

### Skills and Experience locally available to assist with Community Forest Management.

**Page 40 of the business plan** gives a brief outline of who is currently on the board and their experience. In addition to the chairman, Michael Strang Steel, who was a Forestry Commissioner for 11 years, owns a sawmill and has forestry interests in several parts of the country, another board member has specialist skills relating to forestry:

Sandy Cumming trained as an engineer in all aspects of forestry before being head-hunted by Buccleuch Estates to take charge of their workshops with a specific remit for design and fabrication. He oversaw and organised the design, development and fabrication of all their forestry machinery. This led to the design and setting up of commercial Bio mass plants in which business Buccleuch Estates were pioneers. **Sandy worked for 44 years in this capacity and understands all practical aspects associated with timber operations and forestry.**

As you would expect in a rural community, many of our members have land management experience through small woodland or farming interests and these skills, experience and practical help are available to us at all times.

We have detailed the experience of a few EYCDC members who live in the Ettrick valley. Some are retired or semi-retired which makes their time more available to us, others are currently self-employed or employed by outside organisations. All are interested in the community ownership of the forest and willing to share their very relevant experience.

**Graham:-** Senior Countryside Ranger Angus Council : Forestry Commission and Cairngorms National Park liaison, wildlife monitoring, management planning, visitor talks. 30 years professional experience in nature conservation, habitat management, wildlife monitoring and visitor management, RSPB warden and Scottish Wildlife Trust.

**Chris:-** 20 years experience as Countryside Manager : chainsaw / strimming certification, tree surgery, hedge planting, footpaths, stiles, bridges commissioning and maintenance. Public rights of way and access management, habitat surveys and conservation management. Graduate ecologist. Technician Grade Member Arboricultural Association.

**Willie :-** Forestry harvesting operator, forestry timber haulage driver, tree surgery, general land maintenance, dry stone dyker.

**Karen :-** John Muir Trust Estate Manager, volunteer group management, forest schools and crafts, community wood fuel schemes.

**Scott :-** General country estate management and maintenance, chainsaw, tree surgery, planting, professional deer stalking, boardwalk maintenance and repair.

**Jenny:-** Graduate ecologist, 3 summers work with Tweed Foundation, 10 months with a Northumberland based consultancy, currently seeking work.

These people listed above are available to assist our overall management of the project in addition to whoever we recruit to the 3 paid posts, our board, our outside advisors and our partners, thereby enabling us to give this piece of wetland and forest more attention than it could possibly be afforded by any other owner.