



Sent: 3rd September 2019

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 36

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

Another Success! We have just been informed that we have been awarded a grant of £5,425.20 from the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park's Heritage Fund for an Archaeological Survey and subsequent lectern signage with the archaeology and history information about the Upper Cormonachan Township that we locally call the 'Old village'. Once we have a date for this work to commence, we will update the membership on progress.

"Upper Cormonachan Paths Project" Update

On Friday 30th August 2019, the Association had an important meeting with Forestry and Land Scotland's Regional Visitors Services Manager, Local Area Visitors Services Manager and Regional Land Agent together with the Managing Director and Project Manager of McGowan's of Aviemore, the hill contractors and four of the CWA committee (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Secretary).

Following a trek in very heavy rain with the waterfalls in full spate by seven of the group to do a final survey of the paths route, a meeting was held to cover any remaining issues following the receipt of the LL&TNPA planning approval for the whole 'Upper Cormonachan Path Project'.



It was agreed that the archaeology survey could proceed and that the felling of 84 Sitka spruce and 8 Larch could go ahead over the autumn to spring period. Further, 105 replacement oaks and other deciduous trees could be planted away from the paths route later in November 2019. These trees are being supplied by the Woodland Trust without charge.

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. Some of these do require some local funding through donations to show there is local support for the project and we have to try and reach 5% of the amount applied for from the largest funder, currently in this case, based on £250,000 that is £12,500.

The "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" has now reached £3,917.61 from members donations and the GoRaise donations. We have a year really in which to achieve this locally, required donations amount so hope you can help if you haven't already - every donation big or little will help.

The follow up to the meeting on Friday; Forestry and Land Scotland have said in writing, that they were 'impressed with the overall path line and that the line fitted well with the landscape, gave a good quality and variable visitor experience. They were pleased to see the desire to maximise accessibility of the route'.

A Funding Appeal

"Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund"

For the Conservation of Upper Cormonachan, the old village and access to view the beautiful Cormonachan 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 Cormonachan Burn road bridge to commence from 2019 onwards.

The cost of this project is £323,484 (£269,570 + VAT) and close to 100% grant funding should be available. The Cormonachan Woodlands Association launched the **"Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund"** on 8th January 2019 where we would like to raise over £10,000 that is a local contribution to the project costs. We have now received £3,917.61 in local donations to the fund which is very encouraging (03/09/2019). Donations will be very welcome – click on the fund titles above or on the Donations button below to make a donation! Now that planning permission for the project has been received on 11th July 2019, we are applying for the major funding. We have so far had to pay out of the fund for planning fees, a Protected Species Survey and will have to pay £4,165.20 for an Archaeology Survey and £1,260 for an Interpretation Panel with the archaeology and history of the Upper Cormonachan Township (old village) that funding has now been agreed. These additional costs amount to £6,606.20 for which grants and donations will cover separately. The total project cost is £330,090.20. The plan is to commence felling the trees along the paths route and have the archaeology survey started in the autumn of 2019 and completed in the spring of 2020. The major paths work is planned to commence in September 2020 that will take 16 weeks to complete once we have raised the major funding this coming year.

Membership of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

The current membership for the year to date for 2019/2020 stands at 135 members of which 91 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

Friday 27th September 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday 28th September 10 am to 4 pm

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

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 hour's break for lunch.

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 **£211.57** which is very helpful as that money goes towards feeding the red squirrels and pine martens that have currently got though 112.5 kilos of nuts that costs about £160.81. With these donations, their feeding is self-supporting and we now have £50.76 in hand for more nuts.

Training Update

We have two *free* 2-day first aid course coming up as follows:-

Emergency First Aid at Work + F Courses

1. Monday 16th & Friday 20th September 2019 9am to 5pm at Ardroy OEC, Lochgoilhead
7 places booked - 5 more places available.
2. Monday 2nd & Friday 6th December 2019 9am to 5pm at Ardroy OEC, Lochgoilhead
- 4 places booked - 8 more places available.

Any members 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 these two courses costing £450.00 each.

Last chance **now** to book for the **free** September course...

Volunteer/Supporter Survey Results

Dennis Bolt, our Membership Secretary, has analysed the results of the three minute Volunteer/Support Survey carried out at the end of July that had at 50% response return. We now have a data base of useful information to help us understand how members support the Association.

From the results of the survey we learnt that Fridays and Saturdays were the most supported days and the majority as all day for volunteering although all days were supported by degrees. Of those who wished to physically volunteer, two thirds were happy to do all types of woodlands maintenance and one third with light volunteering, such a painting, etc. This brought to light some members who we did not know who would be happy to volunteer in the woodlands and all others just happy to support the running of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association which is also extremely important. Thank you for helping us in this connection.

Position Vacant on the Committee

As mentioned in the last Members Update, the Committee are 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 **£161.73** to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just nine of supporters that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! One hundred & twenty two purchases have been made to date donating £161.73 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 via any committee member or purchased directly from the Secretary.

Committee Members:

Don Kamsley, Douglas Locke, Jimmy Sim, Dennis Bolt, Cecilia Ferguson, David Thorpe & Frances Walker.



The last Committee Minutes of 30th July 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 10th September 2019.

Cormonachan Woodlands Association -
Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)

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