



"Reforestation  
Scotland is still  
my favourite  
magazine... a  
tree magazine  
should take such  
an honest long-  
term view..."

*RS member,  
September 2005*

# Reforestation Scotland

**Annual Report 2005-2006**

with annual accounts



# Introduction

## Our vision

“A reforested Scotland with a diverse and sustainable forest culture and economy”

## Our mission

Reforestation Scotland supports the restoration of Scotland’s deforested land to ecologically healthy and productive forestry, bringing benefits to communities directly through the creation of local job opportunities and the improvements of their surroundings, to the Scottish community by producing more woodland products and attracting visitors, and to the health of the natural environment itself.

It is now 15 years since the start of Reforestation Scotland, and forestry has come a long way. The Scottish Forestry Strategy has been reworked this year and will be published in the autumn. Consultation and engagement in preparing the strategy has been impressive and RS has played its part. The new strategy certainly demonstrates how attitudes to forestry have changed. The extent to which forests and woodlands in Scotland contribute to the environment



Staff and Directors on retreat at Glenfeshie

is prominent and it clearly recognises that quality of the environment is key to human welfare. Trees in the landscape already pay their way in many aspects of life, nevertheless we also require that they help us to make our living.

Our Rural Alternatives project focuses on this issue, making progress with four woodlands around Scotland, exploring how a living can be made from ‘non timber forest products’. RS has real strength in the field of “NTFPs” and we are building on that expertise in exploring their economic potential.

This year we have also sought to increase RS’s profile and attract more members. The Journal was issued with an attractive new design and a colour cover. The Gathering at Laurieston Hall in Galloway was fantastic, with a real sense of involvement and many new faces. We are also preparing a touring exhibition and aiming to increase local members days to ease the lengthy wait between Annual Gatherings!

Woods for All made great strides in its trail-making project at the hospital at Lochgilphead. We are working to show how the woodland environment is ideal for the whole community – a way of building care of the community rather than a place for “care in the community”.

As usual, we have had the help and support of a great number of willing volunteers (and this includes our staff and Directors). Unfortunately Margaret Davidson and Les Bates stepped down this year after giving of their ideas and enthusiasm for many years. We are very grateful for their support. Happily, we have recently been joined by Simon Lockwood.

The years ahead hold so many challenges. As we recognise the growing impact of global warming and fear the ever-approaching energy crisis as cheap oil runs out, there is increasing need to explore and show that alternative ways of living on this earth work. We need to move swiftly to mainstream the ethos of living with a light footprint. If getting the country to recognise the values and wealth of a reforested landscape was our mission for the last 15 years, addressing this far greater challenge must be at the heart of our mission for the next 15.

# Activities

## 1.1 Members' Activities

The 2005 Annual Gathering was held at Laurieston Hall, Dumfries and Galloway from the 7-9 October. The Gathering theme was "Touching Wood" and provided practical opportunities for working with wood and forest products, as well as the regular site visits, buildings tour and workshops. Presentations this year included Forest Villages by David Blair from Dunbeag, Boreal Forest Gardens by John Kennedy of LandLab, and Land Reform and Land Restitution in Post-Feudal Scotland by Andy Wightman. Practical and more 'cerebral' workshops were held on felt-making, wood-turning, forest sharing, defining a non-timber forest product, and forest villages. Participants were also offered the opportunity to go on a tour of Laurieston Hall grounds and to see the film 'The Summer Walkers, Travelling People in Scotland' by Timothy Neat and Hamish Henderson. Visits were made to Taliesin Community Woodland, the North Glen Gallery, and to the Doon of May and the Tinnebeag Workers Co-operative. The Gathering was a huge success generating lots of positive feedback about the event itself and the hospitality and beauty of Laurieston.

Plans for next year's Gathering in Falkland, Fife, which will be entitled "Low Energy Living and Stewardship of the Land" and will celebrate 15 years of Reforesting Scotland, are ongoing.



Planting at Ayrshire Coppice

Work is ongoing to organise 3 local days in 2006, to Forres, Angus, and Dumfries and Galloway.



The Forest Sharing group, which was established at the Gathering, organised several successful visits to woodland projects this year, including to a coppicing day in East Ayrshire together with RS member and makers of rustic furniture and baskets, Geoff Forrest and to RS founders Bernard Planterose, Emma Planterose and Martin Howard's wood near Ullapool. The Forest Sharing group are interested in buying woodland together for a range of reasons (from building homes to being involved in long-term woodland management), possibly through

sharing, and are visiting other, similar projects as a way of getting to know each other and developing their own plans for the future.



