

# Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 4th October 2017

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

## **Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 22**

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.

**Official Opening of the Cormonachan Woodlands new Car Park  
was at 11 am on Thursday 14th September 2017**



James Fraser, Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs  
Opens the New Car Park at Cormonachan Woodlands

The new car park was officially opened by James Fraser, Chairman of Friends of Loch Lomond and Trossachs and a director of the Ardroy Trust. Many of those attending went on a guided walk around the Squirrel Trail to see the work going on in Cormonachan Woodlands.

### **Last Committee Meeting**

The Association's last Committee Meeting Minutes of 29th August 2017 can be viewed by going to the following link:-  
<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/history/history-minutes-of-meetings.html>

### **Volunteers Days**

#### ***September Volunteers Day***

Sunday 17th September 2017 from 13.00 to 16.00 hrs was only attended by three members however they managed to set up an amphitheatre of 17 log seats in a semicircle on the bank to the west side of the Totem Pole. Thanks go to them for their help.

#### ***October Volunteers Day***

This event will now just be on Sunday 15th October 2017 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs with a social lunch break. Come for a morning or afternoon or all day. Please let us know in advance if you can come. Please meet at Jan's Hideaway by 10.00 am. The tasks for the day will be to cut down Rhododendron branches to 100-150 mm from the ground and put the cut branches in piles. All tools supplied with gloves. There will be some volunteers on the day coming to help us with the eradication of the Rhododendron ponticum from the Loch Lomond & Trossachs Volunteers Group organised by the LL&T National Park Authority.

For the chainsaw operator members, the felled trees they cut down in Area 1 earlier this year will need to be cut up into logs and piled up by the Squirrel Trail path for later transportation down to the car park for sale. We have had to cancel the volunteers day on Saturday 14th October due to Liz Evans having to be collected from hospital by Douglas Locke that day - two of our volunteers day leaders.

#### ***November Volunteers Day***

Saturday 18th November 2017 from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs. The plan for that morning will be to clear the area in front of the shed opposite Jan's Hideaway for a 8' x 6' Red Squirrel Hide and make a path down to it from the Squirrel Trail. It would be helpful to let us know if you're going the day before the event please.

### ***Additional Volunteers Weekend in November***

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th November 2017 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs will be attended by the Fife Ranger Volunteers Group that come each year to help out with clearing the under planted Sitka spruce in the woodlands. They will be felling more of these trees in Area 1 and cutting them up as we have a Forestry Licence to clear 44 Sitka spruce in that area. If you wish to help out that weekend we must know well in advance the names of any members who would like to help out too.

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

GoRaise has now raised £48.30 to Cormonachan Woodlands Association. A good start still only from just four members (2 full members and 2 associate members) that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! 28 purchases have been made to date accumulating £48.30 for the Red Squirrel Hide Project Fund.

You 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 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 Fund currently for a Red Squirrel Hide.

### **Autumn Fayre**

The Association had its stand again at the Autumn Fayre on Saturday 30th September 2017 in the Lochgoilhead Village Hall. The Red Squirrel Hide Project gained £25.50 in sales and donations. We also enrolled two new members on the day and three said they would join immediately after the event.

### **Current Membership**

The current membership to the Association now stands at 76 members of which 57 are Full Individual Members, 11 are Associate Members, 3 are Life Members, 2 are Corporate Members and 3 are Child Members.

Volunteering to become a member is extremely important to the Association as this is the only income stream it has to run the Association

and cover all its running costs. See <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/history/history-minutes-of-meetings.html> where you will find the accounts for the last two years attached to the minutes of the Annual General Meetings. All other expenditure comes from funding applications and donations to the Association for its projects.

## **Other News**

### ***Red Squirrel Hide***

The Association has had pre-approval from the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority's Fund Scheme for funding the Red Squirrel Hide. The cost of purchasing the hide and setting it up by the shed opposite Jan's Hideaway will be £1,642.14 of which the fund is expected to contribute £1,440.14. The cost of the planning permission is coming out of the Red Squirrel Project Fund (£202.00) and Anna Wynne has very kindly agreed to supply the plans for us to submit to the planning department. We therefore hope to have the hide in place in December 2017 and January 2018.

This is now a Red Squirrel Ropeway in the trees between Jan's Hideaway and an oak tree to the east of where the hide will be sited. The huge mooring rope, as a ropeway, was donated anonymously to the Association and was erected by Ardroy and has squirrel feeders at the bases along the length of the ropeway that are topped up regularly by one of our members.

### ***Ditch Cleaning around Cormonachan Woodlands***

It has been very hard work for the volunteers to keep up with cleaning out the ditches so the Association has applied to Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs for funding for two days of mechanical ditch cleaning. This would cost £504.00 for two days work with excavator and driver with a very good quotation offered to the Association by Allan Campbell of Drimsynie Construction. We should hear if our application for funding has been successful at the end of October.

### ***Bat Detector***

One of our members has very kindly donated anonymously a new Bat Detector and batteries (£100.00) for the Association to use in the woodlands. The intention is that we will be able to offer dusk walks occasionally to identify the species of bats living in Cormonachan Woodlands. If you would be interested in coming on such a walk would you please let us know by e-mail to [Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk) and we will arrange some forward dates. There are already some bat boxes in the woodlands near Jan's Hideaway in the trees.

### ***Proposed New Path***

A proposed new path from the south west corner of the Squirrel Trail to the Cormonachan Burn Waterfalls and Upper Cormonachan old village and also meeting up the forest road above and the main road below has had an initial survey by the Recreation and Access Adviser of Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park with our CWA Chair. Having him seen the proposed path area, he is now looking into getting 100% funding for the project as this path meets with three requirements for the funding of such a scheme by the Scottish Government. Whilst this project is not high on our list of priorities, it takes a long time to plan, obtain planning permission, obtain quotations, confirm funding and then arrange for the work to be done. You will be kept informed of progress that may yet take a few years to achieve.

### ***New Cormonachan Community Woodlands Leaflet***

You should by now have received this leaflet at your house if you have a residence in Loch Goil. Leaflets are otherwise available in the Cormonachan Woodlands leaflet holders and at the Argyll Holidays Reception Office and from the Secretary. It is to remind you about the walks in Cormonachan Woodlands and to tell your visitors of somewhere locally to go for a nice walk! Of course, we would love your friends, neighbours and visitors to volunteer to be become members if they are not already one. Volunteering to work in the woodlands on Volunteers Days helps us maintain the woodlands but volunteering to be a member helps run the Association as it has no income stream other than from its members subscriptions so is extremely important that membership fees are paid to us on an annual basis.



### **Tail Piece...**

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 -  
Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)

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