

www.tcv.org.uk/scotland

networkbulletin

SPRING 2025

FOR TCV SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITY NETWORK



In this issue: **It's tree planting season**

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TCV Scotland is currently reviewing how we keep in touch with our volunteers and supporters, so for a short period we're pausing production of the Network Bulletin. In the meantime, you can keep informed of what's happening at TCV Scotland through our social media channels and Eventbrite.

Cover: Tree planting in Cookney, Aberdeenshire and East Renfrewshire.

Welcome to the Network Bulletin from The Conservation Volunteers in Scotland, highlighting grassroots action for conservation. In this issue we feature the Friends of Orchard Park in Edinburgh and Viewpark Conservation Group in North Lanarkshire, both comprising of enthusiastic residents caring for much-loved local green spaces.

Winter and early spring is the main tree planting season and our annual I Dig Trees initiative has been working flat out to provide some 600,000 free trees to community groups, schools and tree lovers across the UK, just one example being Cookney, near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire (pictured on the cover). In contrast to this rural setting, we also highlight tree planting sessions in some of East Renfrewshire's urban communities. In association with East Renfrewshire Council, we are planting thousands of trees involving local volunteers and school children as part of the Council's action on climate change. Likewise, TCV is part of the Clyde Climate Forest initiative, which has been running a number of community planting projects, as well as learning events for its volunteer Tree Wardens – we feature a recent Tree ID session.

We continue the planting theme with news of the launch of 'Trees for Goals', an initiative to plant a tree for every goal scored by participating football teams. The scheme was

kicked off by Alloa Saints Youth Football Club in Clackmannanshire and it's hoped to expand the scheme in the seasons ahead.

Improving the skills and prospects of volunteers and trainees, particularly young people, is an important aspect of TCV's work. Young people like 18 year-old Sam Bogucki who answers a few questions on his experience with our Jupiter Greenskills programme in Grangemouth. Sam's Supervisor Mhairi Campbell expands on the programme's aims, as does Jack Buchanan who is running another TCV Greenskills programme at Camphill Blair Drummond near Stirling.

And we have exciting training opportunities coming up for young people along the John Muir Way in the Central Belt – see page 22.

In this issue's Nature notes we feature one of our most common but overlooked species – lichen, which sometimes looks like a plant, but isn't! Lichens are just one aspect of nature which can be identified and recorded by Citizen Scientists. In Ayrshire, TCV's Alex Paterson has been running sessions with local organisations showing how easy it is to get involved in Citizen Science – there really is something for everyone.

And TCV Scotland has a new Assistant Director, Pippin Searle, who says hello on page 3.

Hello from Pippin

TCV in Scotland has a new Assistant Director, **Pippin Searle**, to lead our operations north of the border:



"I'm thrilled to have joined the TCV Scotland team in January, and I'm thoroughly enjoying the chance in these first few weeks to get out and meet as many of our staff and volunteers as possible. It's

really inspiring to be surrounded by people who care so deeply about the work they are doing, and are out and about year-round making our world a better place in real and important ways, for people and for nature.

Before joining TCV I worked in a range of operational management and delivery roles, most recently on a programme looking at climate change and biodiversity loss internationally. When not at work, I'm most likely to be found out on my bike or else tending to my little veg plot up at a local allotment – so if anyone has any top tips for keeping slugs at bay, I'm all ears!"

Greenskills Camphill

TCV's Greenskills Camphill programme is based at the Camphill Blair Drummond community, near Stirling.



Building a dead hedge – a natural alternative to fencing made of twigs and branches which creates an attractive habitat for a variety of wildlife. JACK BUCHANAN

This programme is aimed at 16-24 year olds furthest from the job market, as well as those with Additional Support Needs, which Camphill specifically caters for. The programme therefore involves both volunteers and members of the Camphill community. Camphill's gardens and facilities offer plentiful opportunities for teaching manual skills and conservation activities, such as pond construction, creating dead hedges and planting

wildflower meadows. And there's a strong focus on participants learning about each other, learning teamwork and learning about and engaging with different communities.

The programme runs each Thursday and Friday, with volunteers particularly welcome on Fridays. For further information, contact programme organiser **Jack Buchanan**.



