

Trustees' Annual Report
For the Year Ended 31st May 2021

The trustees have the pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31st May 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Roots of Arran Community Woodland

Charity Number

SC035585

Address

c/o Primrose Cottage, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran, KA27 8RH

Current Trustees

Keith Robertson	Chair
Juliette Walsh	Treasurer
Russell Adam	Secretary
Stuart Turner	Media Manager

Structure Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity closed as a charitable company registered with Companies' House on 13th May 2011 and was granted its new status of an unincorporated association with charitable status by OSCR on 28th June 2011. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 13th December 2010 and last updated on 28th June 2011.

Appointment of Trustees

The management committee, which normally meets on a monthly basis, are the charity's trustees. Membership of the management committee is open to all conservation volunteers or those with an interest in preserving Arran's woodlands. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Under the constitution there must be a minimum of three and not more than six elected trustees.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the group.

The trustees are particularly aware of their responsibilities for Health and Safety, especially for children and other visiting groups. In addition to comprehensive insurance, our Forest School Leaders have disclosures under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme for managing school groups.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To provide volunteering and educational opportunities for locals and school children on every second Sunday of the month and during school hours.

Activities

Our activities are about creating and preserving native woodland on Arran, giving people the chance to improve their local environment through tree-planting and woodland management as well as providing outdoor learning opportunities for learners especially of school age which cover most aspects of the Curriculum for Excellence especially health and well-being.

Achievements and Performance

This year has been a very quiet year in the woodlands with fewer monthly volunteer days due to covid restrictions. There were no path upgrades or treeplanting. Some path verges were trimmed back by some socially distanced volunteer groups throughout the year. The committee has encouraged the draft proposals by another island charity, Eco Savvy, to plan a cycle route from Brodick to Lamlash which could follow the main track through the woodland. Management of the woodland includes keeping invasive rhododendron and overgrowth of gorse in check, clearing bramble and bracken overgrowth on paths and checking the safety of the site (structures, drainage, signage) on a monthly basis for visitors and school groups. There are ongoing hopes to organise a geocache, bee hives (with Arran Bee Keepers Assoc. looking after them) as well as more signage including interpretation panels and finally, the possibility of someone making a drone video of the woodland for social media. The committee welcomes this use of the woodland for recreation, conservation and educational purposes and hear favourably from the Arran community that it is

well-used and appreciated particularly by dog walkers. It has changed its AGM to spring and the last one was held on 29th Feb 2020 in the Ormidale Hotel. Because of covid restrictions there have been delays to the 2021 AGM. This is now being scheduled to run as a zoom meeting open to anyone wishing to attend in Jan/Feb 22.

The Arran Outdoor Education Centre that hosts mainland primary school residentials and local schools have been regular users of the site but this year has been more difficult with regards to encouraging further engagement. It is hoped that post Covid, when outdoor learning provision returns fully to the island, that numbers of children visiting the woodland will pick up.

Our volunteer 'resident artist' Mike Bailey continues to help maintain the site and keep his 'Spiral Wood' art installation open and accessible to visitors.

The Lamlash Coop donated £250 to the charity. It was initially earmarked to be spent on new tools. However, since volunteer numbers have been low the purchase has at present been unnecessary. It is envisaged that tools will be purchased in spring 22.

Our volunteer days on the second Sunday of each month have been mostly well-attended although we would always welcome more attendees! We try to vary the programme as much as possible with tasks ranging from path repair to cutting back invasives to planting.

All the committee hope that the woodland and its activities continue on an even keel over the coming years. Future projects include continuing with the all-important rhododendron removal, planting of additional varieties of native trees, pond maintenance, path fixing and orchard improvements. There is also some discussion taking place around creating a woodland food trail for visitors and also a storytelling guided walk.

Financial Review

Takings were down this financial year with no grant applications made and with total receipts for the period 1st June 2020 to 31st

May 2021 totalling £260 and total payments were £122. At the end of the year £1120 remained in the bank account.

Plans for Future Periods

The trustees intend to continue to support volunteering opportunities within the community woodland in particular tree-planting along the newly constructed paths and the clearing of rhododendron. They would like to see continued use of the site for outdoor learning. The group hopes to generate more public support and involvement and would like to host further woodland events in order to offer skill-sharing opportunities for young and old. The committee will endeavour to facilitate further opportunities for conservation volunteers to continue to care for the woodland using conservation skills.

Signed: *S. Walsh*

Position: *Treasurer*

Date: *30/12/21*