



Reforestation Scotland is "...extremely informative, inspiring, encouraging"

"...looks at ways of organising rural land use, society and economics with fresh eyes"

"...keeps trees and the environment in the public eye"

"...enables networking and discussion of ideas to take place"

"...is inclusive...covers all areas of debate from tree huggers to forwarders"

"...does not just talk about it, it does it"

".. innovative approaches to forestry, housing, social issues...publicising other peoples new ideas"

quotes from member's survey

Reforestation Scotland

Annual Report 2004-2005
with annual accounts



Introduction

Our vision

“ A reforested Scotland with a diverse and sustainable forest culture and economy”

Our mission

Reforestation Scotland supports the restoration of Scotland’s landscape through communities managing their local woodlands, encouraging the regeneration of damaged habitats and promoting opportunities for forest-based rural development.



Staff and directors on retreat at Glenfeshie

The last year has been a particularly demanding though satisfying one. After several years when we have struggled to secure funds, and when much of our focus has been on completing projects, recent times have seen a transformation. Major funding applications (notably to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to SNH and to the Sainsbury Family Trust) have been successful. We have appointed a new development officer in the person of Kristin Olsen and are now starting to take forward a new programme of work.

The foundation of expertise we have established in non-timber forest products (see <http://www.forestharvest.org.uk>) is now to be built upon in our Rural Alternatives Project in which we are working in collaboration with a number of community woodland groups around Scotland.

Within our Woods For All project, we have developed ‘Tree Identification for Everyone’, an interpretation and information pack for the deaf, blind and partially sighted. For the first time, this enables the blind to identify trees for themselves through the multi-sensory content. In addition, a major partnership project redeveloping the woodlands at Blarbuie in the grounds of Lochgilphead hospital has now commenced, placing RS even more at the centre of experimental and demonstration work showing how woodlands can benefit mental and physical health and play a role in therapeutic action.

Our sense of invigoration is also evident in our website (see <http://www.reforestingscotland.org>) and in our now regular e-bulletins. And of course, we have maintained the quality of production and content in the journal.

This sense of ambition is timely. As we write, The Scottish Executive is in the midst of a review of the Scottish Forestry Strategy and once again we are pressing for the goals of RS to be reflected in national policy. Much has been achieved in the 14 years of Reforestation Scotland – but much remains to be done!

The Directors September 2005

Activities

1.1 Members' Activities

The 2004 Annual Gathering at Ormsary Estate in Argyll, themed 'People, Trees and Jobs', was another inspiring event. The 'Buildings in the Forest' tour visited the 'Here We Are' centre at Cairndow, the Auchindrain Crofting Township, Kilmartin House Museum and Old Poltalloch (member Gordon Gray-Stephen's beautifully-crafted house). Speakers on the Saturday included Fergus Tickell talking about the 'positive compromise' approach to management of the Ormsary Estate, Vanessa Hallhead on the village movement, and Marla Emery on non-timber forest products. Site visits enabled us to experience the Ormsary Estate and sawmill, beaver re-introduction prospects, the Argyll Green Woodworkers (AGWA) base at Barnluasgan and Crinan Oak Woods. A large group of members also enjoyed a visit to the Dunbeag project at Tighnabruaich on the way home. The weekend also included a ceilidh and inspiring workshops and soapbox sessions that have helped to guide RS over the last year.



Drenched people on the way to Dunbeag



Timber building explained at Barnluasgan

also contributed to the Forestry Debate at the Scottish Parliament, providing guidance to both the Green and Scottish Socialist parties.

We also responded formally to several key government consultations this year, including the SNH Strategic Review, the National Forestry Land Scheme, and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

RS was among several organisations that placed pressure on the Forestry Commission, through the parliament, to address its commitments to support forest crofting; in July 2005 it established a working group to debate the issue and agree a way forward. Scottish Native Woods and AGWA have developed a proposal to develop and pilot a model for forestry & crofting or forestry villages, in which Reforesting Scotland will also be involved.

