

2 TRUSTEES REPORT (for the year ending March 2010) by Chair of the Board of Directors (Trustees) of the FCWT

The past twelve months have been a busy period for the trust seeing existing projects expanded and considerable time planning for future activities aimed at expanding ownership of woodlands around Forres to the Trust and making the Trust more financially self sufficient.

2009 saw the completion of the third phase of the mountain bike trail, enabling a safer environment for cyclist and pedestrians and adding technical features for added enjoyment of the growing number of trail users.

A large amount of time and energy was dedicated to the pursuit of a grant from the BIG Lottery Growing Community Assets Fund. It was hopeful that this fund would enable the Trust to move forward with its vision of taking ownership of small pieces of woodlands and fields around the Sanquhar Woods. Sub sequentially ownership of one of these fields (the “coffin field”) would enable the trust to carry forward the feasibility study on natural burials and bring the Trust a certain amount of income self sufficiency. Although the trust made it to the final three applicants for the award we were not successful and had to reassess our short term plans. Although the Trust was unsuccessful our vision stays the same and have looked at smaller funding streams. Altyre Estate is still keen to support us and talks are still in progress that will enable the progression of the Natural Burials.

During the year we have been fortunate to have Ian Nelson join the team as Company Secretary and a key project for this year was to update our membership listing and reenergise our membership processes. This is an ongoing project that has had progress made and plans are in place for a membership pack to be developed to welcome new members to the trust.

Our biggest challenge this year has been the submission of the 2008-2009 accounts to OSCAR, which due to changes in OSCAR regulations saw our account being rejected and the start of a marathon in bureaucracy which Ian bore the brunt off. The trust has had to alter wording in our constitution to allow presentation of the accounts to OSCAR within their regulations and within our financial constraints. Hopefully these issues are now in the past and all future accounts can be submitted without problems.

We hope that the development and extension of the Trust’s activities to improve the quality of the access infrastructure will continue to serve Forres well and give the local community confidence in the Trust. Through the Trust’s efforts, we hope that we can show that community woodlands can be managed well and sustained as a long term community asset.

Finally I would like to extend my utmost thanks to our members and volunteers who continue to support the Trust , to the various contractors who carried out work to the highest standard , and to the directors who continue give their time and energy that enables to Trust to operate. I would also at this time like to give a special mention and a big thank you to Ian Nelson for his tireless dedication to resolving our OSCAR issues.