



Sent: 1st October 2020

Welcome to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.

### **Cormonachan Community Woodlands - Members Update No 43**

The Latest News - <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/news.html> and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan> are updated regularly so in between Members Updates please look at these for news.

### **Cormonachan Woodlands Association AGM & SGM**

On 21st September 2020, Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd, (CCW) managed to hold the long awaited AGM & SGM for Cormonachan Woodlands Association (CWA) for the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 in the Lochgoilhead Village Hall under strict Covid-19 regulations, masked on arrival and leaving and all members two metres apart during the meetings. The Minutes of the meetings were sent out by e-mail to the members on 23rd September 2020 and can also be see here:-

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CWA-AGM-SGM-Minutes-2020-on-21092020.pdf>

We would now point out the CWA has been officially dissolved and that its assets and bank balance have been transferred to the new organisation, Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.

### **CCW Membership Update**

Our Membership Secretary, Dennis Bolt and the CCW Board Members wish to thank all 86 Members for joining the CCW. We realise that it has been an inconvenience to have had to sign two forms to join the new organisation, however this is a once off situation and future subscriptions for payment on 1st April 2021 and yearly thereafter is all that will be required in future. Our Treasurer suggests you set up a standing order for that date to make life easy for us all (Bank Account No: 68771902 & Bank Code: 08-92-50) for your subscription amount (£10, £5 or £50). He has sent out by e-mail a number of reminders to those supporters who have

paid their subscriptions but who have yet to send in their two signed membership & subscriber forms. Please do so as you cannot actually be a member or vote without these forms being completed. Forms follow:-

CCW Membership Application Form - (Each individual must sign a form): - <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CCW-Membership-Form-1.pdf> (Please tick membership category & all boxes as appropriate above signature and date).

CCW Membership Subscriber Form (All members of a household can sign a single form, everyone must sign this form as it's a legal requirement): - [http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CCW sign memorandum for a company without a share capital-1.pdf](http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CCW_sign_memorandum_for_a_company_without_a_share_capital-1.pdf) **PLEASE NOTE THAT BOTH THESE FORMS MUST BE SIGNED.**

Members' subscriptions are the only income we have to pay for the day to day running of the organisation. Almost all the work is carried out by volunteers however we have to pay for materials, insurance, equipment, maintenance, website hosting, stationery, etc. from your subscriptions.

Contact - [Membership@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](mailto:Membership@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk)

Take Care and STAY SAFE.

### **Accounts for last year to 31st March 2020**

The Association has changed to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. and the first year will run from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. The accounts for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association can be viewed on the CCW website:-

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/accounts/>

### **"Upper Cormonachan Paths Project"**

The CCW has applied for a £4,995 grant from National Park's Grant Scheme to employ two contractors for 333 hours of work in the woodlands to clear as much of the invasive Rhododendron ponticum as possible starting from the south end of the woodlands and proceeding to the north end which has the worst invasion. This will also continue to help satisfy the National Park's planning requirement under Condition 2 where all invasive plants have to be cleared for full planning permission to complete the paths project hopefully in 2021 when funding may return for such projects again following Covid-19 funding being given priority.

The "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" has now reached **£15,090** as at 30th September 2020. As we are now having to find 5% of the full funding required for the construction costs of £323,484, that is **£16,175**,

we now need to find an extra **£1,085** to meet the local donations required for the project funding. The project is currently on hold due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

We are still waiting for Forestry and Land Scotland to cut up the 92 felled trees along the new paths route that is expected to be done this autumn. The felled trees at the Settlement will have to be cut up and removed by our own chainsaw operator volunteers. The archaeological survey has also been completed and the final report is on our website:-

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Cormonachan-archaeology-report2.pdf>

We now have permission to erect an A1 Interpretation Board at the Settlement on a lectern similar to the one at the car park but this one will be devoted to the archaeology and history of the Medieval Settlement. We have funding in hand for this from the National Park's Heritage Fund.