1.2 Policy work

Reforesting Scotland represents the interests of its members on community groups, rural development forestry and ecological woodland restoration, with representatives on several panels and through direct government lobbying. This year RS has been represented on Scottish Environment LINK's "Woodland Task Force", Regional Forestry Forums, the Civic Forum, the Forestry for People Advisory Panel and the Cross Party Group (CPG) on Sustainable Forestry and Forest Products. At the Civic Forum we are drawing on RS experiences to promote and enable real citizen participation in Scotland and on the CPG we are ensuring that MSPs appreciate that people must be part of forward-thinking sustainable forestry. We

1.3 Raising our profile

During the last year we have represented RS at the Community Woodland Association Annual Conference held in Glasgow in February, the European Funded COST-Action E39 on "Forest, Trees and Human Health and Wellbeing", and an international conference on inclusive environments "Open Space People Space" organised by Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot Watt University. The COST-Action project brings together research and knowledge from across Europe, and RS continues to inform the working group on uses of non-timber forest products in health and well-being. Hugh Fife's presentation at the Open Spaces conference focused on perceptions of fear and the unknown of

Activities

the environment, and on woodlands associated with psychiatric hospitals.

Another fantastic fundraising ceilidh was organised by volunteers and the Ceilidh Collective in February last year, raising £1,350.

Woods for All projects have featured in the press several times. The launch of the Tree Identification Pack was featured in the Oban Times, Press and Journal, and Fife Herald, the school event at Ferguslie Park featured in the Paisley Express, and several articles have been written in the Argyllshire Advertiser about the development of the Blarbuie Hospital project.

1.4 Networking and communications

An important role of the RS office is to respond to requests from members and the general public. We have provided advice on a range of issues from tree-planting and planning, to community management, fuelwood and building advice. We now direct queries about community engagement to the Community Woodlands Association, although we still provide information and distribute Community Woodland Information packs.

Our website has been carefully maintained by Emma Chapman with support from Robert Chalmers and Sally McPherson. Regular maintenance includes updating the calendar of events and putting the Radical Rowan online.

During the last year we have also been on the Steering Committee of a group set up by Oxfam to explore the value and practicalities of establishing a network for people using and requiring participatory approaches in their work. RS also became a member of the Health Environment Network, a network of individuals and organisations who have the ability to influence the environment to improve health, hosted by Health Scotland.

We have been involved in various national and international networks through e-groups, including the journal editorial e-group, NTFP (non-timber forest product) e-group, the Village Movement (now Scottish Rural Community Network, SRCN), Global Caucus for Community-based Forest Management (GCCBFM), and. The NTFP e-group provides information and promotes discussion of NTFP issues in Scotland. The SRCN have been busy gathering political and community-level support from the network, raising funds, working to set up regional meetings, and acting as a Scottish focal point for the development of European Network. In May the GCCBFM lobbied on behalf of local and indigenous peoples worldwide, to increase their rights to forests at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-4).

1.5 Publications and reports

Last year we produced two editions of the Radical Rowan Newsletter (Issues 29 and 30), and two journals. Issue 31 – “Forests: the Benefits they bring us” – explored non-monetary benefits of forests, such as health and well-being, education, conservation and indirect benefits, (to complement the economic focus of issue 30). Issue 32 – “Access for All” – focused on access for all, and highlighted examples of enabling access for people who were often excluded from forests for physical and social reasons. The Radical Rowan be downloaded from the RS website.

*“looks fascinating, as usual”
“loved last magazine”*

Quotes from members on Issue 32 of the RS journal

We produced two more information sheets on fuelwood. “Fuelwood for Homes” (11a) provides an introduction to equipment and techniques used to provide heat from wood in domestic situations, with contact details for more detailed information and for suppliers. “Fuelwood for Communities” (11b) is an introduction to practical and technical issues for consideration in providing central



Projects

heating from wood fuel for larger scale domestic purposes or community-level projects. These information sheets were developed by Nick Marshall and Douglas Gooday, and have been distributed to all community woodland groups and to other agencies now working to promote domestic fuelwood use.

The insurance study was completed this year and a draft information sheet entitled “Liability and Insurance” was passed to the CWA for circulation to members. This presents important information for woodland owners and about different types of insurance cover and risk assessment, as well as contact details for insurers and further advice.

As part of the successful Tree Identification for Everyone project, the “Tree ID resource pack” was launched this year. This is an incredible interactive resource that allows people to identify trees from leaves, bark and other features, from both pictures and spoken descriptions – and it has proved very popular.