Visiting the Taliesin Community



Decorating the Green Man of Croft 7 (middle)  
Laurieston Hall - our 2005 Gathering venue (above)

# Activities

## 1.2 Policy work

Reforesting Scotland represents the interests of its members on community groups, rural development forestry and ecological woodland restoration, with representatives on several panels and through direct government lobbying. This year RS has been represented on Scottish Environment LINK's "Woodland Task Force" and the Cross Party Group (CPG) on Sustainable Forestry and Forest Products. Much of our campaigning work this year has focused on the review of the Scottish Forestry Strategy, which was launched in July 2005, and the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme, launched in early 2006. As well as attending a series of meetings with the Forestry Commission and public meetings, we submitted written responses at each stage of the consultations and have made these available on our website.

Reforesting Scotland's responses highlighted the importance of increasing the diversity, adaptability and localness of forestry towards helping to tackle the threats of oil scarcity and climate change, as well as contributing to the long term sustainability of rural land use, the health, well-being and resilience of rural communities, and the Scottish economy as a whole. Concerns were expressed about the apparent inadequate budget, detail, and accountability with respect to delivering both of these ambitious strategies.

We have also been working to safeguard the position of Reforesting Scotland and that of other small environmental organisations within Scottish Environment LINK, at LINK's annual AGM and review workshop.

## 1.3 Raising our profile

We have been working to develop a national exhibition that will celebrate positive changes in land ownership, community empowerment, and forest culture over the last 15 years – and that will place forests and people in the context of current challenges such as climate change, decentralisation and inclusion. In its early years, Reforesting Scotland toured Scotland with a presentation describing the desperate state of Scotland's forests and the impact that this was having on land and people. This was a powerful way of raising awareness of the issues Reforesting Scotland is concerned with, and was important in building a membership base to inform and support our work. Fifteen years on we are working towards developing this new exhibition,

taking it to communities throughout the country, from libraries to conferences, and where possible linking the exhibition to relevant talks by RS members. The exhibition project is being developed by RS volunteer Sam Staddon and Director Ian Edwards, and designed by Karen Grant. It will be launched at the Royal Botanic Gardens during the Edinburgh International Festival.

In July Reforesting Scotland hosted a presentation on 'Community Forestry in Bhutan' organised through one of our members, Peter Branney, and the Centre for International Development and Training at Wolverhampton.



Participatory forest planning in Bhutan

Reforesting Scotland has also been represented at a range of events such as Edinburgh Treefest, Environment Week at the Scottish Parliament (at a collaborative seminar on Food with Plant Life Scotland and the Soil Association), and the annual Community Woodland Conference 'Building a Forest Culture' in Grantown on Spey. As well as a presentation by the Development Officer, Kristin Olsen, on the Rural Alternatives Project, it was great to see Director David Blair and member Chris Morgan giving inspiring talks on Forest Villages and Sustainable Housing for Community Woodlands, respectively. Plans are also being made to represent Reforesting Scotland at the Festival of Stewardship in Falkland, in collaboration with the Scottish Ecological Design Association (SEDA) in July. We also contributed to the development of an Open University DVD about participation in community woodlands in Scotland and



Prototype affordable house at Dunbeag

# Activities

India, where our role in stimulating the community woodland movement will be central to a case study. Another Reforesting Scotland Imbolc fundraising ceilidh was held at the Steiner School in Edinburgh. This was a sell-out event and a fantastic evening, raising £1608.

The Rural Alternatives project was featured in the Southern Upland Way newsletter and the Blarbuie Woodland Project was featured four times in the Argyllshire Advertiser.

Folk dancing, having fun - Blarbuie ceilidh



## 1.4 Networking and communications

Much work has been carried out on the Reforesting Scotland website this year. Emma Chapman has been maintaining and updating the site to ensure the site content remains relevant and accessible. This has included updating news, projects and policy pages, creating a new 'Rural Alternatives' page and an 'Influencing Policy' section, putting photographs on the site and making information sheets, annual reports and Radical Rowan newsletters available on-line. Sally Macpherson and Robert Chalmers have also helped to review the site and develop recommendations for its improvement. Many new members come to us through the website, suggesting it is effective in communicating 'RS message'.

