

Providing Educational Opportunities across all Outdoor Industries



Chairmans Report

As Scotland emerges from eighteen months of restrictions and uncertainty, never has the work to support and develop young peoples' careers and life opportunities been more important. I am very proud to have taken over as Chairman of the Trustees for Countryside Learning Scotland earlier this year and am committed to seeing the reach and impact of our work expand even further into our rural communities and young peoples' lives, building both opportunity and community resilience.

Countryside Learning Scotland has itself been on a journey in these last few years, refocusing and prioritising our resources to where we think the biggest impacts can be made. Front and centre in this approach is the Pathways to Rural Work programme which we have developed and trialled in Tayside and are now successfully rolling out in other parts of Scotland including the North West and the Cairngorms. This regionally based project brings together employers, educators and students to build understanding of the extensive range of opportunities for employment across rural Scotland, including educating the educators, and then to facilitate young people into these opportunities, meeting the needs of local employers in the process. It is a win win win for all parties.

However, our work is not funded by direct government support, it is funded by grants and donations from engaged and active charitable trusts, institutions, and individuals. This means that our fund-raising work is vital and never ending as it is the life blood that powers our work to support and develop young people across Scotland in the areas we work. So, my sincere thanks to all our supporters as we simply could not do this without you. Much of what we do in support of young people is directly contributing to delivering Scottish Government priorities and objectives around communities and sustainable economic growth and this is something we will be taking up in due course with them.

Lastly, I would just like to express my thanks on behalf of all the Trustees to our Director Ian Robertson and to his small and dedicated team who make all the work we do for young people with our partners possible. I would especially commend them for their continuing work over the last difficult eighteen months. I am looking forward to working with them all to drive Countryside Learning Scotland forward in the years ahead.

Douglas McAdam *Chairman*

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PATHWAYS TO RURAL WORK

Continued restrictions through 2020 – 2021 impacted the teams ability to deliver the quantity of “in person” events which have been achieved in the past, but offered the opportunity to develop other resources and the team itself. This year has seen the expansion of the Pathways to Rural Work initiative to the North-West Highlands with a member of staff in post 3 days a week. Expansion will also include the Cairngorms in Autumn 2021 with a member of staff 3 days a week.



TAYSIDE

To support schools through restrictions, resources were developed to support home learning and learning in school when co-ordinators or other visitors were not encouraged. This included recording sessions with local rural workers about their job roles and developing lesson plans and resources for staff to use in school grounds. One resource highlighting careers in forestry was shared with all the staff in Angus who took part in our online CLPL sessions.

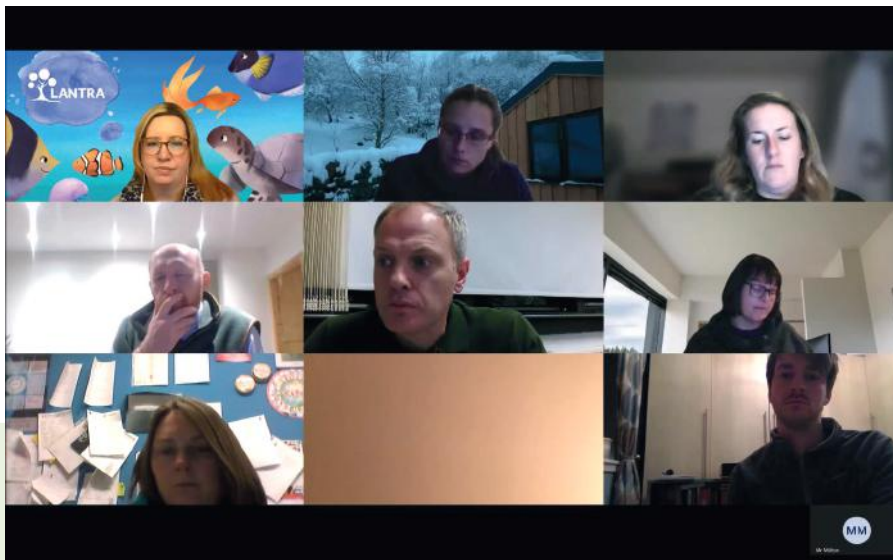
Although planned for this year, no residential were able to take place with Covid concerns and pressures in schools. Residential are currently planned to take place in 2022.

NORTH-WEST

Starting out in Wester Ross after the Easter break the priority was to connect with the schools, Kinlochbervie, Ullapool, Gairloch and Plockton. Gairloch and Ullapool showed initial interest, Ullapool at this stage were still cautious due to Covid, but very keen to get involved with CLS after the summer term. Gairloch whilst also restricted by Covid limitations were keen to have an outdoor event for their S2 class. For both schools we worked very closely with Developing the Young Workforce, who became the main link with the schools.

