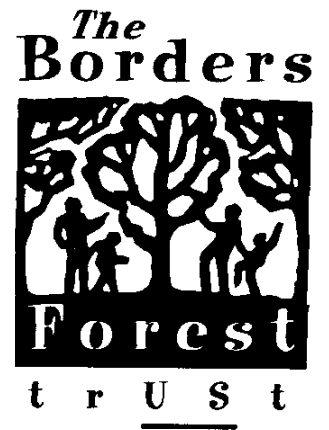


The Green Shed



Autumn 2008 Issue 22 News from the Borders Forest Trust

News on The Devil's Beef Tub

Work continues to fundraise the £700,000 required to purchase the Devil's Beef Tub and Corehead. To date we have raised some £150,000 from donations and pledges from individuals and smaller charitable organisations but we still have some way to go. Large applications have been submitted to a number of larger funding bodies and we are hopeful that these will be successful in helping us to raise the majority of the funding.



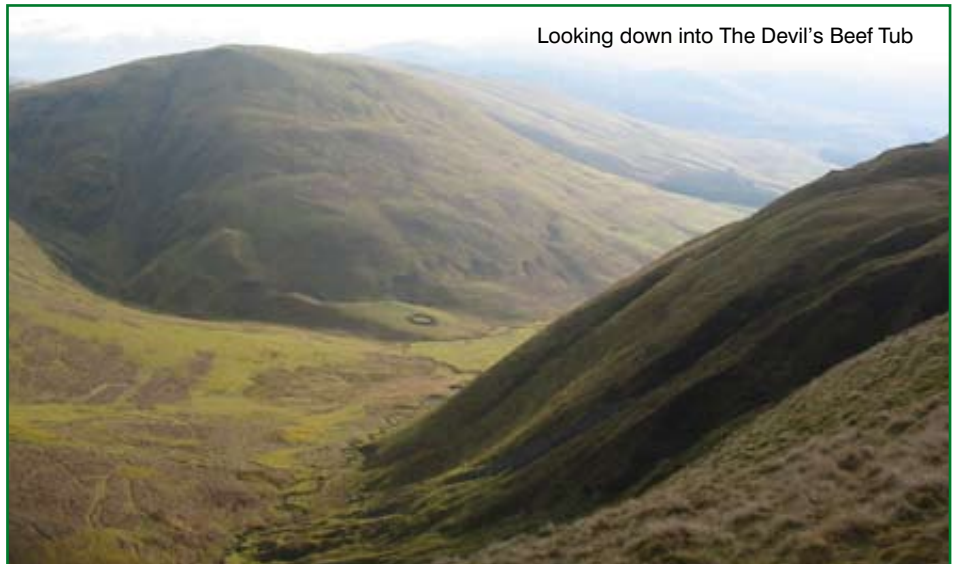
Wooded cleuch on Corehead

We have had considerable support from Clan Moffat and Clan Armstrong whose ancestral lands include Corehead and this area of the Southern Uplands. Eager to become Stakeholders these Clans are encouraging members to contribute to our appeal and purchase this special piece of land.

In August we had a stall at the Moffat Show which proved to be very popular. Many of the local people were keen to find out more about the plans for Corehead and were enthused by our intentions having already been impressed by the



Summer at Corehead



Looking down into The Devil's Beef Tub

scale of work at Carrifran. As the project develops we hope to engage more local people in the management of the land and establish it as a real community asset as well as a haven for wildlife.

A big thank you to all the donors and Stakeholders who have made such generous contributions to the appeal,

a list of which can be found on the inside back page of the newsletter. We still have some way to go to reach our target so if you would like to contribute to the appeal please visit our Corehead page on the BFT website or send your donation in to the Borders Forest Trust offices. Thank you.

Nicola Hunt

New Borders Forest Trust 2009 Calendar Now Available!

Full colour with stunning images of **Borders Woodlands through the Seasons**. All images featured in the calendar are from the 2008 BFT Photographic Competition.

This A4 calendar has plenty of space to write all the important things down and a beautiful full page photograph for each month.

Ideal Christmas gift.

Only £4.99 for members (RRP £5.99) plus £1 p&p. Order now while stocks last!

Call 01835 830750 or email Sandra@bordersforesttrust.org



The Green Shed

The name of our newsletter "The Green Shed" comes from our original office and the spiritual home of Borders Forest Trust. We moved in January 2007 to our new office space within the same complex at Monteviot Nurseries, near Harestanes, Jedburgh.

Chris Baines Speaks at BFT AGM

The 2008 BFT AGM will be remembered as an inspirational event which was graced by Professor Chris Baines who travelled north with his partner Nerys to speak on *The importance of trees and woodlands in the face of climate change*. Over 70 people packed into The Townhouse Hotel in Melrose to hear Chris speak and to watch as he gave out the prizes for the BFT 2008 Photography Competition, Border Woodlands through the Seasons (see article on page 12 for more on the Photo Competition).

