



Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 1st March 2021 - First Day of Spring...

Welcome to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.

Cormonachan Community Woodlands - Members Update No 45

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 Community Woodlands Latest News

- After many months of work since our meeting with Forestry and Land Scotland on 1st August 2019 to obtain a 20-year Lease for the woodlands for Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. (CCW), we have finally agreed the Lease that has now been signed by the Chair and Secretary and will come into force on 1st April 2021 replacing our previous Memorandum of Understanding with Cormonachan Woodlands Association (CWA) that had been in force since December 2016 for 10 years.

The Lease in conjunction with the not-for-profit organisation, now as a limited company without shares, means that we should be able to apply for more and larger grants. We have also applied for charity status too from OSCR, the Scottish Charity Organisation and hope to have this accepted later in the spring.

The Lease gives us control and liability for the maintenance of the 63.89 ha of the ancient woodlands allowing us to be able to use our certificated chain saw operator members that we had not been permitted to use since they were trained costing £1,320.28 per person plus £235.00 pp chainsaw PPE. It will also give us more flexibility with regard to pesticide spraying of Rhododendron ponticum re-growth and using our certificated operator members that cost £618.67 pp plus PPE and use of a quad bike for the maintenance of the woodlands in more remote areas. FLS are keeping the responsibility for any trees that fall on the main road.

- Native Tree Planting - We have now planted 375 native trees in the woodlands. CCW appeared on BBC CountryFile's 'Plant Britain' on 10th January with a photo of our volunteers who planted the trees.



Our Volunteers on BBC1 CountryFile & more planting to 375 trees

- The 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project' Fund has now reached its 5% funding target required from local donations thanks to its members, local non-member residents, Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, Co-op Local Community Fund and Lochgoil Community Trust. The amount raised has totalled £17,220.55 to 28th February 2021.

The People Counter at the car park has been recording each month's number of visitors to the woodlands. February 265 (9 pd); January was 185 (6 pd); December 272 (9 pd); November 519 (17 pd) and October 1,225 (40 pd).

- Rhododendron ponticum Clearance - The CCW obtained a grant of £4,995 from the LL&TT National Park's Grant Scheme to employ two local 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. 310 hours have been completed leaving 23 hours left for spraying the re-growth, the present contract should be finished very soon. It is our intension to apply for a further grant to clear the remainder of the Rhododendron in the woodlands by the end of February 2022.

"Upper Cormonachan Paths Project"

The National Park's planning conditions requirements have now almost been satisfied, leaving just two minor items that can't be carried out until nearer the time of construction work taking place.

As mentioned earlier, the "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" has now reached £17,220.55 as at 28th February 2021. Having reached the 5% required from local donations, we can now apply for the full funding required for the construction costs of £269,570 + VAT of £53,914 = £323,484.00 from two potential funders and these applications are being prepared this spring. If we are successful in obtaining the required funding the construction could commence in September 2021 and be completed early in 2022..

We are still waiting for Forestry and Land Scotland to cut up the 92 felled trees along the new paths route that is now expected to be done sometime this spring. The felled trees at the Settlement will have to be cut up and removed by our own chainsaw operators and volunteers.

The A1 Interpretation Board for the Settlement on a lectern similar to the one at the car park is devoted to the archaeology and history of the Medieval Settlement. This panel will be erected once we have suitable weather hopefully in March 2021.

Next Volunteers Days

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th March 2021 10.00 - 16.00 hrs

Please book in advance by 12 noon on the Thursday before these events to satisfy Covid-19 requirements of registration and preparation of PPE and tools. The tasks for the day will be e-mails to our volunteers two weeks prior to the Volunteers Days.

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

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

Please note that Frances Walker is now the new Volunteers Leader having taken over from Douglas Locke who has retired from this post after 6 years. Frances' e-mail is Volunteers@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk.

WANTED...

One more full member to apply to serve actively on the CCW Board and become a director.

A Minutes Secretary from the membership, does not need to be a director, to help record the Minutes of Board Meetings and the annual AGM.

Ask the Secretary for more details - Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk.

The present Board of Directors are Alastair Moodie, Chair; Douglas Locke, Secretary, also Company Secretary; Jimmy Sim, Treasurer; Frances Walker, Volunteers Leader; Don Kamsley; Scott Black & Richard Hall - seven of eight available places on the Board.

CCW Woodlands Paths

Please note that the Woodlands Paths on the CCW website have been updated - <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/woodlands-paths/>

For those of you who have Hospitality & Tourism businesses or visitors that come to stay, you will find helpful information about the paths.

CCW Membership Update

Our Membership Secretary, Dennis Bolt, advises that we now have 89 fully signed up and paid up members and 8 supporters who have paid up but not yet signed up so are not yet members and are not eligible to vote, when eligible. 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.

For future subscription renewals due on 1st April 2021 and yearly thereafter there are no forms to fill in. 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 will be sending out reminders towards the end of March asking for members to renew their subscriptions on 1st April 2021.

For those supporters, the 2 membership forms, see below links:-

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 insurance, equipment, materials, maintenance, website hosting, stationery, postage, legal & accounting costs, bank charges, etc. from your subscriptions.

Contact Dennis Bolt - Membership@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

Donations Points



Donations Post by the Contemplation Shelter and Donations Box inside the Red Squirrel Hide.

Tail Piece...



The latest Board Minutes of 16th February 2021 can be viewed on this link: <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/minutes-of-meetings/>



The Cormonachan Community Woodlands are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,400 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

In the first few of months, fourteen members have now raised over £100.

Funds raised go to the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund'.

Thank you so much!

And Finally...

We would like to thank you members, Megan Hudson Prentice and Ben Dowling for providing the Cormonachan Community Woodlands with a video of "Cormonachan Falls" from the Air!

This is the first time all of the waterfalls have been able to be seen, since from the ground, you can only see each individual section and there are a few.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nEzo3piKB7_6Q9gfyyiTE7LcVkU-9Bt3/view?usp=drivesdk

For more photos and another video of the middle waterfalls in spate visit:-

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



Corrie Monachan Falls, Lochgillhead.

An early postcard of Cormonachan Falls

Contact: Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)
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<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk>
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