Wildflower island. FRIENDS OF ORCHARD PARK

TCV's fruitful partnership in Edinburgh



Our **Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Team (EBAT)** has been busy over the past few years helping to conserve parks and greenspaces around the city as part of the **Thriving Green Spaces** initiative, led by the **City of Edinburgh Council**. An example is the work we've been undertaking at Orchard Park in North Edinburgh, alongside the **Friends of Orchard Park**,

as explained by **Jo Williams**, TCV Senior Project Officer:

*We've been working with the Friends of Orchard Park (FoOP) for about a year now. I initially met **Katharine Russell** and **Teresa O'Dwyer** from the Friends, along with some of the **Council's Park Rangers** and we discussed how we could introduce*



Planting the Pocket Forest.

FRIENDS OF ORCHARD PARK



Scything the meadow. JO WILLIAMS

a relaxed cutting regime in the park, along with some additional wildflower seed sowing. This was done with the help of some corporate volunteers arranged through FoOP, followed by several scything workshops with the group during the year to cut and lift the 'arisings', as leaving them would add unwanted nutrients to the soil.

Along with FoOP volunteers we've also been creating a Pocket Forest which utilises some of the core principles of the Miyawaki technique of planting trees at a higher density than conventional commercial planting. And we'll also be sowing shade tolerant, woodland edge and traditional meadow seed mixtures and planting some bulbs too. The Pocket Forest will be surrounded by a dead hedge

rather than a standard wire fence to both protect the establishment of the site, but also introduce another really important facet of a woodland – deadwood.

The inspiration behind the design of this project comes from natural regeneration. The aftermath of some of the recent serious storms has been the opening-up of large areas of commercial forests, and in a very short time those open spaces have become dominant with birch and rowan along with fox gloves and champions. Our hope is that by mimicking this process we'll get some successional plant growth, beginning with an array of wildflowers, followed by the establishment of scrub with some small and medium sized canopy trees. We hope to work further with FoOP this year.



Volunteers enjoying a break. JO WILLIAMS



Meadow emerging. FRIENDS OF ORCGARD PARK

To volunteer with TCV in Edinburgh, details of upcoming EBAT events are provided on [Eventbrite](#) or contact [Jo](#).

About Friends of Orchard Park

Here, **Katharine Russell** provides a little background to Friends of Orchard Park:

Our group was created in early 2020, just before the pandemic, and our aims then, and now, are to improve the biodiversity of this local green space. We are motivated for reasons of climate change and also a desire to enhance this space for all its users, whether human or not!

As well as working with TCV to create the Pocket Forest and wildflower meadow, our main activities at the park have been:

- Planting a small orchard of 30 plus Scottish heritage variety apples, plums and pears.
- Improving the existing privet hedge by adding over 400 mixed native trees provided by Woodland Trust Scotland.
- Planting over 9000 bulbs.
- Adding some neighbours' free plants (dogwood, lilac, lady's mantle, periwinkle) to the central flower beds.

Other activities have included the usual weeding, fruit tree pruning, mulching and so on. And we recently did some wassailing to our apple trees which was a lot of fun and may become a regular event. Wassailing is the old custom of singing and toasting to the health of fruit trees to wish them a good harvest.

We hold volunteer meetings every fortnight or so, which are weather and task dependent. We are hindered by not having anywhere to store tools, equipment or provide shelter for volunteers. Going forward, we are looking to get some kind of store/shelter which would help us set up regular meeting dates well in advance.

We have a small membership and try to get people interested in helping us through posting adverts of upcoming events on the park gates, through social media channels (Facebook mainly) and to our members through email and WhatsApp. If anyone would like to get involved, the best way is to join our Facebook page, and then perhaps to be added to our WhatsApp group as well. All are welcome!

[Facebook](#)

[Email](#)



Viewpark Conservation Group

PHOTOS: VIEWPARK CONSERVATION GROUP



Planting trees to screen off the noise and pollution from the major road.



Our enthusiastic litter pickers.

