



Sent: 23rd October 2019

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 37

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.

Upper Cormonachan Paths Project - Archaeological Survey

The Archaeological Survey commenced on 29th September 2019 with the next visit planned for 23rd October. There were going to be earlier visits but they were postponed due to heavy rain. Once the survey has been completed the reports will be sent the Association, Forestry & Land Scotland, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park and the West of Scotland Archaeological Service for approval. Once the report is approved the lectern signage with the archaeology and history information about the Upper Cormonachan Township that we locally call the 'Old Village' can be prepared. We have all the funding for this agreed, costing to £5,425.

"Upper Cormonachan Paths Project" Update

As we mentioned in our last update, on Friday 30th August 2019, the Association had an important meeting with Forestry and Land Scotland's regional and local managers and it was agreed that the felling of the Sitka spruce and Larch along the paths route was approved.

It has taken seven weeks since we applied for the official permission to get a reply to our request for the permission documents to fell the trees and only on 17th October have we had a reply to say that our CWA volunteer certificated chainsaw operators may not, at the present time, fell these trees because of a change to FLS policy that volunteers should not do any chainsaw work in Forestry owned land.

Bear in mind that we obtained the funding of £2,500 to chainsaw train four of our members in 2017 and they have felled trees by agreement with FLS and that our chainsaw risk assessments were approved by FLS, it is extraordinary that fully certificated chainsaw operators may not now do any chainsaw work. Local members will remember last year after a storm how our CWA chainsaw operators turned out to cut up three wind fallen trees across the public road completely blocking the road for many hours and cleared those trees. Apparently FLS don't have any chainsaw operators themselves now and contract out all such work with a 24 hour notice to do the work in. If the CWA had not had certificated chainsaw operators then, the road would have stayed closed for another day!

We have been appealing to FLS over the last few weeks to sort this matter out and resolve the situation but until they do resolve it, we cannot do the agreed felling even with the permissions we have in writing from FLS and the National Park. There are 84 Sitka spruce and 8 Larch that we wish to have felled by 29th February 2020.

On a better note, 105 replacement oaks and other deciduous trees for the above will be planted away from the paths route on 22nd November 2019. These trees are being supplied by the Woodland Trust and we have written permission to plant these trees from FLS and the National Park.

The next stage in the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project is underway seeking the main funding, the cost of which remains at £323,484.00, including VAT. Funding is currently underway with a number of organisations for this type of project. One of these, the Lottery Heritage Fund requires the CWA to provide 5% of the grant application through local funding with donations to show there is local support for the project. The application would be for a grant of £250,000 but the CWA had to find 5%, that is £12,500 before the closing date of this fund on 19th November 2019. To do this and to lodge the application, we needed to find this money by 16th November 2019 or the project will be delayed a year.

Great News, the "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" has now reached **£12,646.30** from members donations and GoRaise donations following two very large donations by the Lochgoil Community Trust of £4,000 and another of a similar amount from one of our members. So with the target reached for the 5% of the grant application of £250,000, we can now apply to the Lottery Heritage Fund for this funding thanks to all the residents and others who have so generously contributed to this

fund. Thank you again to everyone especially to our biggest donors who have made our applications for funding that much easier.

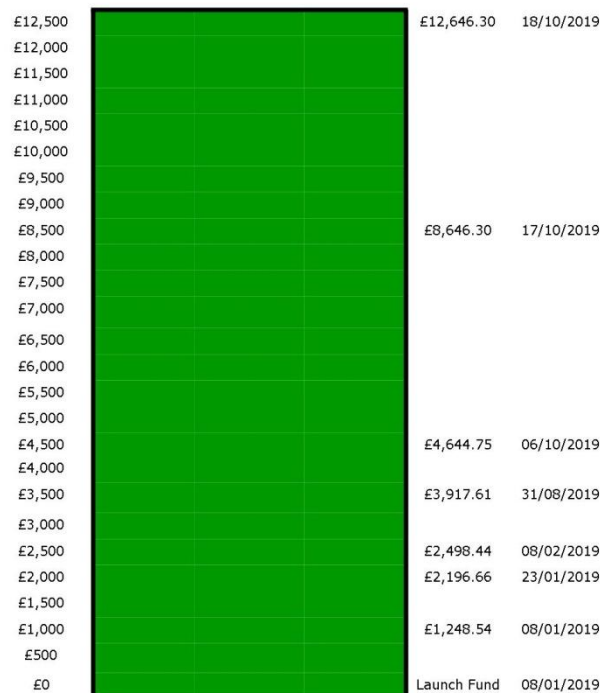
We will have a further three funding applications in for amounts of around £25,000 each to make up the difference to the full funding required.

"Upper Cormanachan Paths Project Fund"

For the Conservation of Upper Cormanachan, the old village and access to view the beautiful Cormanachan Waterfalls with 2 km of new access paths with four viewpoints from the Contemplation Shelter by the existing 2.5 km of paths and joining up with the forest road to the west of the woodlands and a new car park by Cormanachan Burn road bridge to commence from 2019 onwards.

"Upper Cormanachan Paths Project Fund" Cormanachan Woodlands Association

To apply for £250,000 from the Lottery Heritage Fund,
the £12,5000 5% local target has been achieved -Thank You all!



Whilst we have now reached the target for the funding requirement of £12,500 regarding the Lottery Heritage Fund, we do still need further donations for the ancillaries to the planning application amounting to about £1,500. Whilst the pressure is off, we would still welcome donations to achieve this additional amount over the coming months.

Membership of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

The current membership for the year to date for 2019/2020 stands at 141 members of which 95 are Full Individual Members, 29 are Associate Members, 6 are Life Members, 4 are Corporate Members, 2 are Associate Corporate Members and 3 are Child Members (free). Membership to support the running of the Association is very important and those members that are able to physically volunteer help with the essential maintenance of the woodlands, the paths and structures. Thirty members have said they wish to physically volunteer in the woodlands as and when they are available. Volunteering includes general maintenance, keeping the car park and paths in good order, tree planting, cutting back and pruning overhanging branches, clearing self seeded plants out of the paths' ditches, cutting down the invasive Rhododendron ponticum and bracken, painting the Red Squirrel Hide, shed and Contemplation Shelter annually, maintaining the sculptures, picnic tables, benches and scything plus the certificated tasks of strimming the paths, chain sawing trees and branches, pesticide spraying Rhododendron re-growth and more...

Membership enquiries should to addressed to Dennis Bolt, Membership Secretary - Membership@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk.

Volunteers Days

Saturday 19th October 10 am to 4 pm - Thank you to the four volunteers who attended, cutting up and burning the Rhododendron ponticum by Cormonachan Burn.

Sunday 20th October 10 am to 4 pm - Thank you to the three volunteers who attended, one strimming the paths and two cutting back the overhanging branches around the paths on the 2.5 km circular path.

We hope to have more volunteers attend the next Volunteers Days on:-

Friday 25th October 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday 26th October 10 am to 4 pm

Friday 22nd November 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday 23rd November 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday 24th November 10 am to 4 pm

Our Membership Secretary, Dennis Bolt, has been trialling a new pre-booking system using Doodle. When our volunteer members use it, it is really very good, but we need all members who volunteer at some time of the year to use it whether they can volunteer for the dates mentioned or not to click on the 'not available' button if they are not able to help out on

the sessions mentioned. It will take a while for everyone to get used to it. If you keep the original Doodle e-mail sent to you and you become available later or have to cancel you can do it by clicking on to that e-mail without having to call us. The tasks planned for each of the Volunteers Days are listed on the Doodle page sent to our volunteers list of members.

Those that volunteer enjoy the experience and we hope more members will give volunteering a '**GO**'... You will be very welcome! Members will be welcome to help mornings, afternoons or all day, 10 am to 4 pm with an social half hour's break for lunch between 12.45 and 1.15 pm.

Check out our 'Volunteering' page on our website:-
<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/volunteering/> for more information.

Red Squirrel Hide Update

Since the Red Squirrel Hide was erected in March 2018, the donation box has received **£245.02** which is very helpful as that money goes towards feeding the red squirrels and pine martens that have currently got though 137.5 kilos of nuts that has cost £186.79. With these donations, their feeding is self-supporting and we now have £58.23 in hand for more nuts.

Training Update

We have a **free** 1-day first aid course coming up as follows:-

Emergency First Aid at Work + F Courses

Friday 6th December 2019 9am to 5pm at Ardroy OEC, Lochgoilhead
- 4 places booked - 8 more places available.

Any member who would like to apply for training or renewal of their 3-year first aid certificates should contact the Secretary as funding has now been approved for this course costing £225.00.

The *free* First Aid training course in September was attended by seven members who gained their certificates for the next three years.

Position Vacant on the Committee

As mentioned in the last Members Update, the Committee are still looking for a member to become the Association's **Volunteers Leader** - see <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CWA-Volunteers-Leader-Job-Description.pdf> - Full training would be given and for the first year, we can offer job share to ease you into this volunteer's position.

Free Funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association

GoRaise has now raised **£163.28** to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just ten of supporters that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! One hundred & twenty eight purchases have been made to date donating £163.28 to the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund'.

All members could 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/?refid=3950> and then when registered add the 'Donation Reminder' <https://www.goraise.co.uk/donation-reminder/> - this is essential as it automatically tells you if the seller is a contributor or not.

There are over 3,000 online retailers that take part in the scheme to give commission donations to charities and not-for-profit organisations. There is absolutely **NO** cost to you; we have **no** idea what you buy; you do **not** get any spam e-mails as a result; so why not help raise funds for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's Projects?

Latest News

Please keep up to date by regularly looking at our Latest News page:- <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/news/> and by following our Facebook page too at <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>.



Tail Piece...

Cormonachan Woodlands Mugs are still for sale at £7.50 each. The profit from the sale of these goes towards the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund'. These can be ordered from the Secretary.



Other Information

The last Committee Minutes of 10th September 2019 can be viewed on this link:-

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CWA-Committee-Minutes-30072019.pdf>

The next Cormonachan Woodlands Association Committee Meeting is on 12th November 2019.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations! Cormonachan Community Woodlands, Loch Goil has been chosen to benefit from the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund.

The funding round will open on **27 October 2019** and close on **24 October 2020**.

During this funding phase, Co-op Members will be able to choose you as their local cause.

Every time a member buys selected own-brand products and services, 1% of the money they spend goes to local causes in their community, so it's important you raise your profile and encourage members to choose your cause.

To get you ready for the launch, please encourage your supporters, volunteers, friends and family to become a Co-op Member. They can join online at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>.

We'll contact you next week when the round opens with more information about how the fund works. We'll also invite you to a special webinar so you can ask questions and find out more.

Congratulations once again, we're looking forward to supporting your project and helping you make great things happen in your community.

April Armstrong
Co-op Local Giving Manager

Note: The Cormonachan Woodlands Association has applied for £250 worth of signage for the paths and car park.

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