Folder cover for Tree ID pack

2. Projects

2.1 Woods for All

The arm of RS that focuses upon access and inclusion has continued to be very active, completing projects and developing new projects.

Accessing woodland ecology

In the Autumn of 2004 we held the opening of the Woodland Garden at Paisley Disability Resource Centre. We had been working for more than a year with the Centre’s Environmental Issues Group, studying woodland ecology, visiting sites, and creating an area of ‘wild woodland’ in the Centre’s grounds. This has involved introduction of leaf-mould and

rotten branches and woodland plants, the creation of viewing platforms, and the production of interpretive panel and leaflets. Hugh Fife, co-ordinator of Woods for All noted that “everyone at the Centre involved themselves in the grand opening event, presided over by the Social Work Convenor, with visiting disabled and non-disabled youngsters, and an array of exhibits and arts and music”.

Tree identification for everyone

The Tree ID Pack containing leaflets, tactile illustrations and a CD was launched in Autumn of 2004 at four ceremonies around the country: Paisley in Renfrewshire, Munloch North of Inverness, Glen Nevis near Fort William, and Townhill Wood in Fife. The Pack has been widely distributed free of charge, and has since become available at a small charge. There is great scope for development through technology but also through revival of the ‘identification through the senses’ workshops we held early on. Work on improving electronic access on the CDs is continuing.



2 of the 22 Tree ID Sheets

Blarbuie Woodland Project at Argyll and Bute Hospital

As reported in the last Annual Report, RS has instigated an innovative Partnership to take this project forward – RS, Argyll Green Woodworkers Association, NHS Argyll and Clyde, Scottish Association for Mental Health, and Lochgilphead Community Council. By spring 2005 we had completed several studies and participation developments and were well on our way to completing the funding package needed to start the work on the ground. We produced an interpretive plan focusing upon accessible and inclusive information and environmental education, a study into issues of land security, health and safety and liabilities, a training plan, and a woodland management plan. We held an exhibition in the town and held guided walks. We also produced woodland cards for sale, which have proved to be very popular.

Projects

Ferguslie Park

We are developing proposal to work with groups in the Ferguslie Park area of Paisley to enhance the environment and accessibility of open spaces. This would lead on from former work in Renfrewshire. Linked to this project, we held a schools woodland day in Ferguslie Park with woodworking, arts and tree-planting for highly motivated staff and pupils. Their enthusiasm augers well for the future.

2.2 Non Timber Forest Products

Seminar: Making a livelihood from NTFPs

In April 2004 we organised a second seminar on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in collaboration with the Soil Association and The Borders Forest Trust. The focus for the meeting was to discuss how livelihoods can be made from plants, animals and woods in Scotland. Participants included farmers, community group members, forest owners and forestry and NTFP professionals from Scotland and northern England.

Field visits included examples of bee-keeping on the woodland edge at Acme Organics, Kirkcudbright, and grazing pigs in woodland at Whitemuir Farm,

Lamancha. Presentations included examples of cultivating, harvesting, processing, certifying and marketing a range of NTFPs.- including fungi, wild herbs and even rhododendrons!

Forest Harvest website

The forest harvest website (www.forestharvest.org.uk), developed in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh was also launched in April. The site provides information on the history of forest product use in Scotland, a map of woodlands, lists, descriptions and benefits of a range of NTFPs and information on sustainable harvesting. Work is also

ongoing to compile a list of Scottish businesses dealing in NTFPs. Alison Dyke is continuing to provide technical support to the development of the site, and Emma Chapman is maintaining and increasing the content on the site.

Rural Alternatives

Fundraising has continued for this exciting project that aims to demonstrate how NTFPs can make important contributions to livelihoods of four communities in Scotland. Jude Dunn and Rosalind Lauchland have been working hard towards making this project happen, succeeding in bringing in funds from various trusts and agencies, as well as a valuable £49,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. By March 2005 we were very close to obtaining match-funding to begin in the autumn.

2.3 Community Fuelwood Network

Community Fuelwood seminars

The second in a series of seminars on community fuelwood was held in June 2004 in New Galloway. A series of presentations were given on the status of fuelwood in Scotland, delivering fuelwood markets in the Highlands, biomass, wood chip and wood pellets, and funding support available. Workshops on planning for community fuelwood projects, and developing fuelwood supply provided useful analysis and discussions. These seminars were organised by Nick Marshall in collaboration with the Energy Agency.