In North Lanarkshire, **Viewpark Conservation Group** is transforming a large area of woods, ponds and open ground into a haven for both people and wildlife, as they explain:

We are a small volunteer community group and a Scottish registered charity. We were delighted when in July 2020, after a lot of hard work and fundraising we successfully purchased 172 acres of The Douglas Support Estate in the largest community buyout of urban green space in Scotland

to date. The estate is located between Viewpark, Coatbridge and Bellshill.

Now the estate is under community ownership, the hard work begins. Following our community's requests, we are now working on a five-year plan to create a free and safe community nature park owned and managed by the community, for the benefit of our community. We carry out a lot of work whilst maintaining and developing the



The polytunnel.



The sensory garden diggers.

estate and are supported by fantastic volunteers from the local community, local business and other local groups and organisations.

Community engagement

In addition to preserving and helping the estate to regenerate, we focus on supporting our community's physical and mental health and general wellbeing. We also deliver a wide range of activities and workshops to suit all ages and abilities, which include:

- Ranger-led nature walks
- Citizen Science sessions
- Conservation tasks
- Environmental activities

- Woodland maintenance
- Tree planting
- Bushcraft skills
- Pond dipping
- Bug hunts
- Creating new habitats
- Bird box workshops
- Polytunnel-based community growing
- Wildflower seed bomb workshops
- Seasonal workshops such as Christmas wreath making
- And providing a safe location for self-led activities.

Work completed so far

Since taking ownership of the estate, we have been very busy! Projects we have been working on so far:



▲ *The team at Viewpark has erected tick awareness signs around the Estate to warn local people of the dangers presented by these tiny creatures which can spread serious illnesses such as Lyme disease. The tick sign initiative is supported by TCV. To find out more and to receive free tick signs, visit the [Lyme Resource Centre](#)*

- Continuing to upgrade the old farm paths to make the estate more accessible to all.
- Creating and installing signage to encourage our community to explore the estate further.
- Planting trees and hedgerows to regenerate our woodlands and create new wildlife habitats.
- The design and creation of a community orchard and food forest to educate our community on where their food comes from.
- The installation of a community growing polytunnel.
- The installation of a community drop-in cabin for community engagement, respite for our volunteers and of course, tea and refreshments.

Getting involved

We offer volunteering sessions every Wednesday from 10am – 2pm, which mainly consists of conservation work in the estate. The volunteering largely focuses on our core projects which are reinstating and improving the Hidden Pond of the old estate house, improving and creating pathways, and tree planting. We are currently looking to expand our programme beyond the regular volunteering days with guided walks, outdoor learning sessions and wildlife surveying.

[Facebook](#)

[Email](#)



AIMÉE MORETTI

◀ *In 2024, TCV organised two Deadwood Survey sessions at the Douglas Support Estate to highlight the value of deadwood as a wildlife habitat. Free [Deadwood Survey packs](#) are available to Community Network members.*



Sam creating a dead hedge at the Jupiter Centre. JACK BUCHANAN

A Trainee's view

For many years TCV has run 'Greenskills' programmes to improve the job prospects of people looking to get into the environmental and land-based sectors. A current Trainee is 18 year-old **Sam Bogucki**, based with **Mhairi Campbell** and her team at the Jupiter Urban Conservation Centre in Grangemouth. Here, Sam shares his experience as a TCV Trainee:

How did you first find out about TCV?

I heard about TCV through the **Employment Training Unit (ETU)** at Falkirk Council. TCV was running an 8-week practical, hands-on upskilling training course, which was recommended to me. I had joined ETU as I was unemployed, and they offer support to help people build skills and confidence to prepare them for employment. The course TCV was running sounded good to me.

Why did you think this would be good for you?

I thought this opportunity would be beneficial for me because it provided a chance to develop new skills. I enjoy being outdoors and working with my hands and the types of activities I get involved with cover this. I also enjoy improving green spaces for other people to enjoy.

What does your current role involve?

I've been involved in supporting other staff members run various volunteer groups, providing support and guidance to ensure their activities run smoothly and safely. Additionally, I have taken on responsibilities related to maintaining and enhancing the site at Jupiter. This involves performing routine inspections and carrying out necessary repairs.

What skills have you learned?

