



Spring Newsletter 2017

Improving countryside awareness and opportunity for all through education

Welcome to our quarterly e-newsletter. Countryside Learning Scotland (CLS) is a unique Scottish charity helping people to learn about the countryside. CLS organises school visits into the countryside and brings countryside speakers into schools to introduce young people to rural employment opportunities.



TAM TOD TROPHY 2016

ALASDAIR DAVIDSON



Adam Henson and Alasdair Davidson

Our Tam Tod Trophy 2017 winner is Alasdair Davidson from Fort William where he is currently working as an apprentice on the Conaglen Estate, whilst completing his Modern Apprenticeship SVQ Level 2 in Gamekeeping through North Highland College, UHI. The award was presented at Lantra's 'Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Awards' in March by Countryfile's Adam Henson. This is our first year awarding the Tam Tod Trophy in association with Lantra to an outstanding young learner. The award was created in memory of the late Tam Tod, a well-loved gamekeeper, ghillie and lifelong friend of the countryside. We were delighted to have Jim and Nan Tod with us at the awards. Lantra's unique awards recognise the talents of people learning and working in the land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation sector. It was a very exciting night, with over 200 attendees. Adam Henson delivered an inspiring and motivational keynote speech, describing his progression through farming, building a business and becoming a presenter on BBC's Countryfile.



There's a busy summer season ahead as CLS, in partnership with Scottish Land & Estates, is off to the Summer Agricultural Shows, including: The Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh and The GWCT Scottish Game Fair at Scone Palace, Perth. We will be promoting the charity's message of providing opportunities for all, through education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Summer and Autumn programme of event is currently being organised. We have lots exciting events coming up, including:

- Willowgate Fishery, Perth, for Kayaking and Fishing!
- River Dee for our pilot Scottish Angling Volunteer Award course.
- Winston Churchill Vension, Dunoon, for S3 Business Studies
- Eco Day at Bell Baxter, Cupar, Fife
- Moth Counting with the 30th Perthshire Strathardle Beavers & Cubs
- Tree planting with a range of groups from Wild Sparks, primary schools and community groups.

CLS AUTUMN / WINTER PROGRAMME

We are now booking events for our Autumn /Winter 2017 programme to include a range of Countryside Days and Industries to School visits. We can create events that are specifically designed to complement the 'Developing the Young Workforce' initiative as well as broader educational events that support the Curriculum for Excellence. If you would like to arrange an event for your school, club or organisation, please contact our **Event Coordinator Susie at nicola@countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk.**



OTHER NEWS



CLS SAVA COURSE

The River Dee

CLS has designed a Scottish Angling Volunteer Award course. The aim of the course is to create a raft of volunteers within the sport of angling in Scotland. On completion, the volunteers who attend the course will be able to:

- Introduce young anglers to the sport in a safe, enjoyable and environmentally responsible manner.
- Understand the procedures involved in protecting volunteers and the young people in their care.

In June, we will be running the pilot for this course with the Dee Salmon Fishery Board. If you know of an angling club looking to develop its volunteers, and keep club members safe, please contact **Ian on 07840 951 332**.

PATHWAYS TO RURAL

Following on from our Autumn Newsletter and last year's visit to Scone Palace by Perth High School, we have been developing links between Perth High and Scone Palace on work placements for Secondary 4-6 pupils.



ARGYLL GRAMMAR RURAL BUSINESS VISIT

We are delighted to be returning to Winston Churchill Venison at Dunoon for our second year of this event for Secondary 3 Business Studies students. The students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to this rural business last year. It is an ideal opportunity for students to learn about the end-to-end of process of setting up and growing a successful rural business.

DUNDEE OUTDOORS

Check out this fantastic new site at dunde outdoors.com

CLS attended Education Scotland's National Network for Outdoor Learning (NNOL) event at the Field Studies Council centre at Millport on Cumbrae in March, to launch the Dundee Outdoors website. The NNOL provides a forum for Local Authority and third sector outdoor learning organisations to network; share good practice and provide updates on all things new in the world of Outdoor Learning.

Derek Napier from Ancrum Outdoors and CLS Director Ian Robertson led the group through the site and explained the principle of providing a forum for outdoor learning across the three strands of recreation/adventure, environment/conservation and rural life /industry.

The LA's in attendance were asked to contact CLS if they were interested in running the programme in their areas.

We will be promoting the Dundee pilot to other Local Authorities across Scotland. This will help develop a broader range of outdoor opportunities for Scotland's people, including not only recreation but rural industries, career training and learning opportunities.





One of our Trustees, David Ritchie, took a group of lucky students to Finland! Here is his report on their adventures. “ In mid-February, seven students from Perth High school travelled to Northern Finland to take part in the second Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools network (ASCSN) study week. The students studied the effects of hydroelectric power generation on Baltic salmon. They also visited Oulu University to understand how water quality is measured. Workshops were undertaken to investigate the blue bio-economy of the region. One of the highlights of the trip was to visit the Arctic Museum and to travel above the Arctic Circle into the arctic region itself.”



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 become a friend of our charity and offer your time as a volunteer or partner organisation. You can also become an Individual, Business or Corporate supporter and donate from as little as £10 per year. For more details please get in touch or visit the [Support Us](#) page on our CLS website-apply website link



Please call Ian 07840 951332 or visit www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk/support-us

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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