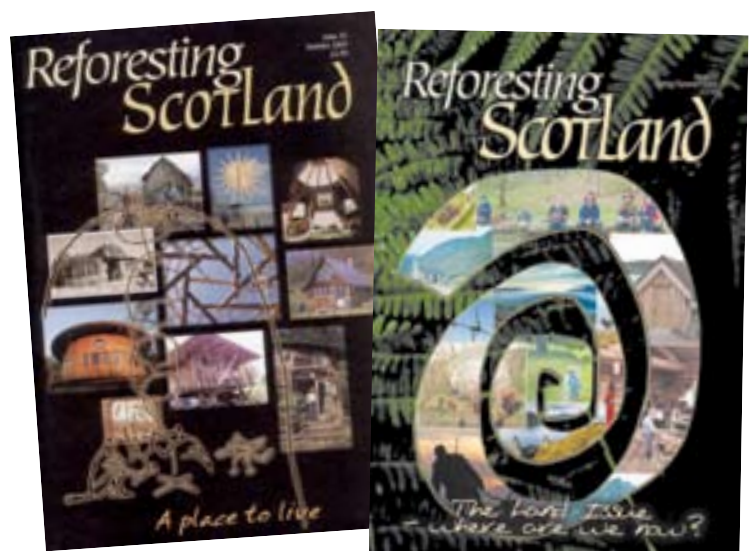
A members' e-bulletin has also been launched this year, The e-bulletin aims to inform members about important events, news and opportunities that may not coincide with the Journal or the Rowan, and encourage networking between members. So far 300 of 700 members receive the e-bulletin, which has received positive feedback and has already put members in touch with each other through the 'requests' section. We also exchange news regularly with the Community

Woodlands Association, allowing members of both organisations to stay current with news through our respective web sites, newsletters and publications.

## 1.5 Publications and reports

Issue 31 of the Radical Rowan newsletter included an article about the Rural Alternatives project, forest villages, community forestry in Bhutan, use of birch hurdles in tackling coastal erosion, Director biographies and a launch of the Forest Sharing 'yahoo group'. Issue 32, to be distributed in April 2006 will include reports from the Annual Gathering, an update on the Blarbuie Woodland project, Rural Alternative news and feedback to members from Glenfeshie, the annual strategic Director's meeting.

This year saw the introduction of eye-catching full colour covers for the Reforesting Scotland Journal. Two Journals were issued this year. RS 33 was entitled "A Place to Live" and focused on sustainable, affordable housing, building with timber and in forests. It addressed issues of planning, design, cost, weather-proofing and engaging with architects, builders and housing associations. RS 34 entitled "The Land Issue" revisits land and land reform, which was last featured in the Journal 10 years ago, and looks at how land reform has been implemented on the ground. The Journals and full-colour covers received excellent feedback from members, have sold very well and been successful in raising important



Building and Land: Journal issues in 2005 and 2006

# Projects

revenue from advertising. Issue 33 generated £1904 and Issue 34 generated £1505. In addition “A Place to Live” was given an excellent review in the Autumn 2005 edition of Buildings for a Future magazine, and the “Land Issue” was featured in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “The Land”. Journals are distributed to approximately 1000 individuals and organisations. Issue 35 will focus on energy, another resource requiring sustainable use, integration into multi-purpose land use and opportunities of localisation. Two new outlets for selling the Journal have been found this year thanks to suggestions made in our members survey. The Scottish Parliament have also taken up subscriptions this year and Forestry Commission offices across the country have been offered trial subscriptions.

We are currently also working on developing a new full colour leaflet for promotional purposes.

The revised Liability and Insurance Information Sheet was completed this year, and circulated to community woodland groups through the Community Woodland Association. This presents important information for woodland owners about different types of insurance cover and risk assessment, as well as contact details for insurers and further information.

## 2. Projects

### 2.1 Woods for All

#### Blarbuie Woodland Project

The Blarbuie Woodland project at Argyll and Bute Hospital, is focusing on the amenity woods around this long-stay hospital. It was formally launched in August 2005. The project has made excellent progress working with hospital patients, staff and local contractors



Tree nursery taking shape at Blarbuie

and members of the local community to develop skills, create and manage a community woodland resource, and raise funds for ongoing project work. In February 2006 a Grand Ceilidh and Auction was held to raise awareness and funds for the Project. This was a successful event that brought together doctors, patients, woodlanders and many people from the local community.

