



An adventurous start to the Rural Skills course! Pupils travel to Achnafree Estate in the snow.

*Providing Educational
Opportunities across all
Outdoor Activities*

CLS Annual Report 2019-20

Battleby House, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW

Chairman's Report

Welcome to our Annual report for 2019/20. You may have read many reports this year that have highlighted the plight of small businesses and charities. I don't want to dwell on the difficult situation Covid-19 has created apart from to say, with regular changes in guidelines, it has been a very busy administrative year requiring regular changes in strategy. This has meant delivery on the ground has being difficult.

With schools closed, or not allowing access to pupils, practical delivery has not been possible. We were, fortunately, able to deliver both virtual and face to face events prior to lockdown. During the first half of the year our Pathways to Rural Work (P2RW) initiative had been gaining ground. Two years of feasibility work, kindly funded by the Pinewood Trust, had been completed and showed a clear need for this work. New partnerships were created with funding and delivery organisations; rural training for businesses put in place; coordinators employed and local cluster plans in place; and four residential land-based events set up and ready to go. Thanks to funding from the Nineveh trust, and support from Achnafree and Kinnaird estates, we managed to deliver the SCQF Level 4 Rural Skills week before lockdown. We were delighted to welcome pupils from five secondary schools around Scotland. This event proved a great success and highlighted the benefits of a week-long experience for the pupils' development, both socially and educationally. You can view an Event gallery and testimonials here: <https://www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk/national-rural-learning-network>

The success of the P2RW initiative in Tayside has helped engage other areas and allowed us to expand the project into other areas. Support from the North Highland Initiative and the Westminster Foundation has enabled us to set up the project in the NW Highlands, with a coordinator starting there at the end of 2020. We have also been in contact with the Cairngorm National Park Authority who have pledged support to introduce the initiative in their catchment.

Our aim is to continue to respond to government restrictions and react as creatively as possible to deliver our outcomes. Once we are able to engage with young people in the field, we will begin our previously planned delivery of the P2RW initiative in earnest with practical awareness, work experience and residential events. Rural business engagement and staff training, as well as teacher training, will continue virtually until such time as face-to-face events are allowed.

We are, as always, hugely grateful to our funders for their continued support throughout this pandemic and we will continue to fight to achieve our aims on behalf of rural communities and businesses, the environment and of course, our next generation of countryside custodians. Keep well and I hope you enjoy our report.

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



Ian Robertson
Executive Director

If you would like to support CLS please contact
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Inside

Education Report

Scottish Angling National Development Strategy (SANDS)

2020/21 Targets

Become A Friend Of CLS

Statement Of Financial Activities

Our Thanks

EDUCATION REPORT

Pathways to Rural Work - Residentials

Rural Skills SCQF level 4 Workshops and Residential



During the last week of February 2020, CLS was delighted to facilitate the delivery of a five-day residential covering the practical outcomes of the SCQF Level 4 Rural Skills Course. The course was based at PGL Dalguise, with pupils travelling to various rural venues to participate in activities. Permission was sought and granted from the SQA to deliver this course in a residential format to twenty-eight S4 and S5 pupils, from a range of schools across Scotland, including Bellshill Academy, Perth High School, Banff Academy, Invergordon Academy and Armadale Academy.

In school workshops

Prior to the residential, during the months of November, December and January, 'in school' workshops were delivered that covered the non-practical outcomes of the Rural Skills Course. Each school received two full days delivery within their own school to the participating students. With the workshop and residential format being a pilot, it was felt necessary to visit each school individually to understand the process and build relationships with each school. The workshops were well received by both pupils and the schools.

Residential Week

The participation of pupils from five different schools, unknown to each other at the beginning of the course, provided an enhanced social experience, which greatly exceeded the 'working with others' provision written into the course outcomes. Moreover, this social experience combined with an outdoor experience amounted to creating a type of experiential learning which will have had a formative effect on the participants. Many of the participants on the course find the mainstream education setting difficult and challenging to engage with, resulting in poor attendance, poor behaviour of reduced self-esteem. The conditions of the residential provided an environment and personal and career learning opportunity which they frequently do not have in the mainstream setting. Practical and interpersonal skill development were evident during the residential experience. Several pupils also reported an interest in pursuing a land-based career despite having never previously considering it as a result of their participation in the course.

Pathways to Rural Work – Outreach Work

> OCT 2019

St Paul's visit to Glamis Castle/ Strathmore Estate

Students from St Paul's Academy, Dundee visited Strathmore Estate for hands-on experiences in forestry, horticulture, hospitality, management, and estate maintenance.



> NOV 2019

Webster's HS Rural Awareness Day

S2 Students from Webster's High School, Kirriemuir took part in a rural career awareness day as they prepared to make their subject choices for S3. Willy Inglis, factor at Strathmore estate, Helen Buchanan, General Manager at Glamis Castle, and Ian McMaster, River Manager spoke to over 100 students about their own experiences, pathways to rural work and specific skills, including STEM skills, needed for their careers. Students then gave presentations to the room to practice their communication and delivery skills.



➤ JAN-FEB 2020

Careers Events

CLS P2RW engaged with over 80 students at Bredalbane Academy, Monifieth High School, Carnoustie High School and Websters High School at career events, showcasing the opportunities available in rural industries and signposting them to work experience, apprenticeships and further education opportunities.