Rory Macleod, the BFT Chairman, oversaw the business part of the evening with his customary skill and flair. BFT lost two experienced Trustees – Fi Martynoga and Susan Lockett. We would like to thank them for their time and dedication. We did, however, gain two new Trustees. Philip Ashmole stood again and we welcome his experience and knowledge back onto the Board. We also have a brand new board member, Michael Ireland, and we look forward to his contribution. John Bathgate and Reuben Singleton stood down and were immediately re-elected. Rory concluded

the first section of the evening with an erudite summary of the Trust's achievements and the importance to BFT of its strong links with people, volunteers and communities in the south of Scotland.

Chris Baines is one of the UK's leading environmental campaigners and an award winning writer and broadcaster. For the past twenty years he has been an adviser to senior executives in the public, private and voluntary sectors and has long-standing professional links with major companies in the construction, minerals, water and financial management sectors. He is best known as a champion of trees in towns and his best selling book *How to Make a Wildlife Garden* has been in print for over 20 years and is now regarded as a classic.

His presentation gave a synopsis of the global scale of climate change and how, undaunted by the size of the challenge, we can make a difference at a local level. Chris stressed our comparative impotence in effecting change at a

Chris and Nerys chatting to youngsters at Darnick Community Woodland



global level, which is in the hands of multinationals, national governments and international agencies. However we can all affect what happens in our own street, village, town and region by getting involved in planting trees and conserving existing trees and woodlands. He highlighted the importance of wooded areas, which can act as sponges or storm buffers in taking up some 30% of aerial precipitation (rain) and then slowly releasing this water over time, which acts to mitigate flash flooding.

Trees can also play an important part in urban life as temperature regulators, providing a cooling effect (which was not required in the Borders this year!) and they can act as "lungs" for our urban spaces. Woodlands are increasingly recognised as beneficial to health – walking in woodlands is a known stress reliever and of course the exercise is good for you too!

Chris rounded off his talk by explaining that the most important thing that organisations such as BFT can do is to clearly and simply communicate the importance of trees in the environment to the people that live in the Borders and the south of Scotland – and also to the decision makers – politicians, big businesses, etc.

Chris and Nerys spend the following day with Willie McGhee touring the Borders and visiting some of BFT's project sites. The morning was spent at a primary school Eco Schools event at Darnick Community Woodland with Brenda Robertson and Anna Craigen. From Darnick it was off to the Ettrick Marshes, over into the Yarrow Valley and on to the Wildwood at Carrifran to finish the day off. Chris said later "I have been an admirer of the work of the Borders Forest Trust for many years. They have set an example of joined up environmental practice that has inspired me and many others. Seeing the Trust's success demonstrated in so many ways, and in such a beautiful landscape setting has been a real delight."



Willie and Chris at Carrifran Wildwood

Michael Ireland

BFT is delighted to announce that we have a new Trustee. Michael Ireland is a Rural Practice Chartered Surveyor with over ten years post qualification experience in the valuation, consultancy and management of a wide range of rural properties. Michael was born, brought up and continues to live in Peebles having spent several years away in Aberdeen completing a degree in Physical Geography and a post grad Masters in Land Economy. He joined Knight Frank LLP in 2006 and is responsible for all of the firm's farm, estate and rural property valuation and consultancy work throughout Scotland, based in their Edinburgh office. Michael and his family are members of Venlaw Community Woodland in Peebles.



Welcome to our Autumn 2008 newsletter. We have all had a busy and productive summer (despite the sometimes pretty unsummery weather!) and hope you enjoy reading all about it. Please remember that this publication is also available as an electronic copy that can be emailed to you. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email just let us know: claire@bordersforesttrust.org

Willie McGhee

Scottish Rural Development Programme

The long awaited Scottish Rural Development Programme is now open and applications are welcome. This comprehensive grant programme comprises a number of different funds which are designed to bring environmental, social and economic benefits to Scotland.

Of particular interest to the Trust and community woodland groups are:

- Rural Priorities, Rural Development Contracts which provide grant funding for a myriad of different land management options including woodland creation and woodland management
- Challenge Funding – Forestry For People, which provides funding for projects associated with increasing participation and involvement in woodlands
- Challenge Funding – Woodlands In and Around Towns, which provides grant funding for improving woodlands near centres of populations (within 1km of a population centre of 2,000)
- LEADER which is a grant programme for innovative rural projects which result in sustainable economic and/or social benefits.

The Trust is currently working on a number of applications to hopefully secure some of these funds for beneficial local projects which will create new native woodlands as well as more opportunities for local people to become involved and learn about their local woodlands.

Nicola Hunt

Woodland Family Fun Day



Weaving willow fish

Despite blustery conditions and some sudden downpours, the BFT Family Fun Day at Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre once again attracted lots of children and their families to try some woodland activities and have some fun.

A Woodland Quiz set out around the one mile Cricket Pavilion Walk kept everyone fit with kids answering questions and collecting leaves and berries en route. Completed quiz sheets were marked

there and then with winners receiving prizes of Tree Trumps cards and wooden medals, provided by Forestry Commission Scotland. Willow weaver Toni Coyle was ever popular with her own design of a willow fish that everyone could weave to take away. George, ably helped by assistant June, was kept busy making bird and bat boxes as well as bug homes which proved to be very popular.

Nic, Anna, Lisa and Claire set up badge making and elder jewellery making with everyone using their artistic skills to come up with their own individual creations to take away with them.