Site visit to Kielder

In September the Southern Uplands Partnership organised a site visit to Kielder Village (Northumberland) to complement the seminar series and to illustrate practically how fuelwood projects work in practice. Participants visited the woodfuelled Kielder District Heating Scheme, a 300kW scheme heating 6 houses, workshops, school, visitor centre and other buildings in the village.

Fuelwood information sheets

Two information sheets on community and household fuelwood were also developed as part of the ongoing work for this project (see publications section).



People

2.4 Community Participation

A further two Participatory Forest Appraisals (PFAs) were carried out in Arran and Biggar. This completes the PFAs that RS has committed to for the moment.

2.5 New study tour

Review of the Norway Study Tour

The Norway Study Tour in 1993 was educational and inspiring – and to an extent has helped to create RS' vision over the last 12 years. Towards planning a new study tour, Elaine Reid has been carrying out a review of the Norway trip. Its purpose was to understand the impact of the study tour on the work of the participants, to assess progress on key issues in Scotland since 1993, and to develop recommendations on the purpose and place for the next RS Study Tour. In summary, participants considered that good progress has been made in Scotland on 'optimising use of biological potential', 'extending and diversifying forests' and improving 'local access to, and control of, resources. Less progress has been made on providing 'rural support sensitive to local needs'. However poor progress has been made on 'diversifying economic opportunities for land occupiers and communities', 'commitment to rural populations' and developing 'cultural landscape as a useful concept. Importantly most participants considered that the study tour had significant influence on themselves and their work. There were many suggestions about where a future study tour should take place and how it could be of most value to the current needs of people and forests in Scotland.

Where next?

Kath Todd has also been doing an excellent job researching options for funding and options for organising a new study tour. We hope to develop these ideas further in the coming year.