In Spring 2020, due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, we had to halt our programme of P2RW events. We hope to restart this programme as soon as restrictions allow. We have been hard at work adapting our offerings, where possible, to online delivery.

Practitioner Career-long Professional Learning (Online)

In response to the restrictions on travel and school trips due to the global pandemic, P2RW in Tayside adapted and put our efforts into engaging with teachers online. We developed and delivered an online professional development course and piloted it with teachers in Angus. Supported by Angus Skills for Work, key champions at six high schools (fifteen teachers in total) were identified and took part in four one-hour online sessions. The intention is to follow this up with a face-to-face meeting at a local estate or business where the teachers themselves can gain hands-on experience of rural opportunities and further planning for P2RW in Angus can take place.



Home Learning Support

To support home learning, we filmed video resources for teachers to highlight local examples of rural careers, and created a few resources to support teachers to deliver P2RW content. With support from CLS, Arbroath Academy delivered a session to highlight careers in forestry which took the group outdoors to identify tree species in the school grounds and use STEM skills to determine the height of trees.

A recording, **“how to de-breast a pheasant”** was also prepared with a local chef for a field-to-fork practical cookery event at St Paul’s Academy, Dundee. The students will cook along with instructions from the video to celebrate game as seasonal and local produce when they return to the school setting.



Scottish Angling National Development Strategy (SANDS)

The SANDS initiative was initially set up following CLS presenting a development proposal to the Scottish Government Fisheries Review in 2016. In 2018, we were funded by Marine Scotland through Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) who represent the fisheries boards and trusts in Scotland. The purpose - to deliver a national strategy for growth and development of angling. A programme of meetings were held to assess the current development work being delivered across the country's followed by a feasibility study to assess the resources available through the angling governing bodies and river boards and trusts. The conclusion for this first year's work was that there were very few resources available to grow the sport although the river board and trust infrastructure provided a starting point for local delivery planning. A new structure would therefore have to be created.

The Directors of the boards and trusts were consulted and there was agreement from some to go ahead with creating steering groups to begin planning for a sustainable programme of events for their catchment. The Dee, who are the only river board to have a development officer got together with the Don and Deveron and lead the way with the first steering group and created Aberdeenshire fly fish 50; the Spey have their group in place and have been through the CLS Rural Volunteer award. The Nith have created an ongoing programme of events, The Tay and Outer Hebrides are working towards building a steering group as are the rivers around Inverness, Argyll, Sutherland and Ayr.

Covid -19 has unfortunately meant that the creation of the new groups through the second half of 2020 was stopped, losing six months of our second year's funding. The future however looks bright with Marine Scotland recognising the need for new anglers and pledging a further years funding for 2021/22 to the SANDS programme.

Our intention at CLS is to continue to support FMS and the Boards and trusts in recruiting for their steering groups, putting them through the Rural Volunteer Award and helping them to set out an achievable sustainable plan of action.

2020-2021 targets

Deliver P2RW Regional Coordinator for NW Scotland and the Cairngorms

Introduce P2RW to Loch Lomond area

Create and deliver virtual teacher training programme

Create and deliver a virtual Rural Volunteer Award delivery programme

Deliver two residential events

Source new funding for the residential programme and P2RW

Engage with the recreation/ adventure sector

Continue the development of angling through SANDS, post Covid-19 restrictions

Deliver the CLS Youth Advisory Group programme and source follow on funding

Source Covid-19 support funding

Deliver angling conservation and management SQCF level 3/4 through Windward Education

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 2020

	Notes	Un- restricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £	Un- restricted £	Restricted £	2019 Total £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	44,755	108,374	153,129	29,550	83,630	113,180
Investments	3	98	-	98	72	-	72
Other	4	487	-	487	-	-	-
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Total income and endowments		45,340	108,374	153,714	29,622	83,630	113,252
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Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	5,150	-	5,150	2,609	-	2,609
Charitable activities	6	46,627	93,972	140,599	46,914	67,053	113,967
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Total expenditure		51,777	93,972	145,749	49,523	67,053	116,576
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Net incoming / (expenditure)		(6,437)	14,402	7,965	(19,901)	16,577	(3,324)
Transfers between funds	14	-	-	-	(800)	800	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net movement in funds		(6,437)	14,402	7,965	(20,701)	17,377	(3,324)
Total funds brought forward		29,960	27,080	57,040	50,661	9,703	60,364
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Total funds carried forward	14	23,523	41,482	65,005	29,960	27,080	57,040
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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 and understanding of all our donors and supporters, particularly this year where circumstances have meant it has been impossible to deliver our intended hands-on outreach and residential programmes in the field. The continued support and understanding shown by our funders has allowed us the time to continue fund raising and look forward to expanding our delivery programme into 2020/21. Rest assured we will be developing a virtual programme and resources in the interim in the event the pandemic continues. As a small organisation survival has been our focus in the second half of this year and as such our thanks go to our staff for their understanding through Furlough and too all our partners for keeping communication channels open and looking ahead to a positive 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), Alister Aitkenhead, Jean Howman, Keith Hopkins, Doug McAdam, Jim Drysdale, Nicola Simpson, Ralland Browne and Deirdre Stewart

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

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