Once again many thanks to Forestry Commission Scotland for lending us their pop up tents which proved invaluable and to all who helped out and made the day the success it was.

Claire Doig



Elder jewellery making with Anna

Legacy Giving

Leave a lasting legacy in your will for future generations – woodlands

Do you have a will? If so, is it up to date? It is a startling fact that over one in six people over 40 years old in the UK do not have a current will. This means that your wishes may not be carried out if you die in respect of looking after your family and seeing that your cash and assets, after tax, go to the people and the causes that you would like it to.

Legacies are an important part of BFT's income. Money left to us is used to plant trees across the Scottish Borders and ensure their survival to maturity. It is wonderful to think that you could leave a legacy of that kind – trees in a woodland that can take over 100 years to reach maturity. We all know how important trees are to our landscapes and local wildlife, to our environment and the battle against climate change. Please think of BFT when making or changing your will. We have recently published a new booklet that gives you more information about legacy giving. Please return the postcard sent to you with this newsletter if you would like further information.

Claire Doig

BFT WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit

www.bordersforesttrust.org

BFT's new website is proving to be popular for finding out about up and coming events, the latest on the Corehead project and for downloading our latest publications.

You can now donate to BFT and the Corehead Project online.

Let us know what you think!

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Woodland Habitats

Since the last newsletter it feels like it hasn't stopped raining for any worthwhile length of time. The high levels of rainfall have been great for the trees with some spectacular growth being recorded on many of our recently planted trees. The trees planted in tree boxes are flourishing well and many are now above the boxes themselves. Even some of the trees planted at Priestthaugh in December 2007 have emerged from their 1.2m tubes.

On a slight downside the excessive wetness has prevented some of the planned weed control being carried out around young trees. This application of herbicide is very beneficial in controlling competing vegetation around the trees while they are establishing, so the sites that were not done this summer will now have to wait till next year.



John at Gamescleuch, Ettrick

The Trust would like to say a big thank you to John Chapman, a volunteer from Carnegie College in Galashiels who, despite the poor weather, has been helping out on our woodland habitat sites since April. He has been assisting with all manner of maintenance work including building high seats for herbivore control, tree pruning, erecting stiles and general path work at the Ettrick Marshes.

One of the pricklier tasks being undertaken this year has been the removal of juniper nets. This has now become essential as the junipers are well established, after some 10 years of growth, and beginning to grow between the holes in the nets. If this was left untended, the nets would form part of the bushes with the distinct risk of the protruding branches being strangled. Much care is required to avoid damaging the plants or being jagged, gloves are definitely essential for this activity!

Photographic surveys have been undertaken at Linghope, Capperlaw, Henderlandbank, Glengaber, Laidlawstiel, Hermanlaw and Muchra. This is to compare the change in vegetation since the initial surveys carried out in 2002 by Stuart Adair. Photographic monitoring is a valuable tool as it shows significant

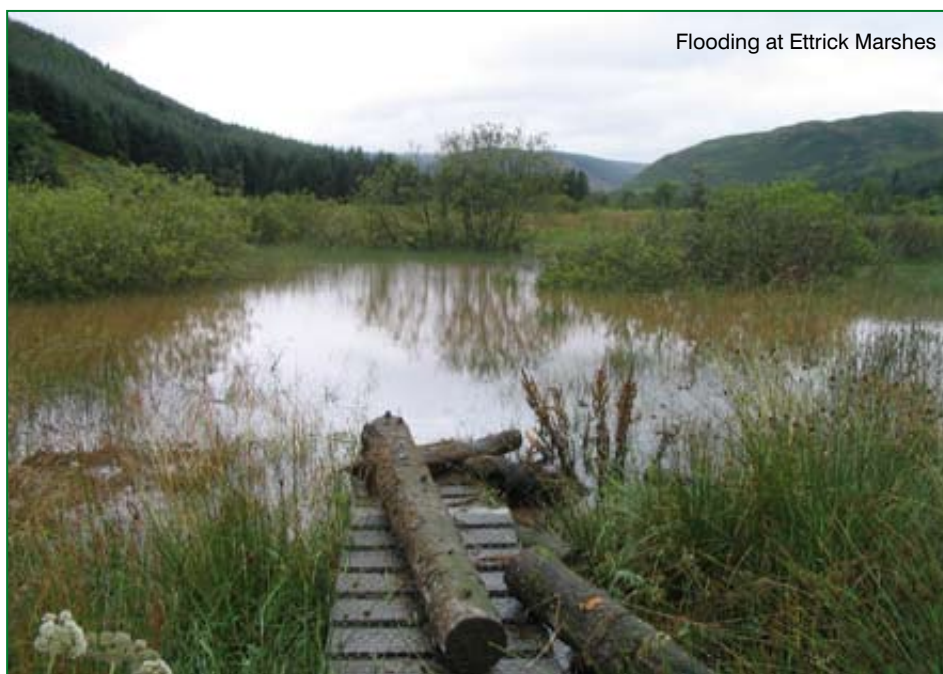
changes on large areas of land over time and the impact on vegetation of tree planting and removal of grazing.



Bracken in autumn at Kirkstead burn

Now that autumn is upon us the change in colours is becoming evident. Let us hope for a dazzling display of orange, crimson and all the other hues giving us a colourful start to the winter ahead.