Study group in Sweden

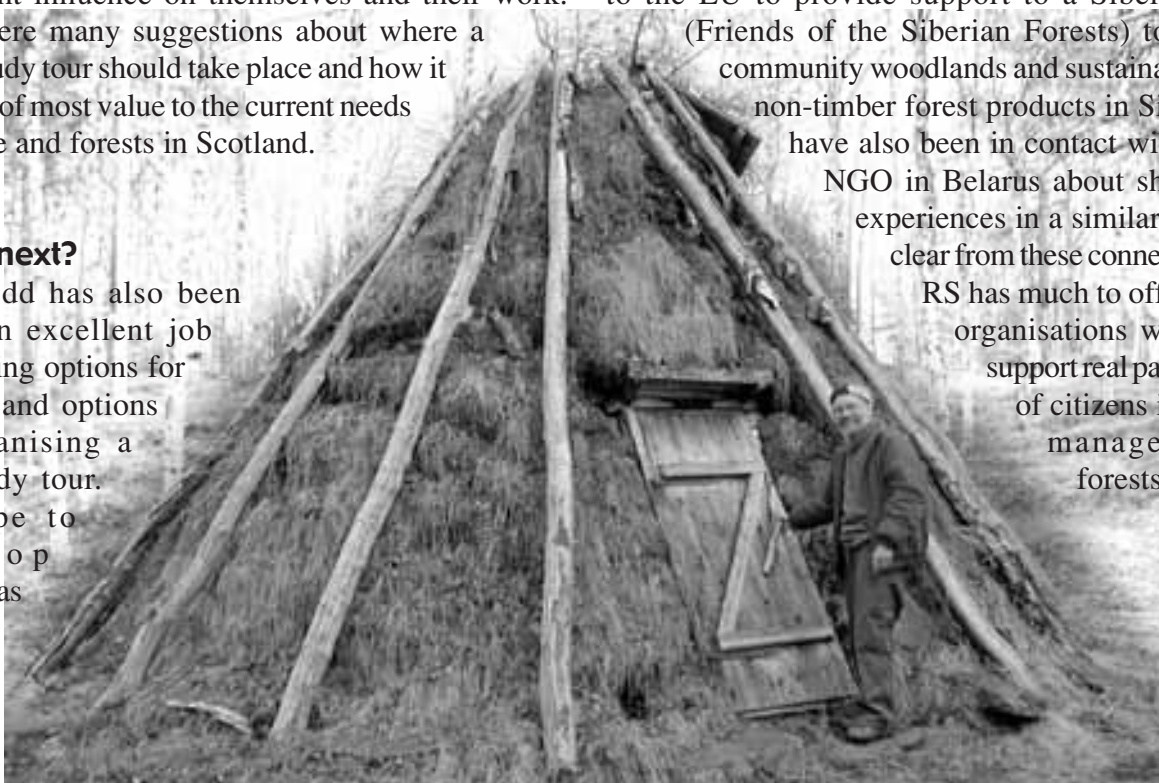
2.6 International

Sweden

In May 2004 RS was invited to the University of Uppsala in Sweden to share its experiences of supporting the community woodland movement. Alison Dyke and Les Bates attended on behalf of RS and the CWA and maintain links with Swedish contacts.

Other Places

Through our involvement in Sweden and with the GCCBFM network further opportunities to support community forest development in other countries have developed. In June we resubmitted a proposal to the EU to provide support to a Siberian NGO (Friends of the Siberian Forests) to develop community woodlands and sustainable use of non-timber forest products in Siberia. We have also been in contact with a small NGO in Belarus about sharing our experiences in a similar way. It is clear from these connections that RS has much to offer similar organisations working to support real participation of citizens in use and management of forests.



Les checks out a Sami dwelling

People

3.1 Members

Membership

Membership in April 2005 stood at 680, having remained fairly stable since April 2004 (688 members). This is an important improvement since the previous year when a significant decline was recorded. During the next year we will continue to work towards increasing membership by raising our profile at events, through the journal, through projects and by addressing the issues raised in the members survey and in feedback from people who do not renew their membership.

Members Survey

In March 2005 we launched our members survey. The purpose of the survey was to find out, after 14 years, more about who RS members are now, what their expectations are from RS membership and what changes they would like to see in the future. We also asked whether members would be interested in being more involved in organising member activities or promoting RS. Thank you very much to everyone who replied. The survey is currently being analysed with the kind help of volunteers Theodora Bailey and Rachel Blow. Preliminary results are shown in the box.

3.2 Directors

This year has seen an active group of eleven Directors, with key responsibilities divided between them until essential funds and the new Development Officer were in place. Martin Howard and Rachel Blow both stepped down as Directors last year. Martin is an RS founder and has been a Director since RS began. Rachel has been a very active member of RS for many years and a Director since 2002. Fortunately both remain in touch.



Survey Results

- People join RS because of its ethos, inspiration and spirit (47%); for their interest in and passion for trees, woodlands and forests, and for their interest in increased tree cover in Scotland (42%); and for a source of information, skills and developments in issues such as woodland history and buildings from wood (26%).
- Most people feel that RS has fulfilled their expectations, although one member mentioned it had not because large areas of Scotland are still deforested...
- RS is valued for the useful information it pulls together and disseminates (40%); for its ability to be innovative, brave, good at initiating, connecting and evolving (33%); for its inclusive social focus and approach that enables networking and discussions (31%); for its organisation and practical aims and approach to promoting better and sustainable ways for our society (26%); for its pro-active campaigning approach and ability to promote radical thinking (26%); for its ability to deal with a wide-range of issues (21%); for being inspirational and motivating (17%); and for its Scottish focus (3%)
- Whilst many people felt that RS was great as it was, other members recommended that RS become more financially secure, provide more practical opportunities for 'reforestation', provide more tree and forest-related facts, provide more opportunities for members to come together, and campaign more for restoration of Scotland's native forests.

Analysis of the survey is ongoing, and efforts will be made to incorporate valuable recommendations into future activities. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

People

Roddy Fairlie (Chair of the Board), Ian Edwards (Company Secretary), Steve Robertson and Margaret Davidson, continued as Directors. During the AGM Piers Voysey, Donald McPhillimy and Carmen Gordon were voted on to the board, whilst Rachel Avery, David Blair, Les Bates and Kristin Olsen were co-opted as new Directors onto the board.

