



Providing Educational Opportunities across all Outdoor Activities

CLS Annual Report 2018/19

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Chairmans Report

Welcome to our Annual report for 2018/19. Over and above our usual Countryside Education programme of events, this year we have been focused on re-evaluating our work, ensuring that we are relevant and still making a difference. Having concluded that our ever-increasing urbanised population are becoming less aware of the rural career and participation opportunities available to them, we set out a new plan to combat this problem.

In 2018/19, we focused our Pathways to Rural Work initiative in the Angus area with support from Strathmore estates, engaging two secondary schools in the awareness and hands on stages of the programme This will culminate with the pupils attending our Residential Rural Experience week in 2020. We have also rebranded our Working with Young People – Rural volunteer Award and we have begun delivery of this with the River Spey and Dee fishery boards, as well as the Angus Glens Moorland Group. We are now offering this course to rural business staff and volunteers to provide them with the skills and confidence to work with young people in the rural environment.

Over the next three years we aim to deliver a progressive outreach and residential programme regionally across Scotland, moving away from one off single day events for young people and moving towards a multi-engagement pathway from late primary school to further education and beyond. An outreach programme of rural awareness days leading to residential weeks and placements with rural businesses for pupils who wish to enter a rural industry. As always, the success of this plan will be dependent on available funding and a willingness from the rural business community to support our work, so please get in touch if your business would like to support our work.

We were also delighted to welcome Ralland Browne of Scottish Woodlands and Keith Hopkins onto our Board of Trustees this year.

If you would like to support our work either through volunteering to help with events and projects, fundraising or supporting financially please contact:

Ian Robertson, CLS Executive Director
07840 951 332.
Tony Andrews *Chairman*

www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

Fundraising... Black Neck Pheasant Charity Clay pigeon Shoot

Our ever popular Charity Clay Pigeon shoot was held in May, in partnership with the World Pheasant Association, at County Clays, Dunkeld. The event raised approximately £10,000 between the two organisations. Our thanks are extended to the generous participants, auction donors and organisers. We will be running the shoot again on 16th May 2020.

BLACK GROUSE
CHARITY CLAY PIGEON SHOOT AND AUCTION
Supporting CLS countryside education & WPA conservation projects

4 x 50 bird team flushes 3 x 30 bird sporting stands
PLUS Pool shoot

SAT. 16TH MAY 2020
Start - 9.30pm
County Clays, Dunkeld, PH8 0HK
New for 2020

Enter a side by side team for the
CROCKART'S SIDE BY SIDE
TEAM FLUSH TROPHY
sponsored by Crockarts of Blairgowrie

TO ENTER and for further info:
Email: info@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk
Phone: Ian Robertson (07840951332)

£160 per gun
£640 per team of 4
Includes lunch refreshments clays and cartridges

If you would like to enter, provide an auction prize or sponsor the event please get in touch for further information. Email: info@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk



Alastair Dobson (Taste of Arran), Rob Wainwright (Former Army doctor, British Lion and Scotland Rugby Capt.), Claire Taylor (Political Editor; The Scottish Farmer), Nick Van Zwanenberg (Pinewood Trust) Ian Robertson (CEO Countryside Learning Scotland) David Ritchie (NRLN project manager)



David Ritchie, Liz Smith MSP, Ian Robertson

National Rural Learning Centre and Network – Update from David Ritchie

The National Rural Learning Centre stakeholder conference in March 2019 was the culmination of a consultation process and feasibility study into the development of a new National Rural Learning Centre. Hosted by the political affairs editor of the Scottish Farmer, Claire Taylor speakers included Ian Robertson CEO of Countryside Learning Scotland, David Ritchie NRLC Project manager, Nick Van Zwanenberg of the Pinewood Trust (Principal funder of the NRLC development), Liz Smith MSP, Alasdair Dobson CEO Arran Foods and Rob Wainwright. Former Scottish Rugby Captain & Army Doctor. A key message of the speakers was the need foster a collaborative approach between organisations to effectively deliver rural education.