I've learned lots of new skills by helping various groups and participating in training courses. These experiences have allowed me to develop both practical abilities and a deeper understanding of effective teamwork and leadership. I've been involved in activities such as meadow scything, improving access to the site using strimmer's and brushcutters, pond vegetation clearance, building raised beds and much more.

Sam's supervisor at the Jupiter site is **Mhairi Campbell**, Senior Project Officer, who says:

I began running ETU Greenskills training courses in July 2024, with Sam being part of my first group of trainees. From the outset he demonstrated a strong interest in our work and a keen desire to learn more. Upon completing his 8-week course, Sam joined us as a Volunteer Officer, attending Jupiter once a week to support our Jupiter CAN volunteer sessions. Subsequently, we had the opportunity to bring him on as a Trainee for a further six months, with some funding support from ETU.

Sam has been an invaluable asset to Jupiter, collaborating with myself and other staff members in session planning and preparation, volunteer support, workflow organisation for the site, and ensuring health and safety protocols are followed. His current contract extends until the end of March, and I'm eager to see where his journey takes him next with the skills he has acquired.

I've recently spent some time with other TCV-led groups outside of Jupiter to enhance my skills more and have had the chance to be involved in installing fabricated steps in Menstrie woodland in Clackmannanshire, creating a wildlife pond at Camphill Blair Drummond near Stirling, and supporting nature-based school sessions at Stirling Health and Care Village.

As well as the practical skills I've also been getting the chance to brush up on my ID skills as working outdoors I'm lucky to be surrounded by nature and spot new birds and plants every day.

Have you done any training?

I've undertaken multiple training courses. These include a Safeguarding course, Brushcutter & Strimmer training, a Day Leadership course, and Risk Assessment training. Each of these courses has equipped me with valuable knowledge and practical skills.

How do you find being part of a team?

I work with various teams at Jupiter, from other staff members to volunteers which I really enjoy. It allows me to collaborate with others, share ideas, and learn from different perspectives.



*Sam working in the woodshed with members of the **Rainbow Muslim Women Group** – making stools from recycled pallet wood.*

Do you have a favourite activity with TCV? One of my favourite activities is using the trimmers and brushcutters. I find it both satisfying and rewarding to see the immediate results of my work

Can you sum up your TCV experience?

Fun!

Anything else you want to add?

I've really enjoyed my time as a Trainee with TCV and would encourage anyone thinking about joining one of the courses or applying for a Trainee role to go for it!

Jupiter Greenskills

Here, **Mhairi Campbell** explains a little more about her Greenskills training scheme based at the Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre, Grangemouth:

Working in conjunction with **Falkirk Council Employment Training Unit**, we offer local people practical training in activities such as woodworking, power tool use and wildlife habitat management. Trainees are typically aged between 16-21 years, looking to improve their job prospects. TCV's hands-on training complements their classroom-based learning.

We have also been working with the **Community Learning and Development Team** from Falkirk Council as part of their Multiply scheme where each client coming along can work towards an SVQ qualification in Maths. This is done through integrating maths calculations into our practical sessions. For example, after we scythed a wildflower meadow, **Neil McCarroll** from Multiply worked with the trainees to understand how to measure in square metres, and then calculate the size of our meadow. Neil says:

"It has been wonderful for the Multiply team to partner with TCV for their Greenskills course. Mhairi and the TCV team deliver really creative and engaging programmes for the young trainees, offering new practical skills and fostering soft skills to help get them ready for the world of work or further training. Multiply were able to highlight the practical applications of maths, such as measuring and problem solving, that came up in many of the practical projects. By practicing and demonstrating their maths skills through these real-world scenarios, many of the learners were successful in gaining SQA qualifications – a great achievement. TCV offer something really unique and special, and it has been a pleasure working with them."

For further information about TCV's Greenskills training at the Jupiter Centre, contact **Mhairi**



Neil McCarroll and a group of Multiply Trainees measuring a cut wildflower meadow. MHAIRI CAMPBELL

Alloa Saints score for the environment



Getting the ball rolling: Junior Alloa Saints players kicked off Trees for Goals at Clackmannan County Cricket Club. JULIE HOWDEN

Youth Football Club **Alloa Saints** is making headlines on and off the pitch by teaming up with **Forth Valley Climate Action Hub – FEL Scotland, TCV Scotland** and **Forth Climate Forest** for an exciting new initiative called ‘Trees for Goals’.

