



CCWT takes over management of Little Assynt Estate on behalf of the Community

Points of Interest

There are lots of fungi in Culag Woods. Join one of the Highland Council Ranger walks in September to help you to identify the species.

Contact 01571 844654 or andy.summers@

highland.gov.uk for more details.

On August 3rd CCWT took over management of the woodland planting at Little Assynt Estate on behalf of the community. Although ownership of the land has been in the hands of the community since 2000, woodland management was retained by the previous owners until 2010.

On the same day, John

Risby, Highland Conservator for the Scottish Forestry Commission, signed the Little Assynt Strategic Forest Plan which will guide the Trust's activities over the next 20 years.

To mark the occasion, 2 oak trees were planted at Little Assynt by John Risby and 5 year old Anna Saywell to em-

phasize the significance of the Trust's guardianship of Little Assynt for future generations.



John Risby & Anna Saywell plant an oak at Little Assynt. Photo: Fiona Saywell

The Gruffalo Family returns to Culag Woods



The Gruffalo Family at their cave

Photo: Neil Lloyd-Jenkins

For the previous 2 years there have been strange sightings in Culag Woods; it seems that the characters from a much loved children's story by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler, The Gruffalo, have been making their home in the woods in Lochinver during July. This year they were joined by the younger member of the Gruffalo family.

Together with the Senior Highland Council Ranger, Andy

Summers, the Gruffalo's Child led a group of over 70 children and adults on a quest to find the Big, Bad, Mouse. They were aided in their retelling of the story by the Seasonal Rangers, Roz Summers and Tina Lloyd-Jenkins with children from Lochinver & Stoer Primary Schools.

The Gruffalos appear to have moved on this year but keep an eye out next year for any strange tracks in the woods as this area seems to be a favourite summer habitat for this type of creature.

Culag Enterprises has a new Rural Skills Business Development Manager

Steve Collie has joined Culag Enterprises as the new Rural Skills Business Development Manager.

Steve moved to Assynt a year ago to run Drumbeg Stores with his partner. Prior to this he worked in the construction industry for 25 years in the south of England.

The Manager's post is being funded by The Scottish Government Third Sector Enterprise Fund until March 2011.

The key aims will be to provide on site management for the path team and secure further work for Culag Enterprises.



Next Issue:

An update on the Cruck Frame Shelter at Little Assynt.

Out and about with the planting team.

Contact:

**Get in touch with your news and views
phone 01571 844368
email
info@culagwoods.org.uk**

Eel Project at Little Assynt



Children from Stoer, Lochinver & Achiltibuie Primary Schools electro fishing at Little Assynt as part of the Highland Council Ranger & West Sutherland Fisheries Trust Eel project.

Photo: Fiona Saywell

North American Mink are an invasive non native species which prey on water voles, ground nesting birds and salmonid fish. They are gradually invading the north of Scotland.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help monitor our mink raft as part of the North Scotland Mink Project.

If you would like to get involved please contact us at info@culagwoods.org.uk or on 01571 844368.



Assynt Angling Group donated £1000 towards the purchase of a new boat for the Grilse Loch at Little Assynt.

Photo: Fiona Saywell

CCWT Annual General Meeting Report

CCWT's Annual General Meeting was held on 17th May at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver.

Chairperson Mark Snowdon was re elected, with Anna Mackay rejoining the board of Directors.

As part of the Chairperson's report, Mark emphasized that Culag Enterprises had taken up a lot of the Trust's time over the previous year but that one of the main aims would be to increase community involvement over the coming year.

Culag Enterprises has however provided an income source for CCWT with £13,831 profit donated in 2008/09. Treasurer, Ian Mackenzie was thanked by Mark for his ongoing work with the Trust.

The Lochs Project and a rare first for UK

The Lochs Project has been advancing on two fronts. Caroline Bowes has finished sampling the aquatic fauna of the catchment centred on Loch na h-Innse Fraoich and is working on her catches. Meanwhile, a malaise trap has been sampling the aerial fauna beside the same loch. David Pryce, of the University of Stirling, has started check-

ing through the 'insect soup' in the collection bottles, which are emptied weekly. He has, so far, identified 9 species of stoneflies, 23 species of caddisflies and some 30 species of alderflies, lacewings, dragonflies, flies and other insects. Amongst them is the first definite record for the UK of the tiny lacewing *Helicoconis hirtinervis*.



Biologist Caroline Bowes, dipping netting at Loch Torr an Lochain.

Clan Macleod and George Watson's College volunteer in Culag Woods



CCWT volunteers Jimmy Crooks & Ken Fairchild with Clan Macleod volunteers from USA, Canada & Australia help clear gorse and weeds from one of the Orchard areas in Culag Woods.

Photo: Fiona Saywell

People come from far and wide to help out in Culag Woods. In July five young members of the Clan Macleod came along to help us get restarted with the Orchard Project. They were part of the global gathering of the clan, culminating this year at Dunvegan, Isle of Skye. With their help we managed to clear a very overgrown section of the Orchard to reveal that a large number of the trees planted in 2004 are still going strong.

Another group of young volunteers from Edinburgh's George Watson's College came along with the Highland Council Rangers to help with some brashing and creating habitat piles in an area along the path to the White Shore.

Brashing is the removal of the lower branches to prevent trees becoming interlocked as they grow and also enables inspection for any signs of disease. And as a result better access into the woodland is created.

If you go down to the woods today.....

Lochinver Pre School went down to Culag Woods along the 'Are you brave enough path' clutching their teddies and found a picnic waiting for them at the White Shore. This was an end of term event organised for the children by the Pre School Staff

and CCWT. After playing teddy bear themed games and polishing off the honey sandwiches and cakes, the children all took part in the porridge lucky dip and joined in with the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

