



Media Release	
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Community takes ownership of outdoor light and sound event

The Pitlochry Area Community Interest Company (CIC), a social enterprise based in the town, and covering much of Highland Perthshire, is preparing to take control of this year's *Enchanted Forest*[™] – Scotland's premier outdoor light and sound show.

Roseanna Cunningham, Minister for Environment, officially handed over the *Enchanted Forest* on behalf of the current steering group (1) at Forestry Commission Scotland's **Faskally Wood**, home to the event, on **Monday 1 March at 10.30am**.

Perthshire Big Tree Country's flagship event, the *Enchanted Forest* is a highlight of Scotland's autumn calendar, consistently growing in popularity since its move to Faskally in 2006. It attracts around 20,000 visitors annually to the Pitlochry area – almost 90% of whom visited the area specifically to attend the *Enchanted Forest*.

Speaking at the handover, Ms Cunningham said:

"I've visited The *Enchanted Forest* on several occasions and know exactly why it has been a Big Tree Country success story from the outset. It now draws thousands of visitors to Pitlochry every year and last year alone injected an estimated £1million into the local economy."

"Hugely enthusiastic support for the event from local businesses and the wider community has helped to make it the success that it is today.

"It is great to see that level of commitment develop into a Community Interest Company, one that will ensure the continued success of this amazing and remarkable fixture in Scotland's tourism calendar."

Graham Brown, managing director of the Pitlochry CIC welcomed the handover:

“This is an historical event for a community group to take on responsibility for the running of one of Scotland’s most successful events. I am particularly honoured to be accepting Big Tree Country’s generous gift on behalf of the many members of the community who have worked together to make this possible. We have a keen and experienced management team on board to continue the good work laid down over the last seven years, and to take the *Enchanted Forest* forward into the future.”

Over the years, the *Enchanted Forest* has played host to, amongst others, dragons, aliens, witches, faeries and some of Scotland’s most famous mythical characters. The trees surrounding Loch Dunmore have danced with light, reflected in the still waters, and been illuminated by fire bursts – all set to eclectic soundtracks of rock, folk and traditional music. The theme for this year’s event will be announced in June 2010. For advance information visit www.enchantedforest.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

- (1) The ***Enchanted Forest steering group*** included representatives from:
Forestry Commission Scotland; Perth & Kinross Council; Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust; Pitlochry Area CIC; Scottish Enterprise; VisitScotland.

For more on the *Enchanted Forest* visit www.enchantedforest.org.uk.

To find out more about Big Tree Country visit www.perthshirebigtreecountry.co.uk.

Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) carries out projects that fulfil its aim to “provide and promote high quality opportunities for countryside access and recreation throughout Perth and Kinross, for the benefit of the community as a whole.” It also offers grants to community groups, organisations and individuals, who wish to develop their own access projects.

PKCT is a partnership between Perth & Kinross Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Enterprise Tayside, The Gannochy Trust, and Forestry Commission Scotland.

For more information on the work of PKCT, visit www.pkct.org

Further information

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