



Culag Community Woodland Trust

NEWS UPDATE

Points of Interest

Culag Enterprises won a contract at Knockan Crag Visitor Centre and have been working there over the winter, in conjunction with a local sub contractor, adding to the visitor facilities.

CCWT are arranging an Opening Event for the Loch an t-Sabhail Path on Saturday 7th May 2011. This is an event for the whole community, so come along and see the completed path and historic shelter.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place in Culag Woods on Saturday 16th April. Look out for posters with further details.

Shelter building continues through the snow

The historic shelter on the southern shore of Loch an t-Sabhail at Little Assynt is very near completion. The team have been working through the snow and rain to finish the project in time for the path opening event in May. The wooden frame was erected in December under the guidance of Toby Green from Woodend Carpentry, Dunkeld. Dry stone walling was then added by the team led by Dave Goulder from Rosehall. A turf roof

is now being completed to finish the structure.

The shelter's design is a further result of a series of co-operations between Culag Community Woodland Trust and Historic Assynt. Gordon Sleight, Historic Assynt's Project Leader has acted as advisor to Culag Community Woodland Trust. He says, "We hope that the shelter will help people to visualise the houses lived in by previous generations".



Ullapool High School Rural Skills pupils visit Culag Woods



Constructing the path

As part of a continuing partnership between Ullapool High School & CCWT ten Rural Skills pupils came to Culag Woods

for two days and helped construct a 12 metre section of path to the Play Area. The path follows a direct route that folk have been using to access the Play Area.

The pupils worked under the guidance of Culag Enterprises path team and CCWT Director, Jimmy Crooks, moving previously sawn logs, laying out the path and filling and compacting material to create a path on top of the boggy ground.



The finished section of path

Another two days are planned for June when the Culag Woods Access Project will be well underway.

Next Issue:

Ullapool High School tree planting with CCWT.

Results from the Lochs Project.

The Loch an t-Sabhail Path opening event report.

Contact:

Get in touch with your news and views
phone 01571 844368
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Getting the egg back to the nest

With the help of Ken & Lyn Fairchild, Lochinver Pre School children took the freshly laid (painted!) egg back to the nest one snowy December morning. Ken & Lyn have been working on refurbishing one of everyone's favourite spots in Culag Woods. They have added netting to the structure and

are weaving in willow to camouflage it. This is an ongoing project so if anyone feels like adding a bit next time you're there, please do.



The children help Ken with the egg.

Keeping warm with Forest Schools

Volunteering opportunities:

The last 3 sessions of the Woody group are 16th & 30th March and 13th April. Starts at 1pm and usually last a couple of hours—refreshments are provided.

The Mink monitoring project will continue throughout the year and only requires the raft to be checked once every two weeks. Training and information supplied to all new volunteers.

If you would like to get involved in any of the above opportunities please contact us at info@culagwoods.org.uk or on 01571 844368.



Its been a busy winter in Culag Woods for Lochinver Pre School. They've been making Christmas decorations, playing hibernation games and learning about nocturnal animals. As all of the children have come prepared with hats, gloves and warm coats together with their red water-

proof suits, most of the weekly sessions have gone ahead despite the weather with only a handful having to be cancelled.

One particularly memorable day involved a walk through the snow to the nest (see previous page) following tracks in the snow, making snow angels and a warming snack before returning to the Pre School.

With Spring approaching all the children are looking forward to seeing what happens to the woods as it gets warmer and lighter.

Thank you to all the parent/carer helpers who come along each week and make the sessions possible.

[Lochinver Pre School Forest School Song](#)
(sung to the tune of "if you're happy and you know it")

We've had fun all day playing in our woods
We've had fun all day playing in our woods
We've had fun all day being, laughing, learning and playing
We've had fun all day playing in our woods



Everybody say "Hot Soup!"
The children enjoying a warming cup of soup at snack time.

Community woodland groups sharing ideas through CWA's Employability Services Project



When is a twigloo not a twigloo?

When it's an igloo!

Early winter cloaks the woods in thick snow and creates amazing ice crystals .



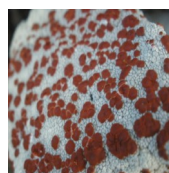
The log barn at Milton Community Woodland used as a workshop for projects

CWA's employability services project aims to bring together community woodland groups to discuss and share ideas to help develop social enterprise through training and employability projects. The project will run until Summer 2012 and has a full time Social Enterprise Development Officer. The community groups involved are Dunnet Forestry Trust, Abriachan Forest Trust, Milton Community Woodland

Trust, CCWT, Assynt Foundation and Laide & Aultbea Community Woodland. Each organisation is at a different stage in developing their woodland and also local factors mean that everyone has individual issues in all projects. However there is always something to be learnt from other groups experiences in tackling such issues as generating income to cover running costs.

What is it?

And now just time for a short photographic quiz. Answers in the next issue.



2. What kind of organism is this?



3. What do you think this structure could have been used for?



4. Where is this bridge?

5. What kind of fungus is this? (Clue—it looks like its name).



6. Do you know the gaelic for Lesser Butterfly Orchid?

Good

Luck!