The idea is simple yet impactful: for every

goal scored by the team between the start of the season and March, the club will plant a tree. But the project – inspired by Kenyan footballer and environmentalist **Lesein Mutunkei** – is about more than just planting trees. The initiative will teach young players about the importance of native trees, which boost local biodiversity, help manage

flooding, create wildlife habitats and connect communities with nature.

Trees for Goals

The trees are being planted at the team’s training ground at Clackmannan County Cricket Club as well as other locations

across Clackmannanshire, ensuring that every goal scored contributes to a greener, more resilient future for the Wee County. The club are aiming to plant around 2,000 trees this season.

Sarah Donnachie, Climate Hub Officer for **FEL Scotland's** Forth Valley Climate Action Hub, commented: *"This project demonstrates how community sport can have a real impact on tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. By linking goals on the field with goals for the planet, we're empowering young people and their families to take meaningful action that's not only fun, but educational and vital. The response from the players has been so enthusiastic that the number of trees has had to be capped!"*

Paul Robertson, Chairman of Alloa Saints Football Club added: *"Our players are learning that the goals they score have an impact far beyond the pitch. They're not just playing to win games – they're playing to make their community better and greener. It's a fantastic initiative, and the kids are so proud to be a part of it. One of our coaches shared a heartwarming moment: after scoring a goal, one young player ran straight to his parents, shouting,*



JULIE HOWDEN

'That'll plant a tree!' His face was beaming with delight."

Football's role in fighting climate change

The project supports Forth Climate Forest's goal to plant 16 million trees in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling within the next decade. Part of Scotland's International Environment Centre at the

University of Stirling, Forth Climate Forest aims to foster a net zero regional economy in Forth Valley and serve as a global model for low-carbon growth. Grassroots efforts like Trees for Goals highlight how local initiatives can drive transformative environmental change.

"Football has the power to bring communities together, and this project shows how that same spirit can tackle



JULIE HOWDEN

*big challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss,” said **Doug Worrall**, Director of the Forth Climate Forest. Doug added: “We’re aiming to plant 16 million trees in the areas that need them most – helping neighbourhoods cope with extreme weather, creating habitats for wildlife, and advancing net zero goals. Trees for Goals is a fantastic example of how everyone – from junior players to their families – can play a part in this mission.*

“Every time these kids score, they’re making a difference for their local environment. Planting trees not only helps protect communities from flooding and creates spaces for wildlife to thrive but also reduces the impact of extreme weather – all of which means fewer games are disrupted. It’s a win-win for football and the environment.”

Josh Thornhill, Operations Manager at TCV Scotland explained the project’s environmental impact: “Native trees

provide so many benefits, from supporting wildlife to reducing the risk of extreme weather impacting local areas. Trees for Goals shows how small actions can make a massive difference, and we’re thrilled to see Alloa Saints embracing this initiative with such enthusiasm.”

The initiative’s success in Forth Valley is paving the way for a potential rollout across Scotland in 2025/26. With support from the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and further funding, Trees for Goals aims to grow into a national programme. FEL Scotland and partners are seeking £30,000 to ensure sustainable development and broad engagement.

Sarah Donnachie sums up: “This pilot project is just the beginning. With support from the SFA and additional funding, Trees for Goals aims to expand across Scotland in the 2025/26 season, encouraging even more teams to connect football with climate action.”



Lichen

Leafy, bushy and crusty may sound like characters from a Disney cartoon, but they are in fact some of our most widespread and oldest living organisms – lichens. From the seashore to mountain plateaus, these colourful but often overlooked species are very slowly spreading their footprint across our landscape.

Amongst our oldest forms of life, some lichens are thousands of years old and can be incredibly slow growing, sometimes as little as 0.1mm per year. There are estimated to be approximately 18,000 lichen varieties throughout the world, with about 1,700 in the UK, of which over 1,500 grow in Scotland.