### **More Deciduous Trees to plant in the Woodlands**

Further to all the 105 native trees planted last November 2019 and the 60 native trees planted on 25th September 2020, we have been approved for a further 105 native trees to be planted in the woodlands inside the Squirrel Trail boundary where felling of Sitka spruce has taken place over the last few years. This will take place on 27th/28th November 2020 with the trees supplied by the Woodland Trust Fund for Communities.

### **Last Volunteers Days**

Volunteers Days have been proceeding fully since 25th & 26th September when we had ten volunteers over the two days cutting, clearing and burning Rhododendron ponticum by Cormonachan Burn and planting 60 native trees to the west side of the top Squirrel Trail, north of the Contemplation Shelter. We also set up a new funded 'People Counter' costing £1,575 with a £1,500 grant from 'Paths for All' at the car park gate and erected new signs funded by the Co-op Local Community Fund costing £256 for 15 signs. We were extremely grateful to five National Park and five local member volunteers who carried out this work under strict Covid-19 requirements agreed with the National Park Authority.

Over the latter part of July, August and September, our strimmer volunteer members have managed to keep the paths maintained so that members and visitors have been able to enjoy walking around the paths. Abiding by the Covid-19 restrictions has been easy to abide by as these volunteers have to trim the paths on their own although a first aider has always been on site.

## **Next Volunteers Days**

**Friday 30th & Saturday 31st October 10.00 - 16.00 hrs**

**Friday 27th & Saturday 28th November 10.00 - 16.00 hrs**

Please book in advance by 12 noon on the Thursday before each event to satisfy Covid-19 requirements of registration.

The following notice has been passed to the CCW on 30th September 2020:-

### **Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority – Covid-19 Volunteer Position Statement**

It has been a period of unprecedented change and the Scottish Government restrictions put in place to combat the spread of Covid-19 have had a significant effect on our ability to deliver our volunteer programme.

Originally when lockdown was introduced all mobilised volunteering was suspended. As the restrictions have been relaxed we have been able to gradually reopen some volunteering, adhering to the guidelines and ensuring that the volunteers are safe from infection or spread.

Recently the Scottish Government have introduced new tighter restrictions to disrupt the increase in Covid-19 cases and we have adapted our volunteering to reflect this. Our current position is:

- Maximum of 2 people from 2 different households on a task
  - 2 metres social distancing must be maintained by volunteers and the task not delivered if this is not possible
  - Volunteers travel separately whilst on or getting to a task
  - Only essential volunteer tasks are considered
  - All volunteers are issued with Covid-19 kit from the National Park
  - We are not at this time accepting requests for new supervised volunteer tasks, however we can consider requests for essential unsupervised volunteer tasks (max 2 vols).

We understand that approaches to volunteering activities within the restrictions, are different across the range of organisations operating within the National Park and this reflects the ability to keep the volunteers safe, familiarity with the volunteers and the tasks that are being managed. However at the moment, other than carrying out critical support tasks we feel that removing the risk of infection and spread needs to be our main priority. This means that many of our previous volunteer tasks are not currently operational, especially those where there is increased risk of spread of the virus through increasing contact between people. We hope that we can open the volunteer programme further soon and have prepared new processes so that we are ready to do so when the time is right.

Critical Support tasks might include:

- Essential path reporting and light maintenance, avoiding major issues developing.

- Invasive species control, protecting years of progress from being lost.
- Reporting on visitor activities across the national park to help manage visitor impacts.
- Litter picking to avoid the embedding of litter within areas.

We understand that many of our volunteers are not comfortable with signing up to opportunities in the current situation and we completely support their decisions. We are however keeping in touch with them all, and do hope to see them all again once infection is not a risk anymore.

In the meantime we are using the opportunity to develop our work to reduce the carbon emissions associated with volunteers, supporting the development of litter management and managing the volunteers who are currently active.

As we know this picture is a constantly moving one, so we will update our thinking and approach whenever necessary.

Check out our 'Volunteering' page on our website:-

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/volunteering/> for more information.