George Moffat



Flooding at Ettrick Marshes

Internship at BFT

I joined BFT in mid August 2008 for a five month internship. Studying International Forestry Ecosystem Management at the faculty in Eberswalde, East Germany, I decided to come to Scotland for my practical semester abroad.

Due to my interest in woodland restoration and social work I have found the vision and work of BFT has suited me perfectly and is very relevant to my studies. My time here is giving me a great chance to develop my skills and broaden my knowledge.

Already the mother of a two year old, my wee family decided to support me while doing my intern. So we three have moved to Innerleithen. Thanks due to Fiona Martynoga who helped us get a good place to live. Working hard before leaving Germany, Robert, my husband, now looks after our son Karli.

After a wonderful introduction to staff members and BFT by Nicola I immediately got involved in a variety of tasks. I started with the Tuesday volunteer group at Carrifran with Hugh, followed by diverse site checks with George and John, office work on photographic monitoring of sites and some Friday site checks for my own investigations.

Three weeks have passed and I find myself very happy and comfortable in the warm and welcoming atmosphere within BFT.

Nora Jauernig, BSc Student of International Forest Ecosystem Management

News from the Community Woodlands

Welcome to Lisa

Lisa Brydon has been appointed as the new Community Woodland Officer with the Trust, replacing Lee Hollings who worked with community woodland groups for 3 years before moving to a post closer to home in England. Lisa joins the team with a variety of experience in the environmental and community sectors and is a local Borders person with a good knowledge of the local area, associated wildlife and organisations. In her role as Community Woodland Officer, Lisa will provide support for community woodland groups and the Borders Community Woodland Forum and will develop new opportunities for volunteering and youth training. Thanks go to the Gannochy Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage for funding this position.

Venlaw Community Woodland, Peebles

Venlaw Community Woodland saw a good turnout of volunteers on Sunday 20th July 2008 for a ragwort pulling and wildflower planting event. Members from other community groups, including



Venlaw volunteers ready for action



Venlaw Community Woodland Members planting Primrose plugs

Buy your Christmas cards from BFT and support our important conservation work

Four stunning seasonal images from the Borders Landscape.

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Peebles in Bloom and the Peebles Gutterbluids, also came along to help out the woodland group members in their task. This is the first year the members have noted a marked increase in ragwort in certain areas of the woodland in particular close to the boundary field with Venlaw Hotel. The long term aim is to contain the spread of this invasive plant and reduce potential colonisation on neighbouring grazed land by holding an annual ragwort pulling event.

Although damaging to livestock, ragwort is a valuable food source to insects. So to replace the loss of this species, members planted wild primrose plugs to benefit wildlife and brighten up the woodland. The wildflower plugs, which were funded through a CSV Action Earth grant, were planted along some of the woodland paths, so hopefully by spring next year the path edges will be awash with yellow primroses!

Friends of Jubilee Community Woodland, Peebles

Members of the Friends of Jubilee Woodland in Peebles are now eagerly analysing the data from their hi-tech people counters which they have situated at three main entrances to the woodland. The interesting fact that has been highlighted from these counters is the sheer volume of people who use the woodland on a daily basis. On average 193 people use the woodland weekly amounting to an incredible 10,000 visits over one year! This information will be particularly useful to the group when applying for grant funding for future projects.

Borders Community Woodland Forum

The Borders Community Woodland Forum held a very well attended meeting on Thursday 21st August at the Resource Centre located at BFT's offices. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss funding opportunities in the new Scottish Rural Development Programme. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus from the group was for BFT to formulate a joint 'Forestry For People' application on behalf of the woodlands present at the meeting. This application will hopefully provide community woodlands with funding to hold events for the next two years in their specific woodlands and also develop training opportunities for the groups. Should any community woodlands who were not able to attend the meeting wish to be included in the application please do not hesitate to contact Lisa on 01835 830 750 or alternatively via e-mail lisa@bordersforesttrust.org

Darnick Community Woodland

Thanks to some careful negotiation from Brenda Robertson, secretary of Darnick Community Woodland, with Scottish Borders Council, the group have successfully negotiated an additional area of land (1.23ha) which lies adjacent to Shunters Wud. The management agreement for the land is currently being drawn up between SBC and BFT and it is hoped that planting will begin this coming planting season to create an additional area of woodland for the local community to enjoy. Well done Brenda for taking the initiative.

Wooplaw Community Woodland

The 'Last of the Summer Wine Crew' appeared at Gullet Wood (Wooplaw Community Woodland) on Wednesday 23rd July 2008 to complete the final installation of some new steps. After a good few hours the steps were finished and a well earned cuppa was had by all. Well done Foggy and the rest of the gang!!

Lisa Brydon



Last of summer wine crew



Finished product

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Progress at Wildwood



Wet students at the waterfall

What a perfect summer! (for trees!). At Carrifran by the end of April, we completed a further 10.4 hectares of planting on particularly high and steep ground on both sides of the waterfall. The planting there now extends up to 650m and helps to bridge the gap between older plantings and the Montane Scrub being planted at Firth Hope. Particular thanks to David Cairns and Keith Threadgall who plodded up the steep slopes to the planting sites each day, and stuck it out when the going got tough.