The concept of developing a new National Rural Learning Centre (NRLC) was well received by the delegates and the need to provide increased rural educational opportunities for Scotland’s people was

the measurable consensus of the event. Discussion at the conference centred around the viability of such a new centre with several delegates citing the pressure on pre-existing residential centres to fill beds. This theme also emerged within the consultation phase. Consequently, Countryside Learning Scotland revealed that the next steps of the NLRC development was the piloting of key educational programmes which are to be delivered by utilising several pre-existing residential centres. The development of a National Rural Learning Network (NRLN) to facilitate the new residential education programmes is now a key priority in a progression towards developing a new National Rural Learning Centre. The creation of a multi-partner NRLN begins to fulfil the strategic aim of increasing the collaborative approaches between organisations delivering rural education in Scotland.

February will see Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney launch

the new residential version of the Rural Skills course at SCQF level 4 delivered in partnership with Borders College. This course will utilise the Dalguise outdoor centre and several sheep farms in Perthshire. S3 and S4 Schools pupils from Invergordon, Banff, Armadale, Bellshill, Perth and Mintlaw will attend.

March will mark the launch of a 2-day land-based careers CPD event for teachers and careers advisers. Based at Strathallan school the participants will have a 2 day hands on taster on the numerous opportunities within the land-based sector. This event will be delivered in collaboration with Ringlink, SRUC, Jobfarm, Lantra and Borders College.

The off-grid residential facility at the Shieling Project close to Beaully will be the location of two separate residential events in May 2020. Primary school and S1 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in the newly devised Rural Experience Residential programme. In a very much hands on week the pupils will be involved in daily animal husbandry tasks. Learn about forestry, game & wildlife management, fisheries management and the biodiversity of the landscape surrounding the Shieling project.

Rural Volunteer Award – Working with Young People

To achieve our aim of supporting rural industry to be better equipped to receive and educate young people, the Rural Volunteer Award course should be made available to all rural industries. A trial course was run in March 2018, delivered to the Angus Glens gamekeepers and was a great success. This year the course has been refined and we are currently working with Lantra to accredit the course. The CLS aim will be to continue to deliver the course throughout Scotland initially through the SANDS Project and train individuals within designated regions of Scotland to deliver the course on an ongoing basis. This is a keystone project for CLS to help support our rural businesses. We will require further funding to help with capacity to further develop and deliver it in our rural sector.

Scottish Angling National Development Strategy (SANDS)

Following our presentations at the Scottish Government Fisheries review in 2016, we continued to be funded, in partnership with Fisheries Management Scotland, to deliver SANDS through the District Salmon Fishery Boards and Trusts for a second year. Initial consultancy meetings were held in August 2018 with funding for six RVA courses. Participating river catchment areas have been auditing their areas, and Steering groups have been formed in some areas to drive the initiative locally. This template, of creating a steering group in each catchment responsible for the growth of angling and related education, continues to be delivered until May 2020. Further government funding may become available at this point.

DUNDEE OUTDOORS IS AN ONLINE, COMPLETELY FREE RESOURCE FOR ALL. WHY NOT VISIT THE SITE TODAY?

www.DUNDEEOUTDOORS.com

Throughout 2018/19 CLS has been building on last year’s foundations with Dundee City Council’s Antrum Outdoor Centre for www.dundeeoutdoors.com, a pilot project based in Dundee City. The project has been developing a new outdoor learning provision based around recreation to include environmental and land-use learning opportunities. Training opportunities for teachers and community workers to help break down the barriers to engaging with and delivering outdoor learning are also detailed. The project was launched at the August 2018 Dundee flower show. Throughout the year we have been marketing the site including a flier campaign and an advertising programme and competition on Radio Tay. The third phase of the project will be to support the educators of Dundee in utilising the opportunities provided through the website and encouraging more diverse outdoor learning and careers progression delivery. This pilot project will be taken over by Dundee City Council in Nov 2019 when we will be working towards delivering Scotland outdoors.

