



Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 22nd November 2016

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 15

There have been no further committee meetings since the last minutes were reported to you for that meeting on 20th September 2016 and in Members Update No 14.

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.

The latest "Car Park Fund" total of receipts to date is shown on the Latest News page with a graph showing that we have reached £1,520.35 towards our target of £4,000 for work to commence on the extended car park at Cormonachan Woodlands. We are still awaiting news of our funding applications and you will be advised of progress in due course. We are very grateful to the Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs who have contributed £500.00 to the fund and to the Caravan & Chalet Owners Annual Coffee Morning at Drimsynie Estate Holiday Village who have contributed a further £100.00. Cormonachan Woodlands Association members have freely donated £714.00 to this project so far and if any other members would like to help us raise money for the extended car park, you can donate on the Latest News page link above where the 'Donate' button links you to PayPal where you can use a credit card or your PayPal account - cheques are also very acceptable!

Cormonachan Woodlands Volunteers Weekend - Saturday 15th October 2016 - Six hardy volunteers (Liz Evans, Douglas Locke, Tom Ducat and 3 Fife Countryside Volunteers) in the pouring rain cleared the car park extension area of all the small trees and scrub ready for work on the car park to begin once we have raised all the funds required. The photos on Facebook show the area before and after and work by the six volunteers

in clearing the area. Four other Fife Countryside Volunteers cleared other areas near Jan's Hideaway.

Cormonachan Woodlands Volunteers Weekend - Sunday 16th October 2016 - Seven Fife Countryside Volunteers together with Liz Evans (CWA Chair) and Douglas Locke (CWA Secretary) worked the whole day on many tasks within the woodlands. The volunteers cleared the pond above Jan's Hideaway and the area around it and burnt all the old brash and previously felled trees cutting them up for firewood for the stove in Jan's Hideaway. Douglas scythed the path up from the bottom path to the top path and around the picnic table and benches. Liz and Fife Ranger, Dallas surveyed the hazel in the woodlands. The oak limbs that had been de-limbed previously by the Forestry Commission were cut up into discs for future use in sculptures and transported down the hill for drying out. The area by the totem pole to be was cleared cutting up the wood into discs for future use, again for sculptures. These at still up the hill with a sign saying 'Do not remove'... The brash from the tree there will need to be burnt at some point. Sunday morning the weather was fine and dry. Enormous thanks to all the volunteers especially the Fife Countryside Volunteers who gave up their entire weekend to volunteer in Cormonachan Woodlands, Argyll...

We do have some very good news as the Association has been approved for two separate grants.

Forestry Commission Scotland through the Community Grant scheme have awarded us £560.00 for First Aid Training for our members. We have already advised members about this. Six places on the Basic 1-day (2-evenings) First Aid Course on 7th/8th December 2016 and two places on the Emergency First Aid Course at the beginning of 2017. Normally these courses are for twelve people however the cost to us for each place, fully funded, is £70 each. This is because we are not in a position to find more than six members to attend the first course that would normally cost £35 pp if 12 places were filled. On the second course, we have just two places funded out of twelve being filled by others from elsewhere. We are still in need of two more members to book on the basic course and one more member for the emergency course. This is a very good offer for members to have the training for no charge.

Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park through the Natural Heritage Fund Scheme have awarded us with a grant of £4,212.10 for two members to have chainsaw training (5 days + 1 day assessment), the purchase of a chainsaw and two sets of personal protection equipment; also for six members to have trimmer (strimmer) training, the purchase of a strimmer and visor/ear muff protection for six. Further, the grant includes equipment for rhododendron eradication (2 portable power drills, 10 bits, 4 spaying suits, 4 pairs of gloves and 10 litres of concentrated

Roundup 480 (glyphosate). Two members have already been approved for a spraying course through the Lochgoil Community Council.

Ardroy Trust have also donated £180.00 worth of bags of peanuts to fill the four squirrel feeders that are now up in the woodlands near Jan's Hideaway that are to feed the squirrels through the winter.

We are extremely grateful to the Forestry Commission, the National Park and Ardroy for all this valuable funding. We hope that our association's membership and the woodlands will benefit for all this great help.

Members have booked the two places on the Chainsaw course; the two places on the Spraying Course have been booked; four places are booked on the Trimmer course leaving two places still to be filled; four places are booked on the Basic First Aid course leaving two places to be filled and one place has been booked on the Emergency First Aid course leaving one place to be filled. We do need to have these vacant places filled by members to get the grants so call us if you would like further information and remember all these courses we have arranged are 100% funded so they are free to go on for our members.

The agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland to use Cormonachan Woodlands for conservation, recreation and education has now been agreed with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and this is expected to be signed very shortly. The full woodlands area extends from Cormonachan Burn & Upper Cormonachan old village north to the Lochwood end and forest road alternative access points where there are now way marker posts and notices. You can see the maps of the whole area on the website's Location page.

It has been agreed with the Commission that the Association will concentrate on maintaining the original area where the paths are before tackling the southern area where the old village is situated. We have the Future Projects listed on a link on the web site's History page.

You can now walk off road from Lettermay at Lochgoilhead to Cormonachan Woodlands on the forest road. We have suggested to the Forestry Commission that if they extend their forest road that goes just past Cormonachan Burn to the boundary of Carrick Estate and Carrick Estate extend their path to the extended forest road a matter of only a short distance, then it would be possible to walk from Lochgoilhead to Ardentenny via Carrick Castle virtually off road for almost 14 miles. We'll keep you posted on any progress.

The Ardroy Trust has been making some good news too as over the last year they have used the woodlands to deliver outdoor education 658 John Muir Awards were obtained by school pupils who undertook conservation

tasks in Cormonachan Woodlands, that's over a third of all John Muir Awards delivered in the National Park.

The following comment put on the Cormonachan Woodlands Facebook page makes you realise the value to our community of the woodlands when you get such good comments about Cormonachan Woodlands from visitors to the area:-

John Green My wife and I, from Fife, visited Lochgoilhead for the first time over the weekend, and discovered your walk by chance, driving down to the castle. The following day we make the walk around the wood, and would rate it 10/10 as a woodland walk, and we have walked many in Scotland and other countries across the globe. So, well done to all concerned, and thank you for creating such a wonderful amenity for public use. We could appreciate the effort put into creating the path and the drainage to keep it walkable in the wet. We pulled up as many rhododendrons as we could.

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Cormonachan Woodlands Thank you for your welcome comments - we are glad you enjoyed walking in Cormonachan Woodlands...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Commented on by [Douglas Locke](#)

We hope you enjoy walking around Cormonachan Woodlands too...

Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)

Cormonachan Woodlands Association

E: Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

T: 01301 703098

M: 07748 130976

F: 01301703098 (on request)

W: www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>