Our high camps at Firth Hope again tested the mettle of our volunteers, with cruel sleet and frozen trees making the job of planting more demanding. Despite

the challenging weather and with some help from Keith and David at the end of the planting season, we managed to plant all 5,000 juniper and other trees, and most are doing very well.

Carrifran has been busy with volunteers all coming to help restore the Wildwood and to learn how this can be achieved. John Schofield of St Joseph's College in Dumfries brought along his Eco Schools group to plant aspen, bash bracken and splash in the burn – the enthusiasm was infectious! Later on in the year pupils from Hawick High School helped us distribute hazel nuts, bash bracken and try their hand at tree survival monitoring, including some outdoor mathematics.

HBOS staff made a great effort in May by planting juniper and aspen on steep high places at Carrifran on a surprisingly warm, dry and sunny day. Unfortunately the students of Inverness Forestry College were not so lucky in June when the heavens opened making bracken cutting even less fun than usual. We did have a great trek up to Games Castle, past the most recent planting, and the



Volunteers planting at Firth Hope

Volunteering at Wildwood

Dates for volunteer Sundays at Carrifran 2008:

19th October • 16th November

Dates for volunteer Sundays at Carrifran Spring 2009:

15th February • 15th March

19th April • 17th May • 21st June

Dates for volunteer high weekends at Firth Hope:

14/15th February • 14/15th March

18/19th April • 16/17th May

The target for volunteers this year is to plant a total of 9,000 trees at Carrifran, including juniper at high levels.

Meet at 10am at the Wildwood car park, please wear stout boots and suitable hill walking gear and bring a packed lunch.

For more details and to confirm attendance (particularly for the Firth Hope weekends) please **contact Borders Forest Trust on 01835 830750 or email enquiries@bordersforesttrust.org**



Getting wet feet!

students were suitably impressed by the work which had been done. Similarly, the Scottish Wildlife Trust group from Galashiels were 'drookit' at the end of their volunteering day at Carrifran, but enjoyed spotting some fresh otter spraint below the road bridge.

In August we started to take down the area of deer fence which straddles the burn a few hundred meters upstream of the bridge. The fence was designed to protect around 3ha of land where there are a few existing ash, birch, rowan, willow and hawthorn trees, and to see if total exclusion of deer and other grazing animals would result in natural regeneration of trees. It was also used to provide a useful comparison of the effects of browsing on planted trees within and outside the enclosure. The area was planted late in May 2000 by volunteers and is now looking great. The trees are well established and we have received its five-year establishment

payment from the Forestry Commission. There is a significant amount of tree regeneration, predominately rowan, and the major difference between this area and an equivalent area nearby outside the deer fence, is that ash trees have thrived due to not being browsed in the first few years. Where deer browsing pressure was high, deer particularly targeted ash trees. Now that deer numbers have been reduced, future damage should be minimal. Again, great efforts from volunteers, particularly the Tuesday group, means that the fence is mostly dismantled, with most materials available for re-use elsewhere.

Other groups hearing the story of Carrifran included the Probus Group in Melrose, a massive 100+ audience at Hawick Archaeological Society, and a small group who attended a talk at the Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre.

Hugh Chalmers



Volunteers Nora and Michael in the young Wildwood

Wildwood Group seeks Graphic Design Assistance

THE WILDWOOD GROUP are looking for a qualified graphic designer who would like to lead us through the final layout of the forthcoming book on Carrifran. This book takes us from the initial dream, through the purchase of the site, and on to the work in the decade since. We plan for the book to be published in 2009 in time to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the purchase of the land at Carrifran on 1st January 2010. This is a fundraising project for the Wildwood and no one is being paid for text, illustrations or photos, in line with so many aspects of the project. We would hope that the design and layout would also be in the form of a donation to the project.

Several members of the Wildwood Group have already been asked to contribute sections relevant to their particular involvement, and three or four local artists will contribute illustrations. We have an attractive model book on which we are basing the layout. However, although the Wildwood Group includes people with an amazing variety of skills, we lack a graphic designer. Can anyone help? The provisional plan is for Borders Forest Trust to publish the book and have it printed locally in full colour. It is likely to be about 150 pages long.

Please contact us if you are interested in this opportunity at philip.myrtle@ashmole.org.uk

Myrtle and Philip Ashmole



Borders Organic Gardeners

Borders Organic Gardeners is an association of gardeners throughout the Scottish Borders and North Northumberland who are keen to use and support organic methods. We run a number of public events throughout the region, including Potato Day and Apple Day.

In addition, members have a regular newsletter, workshops, garden visits, talks and social events. For just £5 a year, per household, you can get access to information, support, advice and the chance to exchange plants, seeds, ideas and experiences with other friendly and enthusiastic gardeners.

So, if you would like to grow food free of insecticides etc., garden in harmony with nature or know more about organic gardening, why not get in contact?

For more information, visit our website www.bordersorganicgardeners.org.uk or call 01750 76259

Education and Youth Projects - Summer Events

Being the BFT Education Officer you'd think that during the summer holidays I would have a well earned rest from the kids. But oh no! I've been out in the woods with kids and groups through rain and shine, day in, day out... and it's been brilliant!

