

**Providing education and
career pathways across all
rural sectors**



Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
@countrysidels



Chairmans Report

I would like to welcome you to the Countryside Learning Scotland (CLS) Annual Report for the period July 2021 to June 2022. It has been another busy, challenging but exciting year for the CLS team and Trustees as we continue to deliver on our strategic plans and expand the footprint and impact of the organisation. For a significant part of the report year the organisation was still hampered by the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 virus but I am pleased to say that the CLS team coped extremely well with this and despite the inevitable disruption to planned activity considerable work and progress was still achieved.

Based on evidence from businesses of need for young skilled people to employ, the CLS team continues to build and to expand the CLS area of operations with the Pathways To Rural Work (P2RW) project now established in the Cairngorms and the North West Highlands in addition to Tayside. Each area now has its own Regional Coordinator working with young people, their educators, their schools and local businesses to deliver the project and facilitate young people into rural careers. Word of this successful programme is spreading and now demand is growing from other areas of Scotland. In another significant development CLS is working with partners in Tayside to progress a brand-new initiative within the P2RW envelope but focused specifically on supporting neuro diverse young people into careers in rural Scotland. Businesses interested in supporting this initiative in Tayside financially or in kind should contact ian@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk. Supporting secondary schools with outdoor learning also remains a focus for CLS due to current gaps in provision in early secondary years up to SCFQ 4 across Scotland.

This report sets out the key activity of the organisation and is designed to inform and update our many funders, partners and supporters. The key mission remains the same and that is to improve the life chances and career opportunities of young people by facilitating and providing a mechanism to inform and connect young people from all backgrounds to career opportunities across rural Scotland. Done well this strengthens and builds rural community resilience, makes rural businesses stronger and works to help deliver national social, economic and environmental objectives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CLS team on the ground, my fellow Trustees, our funders, the business and organisations we work with, our wider supporters and of course the communities that we work with and in. CLS could not achieve what it does for young people without your ongoing support and I look forward to that continuing and growing in the years ahead.

Douglas McAdam *Chairman*

PATHWAYS TO RURAL WORK

Though the impacts of pandemic were still being felt this year, we saw the expansion of the **Pathways to Rural Work** initiative with a new member of staff in the Cairngorms 3 days a week and the development of a new neurodiverse partnership in the Tayside area.



TAYSIDE

In the Tayside region, adaptations have continued this year to allow as many events as possible to go forward with young people, including working with smaller groups of students, adapting activities to be Covid secure, and anticipating last minute changes.

Over the course of this school year, 21 planned sessions were delivered, across a variety of age ranges and schools in the Tayside area with over 750 young people attending. Some of the young people involved were actively learning rural skills out in different locations, while others were taking part in awareness events in school. During the year, sessions have been offered to promote the awareness of rural opportunities with older students in schools as many missed this opportunity in recent years.

This year we worked with geography, biology and environmental science students from Websters High School and Arbroath High School on a series of sessions on the River South Esk with Angus Alive countryside adventure. The progressive programme meant that the students could develop their skills, relate knowledge from the classroom to their local area and work alongside rural professionals like a local ghillie, the Esk Rivers Trust and Scottish Invasive Species Initiative.

Over the report period, work in this region was supported by; The Gannochy Trust, Northwood Charitable Trust, Lethendy Charitable Trust, Whitaker Trust, and Tay Charitable Trust.



NORTH-WEST

The part time regional coordinator in the Northwest Highlands has now established regular contacts with all high schools in the area, along with nearly all major estates and organisations.

Over the course of this most recent school year, CLS has helped arrange and progress 30 events covering these schools. Participation has come from pupils in S1 – S6, with over 800 pupils involved.

These events have included estate visits, work experience days, online sessions with past pupils to talk about career paths, visits by local businesses to talk about work and career options, and class – based presentations by CLS on the future work roles and opportunities that are developing in rural areas. A major achievement was in May, bringing together all the Wester Ross mainland schools for a visit to Reay Forest Estate, where 130 pupils learned about the diverse range of activities and skills required to enable a modern estate to operate effectively, including renewable energy, hospitality and green skills as well as traditional land uses.

Over the report period, work in this region was supported by; North Highland Initiative, Westminster Foundation and Rural Communities Ideas into Action Fund.





CAIRNGORMS

Despite ongoing Covid-19 challenges within schools, Pathways to Rural Work expanded to include the Cairngorms in Autumn 2021 with a new part time coordinator employed in September 2021.

The coordinator initially focussed on delivering virtual events during the Autumn and Winter term as restrictions remained. This included a successful pilot series of Live Chat a Rural Worker with local farmers and Geography students at Speyside High School. In addition, a well-attended 4-part Teacher Training Course was hosted online with delivery supported by Glenmore Lodge and Lantra.

In-person events resumed in the Spring term, the first of which took place at RSPB Insh Marshes Nature Reserve where Kingussie High School students learnt key environmental and conservation skills. To support rural businesses with in-person school engagement, the first regional Rural Volunteer Award was held at Dinnet Hall, in March 2022, for members of the Grampian Moorland Group.

With all five regional schools now engaged with the project, virtual and in-person events are planned Park-wide for students and teachers throughout the next academic year.

Over the report period, work in this region was supported by; Cairngorms Green Recovery Fund, The MacRobert Trust, Skills Development Scotland, The Privy Purse and Hugh Fraser Foundation.