## **Co-op Local Community Fund**

This fund since the end of October 2019 and until 24th October 2020 has now raised **£967.31** to 30th September 2020. The Co-op donate 1% of purchases made from any Co-op products UK wide, providing the Cormonachan Community Woodlands has been chosen by a Co-op member. If you are not a member, it costs £1 to join and you can join here - <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>.

Visit our Co-op cause page at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/36994>

Our target had been £256 for the initial signage however we should be able to purchase more signs for the new paths as a result. The Co-op Fund has paid out an interim payment and so the original signage order was placed and the signs have now been erected. The balance of the funding will go to the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project.

## **Red Squirrel Hide Update**

The hide is **open** - please use the Hand Sanitizer on entering.

**WANTED...** Two full members to apply to serve actively on the CCW Board and become directors - one to take on being Volunteers Leader. Ask the Secretary for more details.

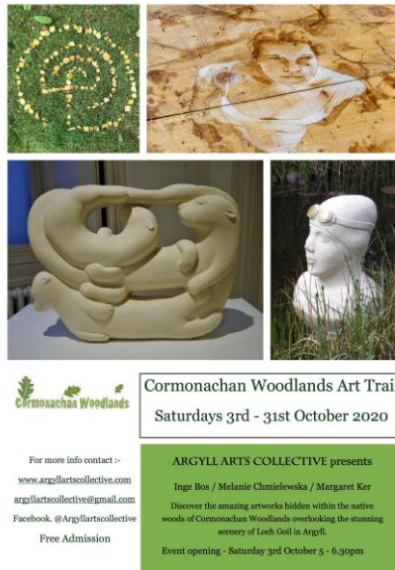
The present Board of Directors are Douglas Locke, also Company Secretary; Jimmy Sim, Treasurer; Don Kamsley; Frances Walker; Alastair Moodie & Scott Black - 6 of 8 available positions.

## Latest News



Tail Piece...

**Argyll Arts Collective** presents  
**Cormonachan Woodlands Art Trail** that will run from Saturday 3rd October with the Opening at 5 - 6.30 pm and then it will be Open every day to Saturday 31st October 2020. There is no admission charge.



There are three artists showing their artworks within the Cormonachan Community Woodlands - Inge Bos / Melanie Chmielewska / Margaret Ker. Their details will be on poster display in the Contemplation Shelter and their artworks will be mainly around the Squirrel Trail but also on the top spur where the 'Wee People' are on display by the 'Flat Stone - Have-a-Go' area. Visitors will have to keep their eyes open for all these artworks and also for our regular sculptures that now have their own signs.

There will also be a 'Create a Labyrinth' Workshop with Margaret Ker taking place from 1 pm to 5 pm on Saturday 3rd October - please book a place with Joni at [www.argyllarts-trail.bpt.me](http://www.argyllarts-trail.bpt.me) to attend.

***All members and visitors must abide by the Covid-19 requirements - bring a mask, use the Hand Sanitizer on arrival, maximum of two families of three each together, not exceeding six in a group and those groups MUST stay two metres apart from any other group or individual. Individual walking family groups can walk around the woodlands as they normally would do but must put on masks when they are to become close to another walking group and keep two metres apart from them.***



The Cormonachan Community Woodlands are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites, including Amazon will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cormonachancommunitywoodlands/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=gs-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cormonachancommunitywoodlands/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1)

In the first couple of months, seven members have raised £18.45. Funds raised go to the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund'.

Thank you so much!

# GoRaise

Exciting news! You can now help raise money for 'Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd' every time you shop online. And don't worry, it won't cost you a penny! Buy anything from your weekly supermarket shop to your annual holiday, and the store you're buying from will give a donation to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. There are over 3,000 sites you can shop with who will all give us a donation. Just visit this link to get started:-

[www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-community-woodlands/?refid=3950](http://www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-community-woodlands/?refid=3950)

Since 2018, 10 members have raised £180.93. Funds raised go to the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund'.

Thanks for your help :)

Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)  
Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.  
[Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk)