

What happened at Wild North Assynt 2014?

Wild North Assynt began in 2012 as the Assynt Festival, now in its third year a new name and structure of events have provided its most successful year to date. CCWT's Wild Wood Weekend was the first event on the calendar in early May.

Almost 70 people came along to the White Shore in Culag Woods to enjoy an evening of wild flower activities and music around the bonfire, along with a barbecue and an optional overnight camp. The weather played its part and was fine, dry and warm for the whole evening. The barbecue started off the proceedings in the early evening. Just before the Sun started to set the Wild Flower Activities got under way, with wild flower glass painting and a treasure hunt. The glass jars were then strung through the trees and lit with candles. A few brave souls also jumped the broom, an old tradition that means you're married to the person you jump over with, but only for a year! After this the bonfire was lit and musicians played into the wee hours, entertaining their audience.



Other Wild North Assynt events over the year included a Wildflower Festival, Arts events, Fishing Feis, Digging the Clearances (Archaeology), Walk Assynt Week, a Woodland Festival, Dark skies event and bonfire, finishing off with a Gaelic weekend in November.

So if you enjoyed last year's events or didn't quite manage to make it along we hope to see you at one or all of the following 2015 events.



Wild North Assynt events programme 2015

21st February	Fire & Ice Geo Hike	10th July	Craft Market
19th March	Geo-what?	20th - 23rd July	Dig Glenleraig
3rd April	Craft Market	24th July	Craft Market
6th April	Geo climbing	29th July	Fishing Feis
11th April	Dark Skies event	3rd - 7th August	Walk Assynt
8th May	Craft Market	7th August	Craft Market
9th May	Wild Wood Weekend	11th August	Clachtoll Sand Sculpture
19th May-15th Sept	Ranger walks & events	21st August	Craft market
29th May	Craft Market	4th Sept	Craft market
3rd June	Deep time Geo Tour	2nd October	Craft market
19th June	Craft Market	10th-18th October	Woodland Week events

For further details on the following programme please see the Wild North Assynt Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/assyntfestival>



Trees of Culag Wood European Larch (*Larix decidua*)

The native home of the European Larch is the Alps and Carpathian Mountains. It was introduced to the UK in the early 17th Century and later widely planted during the 18th Century in central Scotland. It produces a durable timber used in all types of building, particularly suitable for yacht building.

European Larch is a conifer but unusually it is deciduous, losing its soft, green needle like leaves in the autumn. It grows to a maximum height of around 30 metres with a maximum trunk diameter of around 1 metre. Both male and female flowers are found on the same tree. The female flowers are pretty "larch roses" in pink, green or white which ripen to produce small delicate looking cones. The seeds of the larch are a favourite food for red squirrels.



NEWS UPDATE

Please pick up after your dog

Last autumn Lochinver Pre School helped CCWT to design some new signage for Culag Woods. Can you guess what it was for?



When you're 4 years old, running along the paths in the woods it's particularly important that any dog poo has been picked up and disposed of! The children and Play Leaders were finding it an increasing problem and decided to help out. Two wooden signs were placed at the entrances to the woods and a campaign in the local Assynt News has helped to reduce the mess in the woods. The poster drawn by the children will also be made into a more permanent sign and put into the woodland this spring.



Contact:
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Be part of Little Assynt & Culag Woods in our 20th Anniversary year

CCWT is 20 years old this year! The current organisation was formalised in early 1995 in order to look after Culag Woods on behalf of the community. As a part of the celebrations CCWT is offering a unique opportunity by widening the bench sponsorship scheme to include some very special parts of Little Assynt. The famous compost toilets on the Leitir Easaidh All Abilities Path are available for sponsorship. These beautifully constructed timber buildings with thatch roofing were built when the all abilities path was completed 10 years ago. There are two available, one at Loch



Leitir Easaidh and the other on Loch na-Innse Fraoich. The stone and timber shelters at the fishing points and at Loch an t-Sabhail on the Loop Path are also available. The shelters have the most amazing views of the surrounding land looking over to the peaks of Quinag. For anyone that takes out a sponsorship during the 20th year, a special commemorative plaque will be designed with the date and significance. For further details please get in touch on 01571 844368 or info@culagwoods.org.uk.



Winter in the Woods

The winter storms this year have caused some damage to the trees in the woodland. After hurricane force winds battered the country on the 8th January several large trees were left uprooted and pathways blocked with branches and smaller trees. One of the worst affected areas was the White Shore Path (see below) which was blocked from 50 yards after the junction with Billy's Path. The path has been cleared thanks to the efforts of our volunteers. Another large tree had come down across

the School Path, near the junction with the Woodside path. The root plate thankfully came back down once the trunk was cut and the damage to the path was minimal. There are still areas which need work to be cleared but please bear with us and hopefully access will be restored to all areas soon. After the winds came the snow and ice, enough to dust the Gruffalo's birthday cake with some icing!

