

Hello from SCAN - The Scottish Countryside Access Network. It has been a little quiet over the past half year, but SCAN is back on track, with its first SCAN E-bulletin as well as the conference on Managing Access Rights to Water on 26 November.

NEWS FROM SCAN

*** *A new direction for the Scottish Countryside Access Network***

Last year SCAN held a survey amongst SCAN members about the future direction of SCAN, many thanks to the many people who took time to give us their feedback, and as a result changes our now well underway. First and foremost, the decision was taken that SCAN is no longer a paid membership organisation, but should instead act more as a network of all people, access users and providers, with a professional or a personal interest in access across Scotland. The SCAN conferences will remain as a major platform for networking and information sharing and will continue to be organised twice a year. In addition, SCAN will organise smaller networking events around different topics at a more local level.

*** *SCAN Membership***

As SCAN now no longer charges a membership fee, the costs of maintaining a register of SCAN members, the organisation of local networking events and the redevelopment of a regularly updated web-site which will include news items, fact sheets, conference reports will be met through the conference fees.

Otherwise registration of membership is simple: If you receive this email from SCAN you can safely conclude your name is on our database and there is no need to act, unless of course you prefer not to hear from SCAN. In that case send us an email and your name will be removed from the membership register. If this message gets to you via friendly colleagues and you would like to be included in the register, send us an email with your contact details and we will welcome you as a SCAN member.

*** *SCAN Online***

As was remarked in some of the survey forms, the SCAN website was not regularly updated. This is about to change as the SCAN website is currently being redeveloped. In the future it will offer a home to Access news, fact sheets and conference reports. SCAN will use 4-6 weekly E-bulletins to keep members posted of new developments within SCAN, as well as provide links to relevant access issues in the news. You can also use SCAN to spread your news - once the website is up and running we can post your press releases on the site and include a couple of lines and the relevant links in the E-bulletin.

*** *SCAN Co-ordinator***

Much of the work to propel SCAN further into the electronic age will be done by Patricia Schelle, who joined SCAN in September as its new co-ordinator. She has exchanged the polders of the Netherlands for the Scottish Highlands and also works part-time for the freshwater programme of WWF International.

ACCESS IN THE NEWS & PRESS RELEASES

*** *Network Rail blocks access to great outdoors***

The Sunday Times in Scotland reports that Network Rail refuses to guarantee access at almost 500 railway crossings (31 October 2004)

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1337775.00.html>

*** *Water sports set for Loch Leven***

The BBC reports on the consultation on access to Loch Leven (14 September 2004)

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/3653302.stm

*** *Our new right to roam***

Dave Morris, director of the Ramblers Association Scotland, welcomes the Land Reform Act in the Scotsman (25 September 2004)

<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=694&id=1112172004&20041031084923> (free registration required)

*** *Scots land reforms are hailed abroad***

The Scotsman reports that Scotland's new Land Reform Act is to be used as a model for walkers, climbers and mountaineers worldwide as they lobby governments on the controversial issue of land access.

<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=694&id=1014952004> (free registration required)

*** *New ways to access the Scottish Borders unveiled***

Press Release (8 Nov): Walkers, cyclists and horse riders in the Scottish Borders received a boost as a major new strategy outlining the future development of the region's paths and access network was unveiled.

<http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/whatsnew/newsnov2004/access.htm>

*** *Fishing and Canoeing interests agree way forward for Spey Access***

Press Release (8 Nov) A number of steps to ensure a consensual approach to the implementation of forthcoming access legislation in and around the River Spey have been agreed by delegates from a range of backgrounds.

http://www.anglingnews.net/rep_detail.asp?ID=3078

UPCOMING EVENTS

* 26 November - SCAN Conference "Managing Access Rights to Water - A Raft of opportunities?"

Information & registration:
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