In the early part of the holidays I put on a series of family events at Gordon Community Woodland. Despite the somewhat dodgy weather, each event attracted almost 40 people who came along to join in with pond dipping, bug hunting, marshmallow toasting and a variety of craft activities. According to other environmental partner organisations this is quite a feat, as general attendance numbers for other

events and activities have been way down on previous years!

In response to meeting a variety of Out of School Club Leaders and Youth Club Leaders over the years - I've also been kept busy providing minibus services and woodland outings for a variety of kids and youth groups to different woodlands in the region, e.g. Oxnam to Wooplaw, Coldstream and Hawick to Gordon and Melrose Playstation to Darnick. It's always lovely to work on non-curricular fun time activities with kids you already know from formal school projects. Although, this summer I've suffered a big realisation - I'm becoming like an old aunty! I get shocked when I meet teenagers that I taught at primary

Earlston High School kids planting at Gordon CW



school years ago.... I can't help myself from doing the.... 'Good grief.... You've grown!' etc. I recently met one mascara wearing, glamorous teenage girl who remembers me from school visits to Glen Douglas Primary before it closed!! Shocker.... Am I getting old?

Anna Craigen

Another Successful Summer Youth Project

In the latter part of the summer holidays I worked with the members of Ish'uze Youth Action Project in Peebles on a 'Woodland Creations - Bridging the Gap' summer project at Eshiels Community Wood near Peebles, owned by Forestry Commission Scotland.

This is the third year that the project has taken place and each year, it just gets better and better. Following many reports from local Community Woodland Groups about local youngsters causing trouble and damage at woodland sites, I decided to design a project which would provide the young people of Peebles with the opportunity to do something positive and fun in a local woodland during their summer holidays. The main objective for this whole thing was to nurture a greater understanding of community spirit and environmental responsibility in the young people that participated.

Over six days the group of 20 or so local young people aged between 12 and 17

were set tasks such as shelter building, learning safe tool use, sculpture making and woodland management activities to help the Community Group and improve the general aesthetics of the woodland.

The project (funded by a Scottish Natural Heritage Youth Chex grant) aimed to develop team communication and practical skills, with the group split into teams of mixed ages and abilities. Despite the odd drama, argument and a lot of banter I reckon this was a pretty rewarding experience for them all.

Each of the young people that turned up everyday and that displayed true commitment to the project were awarded with a Discovery Level John Muir Award. This is a nationally recognised certificate that sets out to get groups and individuals to Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share a wild place over a conditional period of time. These certificates will be a fantastic addition to the young participants CV's when it comes to finding work or college courses.

The project culminated in an Open Evening at the woods, where the youth group invited members of local community groups, youth workers, teachers, family and friends to the woods to see what they had been up to and to watch and listen to a variety of performances and presentations.

I'll admit to finding the whole project pretty exhausting and



sometimes rather challenging, however it is definitely one of the most rewarding and successful projects I have ever run. The group are keen to do more of the same again next year... and I think I should be ready for it again come next summer!

Anna Craigen

Anna's Favourite Quotes of the Summer

Ish'uze Youth project

(15 year old lad) - 'Anna, when I met you first I was at primary school and I thought you were funny. Then when I was twelve and I first came to this project I thought you were bossy and an idiot... and now that I'm fifteen I think you're kind of alright n' that!'

Tell tale signs to show that a project works...

(17 year old lad) - 'How long have we been doing this project?' Anna says '3 years - you must kind of like it if you keep coming back for more!?' Lad says 'Aye, well, it gives ya summit to do n' keeps ya out of trouble. I've no been grounded or got an ASBO fer yonks man!'

NB: I chose to censor some particular words from the above sentences!!



Green Grounds

A number of 'Eco - Action Days' in Borders Primary Schools have been supported by BFT over the early summer months. Schools took part in a variety of activities in their school grounds and out in their local environment. Nursery



Wildflower tyre

children were helped to create a butterfly and sensory area in the nursery garden at Eyemouth Primary School and the older children took part in building bird boxes which will be used to encourage birds in the wider school grounds. At Cockburnspath Primary School, a whole week of woodland activities took place and a day was spent engaging in den building and 'mini-beast hotel' creation with the children out in the woods.

Workshops of environmental activities took place at Priorsford Primary School in Peebles at the end of the summer term with the whole school getting involved. Susan Kevan from the Ranger service joined me to lead four workshops in the schools nature garden for a re-vamp of the area and the pupils planted an aromatic

planter, a summer flowers planting bed, climbing clematis along the fence and wildflowers in the meadow grass. All the pupils who took part can congratulate themselves on a job well done and had a delightful garden in bloom when they returned after the summer holidays. The plants were bought from Buccleuch Plants and they very kindly donated many extra plants in addition to the order and the school really appreciated their generosity. We also got some super wildflowers from the Woodside Walled Garden near Harestanes.



Planting bed at Priorsford

Many schools have been in touch to discuss future possible projects within their school grounds and hopefully they will begin to plan projects and start the process of applying for some funding in the autumn term. I have visited a number of schools to show them a presentation of some of the successful school grounds projects completed by Scottish Borders schools in conjunction with Borders Forest Trust in the past. This will hopefully inspire the children and teachers to consider the changes



Den building at Cockburnspath

they would like to make in their own school grounds and spark ideas for their own projects.