3.3 Staff and Consultants

In March 2005 three staff were in post:

- Mandy Meikle (Publications and Membership Administration)
- Wendy Hebard (Finance and Administration)
- Hugh Fife (Woods for All Coordinator)

Changes

Alison Dyke worked as Development Officer from April until November 2004, and now works with RS through her NTFP work. Jude Dunn worked as a Fundraiser until August, then took up a job with the Co-operative Group Scotland. Ros Lauchland has been working as Fundraiser since August to raise match funds for the Rural Alternatives project. Mandy, Wendy and Hugh have all devoted an enormous amount of energy and commitment to ensure that RS continued during this transient period. Robert Chalmers has continued to provide IT support and Crispin Hayes has assisted Hugh with Woods for All publications.

In January 2005 funding was secured from Scottish Natural Heritage to support core activities and projects and to hire a Development Officer and Fundraiser. The posts were advertised in the national media. Interviews were planned for April 2005.

Financial monitoring continues to be carried out by Norman Downie and Kerr Ltd.

RS continues to be non-hierarchical. Day-to-day management decisions are made jointly by the staff, in discussion with Directors as necessary. Long-term and strategic decisions are made at Directors' meetings or at special strategy meetings. The Management of Directors and Staff, helps to manage and co-ordinate RS activities and projects. Each member of staff has his or her own link Director. Projects are developed and implemented by small groups of staff, Directors and members.

3.4 Volunteers

We are enormously grateful to all of the volunteers who make our work possible. The voluntary time put in by staff and directors also enables the organisation to achieve far more than would otherwise be possible.

This year we would specifically like to thank: Nick Marshall, former Development Officer, who has worked towards developing a national Participatory Approaches network, moderated and represented RS on the Global Caucus network, represented RS on the Civic Forum and SCRN, and organised fuelwood seminars, site visits and networking; Douglas Gooday, Tom Proudfoot and Nick Coombs who also worked on producing fuelwood publications and events; Elaine Reid and Kath Todd who have been working towards planning a new RS study tour; Emma Chapman and Sally McPherson who have been maintaining the RS website; Bob Mitchell who helped with the journal; Sam Murray and Sally Curtis for helping with mailings; and Robin Naumann for organising another excellent fund-raising ceilidh.



Mushrooms: one of the many non timber forest products

Finances

A summary of the accounts for the 2004 – 2005 financial year

Approved Accounts:

Income and Expenditure for year ended 31st March 2005

	2004/05	2003/04
Incoming Resources:	£	£
Grants & donations	76,312	109,780
Members' subscriptions & donations	20,211	16,285
Advertising & sponsorship	3,297	1,443
Annual gathering	3,997	3,462
Consultancy & management fees	5,554	5,768
Publications & seminars	3,284	2,650
Interest receivable	305	319
Other income	2,264	2,068
Total income	115,224	141,775
Resources Expended:		
Charitable expenditure:		
Project costs:		
Community Woodlands	10,080	57,126
Woods for All	34,942	32,771
Rural Alternatives	11,533	9,396
Other consultancy costs	1,200	0
Membership & management costs:		
Annual gathering	4,045	4,041
Publications & membership costs	30,701	27,731
Fundraising costs	5,284	6,486
Management & administration	5,625	7,196
Total expenditure	103,410	144,747
Net income for year	11,814	-2,972
Funds at 1 April 2004	24,222	27,194
Funds at 31 March 2005	36,036	24,222

Finances

Approved Accounts:

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2005

	2004/05	2003/04
	£	£
Fixed Assets	663	550
Current Assets	47,369	41,249
Less Creditors	11,996	17,577
Total Net Assets	36,036	24,222
Funds:		
Unrestricted funds:	33,692	12,647
Restricted funds:	2,344	11,575
Total Funds	36,036	24,222

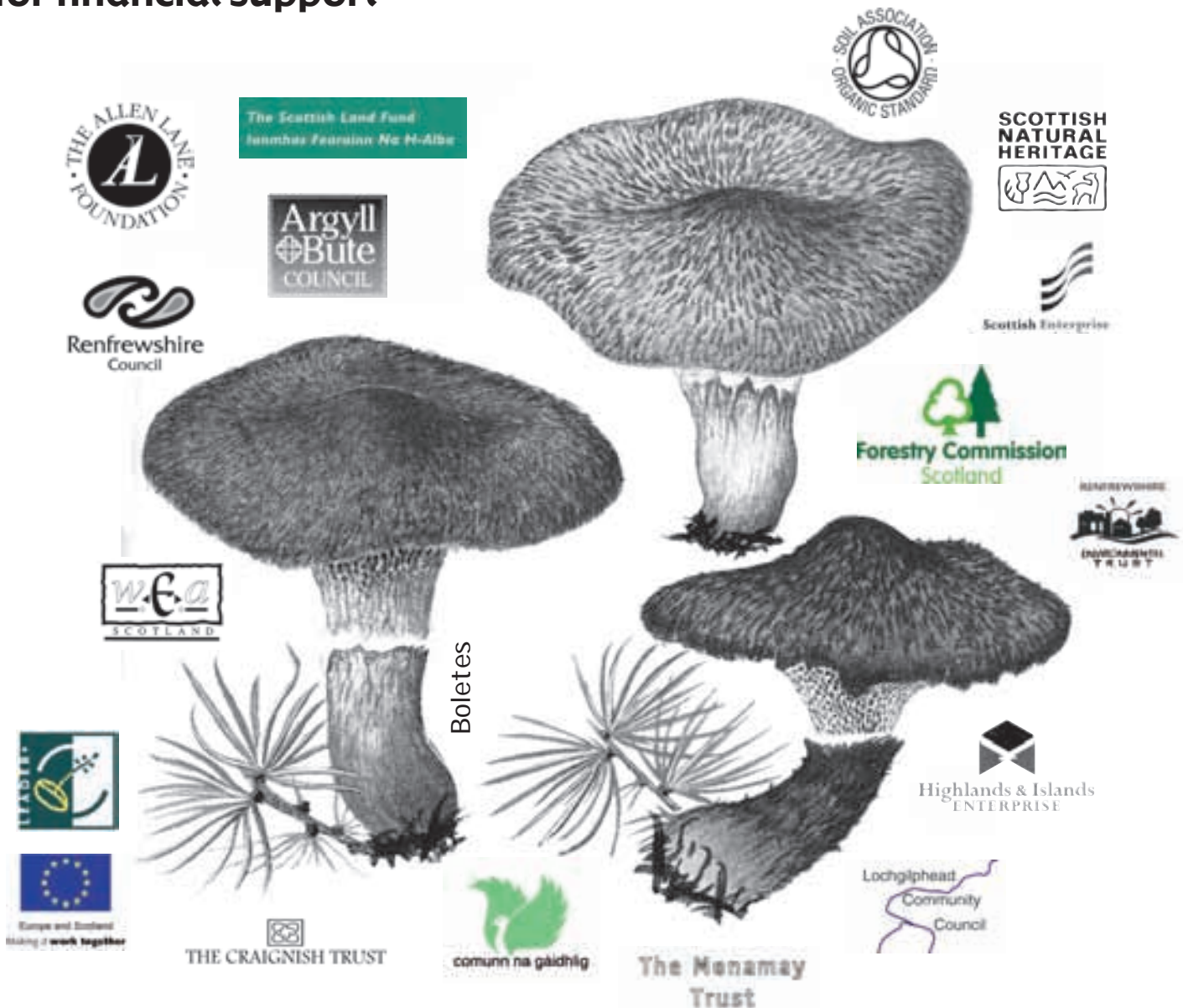
Funding

Allen Lane Foundation
Argyll & Bute Council
Barfil Charitable Trust
Commun na Gaidhlig
Craignish Trust
Energy Savings Trust
Forestry Commission Scotland
Garfield Weston Foundation
KM Harbinson Trust
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Lochgilthead Community Council
Monamy Trust

North Highland Leader Plus
Renfrew Environmental Trust
Renfrewshire Council
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Land Fund
Scottish Natural Heritage
Soil Association
University of Uppsala
Workers Educational Association
West Highland Leader Plus
Woodroffe Benton Foundation

Reforestation Scotland thanks to all our funders

Reforesting Scotland is grateful to the following organisations for financial support



Reforesting Scotland's mission is to raise awareness of Scotland's deforested state; to encourage ecological restoration, bringing Scotland's damaged landscape back to health; and to help re-integrate Scotland's forests with their local communities, increasing community involvement and encouraging new opportunities for rural development. It seeks to fulfil this mission through members, projects, promotional activities and links with other organisations.

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