Dutch tree name column and was a regular visitor to Lochaline, joining in several MCW events. They will both be missed.

Dates for the diary

The inaugural AGM will be this Monday 20 March at 730 pm in Lochaline Village Hall.

The CWA Birds & Woods course will take place in Achnaha Community Wood on 1 April 2006. Bookings c/o Steve Hardy 01967 421362.