



Sent: 31st July 2018

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

### **Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 29**

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.

### **Membership of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association**

The current membership for the year to date for 2018/2019 stands at 88 members of which 65 are Full Individual Members, 13 are Associate Members, 4 are Life Members, 4 are Corporate Members and 2 are Child Members (free). Membership to support the running of the Association is very important and those members that are able to volunteer help to maintain the woodlands.

We would like to remind our members that the Association has no paid staff, the committee members offer their time freely as volunteers and member volunteers help to maintain the community woodlands, the paths and structures.

### **Red Squirrel Hide Update**

Since the Red Squirrel Hide was erected in March 2018, the donation box has received £54.31 which is very helpful as that money goes towards feeding the red squirrels and pine martens that are currently getting though 100 kilos of nuts a year that costs about £140 pa. We are grateful to Ardroy for donating nuts as well until contributions to the donation box can be self supporting to feed these animals.

### **'Contemplation Shelter' Update**

We have had lots very nice comments about how members and visitors like the Contemplation Shelter and enjoy the wonderful view from it.



Inside the Contemplation Shelter and the view over Loch Goil

## Loch Goil Gala Day on 28th July 2018



The Cormonachan Woodlands Association had its marquee at the event again this year. During the set up in the morning it was dry but just at the start of the event, the heavens opened with a huge downpour of rain. After a while it became dry again for an hour or so and then there was

another downpour before a huge gust of wind tried to lift the entire marquee off into the sky! At this point it was decided to pack up for the day a little earlier than intended. Fortunately during the disassembly of the stand and marquee, it was dry enough to stow everything away in the car. Despite the weather which did affect the numbers of visitors going to the Gala Day, three new members were enrolled bringing the number up to 88 members with some other people saying they would join the Association after the event. Our new Cormonachan Woodlands China Mugs were very popular at £7.50 each and with a few still available, anyone wanting to buy one should contact the Secretary. We were very grateful to those who gave donations to our Project Fund Donation Boxes (£29.50), with all takings for the day reaching £179.50 and that total reached in hardly the best of weather conditions.



### **Volunteers Days**

Thursday 20th September 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Friday 21st September 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Saturday 22nd September 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Friday 26th October 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Saturday 27th October 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Sunday 28th October 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs

Members will be welcome to help mornings, afternoons

or both on any or all of these days!

There will be more Volunteers Days in November at dates to be announced.

The Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority have a volunteers scheme and will be helping to provide volunteers this autumn. They require full days as above bearing in mind that they have an hour's travelling each way to add to their volunteering day.

Most of the work that needs to be done in the autumn is the clearance of the invasive *Rhododendron ponticum*. In the spring, our member volunteers started clearing them from Cormonachan Burn northwards. There will be a team of young people from Cowal continuing with this clearance on Saturday 13th October, an event being run by the National Park Authority (NPA) to try and get young people involved in volunteer work that they will follow up with some educational woodlands activities.

On the following Volunteers Days this work will continue with our own member volunteers and NPA volunteers. Through the autumn, winter & spring months Ardroy's visiting primary schools will continue to clear the rhododendron in the north section of the woodlands, in the west section of the Clach Bhadach area where they were working last winter.

Through the summer months, the paths have to be strimmed to keep them in a condition suitable for walking on. Seven of our trained Trimmer Operators have been maintaining the paths and will again be these coming next two weeks and again in early autumn. This work is essential and we thank our trimmer volunteers for doing this work that is much appreciated by all members and visitors who walk in the community woodlands.

On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October, the Fife Volunteers will be back again to complete the felling of the last six Sitka spruce trees left within the inside boundaries of the Squirrel Trail. Once these remaining trees have been felled, they will have cleared the forty four trees in that section that we have a felling licence for. Their skilled work is much appreciated and it is good to know that they all enjoy coming back annually to do this very useful work. We will then be able to apply for another felling licence to clear more of the under planted Sitka spruce trees in other sections within the woodlands.

Those that volunteer enjoy the experience and we hope more members will give volunteering a 'go'... You will be very welcome!

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

## **Proposed New Path Update**

The proposed path from the Contemplation Shelter to Upper Cormonachan has already been surveyed by a hill contractor estimating the overall cost would be in excess of £100,000 however it was decided that as this is a large project covering 1,809 metres, it would be best done in four stages. The committee's proposal is to start with Stage One - a new path from the road by the bridge at Cormonachan Burn up to the waterfalls and the old village at Upper Cormonachan.

Whilst this is a lot of money, it should be 100% grant funded through SRDP, a government funding organisation under the Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate that has set payment rates for path construction and ancillaries. Our Association is already registered and approved following agreement with Forest Enterprise Scotland early last year for the CWA to manage Cormonachan Woodlands.

In order to progress with this, the hill contractors will need a path design and so currently we are obtaining quotations for this work that will need to be funded as well. Once this path design has been costed and funded, the hill contractors would be able to give their quotations for the work and then the CWA would be in a position to put in an application for the path to the SRDP funders and to the National Park for planning permission. Application has already been made to Forest Enterprise Scotland for their permission as land owners and subject to their archaeology survey this should be acceptable as the criteria for new paths is to open up path connections for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area.

This is going to be a long term project over a few years but the result in the end will open up all of the 58.9 ha of Cormonachan Woodlands.

## **Corporate Members of the Association**

We would like to welcome Argyll Holidays as our latest Corporate Member, they join The Lodge on Loch Goil, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre and Carrick Farm, as our other corporate members.

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

GoRaise has now raised **£97.75** to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just six of our members (4 full members and 2 associate members) that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! Seventy eight purchases have been made to date donating £97.75 to the 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, Trainline, Booking.com 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 has been launched since April 2018 for a path to the Cormonachan Waterfalls and Upper Cormonachan old township and we hope other members will join in. We should be able to get a 100% grant but we will still have to raise funds for the path design and cost of planning permission through donations and other grant funders.

## 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...**

## STOP PRESS

To date, 10 National Park volunteers have already advised us that they will be coming to assist us on two of our Volunteers Days on Thursday 20th September and Friday 26th October which will be cutting down Rhododendron in the woodlands so we hope some of our own member volunteers will come too adding to these dates. Notes in diaries please... Let us know in advance if you can help out.

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.

Cormonachan Woodlands Association -  
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