



## Annual General Meeting 2022

### Report by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

This report covers the period from the 2021 AGM in November last year to November 2022

#### Highlights / Lowlights

- On the relaxation of the Covid restrictions work parties were re-started in both Sanquhar and Muiry / Newforres.
- Trustees continued with virtual monthly meetings throughout the year.
- Visitor numbers have increased with the main track becoming a busy thoroughfare for walkers, runners and cyclists. Increased use of the bike track.
- Grant of £7,000 received from Berry Burn to fund invasive species work over 5 years

#### Governance

Over the year I have been ably supported by my fellow **Trustees**. We are now 7 in number. Regrettably we are still too few in numbers. You will recall that at last year's AGM a Special resolution was passed to waive the requirement to retire Trustees whilst numbers are so low. I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their continued support. We have a broad range of skills within the group which are pertinent to the business of running the Trust and much effort has been expended by all. As ever, we are on the lookout for new blood. We can have a maximum of 12 members on the Board.

#### Members

Membership numbers are 40 family memberships and 44 single members which is about the same as last year. We continue to encourage lapsed members to re-join by sending out reminders. Membership subscriptions and donations are an important source of income for the Trust. Most membership subscriptions are now paid directly to our bank account. We are grateful to those of you who continue as members and to those who have made donations. We value your continued support.

#### Volunteers

With the exception of specialised services, the maintenance work in the Woodlands and on the Bike Track is carried out by volunteers. Their focus has been on clearance of non-native invasive species. Path maintenance work in Sanquhar is planned, however we are having great difficulty finding a contractor.

Steve Hull has led the volunteer sessions in Sanquhar amounting to approximately 250 person hours. In addition David Binney carried out several sessions with the "Billy Goat" mower in both Sanquhar and Muiry / Newforres. David also took responsibility for collecting litter at the Bike Hut. Gisela MacFarquhar has led work parties at Muiry and Newforres. There has been 10 volunteers who between them have expended approximately 100 person hours. We are grateful to those who give up their time to the monthly work parties and we continue to look for new volunteers.

# FORRES COMMUNITY WOODLANDS TRUST



## Events

**School parties** have been regular visitors both with WildThings! and our own volunteer leaders. There are an increasing number of groups taking children, youths and adults into Sanquhar for educational and recreational purposes.

Wild Things have been working regularly with Applegrove School pupils working for John Muir Trust Awards. They have also been running programmes for children with learning difficulties and Activity Leader training.

Gisela has hosted pupils from Anderson's Primary at Muiry Wood on a couple of occasions.

**Orienteering Events:** two events were hosted in Sanquhar.

**Bird Box** campaign was run in early spring. 24 boxes were expertly made by Forres Men's Shed and 12 boxes each were installed in Sanquhar and Muiry / Newforres and "sold" to sponsors. The initiative raised £535.

**Log Sale.** Invasive species clearing and wind blow timber was "sold" off to members and other interested parties. £265 was raised.

**Oak Tree Planting:** A progeny of the renowned Darnaway oaks was planted in the Coffin Field to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

## Admin

**Communications:** Our website is functioning well. We are receiving correspondence from members and others through that medium and we are posting news events.

The FCWT Facebook page continues to receive lots of visitors, and we get many 'likes'. It targets a different audience from the website, and we feel that it is raising our profile and attracting new members and volunteers.

Newsletters were issued three times over the course of the year. Thanks are due to Gisela, the editor, and to Steve Hull for their contributions.

**Five Year Plan:** The Plan was updated and re-issued in January.

**Plans for the coming year:**

Update and re-issue the Boundary Policy for Sanquhar.

Continue with invasive species containment.

Paths maintenance work in Sanquhar, Muiry and Newforres. Subject to finding a contractor.

## Financial

At Year End 31 March 2022 an operating surplus of £1,585 was reported (2021 – £716 surplus)

The surplus was due to there being a reduction in expenditure combined with an increase in donations. No claim was made for Gift Aid during the period.

Our current cash position is healthy. I would remind members that our income from subscriptions and donations falls some way short of our annual operating costs.

Further details are contained in the abbreviated Financial Statements which are contained in the meeting papers. A complete set of Financial Statements can be provided on request. Reports to Companies House and the Office of Scottish Charities Register have been completed.

In closing, I would like to thank our trustees, members, and volunteers for their continued support.

D J Wright