

## NEWSLETTER 3 — September 2007



**News and activities.** The woodland was opened officially on 1<sup>st</sup> April by Jeremy Purvis, our local MSP. Jeremy has followed the progress of this project since the initial stages and was pleased to come along and plant the first tree. The tree chosen was a sessile oak and is the single tree in the hollow next to the railway on the western side of the site. We are pleased to say that it is still alive and thriving!

A sizeable group of members and supporters were there on the day to continue planting trees and also to share in the celebration cake baked by Jill Sales. This was a real work of art, complete with our logo and decorated with leaves.



In May we were involved in the annual plant sale in Eddleston run jointly with the Horticultural Society. Also on the same day was Penicuik in the Park at which we took a stall to promote the woodland. Together these two events raised £180 for our funds. Thank you to all who donated plants and who helped on the day.

On 24<sup>th</sup> June as part of our volunteer day members erected our first Leadburn Community Woodland sign. This was donated and handmade by Jeremy Cunningham of Eddleston and should serve to attract attention and put us “on the map” for passers by. When we secure the necessary funding we hope to put up a further sign at the northern end of the site and to put up display boards giving more information about the site.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July members had a very interesting day with botanists Barbara Sumner and Barbara Harvie and other members of the Botanical Society of Scotland. The day was spent identifying and recording plant species on the site. The society has started a three-year project to survey as many as possible of the woodlands in Scotland that are owned and/or managed by community groups. This habitat has not been systematically surveyed until now. Another aim is to produce a booklet of interest to visitors to community woodlands.

**Funding.** We are in the process of applying for grants to fund larger items of work on site but have already received £200 from the Woodland Trust/Community Woodland Association towards our tree planting. Our second successful application was to the Scottish Executive Rural Development Small Awards Fund who recently awarded us £1204 to fund the printing of an up to date promotional leaflet, for other printing costs and for a full range of tools for work on the site during our volunteer days. The tools were used for the first time on the August volunteer day.

**Volunteer Days.** Friends of Leadburn Community Woodland have been running volunteer days on the last Sunday of every month since March 2007. In April, we were able to plant trees; the other days have mainly involved clearing some of the regrowth from the raised bog. For our fifth volunteer day (29<sup>th</sup> July) we welcomed a much needed boost in manpower provided by 12 members of the Lothian Conservation Volunteers.

Our planting so far has concentrated on native deciduous trees. Most of these have had to be protected by tree shelters because roe deer are present. We have planted 374 trees so far, including 116 sessile oak, 90 common alder, 30 silver birch, 30 goat willow and 30 Scots pine. The rather poor summer has meant that almost all of the tubed trees have grown very well; we believe that we have only lost one of them so far.



Clearing work will continue on volunteer days until planting resumes in October. Your help, even if only for a couple of hours, would be greatly appreciated. The next volunteer days will be on 30<sup>th</sup> September; 28<sup>th</sup> October and 25<sup>th</sup> November. We meet in the layby at 10am. Contact Des on 01968 676246 or Wendy on 01721 730390 with any queries.

**Membership.** Our current paid-up membership list contains 18 single members (@ £5) and 21 family members (@ £10). As family membership comprises two or more individuals, this gives a total of at least 60. We are extremely grateful for your continuing support through the membership fee, as it provides much needed revenue for all those planned and unforeseen maintenance issues arising from managing and developing the woodland. Please do continue to support us!

**Whitmuir Organics.** Pete Ritchie is one of our founding members. He and his wife Heather run an organic farm, an on-farm organic butchery and an organic farm shop in Lamancha. As cows and sheep produce methane, an important greenhouse gas which contributes towards global warming, they include a carbon offset charge on all of the meat that they sell. The charge is intended for local carbon offsetting activities.

Leadburn Community Woodland is the first beneficiary of the scheme, receiving a donation of £207 from this charge. Their shop also sells screen prints donated to the carbon offset scheme by Myrtle Ashmole and sales of these have raised a further £160 for our funds. We are most grateful to both the Ritchies and the Ashmoles for these generous donations.

Whitmuir Organics is at the southern end of Lamancha. The shop is open from 4pm to 6pm on weekdays, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and from 12 to 4pm on Sunday. Their phone number is 01968 661908.

**Committee.** Since our last newsletter, Graham Young has resigned as treasurer. We are grateful for all the work that he did for us. Karen O'Hanlon has been co-opted as treasurer. We will be seeking additional committee members at the AGM.

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Chairman                             | Lesley Muirden (Eddleston)   | 01721 730215 |
| Vice Chair                           | David Sales (Eddleston)      | 01721 730355 |
| Treasurer                            | Karen O'Hanlon (Leadburn)    | 01968 676246 |
| Membership secretary                 | Neil MacDonald (Leadburn)    | 01968 674136 |
| Fundraising & volunteer co-ordinator | Wendy Cunningham (Eddleston) | 01721 730390 |
| Fundraising & volunteer co-ordinator | Des O'Hanlon (Leadburn)      | 01968 676246 |