Throughout the 2018/19, CLS continued to deliver Countryside Days and Rural Learning experiences to Scotland's young people directly through our education programme. Events have been held across Scotland from Argyll to Inverurie and have covered many rural topics from business studies to survival skills and recreation.

Pathways to Rural Work Strategy (P2RW)

Our Pathways to Rural Work project now follows a four-stage development strategy.

- We attend secondary school careers fairs on behalf of the rural sector raising awareness of countryside careers and the pathways into them.
- We then organise a rural industry professional to visit schools to give an introductory presentation related to the chosen subject matter, including rural careers.
- This is followed by pupils attending a 'site visit', where the young people will gain an insight into, and are provided with, hands-on experience with a diverse range of careers including horticulture, catering, game and wildlife, farming, forestry and fisheries management as well as professional career information. Following this, we expect a small number of pupils will be interested in pursuing a career in the countryside. CLS can then assist in organising work experience, placements and apprenticeships within any chosen rural sector career.
- To support this delivery, we also run events to raise teacher's awareness, knowledge of and confidence to deliver the opportunities and benefits of working in the outdoors.

Pathways to Rural Work Delivery

CLS have attended several 'in school' careers awareness days in 2018/19. Our aim for the events is to provide children with a greater understanding and awareness of the rural pathways that are available to them as well as how access these pathways. Careers events attended in 2018/19 include:

- Breadalbane Academy Careers Day**
- Carnoustie and Monifeith Careers Fairs**
- Websters High School Careers Evening**
- Brechin High School Careers Day**

P2RW 'In School' Industry Presentations with Glamis Estates

Willie Inglis, Factor of Glamis Estates visited 70 of the pupils at St Pauls Academy, Dundee along with Castle Manger, Helen Buchanan on Monday the 18th of March. Willie and Helen provided the children with a talk and presentation on Glamis Estate as a whole, including the different areas of the business, employment and the conservation activities that take place there.



Brechin High School - Rural awareness, skills and careers programme

This event was run in partnership with the Angus Glens Moorland Group. CLS ran a training programme delivering our 'Working with Children Rural Volunteer Award' to the Angus Glens gamekeepers in preparation for the five-week, Friday afternoon rural skills and awareness course for the Brechin High school pupils. They learned about countryside management, the diverse rural careers available to them and had a chance to try out different rural skills.

Kemnay Academy

CLS joined several other rural organisations at the annual Kemnay Academy Life Sciences Day on Tuesday the 21st of May. Two young keepers from Edinglassie and Candacraig estates offered to discuss how their jobs as gamekeepers and wildlife managers help to sustain the wildlife and the land on which they work on.

Dunoon Grammar – P2RW Project with Winston Churchill Venison



We were delighted to revisit Winston Churchill Venison with 30 of the S3 Business Studies Pupils from Dunoon Grammar on Friday the 24th of May. The children received a

presentation talk on Pathways to Rural Work and the opportunity to work on a business case study for Winston Churchill Venison. A representative from The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) attended the day and was on hand to give the children a further insight into the jobs associated with Rural Business and the education pathways they offer.

Blairgowrie High School – Biodiversity and Rural Careers Day

A Beaver and Forestry Transect studies day for 60 pupils took place on Wednesday the 12th of June at Glamis Estates. Willie Inglis (factor) provided an introductory talk at the school, prior to the site visit, to give the children information about the format and learning structure for the day.

Kirkmichael Primary – Pitcarmick Estate Visit

A group of 56 pupils from Kirkmichael Primary School visited Pitcarmick Estate on Monday the 10th of June. The Estate staff gave the children a tour of the farm, woodland, river system and gardens and talked to them about the wildlife, weather, activities and jobs that exist within the Estate.

