

2 TRUSTEES REPORT (for the year ending March 2012) by Chair of the Board of Directors (Trustees) of the FCWT

The trust has had another quiet year with no grand projects of previous years, however the trust has continued to manage the existing woodlands to its usual high standards.

We continued to develop our vision of ownership of land and also with our desire to create a green burial facility in Forres however we still needed to secure the land to for fill these goals. We continued to liaise with Altyre estate with the purchase of land and though a mutual desire to transfer the Coffin Field to the FCWT , the process of transfer was in progress at the end of the financial year.

Over the last year the trust successfully ran a feasibility study headed by Fiona Chalmers with Wild Things to look at the possibility of working with them to develop a woodland centre. The directors of the FCWT and Wild things worked closely with each other to develop the concept of a woodland centre, which eventually went to public consultation. The Public consultation gave the trust much needed feedback on the concept with the feeling very evenly spread between for and against.

The FCWT felt, however, that it was not in the best interests of the trust to develop a woodland centre on its land and the project was dropped. It was decided that there would be no development on FCWT land of a woodland centre or “chapel”

We have continued to be financially stable this year, although some finances are earmarked for specific purposes which are still in development. Our main challenge this year has been our continued lack of service to our membership which has started to be addressed by the appointment of a Membership Secretary. It will still need to be high on the agenda for the following year until we reconnect with the Trust membership.

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 to give their time and energy that enables to Trust to operate.