



THE RIVER DON TRUST- *“River in harmony”*

The River Don Trust was delighted to host a meeting on Friday (25th. November) at its Cluny office with the Scottish Government’s, Minister for the Environment Stewart Stevenson MSP.

The Minister was given presentations by RAFTS on the benefits of the national network of River Trusts and management to the Scottish environment while the River Don Trust presented on the local situation on Donside, all its achievements to date and active programmes currently in place including “salmon in the classroom”

The Minister subsequently visited nearby Cluny School and took the opportunity of presenting the school with a digital camera as this years’ winners of a “salmon in the classroom” competition among the five participating schools.

The Minister also took the opportunity of announcing the Scottish Government is renewing its support for its strategic partnership with the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) with a one-year grant of £250,000.

This new funding builds on an initial three-year programme and will enable progress achieved by RAFTS, and its 25 member trusts around Scotland, to be evaluated and shared more widely, while local trusts can set priorities going forward. The grant will also support skills training for members of RAFTS to help support sustainably managed freshwater fisheries across the country.

Mr Stevenson said:

“Scotland’s rivers and lochs offer a rich and diverse range of habitats, supporting fish and other wildlife that are enjoyed by people throughout the country – our local and visiting anglers in particular. RAFTS’ work and that of local trusts makes an important contribution to our shared commitment to safeguard and enhance our world-class network of rivers and fisheries.

“Over the past three years, the Scottish Government has provided £1.2 million to help RAFTS’ network develop modern local fisheries management plans for their areas, in consultation with local communities and partners. I’m pleased to announce an extension to that funding of £250,000 for the current year, which will provide additional impetus for further progress by Trusts and underpin a strategic approach to modern freshwater fisheries management.

“Finding out about the work of the Don Trust, along with my earlier visits to the Outer Hebrides and the South West, has given me a fresh appreciation for the valuable and varied work of river and fisheries trusts across Scotland. In particular, collaboration with our schools and local communities allows young people to learn about and appreciate their local rivers and why we should cherish them so that future generations can enjoy them as much as we do.”

Some photos of the children giving the minister a presentation are attached below



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