Project participants have also received training in, and been actively involved in, important woodland management activities including tree felling and clearing, on-site milling, tree planting, creating the tree nursery, building compost bins, path work and hedge laying. The woodland is already generating income for future work through sales of timber, tree planting work and sales of Blarbuie Project cards. Project Staff are working to raise further funds for new areas of work including the creation of the Woodland Craft Centre, the Young Woodlanders Programme and to disseminate lessons learned from this innovative project to health care and forestry professionals around the country.

#### Tree identification for everyone.

Tree ID packs, containing tree identification tool kits for all abilities through tactile sheets and CDs, continue to be widely distributed.

### 2.2 Non Timber Forest Products

#### Forest Harvest website

The forest harvest website ([www.forestharvest.org.uk](http://www.forestharvest.org.uk)) continues to provide information on the history of forest product use in Scotland, a map of woodlands, lists, descriptions and benefits of a range of NTFPs and information on sustainable harvesting. Emma Chapman and Alison Dyke have been working to compile a directory of Scottish businesses dealing in



# Projects

NTFPs and a database of species information, as well as news updates and case studies.

## Wild Harvest Seminar

Preparations are underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reforesting Scotland seminar themed around non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The seminar will be held in Beaully in May and will aim to draw together harvesters, policy makers,



Alison Dyke talks mushrooms

researchers and other interest groups to explore issues of culture, policy and legislation, economics and access to NTFPs in Scotland. The seminar is being organised in collaboration with Forest Research, Scottish Forestry Trust, and Scottish Enterprise.

## Rural Alternatives Project

We succeeded in pulling together the remaining funds to start the Rural Alternatives project in autumn 2006. A project manager and three local coordinators have been recruited, in Doon of May (near Newton Stewart), Sunart, and Kirkhill and Bunchrew, near Beaully. The fourth community to be involved will be Culag Community Woodland Trust near Lochinver, and recruitment of their local co-ordinator is ongoing. Work has started in each community to engage local people, to identify priority projects and to plan for NTFP surveys and workshops in local woodlands. Project interests range from making herbal soap and medicine and musical instruments, to raising general awareness of NTFP natural and cultural heritage in the community.

## 2.3 Community Forestry

### Forest Village

In early 2005 David Blair developed a proposal to develop and pilot a model for forestry crofting or forestry villages, proposing to pilot the scheme on local unmanaged Forestry Commission land in Tighnabruach in collaboration with the Argyll Green

Woodworkers Association and Reforesting Scotland. RS carried out a series of public consultation exercises for the project and provided support to the community council to identify funding and develop a brief for a project feasibility study. The project is now referred to locally as the Kilfinan Forest Park Project. The local community has established a steering group, a constitution and a bank account with start up funding from the Community Land Unit, commissioned a feasibility study into opportunities for housing, socio-economic, environmental and renewable energy, and are looking to employ an animator to develop the project further.

## 3. Project Development

### 3.1 Woods for All

#### Active Futures

This project is currently being developed in collaboration with Disability Sport and Aberdeenshire Council, and will involve the Woods for All Coordinator leading walks into the forests of Aberdeenshire with young disabled adults. This aims to have positive impacts on their health and well-being and enable them to contribute to access and management planning.

#### 2007 Year of Highland Culture

This project involves working with communities in the Islands of Argyll and Bute to carry out participatory appraisals to explore the potential for native woodland restoration. It will be linked to a series of Island and Mainland woodland events to take place in the Year of Highland Culture.

### 3.2 Local Wood and Food

Food producers are one group of land and woodland owners/managers that Reforesting Scotland has long had an interest in working more closely with. Peter Holmes has been helping to carry out research and consultation to assess the opportunities for making social forestry, as promoted by Reforesting Scotland, more interesting to farmers. As a result we hope to develop a pilot project, in collaboration with the Soil Association

# Project Development



Celebrating the success at Blarbuie with Hugh's elder-flower bubbly

and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, that demonstrates woodland diversification on farms that provides a range of economic, social and environmental benefits. This project will come at an opportune time, when farm subsidies have been reformed to a system of land management contracts, which will require many farmers to diversify to survive. Reforesting Scotland's interest is that these new potential woodland managers appreciate the many benefits of woodlands, rather than them simply providing an alternative crop with an insecure future.

## 3.3 New study tour

We are currently working towards collating and publishing more widely the insightful report produced by Elaine Reid last year, as a review by the participants of the 1991 Norway Study Tour. Many of the participants are still active in land and forest use and management in Scotland and made some astute comments as to the changes that had or had not occurred in Scotland since that inspirational study tour. Notably the review suggested that poor progress has been made in Scotland on 'diversifying economic opportunities for land occupiers and communities', 'commitment to rural populations' and developing 'cultural landscape' as a useful concept.

We are also considering options for a new inspirational study tour. As in the past, the study tour should aim to bring a combination of landowners, academics, community representatives and policy makers together for a visit that stimulates debate and encourages change. Reforesting Scotland's work with NTFPs makes Canada one option that is currently being discussed.

## 3.4 Reforesting Scotland 'Home'

A Reforesting Scotland 'home' would be somewhere that members could come together and discuss and do many of the things that RS stands for. It could be modest or impressive: a place to hang out, to inspire and be inspired, demonstration forest plots for a range of forest products and services including NTFPs, a training centre for woodland management, building, harvesting and processing skills, participatory appraisal and forest education, office space, a site for business ventures, such as holiday cabins, to support core activities in the future. Development of this concept will grow from consultations and discussions with RS members during the 2006 Gathering and in the coming year.



Forest sharing group at Ullapool

## 3.5 Developing a Trading Arm for Reforesting Scotland

We have been considering how Reforesting Scotland can become a more 'sustainable' organisation i.e. how we can generate core funding and build some reserves for the 'hard times' and for investing in projects such as an 'RS home' (see above) to supplement that provided from projects and ever-scarce core funding. As a result we are working towards the development and gentle marketing of high quality and ethical 'services' to communities and other bodies such as local councils. We will draw on the expertise of Reforesting Scotland members and staff to provide for example Access Surveys, Participatory Forest Appraisals and community NTFP surveys – and providing these through a trading arm.



# People

## 4. People

### 4.1 Members

#### Membership

There has been a steady flow of new applications from the website, leaflet distribution and the Journal, and membership has slightly increased from 680 in April 2005 to 692 in April 2006. Much work has been ongoing to raise the profile of Reforesting Scotland through improving the website, attending and setting up displays and increasing distribution of the Journal. The travelling exhibition will travel throughout Scotland and engage with existing members, as well as encouraging new members to join.

### 4.2 Directors

This year has seen a full and active board of Directors helping to take RS forward. In March 2006 Directors are: Rachel Avery, David Blair, Margaret Davidson, Ian Edwards, Roddy Fairley, Donald McPhillimy, Steve Robertson, Piers Voysey and Simon Lockwood (co-opted in March 2006). Unfortunately Carmen Gordon and Les Bates have resigned from the RS board due to other commitments. We are very grateful to them for their support over the years.

### 4.3 Staff

In March 2006 core staff and consultants are:

Robert Chalmers (IT Support)  
Emma Chapman (Website Manager)  
Karen Grant (Journal Designer)  
Wendy Hebard (Finance and Administration)  
Mandy Meikle (Journal Editor and Membership Secretary)  
Kristin Olsen (Development Officer)  
Heather Stacey (Journal Proof-reader)

Project staff and consultants include:

Woods for All  
Hugh Fife (Woods for All Co-ordinator)  
Crispin W. Hayes (Publications)

Non Timber Forest Products  
Emma Chapman (Forest Harvest website)  
Jake Paul (Project Manager, Rural Alternatives)

Les Bates (Rural Alternatives Local Co-ordinator, Kirkhill & Bunchrew & Field Visit Co-ordinator, Wild Harvest seminar)

Isabel Isherwood (Rural Alternatives Local Co-ordinator, Sunart)

Damhnait de Bruin (Rural Alternatives Local Co-ordinator, Doon of May)

Ruth Anderson (Project Co-ordinator, Wild Harvest Seminar)

Nick Marshall (Project Manager, Wild Harvest Seminar)

Rachel Blow has also been working to help us to analyse the Reforesting Scotland member's survey and Alison Dyke worked as Associate of Reforesting Scotland to help to develop future work with non-timber forest products.

