

Reforestation Scotland – summary report and finances 2015/16

Projects:

The main areas of activity during the year were the thousand huts project and the Startree project.

"**A thousand huts**" project continued to make significant progress. Highlight of the year was launching the Good Practice Guide on Huts and Hutting at the Scottish Parliament with Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Minister for Rural Affairs amidst a large gathering of supporters and cross-party representation of MSPs. We also:

- Held a Seminar for landowners, managers, planners and potential hutters at Falkland in April.
- Consulted widely with Planners and Planning Authorities throughout Scotland.
- Responded, and encouraged others to respond, to a Scottish Government consultation on building regulations that will help reduce the regulatory burden on huts .
- Developed plans and submitted a pre-application to Fife Council Planning for the pilot hutting site at Carnock Wood.
- Held an event looking at the health and wellbeing aspects of hutting at Abriachan.
- Showed architect Peter Caunt's model hut at the Scottish Storytelling festival during the Edinburgh Festival.
- Facilitated online debate about many aspects of hutting on the campaign's facebook page – now with over 4000 followers.
- Generated good press coverage as we slowly but surely work our way through the obstacles that make it a real challenge for people in Scotland to build and enjoy the simple beauty of a hut in Scotland's countryside.

2015-6 covered months 30-41 of the 48-month **StarTree** project. Our Action Research, designed entirely by RS, began in earnest. Much useful work was done with the Scottish Working Woods label board, helping to promote & relaunch the label, & laying the groundwork for its use on non-timber forest products. We made contact with coppicers e.g. via a workshop at the RS Gathering and by circulating RS's 2014 coppice survey report. We worked with the Scottish Wild Harvests Association (SWHA) via the Regional Stakeholder Group meeting, plans for a Wild Forest Products Fair in Wales, and our work with the SWW label, of which SWHA is a member.

We reported on our second in-depth case study (interviews about wild berry picking) and delivered a third (an analysis of networks of tutors and hosts of non-timber forest product courses). We provided cases and stories for the innovation strand of StarTree research. We attended General Assembly meetings in Finland and Germany, preparing a poster, an RS display, and presentations, and reported on both events in the RS Journal. We continued to develop a strong team with two researchers and two link directors.

The 2nd Regional Stakeholder Group meeting was a highlight; a day with a very strong group of people knowledgeable in diverse aspects of land management/ownership & woodland culture. Overall the StarTree project has continued to provide opportunities to spread RS's message of restoring forest culture, and to help build links among people who are active in various aspects of making that vision a reality.

Communications and Networking:

Two journals were produced during the year – issue number 52 focusing on “Grazers!” and issue number 53 on “Woods and well-being”. Two “Radical Rowan” newsletters were also produced and circulated to members.

A successful members gathering AGM was held at Glencanisp Lodge, Lochinver, with visits to a variety of inspiring projects in the area along with the usual good conversations, food and ceilidh.

Activity on the various RS Facebook groups (and Twitter) continues to grow.

Other matters:

RS membership was 542 (approx 500 last year)

Future plans;

The coming year will see more action on the 1000 huts front and the Startree project delivery phase will be completed. The next two journals (and radical rowans) will be published and the annual gathering and AGM is being planned in Moffat.

The idea of a “Scottish Study Tour” to visit sites of best practice within Scotland will be revisited.

Financial Review and Reserves Policy;

Income for the year was £82,219 and expenditure £92,425, leaving a deficit of £10,206. The Startree project showed a deficit of £28,169 in the year as funds received last year were spent. Increased membership subscriptions, donations and gift aid resulted in a £14,758 surplus on unrestricted funds.

The board reviewed its financial reserves policy in 2014/15 and concluded that it would aim to hold unrestricted funds of between £20,000 and £30,000 to allow it to run projects where grant funding is receivable in arrears and to cope with sudden changes to significant income streams. Unrestricted funds ended the year at £35,168, a little above the policy level.

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE</u>	YEAR TO	YEAR TO
<u>INCOME</u>	31/03/2016	31/03/2015
Subs	19,975	12,522
Donations	15,920	6,000
Gift Aid	5,736	4,000
Journal	3,780	3,527
Gathering	5,980	4,825
Huts	30,609	23,280
Startree	0	27,335
Coppice project	0	100
Other	219	26
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	82,219	81,615
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Journal	14,877	12,082
Gathering	5,306	2,550
Admin	16,666	8,157
Huts	26,823	25,856
Startree	28,169	26,010
Doreen McIntyre prize fund	584	0
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	92,425	74,655
<u>DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR PERIOD</u>	-10,206	6,960

RS BALANCE SHEET AS AT

	<u>31/03/2016</u>	<u>31/03/2015</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Bank	47,758	70,980
Accrued Income	5,551	7,000
Debtors	1,037	1,805
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>54,346</u>	<u>79,785</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Creditors	6,760	3,116
Accrued Spend	940	19,817
<u>Total Current Liabilities</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>22,933</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	<u>46,646</u>	<u>56,852</u>
<u>FUNDS</u>		
Huts	6,633	2,848
Startree	3,762	31,931
Doreen McIntyre prize fund	1,083	1,667
Unrestricted	35,168	20,406
<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	<u>46,646</u>	<u>56,852</u>

The full accounts are available on request