

# Central Scotland Smallholders Association

7.00pm 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
Dumyat Centre, Menstrie.  
General Committee Meeting

## Present:

Rosemary Champion (Chair), Clare Hebbert, Carol (secretary) & Graham Johnson, Jo Lennon, Gillian Mackay & David Campbell, Andrew (Treasurer) & Janis Sharpe, Karen Evans, Sandra Foxon, Anne Massie.

## Apologies:

Alli Hibbert, & Jane Coull.

## Tabled Papers:

- Agenda
- Minutes

Before starting Association business, Rosemary introduced Euan Hills<sup>1</sup> from the Ranger Service of Clackmannanshire Council. There was a presentation about Clackmannanshire, Gartmorn Dam and it's links with the coal mining industry. He then spoke about the biodiversity around the dam, and then discussed the Ochil hills another landscape feature of Clacks.

Other issues discussed were; wind turbines, footpaths, and the Scottish Countryside Access Code. Euan distributed useful leaflets and information including websites relevant to smallholders <sup>2</sup>

There followed a question and answer session that touched on; wild food foraging, public access, dogs, firewood, bat boxes, bumblebees, beetle banks and hedgerows.

1. Minute of meeting 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008.  
Agreed.

## 2. Matters Arising

- Awards For All application is still ongoing. The amount requested has been reduced but they have now accepted Diane Allardice as a referee.
- Carol distributed a laminated 2009 calendar with dates of the Association meeting highlighted, this was produced without drawing down funds from the Association, so donations towards the cost were gratefully received. Further copies can be requested from the secretary.
- A Christmas card was also produced without cost to the Association and sent to every Association member, along with a reminder that 2009 fees were due. It is hoped that a

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<sup>1</sup> Euan Hills Principal Ranger. Development & Environmental Services, Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa. FK10 1EB Tel 01259 452478, Fax 01259 727453  
Mob 07968 161297 Email [ehills@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:ehills@clacks.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening](http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening), [www.naturescape.co.uk](http://www.naturescape.co.uk), [www.wildflowersuk.com](http://www.wildflowersuk.com), [www.wigglywiggles.co.uk](http://www.wigglywiggles.co.uk), [www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/plants-fungi/postcode-plants/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/plants-fungi/postcode-plants/)

collection of cards could eventually be produced for sale, members were asked to send suitable photos and pictures to the secretary.

- Website development is ongoing.

### **3. Financial Update (treasurer)**

Andrew confirmed that there was no changes to the AGM balance except for 14 pence interest. Approval was given to advertise the Association (approx £100) it was also agreed that adverts could be put into local vets, and agricultural feed stores (newsletter and cards), and even the local Courier newspaper. It is hoped that this will bring in extra membership.

### **4. Meeting Event Programme**

- A lambing course has been booked at Oatridge College for 24<sup>th</sup> January and 11 members have booked.
- West Mosside has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> April. This is a farm located at Flanders Moss. £5 per head 10.00 am – 3.00pm (see website for details).
- Susan Mackie from Rare Breed Survival Trust is a possible speaker at a future meeting.
- Groveshill Dogs Whisperer in July.
- Planning consultant to be booked.
- Wales smallholder show – will need to wait on outcome of funding application.
- Still looking for other ideas for speakers – photographer?

### **5. AOB**

- Could there be a photo competition every month with a smallholding theme?
- Wellies were suggested as a logo for the CSSA – Carol will look into possibilities.
- Suggestions for fundraising; suduko, and quizzes.

### **6. Show & Tell**

Rosemary has received the hand knitted jumper made from her Ryelands first fleeces. Gillian and David have taken delivery of a few thousand Xmas trees and will be busy getting them settled. Graham has been harvesting his willows useful for windbreaks and basketry.

### **7. Table Birds**

Several members expressed interests in a group purchase of some day old Hubbard chicks from a local supplier. Arrangements to be finalised later.

8. DONM – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Wednesday. Check [www.smallholders.info](http://www.smallholders.info) for further details.



# Central Scotland Smallholders Association

# 2009

## January

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## June

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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**Association Dates:** ■ General Meeting & Speaker 14th Jan, 8th Feb, 17th June, 16th Sept, 14th Oct, 18th Nov. Visit 14th Mar, 18th Apr, 18th Jul.

Special 15th-17th May Visit to RNAS Smallholder & Garden Show, 15th Aug BBQ, AGM 16th Dec.

Further details can be found at [www.smallholders.info](http://www.smallholders.info) or contact Carol Johnson [Secretary@smallholders.info](mailto:Secretary@smallholders.info) tel 01383 738800 fax 017710 531175