



Sent: 14th December 2017

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

### **Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 23**

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.

#### ***Red Squirrel Hide***

The Association now has funding approval by the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority's Fund Scheme for funding the Red Squirrel Hide. The cost of purchasing the hide and setting it up by the shed opposite Jan's Hideaway will be approximately £1,642.14 of which the fund is contributing £1,440.14. The cost of the planning permission has come out of the Red Squirrel Project Fund (£202.00) and Anna Wynne very kindly drew up the plans for the planning department and now we are pleased to advise our members that planning permission has been approved. We have ordered the hide and also a replacement shed that we have received donations for. In January 2018, we should receive delivery and erection of the hide and shed are expected to be complete by the middle of February 2018. We will be looking for volunteer members to help with the painting of the hide and the shed.

Red Squirrel Hide funding has also come from Gala Day 2017 (£77.49); member, Tom Currie's 50th Birthday Donation Requests produced amazing donations towards the Red Squirrel Project grossing £380.00 [£365.88 net after PayPal commission] for which the Association is extremely grateful and GoRaise for Cormonachan Woodlands has further added another £53.76 to the project.

The project is now fully funded and in fact there is likely to be a surplus that will be transferred to the next project that will be decided at the next committee meeting in January 2018.

## ***Ditch Cleaning around Cormonachan Woodlands***

The Association has received two days funding (£500) from Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs for mechanical ditch cleaning. Another member has offered funding for a third day (£250) and Allan Campbell of Drimsynie Construction whose excavator will do the work has offered the Association a further two days of work as a donation (value £500). We are extremely grateful to have five days of ditch cleaning work funded and this work will commence in January 2018.

## ***Cormonachan Woodlands Website***

A replacement website is under construction at present with the new website due to be live before Christmas. The reason for this is that the content management system (CMS) was hacked by unknown sources. The website's password access held and nothing was lost or stolen, however we were no longer able to update the website ourselves and many other websites were also in the same situation using the same CMS. We have therefore had to find funding to replace the website at a cost of £750.00. Funds raised for the website have been donated by Argyll Holidays £100; D Locke £100; E Evans £100; Carrick Castle Community Trust £100; Loch Goil Community Council though The Wee Goil £150 and CWA £200 from subscriptions income.

## ***Free Funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association***

GoRaise has now raised £53.76 to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just five of our members (3 full members and 2 associate members) that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! 36 purchases have been made to date this year accumulating £53.76 for the Red Squirrel Hide Project Fund.

You too can help raise free donations for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association too, just from shopping online. Join here today...

<https://www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-woodlands-association> and then when registered add the 'Donation Reminder'

(<https://www.goraise.co.uk/donation-reminder/>).

There are over 3,000 online retailers that take part in the scheme to give commission donations to charities and not-for-profit organisations such as ours, including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, TK Maxx and so many well known companies. There is absolutely **NO** cost to you; we have no idea what you buy so why not help raise funds for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's Project Funds. A new project fund will be launched in January 2018 and we hope other members will join in.

## **Current Membership**

The current membership to the Association now stands at 76 members of which 55 are Full Individual Members, 11 are Associate Members, 5 are Life Members, 2 are Corporate Members and 3 are Child Members. Volunteering to become a member is extremely important to the Association as this is the only income stream it has to run the Association and cover all its running costs. See <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/history/history-minutes-of-meetings.html> where you will find the accounts for the last two years attached to the minutes of the Annual General Meetings. All other expenditure comes from funding applications and donations to the Association for its projects.

## ***Quad Bike Training Course***

The Association obtained 100% funding for this course (£410.00) for two of our volunteer members (Tom Ducat & Matt Wynne) who both passed the assessment and will shortly be receiving their certificates. The Association has been able to train our volunteer members in various fields with 40 certificates now on record including First Aid, Trimmers, Pesticides, Chainsaws, Quad Bike and Food Handling. 100% training funding has been obtained for the volunteer members from various sources.

## ***Volunteers Days***

The Association has been very grateful to our volunteer members who have contributed greatly to the maintenance of Cormonachan Woodlands during this year. A lot has been achieved and of course there is a lot yet to be done. Volunteer days will commence in January and continue in February, March, April and May at the start of the year.

We are very grateful to committee member, Frances Walker for her weekly contributions to feeding the red squirrels in Cormonachan Woodlands.

The Fife Volunteers Weekend in November cleared 20 under-planted Sitka spruce trees under our felling licence and have asked to return for another weekend in February or March 2018 to finish the felling of the 44 trees in this licence. Their contribution over the years has been invaluable.

## **Other News follows...**

### ***Proposed New Path***

A proposed new path from the south west corner of the Squirrel Trail to the Cormonachan Burn Waterfalls and Upper Cormonachan old village and also meeting up the forest road above and the main road below has also been discussed with Forest Enterprise Scotland. Whilst this project is not high on our list of priorities, it takes a long time to plan, obtain planning permission, obtain quotations, confirm funding and then arrange for the work to be done. The approval for the proposed path is agreed as an outline plan and this will be followed up in 2018. You will be kept informed of progress that may yet take a few years to achieve.

### ***Purchase of the Land at Cormonachan Woodlands***

The land at Cormonachan Woodlands that the Association manages through a Memorandum of Understanding is owned by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES). The Lochgoil Community Trust is in discussions with FES, the Association and various funding bodies regarding this land and the land south of Cormonachan Burn to the village of Carrick Castle for it all to be purchased by the Trust. This is only part of the bigger picture as the Trust is also interested in purchasing FES land in Lochgoilhead too.

The Association is interested in finding out more about Land Asset Transfer as funding is generally available to 95% of the cost leaving 5% for the Trust to find. The Trust now has an income with its interest in the Hydro scheme and would be in a position to possibly fund the work of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association that would still manage the whole of the Cormonachan Woodlands area. We will keep members updated to any developments in these discussions.

### ***Cormonachan Woodlands Car Park***

One very big achievement this year was the opening of the new car park. This has made a huge difference to the members and visitors experience of going to the woodlands.

A surprise to the Association last month was a Council Tax bill for a rateable value of 270 for the car park at £125.48 pa. We immediately appealed this charge as the CWA is a not-for-profit organisation and a month later on appeal, the charge was dropped to £0.00. It certainly pays to appeal to unfair charges.

**More news follows...**

## ***Liz Evans, Our Chair of Cormonachan Woodlands Association***

Most of you will know Liz, she has been the inspiration and driving force to using Cormonachan Woodlands for education, recreation and conservation since 1997 under her leadership at Ardroy and since 2015 when the Cormonachan Woodlands Association was formed and to date.

Regrettably, we have to inform you that she is terminally ill with pancreatic and metastatic liver cancer having survived breast cancer a year ago.

We will advise members of her progress which is now at home where she hopes to have 'Quality of Life' for the remaining months of her life.



### **Tail Piece...**

Enjoy walking in these wonderful ancient oak and hazel community woodlands at Cormonachan Woodlands and again please ask your friends to become Guardian Members and support the Association's work.

We wish you a Happy Christmas and a great New Year in 2018.

Cormonachan Woodlands Association -  
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