Norman Downie and Kerr Ltd continue to provide accounting and auditing services to us.

RS continues to remain non-hierarchical. Day-to-day management decisions are made jointly by the staff, in discussion with Directors as necessary. Long-term and strategic decisions are made at Directors' meetings or at special strategy meetings. The Management Sub-Committee, involving Directors and Staff, helps to manage and co-ordinate RS activities and projects. Each member of staff has his or her own link Director. Projects are developed and implemented by small groups of staff, Directors and members.

### 4.4 Volunteers

We are enormously grateful to all of the volunteers who make our work possible. The voluntary time put in by staff and directors enables the organisation to achieve far more than would otherwise be possible.

This year we would specifically like to thank: Theodora Bayly, Sally Curtis and Sam Murray for support to the office throughout the year; Emma Chapman and Sally Mcpherson who have been working to review and maintain the Reforesting Scotland website; Peter Holmes who put in an enormous amount of work to research and develop our Local Wood and Food project; Mary O'Hara who has been helping to develop a Journal database; Sam Staddon by drawing together text and photos towards developing our Reforesting exhibition; and Kath Todd for continuing to provide ideas and support towards launching a second Study Tour.

# Finances

## A summary of the accounts for the 2005 – 2006 financial year

### Approved Accounts:

#### Income and Expenditure for year ended 31st March 2006

	2005/06	2004/05
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources:</b>		
Grants & donations	121,988	76,312
Members' subscriptions & donations	16,484	20,211
Advertising & sponsorship	3,604	3,297
Annual gathering	3,673	3,997
Consultancy & management fees	6,751	7,242
Publications & seminars	1,917	3,284
Interest receivable	1,280	305
Other income	717	576
<b>Total income</b>	<b>156,414</b>	<b>115,224</b>
<b>Resources Expended:</b>		
Charitable expenditure:		
Project costs:		
Rural Alternatives	18,719	11,533
Woods for All	45,868	34,942
Development & marketing	22,481	-
Community Woodlands	-	10,080
Other consultancy costs	1,247	1,200
Membership & management costs:		
Annual gathering	3,615	4,045
Publications & membership costs	29,199	31,169
Fundraising costs	4,993	5,284
Governance costs	4,921	5,157
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>131,043</b>	<b>103,410</b>
Net income / (expenditure) for year	<b>25,371</b>	<b>11,814</b>
Funds from previous year	36,036	24,222
Funds at year end	<b>61,407</b>	<b>36,036</b>

# Finances

## Approved Accounts:

### Balance Sheet at 31st March 2006

	2005/06 £	2004/05 £
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Fixed Assets	6,735	663
Current Assets	61,113	47,369
Less Creditors	6,441	11,996
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>61,407</b>	<b>36,036</b>
<b>Funds:</b>		
Unrestricted funds:	36,371	33,692
Restricted funds:	25,036	2,344
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>61,407</b>	<b>36,036</b>

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## Funding

Allen Lane Foundation  
Barfil Charitable Trust  
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation  
The Craignish Trust  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Heritage Lottery Fund  
Miss K M Harbinson's Charitable Trust  
Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Executive  
Scottish Forestry Trust  
Scottish Native Woods  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
The Gatliffe Trust  
The JJ Charitable Trust  
The Mark Leonard Trust  
The Robertson Trust  
The Woodroffe Benton Foundation

**Reforestation Scotland thanks all our funders**

# Reforesting Scotland is grateful to the following organisations for financial support



THE MARK LEONARD TRUST



THE J J CHARITABLE TRUST

and  
Barfil Charitable Trust  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Miss K M Harbinson's Charitable Trust  
The Gatliffe Trust  
The Woodroffe Benton Foundation

**Reforesting Scotland's mission is to support the restoration of Scotland's deforested land to ecologically healthy and productive forestry, bringing benefits to communities directly through the creation of local job opportunities and the improvements of their surroundings, to the Scottish community by producing more woodland products and attracting visitors and to the health of the natural environment itself**

Reforesting Scotland  
62-66 Newhaven Road, Edinburgh, EH6 5QB  
Tel: 0131 554 4321 Fax: 0131 554 0088  
Email: [info@reforestingscotland.org](mailto:info@reforestingscotland.org)  
[www.reforestingscotland.org](http://www.reforestingscotland.org)

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