

Assynt Foundation - News For Associate Members - May 2019

Staffing

Assynt Foundation (AF) is currently going through a period of staff re-structuring. Rachael and Sam Hawkins have moved on from Glencanisp where they spent 2 years providing high quality hospitality in the Lodge. Jane Tulloch has stepped down as a director of Assynt Foundation and has taken up the position of Lodge Manager until the end of this season. Rebecca Macleod is the Administrator and Stuart Belshaw is the Estate Worker for the Foundation.

Glencanisp Lodge

The Lodge is being run as a Bed and Breakfast establishment for this summer along with special events such as the recent car rally.

Conservation and Deer

The deer - management on Glencanisp and Drumrunie for the coming season has been leased to a contractor. He and his team will also carry out the Habitat Impact Assessment which is part of the West Sutherland Deer Management Group South Sub-Group's plan (available on their website).

AF has applied to the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme for Moorland Management. This will cover 13,635 hectares (33,700 acres or about three-quarters of our land) and is for the conservation of peatland and restoration of blanket bog on both estates.

The new native woodland establishment at Ledbeg continues where the local planting team are planting broadleaves on the site of a wood that was there in 1774. The south side of Loch Assynt is under consideration for new planting which will try to link all the bits of existing woods there. AF is grateful for help from Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape and The Woodland Trust with the moorland and woodland work.

Suilven Arts Residency

Following the successful residency by Julia Cowie focussed on Clachtoll Broch, CALLP and the Assynt Foundation have now appointed Alex Mckay to the Suilven Arts Residency. This opportunity has been promoted widely with the aid of Creative Scotland and over 40 applications were received from a very wide range of arts and creative disciplines. This posed a challenge for the selection panel given the varied and abundant talent, and it finally united in agreement to fund Alex Mackay who is a composer and musician.

He currently performs with the experimental rock band Mogwai, as well as composing a wide range of chamber and orchestral work. As part of the residency he will be providing workshops for local schools and also for adults within Coigach and Assynt.

Walled Garden

The walled garden at Glencanisp received funding from the Climate Challenge Fund last year for a 2 year project to restore the garden and this is now well under way. Lots of vegetables have been planted into the newly cleared and drained garden and along with the original apple trees it is looking productive. A new orchard has been planted outside the north wall and a polytunnel is going up shortly. The orchard is beside the nature trail and makes a lovely walk in itself or as part of the Dubh Chlais River Inver loop. Anyone interested in having a look, discussing the project, visiting or helping can contact the office 01571-844100.

About Assynt Foundation

The AF Board is currently Lewis Macaskill (Chair), Claire Belshaw (Vice-Chair), Simon Jeffreys (also Company Secretary), Malcolm Bangor-Jones, Nigel Goldie.

We are both a Scottish registered charity no. SC036540 and a Scottish registered company which is limited by guarantee, reg. no SC272665. Our registered office address is:- The Office, Glencanisp, Lochinver, Sutherland IV27 4LW.

If you received this newsletter by post but have an email address we could use to save paper and postage, please send an email to Simon Jeffreys at cosec.assynt@gmail.com