

Here's a quick round up of what we've been doing so far in 2017.



CANN (Collaborative Action for Natura Network)



Act is one of the 11 strong Collaborative Action for Natura Network group which has successfully bid for European funding over 5 years for a programme of peatland restoration on Islay. CANN will bring employment and contract opportunities to Islay and will look at conservation action plans including the management of *Rhododendron ponticum* in priority areas. The project will run to October 2021. Our Islay based Site Officer and Support Officer positions are now being advertised. More details can be found on www.s1jobs.com

ACT Hubs



We are pleased to announce that we now have our full Act Hubs Team in place; Elaine Cameron as project officer, Anna Headrige as marketing officer and Oly Hemmings as finance officer. Act Hubs aims to help communities across Argyll and the Isles to develop projects that enhance visitor experiences, while benefiting the community and local economy. The Act Hubs Steering Group are working with the project team to gather project suggestions Act Hubs is part-financed by Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (Act) and part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Argyll and the Islands LEADER 2014-2020 programme. More information about Act Hubs and the project objectives can be found on our webpage. Got an idea? Get in touch! Elaine Cameron, elaine@act-now.org.uk 07824833001

Membership

Become a member and you can help us do even more! Our membership is open to individuals, groups and businesses. You can become a member via our website or get in touch and we can send you a form. All members are invited to our AGM – last years was in the lovely new Civic Centre Annex in Helensburgh.

Thank you to all of you who have signed up and welcome to our newest members; North Knapdale Community Council, Bute Community Council, West Loch Fyne Community Council, Friends of Duchess Woods and West Kintyre Community Council! Thank you all for your support.





Branching Out Argyll

Our Blarbuie and Dunollie programmes are progressing well, and have in turns enjoyed some lovely spring weather and some winter blasts! Our Branching Out Moving On ideas continue to develop – participants from previous Cowal and Bute programmes have been attending a “Moving On” pilot project run at Kilfinan Community Forest which it is hoped will form a working model for those people who feel able to participate in a less supported, community volunteering programme. Check out an amazing short film on the Branching Out project by clicking [here](#) We are delighted to be partnering with the NVA team at St Peter’s Kilmahew in Cardross to organise an event in October this year inviting some of the national project’s key funders and supporters along with some of the local leaders and participants to enjoy the Branching Out Experience for themselves.



How do we work?

We have 8 Trustees and a panel of advisors who steer our progress and who make up the steering groups for each of our projects. Our Board/Advisor meetings are quarterly and we make a point of finding venues across Argyll and Bute to make sure that everyone has a chance of attending a meeting locally every so often! Our AGMs are also a moveable feast – this year will be at Dunoon Burgh Hall on 13th September. All Act members and project representatives are invited to attend our AGM to discuss progress and look ahead. It’s also the time to put yourself forward to join us as an Advisor, and to elect our Board so please check that your membership is up to date.



What next?

We have a number of projects currently being considered for funding or under development. We’re always on the lookout to see how and where we can deliver our objectives in innovative ways.

Want to know all the up-to-date info? We have an active social media presence and an increasing following who are using our sites to exchange information and showcase projects so please get involved!

Have you visited our [website](#), we’ve updated all or new project information and our meeting minutes.

Please like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and you can now find us on [LinkedIn](#) and Instagram ([act_aicct](#)) too!



Fundraising

Did you know that you can show your support while you are shopping, arranging insurance or booking your holiday? Please check in with us at [Easy Fundraising](#) on your way to the retailer site.



You can now vote for ACT Hubs until October 2017 which will help to raise funds to get our ACT Hubs project implementation plans off the ground.

Click [here](#) to vote for Act