There is a pot of funding from Scottish Natural Heritage available through Borders Forest Trust for suitable school grounds improvement projects. The budget is limited and only available until March 2009. If you are interested in applying for funding or require assistance in a school grounds project please contact Diane@bordersforesttrust.org and I will be delighted to get involved.

Diane Bennett



Mini beast hotel

Wild in the Woods at Wooplaw

In late July I organised a big family event at Wooplaw where members of the public were invited to come along and try their hand at roughing it in the wilds for a day. Over 60 people came to the woods to join BFT staff, members of the Wooplaw Group and other talented craftspeople and survival skills experts for a day. Activities included; shelter building, green woodworking, traditional fire lighting, charcoal making, willow weaving, toasted marshmallows and much, much more.



Wooplaw Wild in the Woods - traditional firelighting

Everyone who came along had a great day and left with some new skills and ideas for free, yet fun ways to entertain the family in the great outdoors. Bob Fleet of the Wooplaw Group says 'It was just like the old days at Wooplaw, the place was buzzing!'

It seems that I hit on a winner with the theme of this event. People seem to want to learn about all of these old traditional ways of living. I think that we will have to put more of this kind of activity into our annual events calendar in future years.



Wooplaw Wild in the Woods - shavehorses

Thanks to everyone that helped make the day a great success, particularly the storm kettle team - who were constantly brewing!

Anna Craigen

Words from Woodschool Workshop

Autumn is here already after a wet and windy summer. This is my third year at the Woodschool and all of us in the workshop have been busy getting ready for the various shows and exhibitions we attend in the Autumn. These shows are a chance to take the Woodschool product



Bedside cabinets by Stephen Finch

on the road, introducing ourselves to new customers and meeting up with others in the industry. Every show is different, and things got off to a good start at the Big Tent Festival of Stewardship in Fife. Set in the picturesque grounds of Falkland Palace, this festival is growing every year, bringing together a wide range of people and organisations who care about our environment. The sun

shone, some fantastic bands played and we even managed to fit in some green woodworking too.

The Dundee Food & Flower Show comes next in the show calendar, giving us the chance to mingle with bee-keepers, flower arrangers and prize-winning vegetable growers (the giant leeks were a sight to see), then it's onwards to the Perth Wood Fair, where the focus comes back to Scotland's timber industry and the diversity of products on offer - everything from fuel for log-burning stoves to the sustainable furniture we make at Woodschool. And it's always interesting to see what our competitors are up to as well.

It's great to take the show on the road, but we're all looking forward to the Woodschool Makers' Show on October 11th where we showcase new works in the gallery. This year also saw the inaugural Crossing Borders project, where Woodschool was one of a collection of Scottish Borders craftspeople who opened their doors to the public. All of these events help to raise awareness of the Woodschool and the BFT philosophy.



Chair by Stephen Finch

Of course autumn is also a great time to get outdoors and watch the changing colours in our woodlands and forests. I hope to fit in a bit of that in between jobs for a wide mix of clients - current projects include a reception desk for the new Borders College Netherdale Campus and pieces for new and repeat private clients. At this time of year there's one phrase all of us in the workshop are getting used to hearing: "Will it be ready in time for Christmas?" Which can only mean that winter is on the way.

Stephen Finch

Tree Mallow – The Wrong Tree in the Wrong Place

Invasive plant species are a frequent cause of conservation problems. One example is rhododendron which has invaded many areas of natural woodland across Scotland and proved very difficult and expensive to remove. Another species which has attracted a lot of attention recently in East Lothian is tree mallow which threatens nesting puffins on two islands near North Berwick. Tree mallow is not native to Scotland but has become established on the islands of Craigeleith and Fidra both of which are very important for their seabird colonies.

Tree mallow is not really a tree but it grows to three metres in height and



Puffins

forms a dense jungle which prevents puffins and other birds from nesting.

Two years ago, tree mallow covered almost the whole of Craigeleith (8 ha) and the puffin population crashed, while Fidra was rapidly going the same way. Local people became very concerned

that something be done and so with the help of landfill tax funding, project "SOS Puffin" was launched to control the tree mallow.



Volunteers on Craigeleith

I help to organise and lead volunteer work parties whenever the weather allows, except during the breeding season May to July. Volunteers are taken out in a boat and spend up to 5 hours cutting the tree mallow. Though it is hard work, they really enjoy the experience and find it very satisfying. Over 200 volunteers have already helped, some coming back repeatedly.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by our wonderful volunteers good progress is being made, though work will need to continue for several more years. Anyone who would like to help should contact: johnf_hunt@yahoo.co.uk



In the tree mallow jungle

John Hunt

Stakeholders in the Devil's Beef Tub

The Trust would like to gratefully acknowledge the donations made to the Devil's Beef Tub Appeal in particular those who have contributed to the Stakeholder scheme in the names of:

Alba Trees
The Anderson Family
Bill Ball
David Bone
Morris & Sylvia Bradley
William A. Brown
Richard H. Calasca
Coda Wildlife Trust
Andrew K. Elliott
John B. Elliot
J.H.W. & Mrs. L.B. Fairweather
Dr Marion M. Faulds
Anthony du Gard Pasley
W. A. Gladstone
Julian Goodacre
Bill & Ann Goodburn
Ruth Hannah
Lawrence & Rosemary Holden
Terry Holmes
Philip D. Horsley
Geoffrey Peel & Isobel Howe
Alan E.W. Hudson
John Hunt

Helen Jamieson
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Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society
Dr Mary E. Rogers
St. Joseph's College
Mrs Heather Salzen
Pippa Sinclair
Alexander & Emily Skinner

Liz & Frank Stacey
Derek Stephen
Keith & Mary Stevenson
Colin Strang Steel
Kathleen & Brian Tait
John Thomas
Ken Wardrop
Sarah Whitley & Graham Whyte
John & Carol Woolliams
Dr Ian R. Young

These donations were received between the start of the Appeal and the end of August 2008.

The Trust would also like to thank the following Trusts for their generous support:

The Banister Charitable Trust
The Craignish Trust
The James Thom Howat Charitable Trust
The Miss EC Hendry Charitable Trust
The Mitchell Trust

Crailing Community Orchard

Mr Derek Law from the Parish of Addingham in Yorkshire gave a fascinating and amusing talk to a group of orchard enthusiasts in Crailing Church Hall in August, relating he and his wife's experience of restoring a 17th Century rectory orchard there.

Over 23 years they have achieved their aim of turning previously waste ground into an orchard so productive that it has the capacity to provide the local community with delicious orchard fruits, soft fruits, rhubarb, nuts, medlars and more.

The Addingham orchard took inspiration from The Reverend Gilbert White's 17th Century book "The Gardener's Kalendar" which recorded that fruit was produced nine months a year for the parishioners of Addingham. It also recorded that fruit appeared to help improve the health of the community but in the 17th century it was not understood quite why!

Enthused by the thought of producing fruit for 9 months of the year on Yorkshire soils, Derek and his wife set about establishing an orchard to supply them and the local community.

Mr Law gave detailed explanations of the site's topography and how it affected their

planting, choosing the best varieties, tips on what will grow successfully, and how to achieve pollination including the use of liquid seaweed spray. The evening was rounded off by cider and apple juice tasting accompanied by home baking.



Relaxing in the Crailing Orchard after a hard day's work

The Laws are regular visitors to the Borders and promised to keep an eye on developments at Crailing. They have also kindly offered to donate some snowdrops to help encourage early spring pollinators to the orchard. The funds raised on the evening were donated to the Corehead purchase appeal.

If you are interested in orchards, come along to our Crailing Orchard work days on the first Sunday of every month or email info@orcharddevelopmentgroup.org

New Fundraising Manager for BFT

Bridie Ashrowan is the new Fundraising Manager for Borders Forest Trust. She has joined BFT direct from fundraising with the Woodland Trust Scotland. 'I am delighted to be joining BFT at an immensely exciting time, especially with the native woodland and wildlife habitat creation that will be possible if we are successful in acquiring the Devil's Beef Tub. I am passionate about the landscape of the Borders and of southern Scotland, which has been my home for 6 years now. My focus will be on expanding our fundraising across all major areas, including Charitable Trusts, major gifts and companies. I would very much like to hear from you if you have an interest in fundraising or a partnership with Borders Forest Trust.'

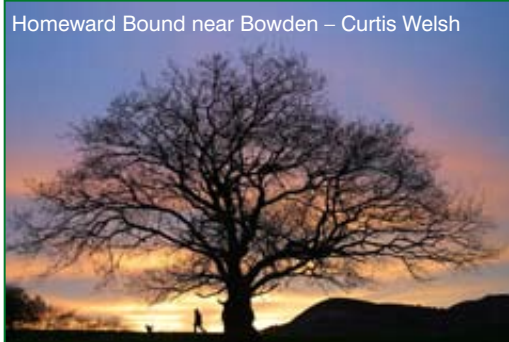
Borders Woodlands Through the Seasons Photography Competition



Black Hill and Frost – Curtis Welsh



Bluebells – Elizabeth Cutter



Homeward Bound near Bowden – Curtis Welsh



Fungi – Jean Singleton

BFT ran a photography competition in the Spring entitled “Borders Woodlands Through the Seasons”. The competition was open to amateur photographers of all ages for digital images of any aspect of woodlands and trees with categories for different age groups in each season.

The competition was very well supported with over 250 entries received overall from adults, school children and young people. A judging night was held at the end of the competition where some difficult choices had to be made!

The prize giving for the competition was held at our AGM in June when Professor Chris Baines gave out the prizes to winners. Many thanks to Chris for agreeing to give out the prizes and to those businesses who kindly donated prizes for the competition – BuyDesign, Lindean Glass, The Forest Bookstore, Hector Innes Photography, Jessops Cameras and last but not least Laurie Campbell, Natural History Photographer.

Winning entries were displayed at an exhibition at Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre over the summer and at various other venues around the Borders. Congratulations to Curtis Welsh who was our overall winner with his stunning image entitled “Homeward Bound”. A 2009 calendar has been produced which features some of the stunning images entered in the competition. A big thank you to all those who entered, the judges and the sponsors of this event.

Claire Doig



The Borders Forest Trust ...rooted in the community



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