2018/19 targets

1. Establish new partnerships with rural estates and businesses across Scotland and in particular in Tayside
2. Provide opportunities for pupil placements and work experience
3. Deliver the Pathways to Rural Work regionally across Scotland and to the remaining Tayside secondary schools
4. Source core funding to continue the NRLN residential programme
5. Build partnerships with rural organisations to enable delivery of a national centre
6. Extend the delivery of the Rural Volunteer Award to rural businesses
7. Promote our work and engage support from businesses related the rural sector
8. Continue to build on the SANDS programme in partnership with Fishery Management Scotland and Marine Scotland.
9. Create a Youth Advisory group to ensure our wrk is relevant
10. Aim to develop a new Scotland Outdoors website from our dundeeoutdoors.com pilot project now passed over to Dundee Leisure and Cultural services.

Tam Tod Trophy

The Tam Tod Trophy was awarded to the Environmental Conservation apprentice Toni Lamont of North Ayrshire Ranger Service. The trophy was presented by well-known Perthshire-based entertainer Farmer Jim. The partnership with Lantra has continued into 2018/19 and has been a great success with the award achieving higher profile particularly throughout the rural skills sector. The partnership has proved to be a great success and the Trophy will, once again, be presented in 2020 at the Lantra Awards ceremony.



Become a friend of CLS

If you would like to give something back to Scotland's young people and wish to share your knowledge and passion for the outdoors, you can show your support by becoming a friend of our charity. You can offer your time as a volunteer or partner organisation, or you can support our work by donating as an Individual, Business or Corporate supporter.

Please call Ian 07840 951 332 or visit www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk/support-us

Countryside Learning Scotland

Statement Of Financial Activities

(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	2018 Total £	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	2017 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	29,550	83,630	113,180	48,692	16,070	64,762
Investments	3	72	-	72	21	-	21
Total incoming resources		29,622	83,630	113,252	48,713	16,070	64,783
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	2,609	-	2,609	8,617	-	8,617
Charitable activities	5	46,914	67,053	113,967	14,567	34,099	48,666
Total expenditure		49,523	67,053	116,576	23,184	34,099	57,283
Net incoming / (expenditure)		(19,901)	16,577	(3,324)	25,529	(18,029)	7,500
Transfers between funds	14	(800)	800	-	(20,899)	20,899	-
Net movement in funds		(20,701)	17,377	(3,324)	4,630	2,870	7,500
Total funds brought forward		50,661	9,703	60,364	46,031	6,833	52,864
Total funds carried forward	14	29,960	27,080	57,040	50,661	9,703	60,364

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities

Our Thanks

CLS would like to give special thanks for the continued support of all our donors and supporters, without whom we would not be able to achieve our outcomes. We have continued our close working relationship with Lantra this year through our new 'Pathways to Rural Work' programme and our thanks go

to them for supporting this project. Our diverse range of rural education and careers programme of events and projects are only made possible through working closely with other organisations

land owners and businesses. We would like to extend special thanks to Strathmore estates; The Pinewood Trust; Lantra; Fisheries Management Scotland; the Field Studies Council and Winston Churchill Venison for their continued support and

engagement with their relevant projects. We would finally like to thank all the teachers; rural businesses and land owners; rural charities; family trusts; organisations and outdoor facility managers who, through CLS, have made the effort to provide the young people in their care with the fantastic outdoor learning opportunities that the countryside can provide. We look forward to your continued support into the future.

Countryside Learning Scotland is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee

Countryside Learning Scotland: **Battleby House, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW**

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC 034859. Company Registration Number SC 326213

Trustees: Tony Andrews (Chairman), Jean Howman, Nicola Simpson, Keith Hopkins, Ralland Brown, Deirdre Stewart, Alister Aitkenhead and Jim Drysdale

Contact Us: If you would like any further knowledge about the work of Countryside Learning Scotland, please contact us on the following details

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Visit our website at **www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk**

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