ADHD RURAL CONNECT

In 2021/22 we have been continuing to fundraise for the ADHD Rural Connect initiative with Perthshire farmer Hugo Meynell and Perth & Kinross ADHD Support Group. We have engaged with NFU Mutual (Perth) who are now supporting the programme to engage their rural business clients with the initiative. The programme will map the P2RW initiative with bespoke areas of delivery specific to ADHD. This project will include training and support for businesses

to enable them to work with the additional needs and support these young people may require; on site rural skill development and employability training for the chosen candidates and self-awareness and self-confidence sessions using the rural environment to engage neuro diverse young people with rural careers. This work is also being facilitated by our partnership with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) and the pilot will be run in partnership with Perth Grammar School, launching in Autumn 2022.

DEVELOPING CAREER-LONG PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (CLPL)

Following on from a well-received, online Tayside teacher training CLPL during Covid restrictions in 2020-21, 2 new courses were run during 2021/22 in Tayside which attracted 12 participants. Our new Cairngorms Coordinator also ran the course for the Cairngorms and East Highland catchment. The course attracted 15 careers and guidance teachers from 5 secondary schools in the area. The courses, consisting of 4 one-hour sessions, were once again a success with particularly good feedback on the 'Future of Rural' and the 'Diversity of Rural Careers' elements of the course. The online delivery was supported by resources from land-based sectors and aquaculture with LANTRA, NatureScot and Glenmore Lodge contributing directly to delivery of particular aspects. The content covered will be reinforced with a face-to-face session where the teachers can gain hands-on experience of rural opportunities and engage with relevant NGO's, rural businesses and rural government agencies. These events, along with a residential CLPL event in partnership with the Prince's Foundation at Dumfries House are being planned for Spring 2023. This pilot course has strengthened links with schools in Angus and the central and East Highlands and promoted the P2RW initiative to additional staff in the Central Highlands.

SANDS (SCOTTISH ANGLING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY)

During 2021/22 CLS continued the delivery of the SANDS initiative funded by Marine Scotland in partnership with Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS). The initiative began again in June 2021 after Covid restrictions were lifted. The aim to set up a structure of regions with steering groups across Scotland was delivered by May 2022 when the current funding ceased. An advisory paper was delivered

to Fisheries Management Scotland recommending that if their member fishery boards and trusts through the new structure were to grow and develop the sport of angling, then the current resources were not sufficient and further ongoing investment would be required to create and implement individual regional development plans. FMS are currently in discussions with Marine Scotland.

YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Sponsored by Bell Ingram the CLS Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is a group of engaged young people from across Scotland who were considering the barriers young people face when learning about the countryside. During the year, they developed a video based on what they had learned, and presented this at various shows throughout Scotland including the Royal Highland Show and Perth Show.



FUNDING –

The work achieved over this year has been made possible by kind donations and grants from various funding sources. We are grateful to all our funders both past and present who make our work possible.

Donate:



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We're always keen to hear from individuals and businesses who are interested in what we do. You can get involved in a variety of ways and support what we do.

Contact

ian@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk to find out more.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

COUNTRYSIDE LEARNING SCOTLAND
(a company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Note	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	141,743	34,191	175,934
Other trading activities	4	-	10,842	10,842
Total income		141,743	45,033	186,776
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds		-	20,611	20,611
Charitable activities	5	110,464	22,851	133,315
Total expenditure		110,464	43,462	153,926
Net income		31,279	1,571	32,850
Transfers between funds	12	427	(427)	-
Net movement in funds		31,706	1,144	61,946
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		108,605	18,346	126,951
Net movement in funds		31,706	1,144	32,850
Total funds carried forward		140,311	19,490	159,801

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Our full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements can be found at:

www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk/newsletters-and-annual-reports

Funds carried forward are allocated to our current and ongoing project areas.

TARGETS FOR 2022-2023 PERIOD

- ✓ Continue to fundraise for the delivery of the P2RW ADHD Rural Connect initiative
- ✓ Rebuild the P2RW 'hands on' awareness programme of events post covid
- ✓ Develop the work experience phase of P2RW through building our business network
- ✓ Develop, promote and deliver the professional courses for teaching and business staff regionally and nationally
- ✓ Grow our support and funding base
- ✓ Deliver a residential SCQF Level 4 Rural Skills course in May '23
- ✓ Aim to expand the P2RW initiative into the Southwest of Scotland
- ✓ Deliver a National Progression Award in Angling and the Aquatic Environment
- ✓ Sustain funding for delivery of our current programme
- ✓ Build on the successes of the initial pilots for the 'Live chat' virtual work experience initiative
- ✓ Deliver our annual Black Grouse clay pigeon charity shoot

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

Countryside Learning Scotland is a Charitable Company limited by Guarantee

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

Trustees: Doug McAdam (Chairperson), Alister Aitkenhead, Ralland Browne, Jim Drysdale, Nicola Simpson, Deirdre Stewart and Mary Thomson

If you would like any further knowledge about the work of Countryside Learning Scotland, please contact us:

Email: info@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk | Telephone: **07840 951332**

Visit our website at www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk

Follow us on social media Facebook: [Countryside Learning Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/CountrysideLearningScotland) | Twitter: [@CountrysideLS](https://twitter.com/CountrysideLS) | Instagram: [@Countrysidelearningscotland1](https://www.instagram.com/Countrysidelearningscotland1)