Lichens adorn many surfaces, including rocky outcrops, drystone dykes, fence posts and trees, from urban parks to ancient woodlands. In Scotland, lichen hot spots include the temperate rainforests of the western seaboard. Here, lichens are so abundant they are often described as ‘dripping’ from the trees.

But what exactly is lichen? Not to be confused with mosses and liverworts with

which they commonly grow, lichens are very different from these plant species, not least because lichens are not plants at all, having no stems or green leaves. Lichens are made up of two or more organisms – a fungus and one or more algae which exist in a mutually beneficially relationship, or symbiosis, although this complex relationship is not yet fully understood.

Lichens belong to three main types: crustose (crusty), foliose (leafy) and fruiticose (bushy). They can vary widely in shape, size and colour including yellow, orange, green, purple and grey. Their common names can be very evocative, such as Sunburn, Yellow Candles, Golden Pine, Little Clouds, Crab’s-eye, Coral Crust and Old Man’s Beard.

For centuries lichen has been used in products such as medicines, cosmetics, and even as part of the embalming process in ancient Egypt. Closer to home, lichen was traditionally used to dye textiles, including the wool used in the famous Harris Tweed from the Outer Hebrides where lichen was readily available in the rocky terrain. Lichens were collectively



In 2023, a group from TCV visited Cormanachan Community Woodlands in Argyll for a lichen workshop, led by Dr Oliver Moore of Plantlife, who are part of the [Saving Scotland's Rainforest Project](#)



To fully appreciate and identify lichens, a small hand lens is useful.

known in Gaelic as crottal, or crottle.

Today, lichens are useful as indicators of air quality, being sensitive to pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen. In recent decades our air quality has significantly improved due to legislation, the decline of coal as a fuel, and the control of vehicle emissions. Improvements can still be made, and the presence or absence of lichens eg on your local park's trees, can tell us something about the air quality in our own neighbourhoods.

For wildlife, lichens provide food and shelter for insects and nesting material for birds. Few animals eat lichen with one major exception – reindeer. In its artic habitat an important part of the reindeer's winter diet is lichen, called reindeer moss, which although low in protein is high in carbohydrates.

If you would like to engage in some lichen spotting, a particularly rich habitat are old churchyards where gravestones have been left in peace for generations to become hosts for lichen – often so abundant they obscure gravestone decorations and inscriptions.

Lichens are one of those features that once you get your 'eye in', you'll start noticing them in all kinds of places. And, unlike the seasonal ebb and flow of most species, lichens can be found and appreciated at any time of the year – they aren't going anywhere fast!

'You say tomato, I say...'

Lichen is one of those words that can be pronounced in more than one way, usually as 'liken' or 'litchen', rhyming with kitchen.

Find out more

The [British Lichen Society](#) has a wealth of information, and whose local groups organise meetings and field trips.

The [Field Studies Council](#) produces a handy set identification guides for lichens in different environments. These are laminated so ideal for Scotland's often damp weather.

Originally published by Scottish Natural Heritage, [Lichens – Naturally Scottish](#) gives a good overview of lichens in Scotland.

Lichen comes in many shapes, sizes and colours



Reindeer moss lichen
(*Cladonia portentosa*) DR RICHARD MURRAY



Oak moss lichen
(*Evernia prunastri*) LAIRICH RIG



Pixie cup lichen
(*Cladonia pyxidata*) AMADEJ TRNKOCZY



Monks' hood lichen
(*Hypogymnia physodes*) LAIRICH RIG



Common orange lichen
(*Xanthoria parietina*) LAIRICH RIG



Dog lichen
(*Peltigera membranacea*) LAIRICH RIG



Planting-up East Ren

For the second successive year, TCV is working with **East Renfrewshire Council** to involve local residents and school children to plant 10,000 trees at sites across the Council area. The Council initiated the community planting scheme as a tangible legacy project to mark the COP26 climate talks coming to Glasgow in 2021.

The planting has been organised by **Sam Ibbotts**, the Council's Climate Change Officer, and **Liz Walshaw**, TCV Senior Project Officer, who says: "The trees are all native species of oak, birch, rowan, hazel, grey willow, and alder. Some of the planting days also included Citizen

Science sessions which were really popular. Overall, it's been great involving so many enthusiastic local tree planters, and details of the remaining planting dates before the end of March will be available on [Eventbrite](#)"

Pictured here are staff from East Renfrewshire Council who left their normal office environment for a planting session at Spiersbridge in Thornliebank.





Fulfilling the CCF vision



As part of the Clyde Climate Forest, 200 trees were recently planted in Rockburn Park, Bellshill. CHRIS STARK/CCF

TCV is a partner in the **Clyde Climate Forest (CCF)** which spans the Glasgow City Region comprising of eight local authorities. CCF's vision is to plant the right trees, in the right places to help nature recover and thrive, to protect and mitigate against climate change, and to create an ecologically secure environment for future generations. Over the next decade, the CCF aims is to see up to 1.5 million native trees planted, 200 woodland habitats connected, and 9,000 hectares of new forests and woodland created.

To help fulfil its vision, the CCF is engaging a team of volunteer Tree Wardens to plant,

A Winter Tree ID session at Durrockstock Park, Paisley.

protect and promote their local trees. As part of the Tree Warden scheme, CCF's **Laura Salvage** organised a Winter Tree Identification (ID) session at Durrockstock Park, Paisley. This was the first of a series of events for Tree Wardens and others to learn about various aspects of trees, including their identification, selection, planting and aftercare.

For more information about the CCF Tree Warden Scheme, contact **Laura**.



Promoting Citizen Science in Ayrshire

In association with [Ayrshire Climate Hub](#), TCV's **Alex Paterson** is running a series of 'Introduction to Citizen Science' workshops for local groups and organisations in Ayrshire's three council areas. Through these informal sessions, participants learn how to identify and record wildlife, understand why wildlife recording is so important, and take away skills and confidence to take part in Citizen Science activities using apps like iNaturalist.

Alex has a number of short (1.5 hours) sessions open to the public, coming up in South Ayrshire Libraries:

- 8 March** : Troon
Family Citizen Science
- 14 March** : Girvan
Introduction to Citizen Science
- 21 March** : Forehill, Ayr
Introduction to Citizen Science
- 25 March** : Troon
Introduction to Citizen Science

25 March : Carnegie Library, Ayr
Introduction to Citizen Science

If you're interested in any of the events, check with the library to confirm dates and times.

A Climate Hub near you?

Ayrshire Climate Hub is one of a network of community climate hubs across Scotland. Find out if there's a hub covering your [region](#)

Citizen Science - Do it yourself!

If you would like to find out more about Citizen Science, a wealth of information is available on our [website](#) which highlights the amazing variety of Citizen Science activities available - there's something for everyone! And much of the information is summed-up in our guide to [Citizen Science in the Community](#)





TCV Green skills Traineeship



The TCV Green Skills Traineeship is a 10 month, 3 day week, paid the real living wage role, where we are looking to recruit & upskill 24 dedicated trainees aged 16-25 with barriers to employment. With the recruitment of these Trainees across the Central belt of Scotland we aim to enhance biodiversity through the creation of green corridors along the John Muir Way.



Work as part of a team



Gain specialist environmental knowledge and experience



Gain Qualifications such as Brushcutting and First Aid

**NOTE: Deadline for applications
10 March**

**Apply for this traineeship
here**

**Find out more about the project
here**



• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



make space for nature



NatureScot's seasonal campaign provides practical tips for everyone to help our wildlife, reverse nature loss and fight climate change. Find out ways you can **Make Space For Nature**

TCV Community Network



For many community and environmental groups, sometimes just a few hundred pounds can make the difference between something happening or not. Our latest **Funding Focus** lists various funding sources, large and small, including TCV's own Chestnut Fund that may make that difference.

Our Community Network remains free to join thanks to support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Find out more and join the Network **here**



The Network Bulletin is produced by The Conservation Volunteers in Scotland and features groups belonging to the Community Network, plus news of TCV's own projects and volunteers.



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TCV Scotland's community, health and environmental volunteering activities are supported by organisations and partners including:



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Editor Graham Burns

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