A date was set for 2 trips of the Gairloch S2's class to Sand Farm, Gairloch. DYW and CLS worked closely in organising this outdoor event; linking up 4 different organisations/local businesses for an informative day outdoors, including NatureScot, National Trust for Scotland, Wester Ross Fisheries Trust and a local first aid business. The pupils got hands on in path maintenance, tree measuring and identification, electro-fishing demonstration and fish identification and rural first aid. The day was a success measured by smiles on pupils faces! Good relations were forged and a willingness from all to build on the day's activities for future outdoors days.





DEVELOPING CAREER-LONG PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

In response to Covid restrictions starting in Spring 2020, work with teaching staff evolved to ensure CLS could continue to offer quality information and support through difficult educational times. An online progressive course was developed with an in-person component when restrictions allowed. With online sessions from December 2020 till Feb 2021, this new course was piloted with staff throughout Angus, covering topics from progression pathways into rural careers to future opportunities. Supported by presentations by LANTRA, this course helps to upskill and improve the knowledge of school staff. Further courses are now planned for Tayside and Highlands in the next year.

TARGETS FOR 2021-2022 PERIOD

- ✓ Finalise and deliver the P2RW ADHD pilot project
- ✓ Source funds for the Rural Volunteer Award to promote, develop and deliver more widely.
- ✓ Develop, promote and deliver the professional courses for teaching staff regionally and nationally
- ✓ Make preparations for a residential, SCQF Level 4 rural skills course in Oct '22
- ✓ Deliver a new P2RW regional coordinator for the Cairngorms
- ✓ Continue to engage new angling development steering groups across Scotland.
- ✓ Develop our funding strategy to ensure sustainability of our growing programme
- ✓ Develop a programme of Live chats with engaged schools and rural workers
- ✓ Build our regional rural business networks to support P2RW
- ✓ Develop the P2RW schools outreach programme as Covid restrictions allow.
- ✓ Deliver our annual Black Grouse clay pigeon charity shoot.

SCOTTISH ANGLING

With a target this year to set up steering groups throughout Scotland for the Scottish Angling National Development Strategy (SANDS), a regional approach was used to group Trusts in relation to local geography and demographics. These regional steering groups aim to meet at least twice a year to sustain or enhance current initiatives or develop new ones. Many of the regional groups have met over the last year supported by CLS, though some planned events or training has been hampered by Covid.



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Sponsored by Bell Ingram the CLS Youth Advisory Group (YAG) commenced in the autumn of 2020 as an opportunity for young people to engage with and inform the wider work going on with Countryside Learning Scotland. 10 young people aged 14 to 22 were recruited from across Scotland through a process of application and selection. Despite no face to face meetings through the winter and spring due to the pandemic, the group endeavoured and developed the project using online meeting forums and collaboration tools. They considered barriers to young people learning about the countryside and devised an electronic questionnaire to further explore this with a specific focus on urban populations accessing land-based careers. The group will process the results of the questionnaire in the autumn of 2021 and present the conclusions to the 2021 - 2022 Youth Advisory Group.



FUNDING –

The work achieved through Countryside Learning Scotland is possible due to kind donations and grants from various funding sources. We are extremely grateful to all our funders – past, present and future who make our work possible.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING SCOTLAND

(a company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	113,500	28,162	141,662	153,714
Other trading activities	4	-	4,540	4,540	-
Total income		113,500	32,702	146,202	153,714
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		2,050	-	2,050	5,150
Charitable activities	5	44,327	37,879	82,206	140,599
Total expenditure		46,377	37,879	84,256	145,749
Net movement in funds		67,123	(5,177)	61,946	7,965
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		41,482	23,523	65,005	57,040
Net movement in funds		67,123	(5,177)	61,946	7,965
Total funds carried forward		108,605	18,346	126,951	65,005

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF CLS



By becoming a friend of CLS you are directly supporting the development of our young people and our countryside. As a friend you will receive a quarterly update on our work and VIP access to our events.

To find out more:

✉ info@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

☎ 07840 951332

or donate directly from our website here:
📍 www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

£100

Provide vital volunteers with the training to confidently open their doors to our future workforce.

£250

Covers the transport cost of a minibus for a day giving young people access to a countryside experience.

£500

Covers the cost of one meeting of our Scottish wide Youth Advisory Group. The group empowers young people to offer peer to peer career support and outreach within schools.

£1,000

Covers the cost of one countryside day for 15 children.

£5000

Will extend a part-time post to a full-time post, meaning more valuable work with schools and rural businesses.

£25,000

Will secure a part-time Regional Coordinators post for one year

£350,000

Secures the future of this flagship education project for Scotland.

Countryside Learning Scotland Battleby House, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW

Countryside Learning Scotland is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC 034859 | Company Registration Number SC 326213

Trustees: Doug McAdam (Chairperson), Alister Aitkenhead, Ralland Browne, Jim Drysdale, Nicola Simpson and Deirdre Stewart

If you would like any further knowledge about the work of Countryside Learning Scotland, please contact us:

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