

# Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 7th September 2018

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

## **Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 30**

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 Woodlands 1998 to 2018**



This 20 year period has now been recorded in a high quality 36 page A3 Photo Book covering this historical period of Cormonachan Woodlands. If you would like to look at it please contact our Chair, Don Kamsley - 07712 669873 (Chair@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk) who as Chair is keeper of the Association's copy. More details at <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/news/>  
If you would like to buy a copy, the cost price with a 50% discount is

£35.95. Eleven copies have already been ordered so if you would like one too, please order within the next seven days from the Secretary.

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

The current membership for the year to date for 2018/2019 stands at 93 members of which 70 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 with the essential maintenance of the woodlands, the paths and structures.

We would like to establish a register of those members that are able and willing to volunteer at some time within a year, so please e-mail the Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk so that we keep a separate volunteer members data base for e-mailing of just those who would like to volunteer so we don't e-mail all supporter members every time.

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.

### **Cormonachan Woodlands Mugs For Sale**



Cormonachan Woodlands Mugs are available from the Secretary of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association at a cost of £7.50 each including boxed packaging - if postage is required for delivery, the postage cost is

£2.95 each extra. Two sides of the mug are shown here. The sale of these mugs helps support the running of the Association and its projects.

### **Next 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.

Three days in a row for volunteers to help maintain Cormonachan Community Woodlands. Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park (NPA) Volunteers will be helping on those days so we need local volunteer members to help as well. The main task will be cutting down the invasive Rhododendron ponticum in the woodlands. There will be other tasks to do subject to the weather such as giving the Contemplation Shelter and Red Squirrel Hide and shed an extra coat of preservative for the winter. Come for a morning, afternoon or all day on as many days as you can. There will be a social lunch break each day so bring your own food and refreshments. It would help us enormously to know if and when you can help volunteer in advance please as the National Park volunteers do by e-mailing [Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk) - Thank you!

### **Future Volunteers Days**

Next Month the Volunteers Days will be on:-

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 again to help mornings, afternoons or both on any or all of these days!

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.

The Volunteers Days in November will be on:-

Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th November 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs.

Most of the work that needs to be done in the autumn is the clearance of the invasive Rhododendron ponticum. Last 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 area 6 of the Clach Bhadach area where they were working last winter.

Through the summer months, the paths have been strimmed to keep them in a condition suitable for walking on. Seven of our trained Trimmer Operators have been maintaining the paths. This work is essential and we thank our strimmer volunteers for doing this work that is much appreciated by all members and visitors who walk in the community woodlands. There is still a final path strimming to do on 20th September.

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.

## **Project Costs**

It may be of interest to members to know the costs of establishing the Cormonachan Woodlands over the last 20 years.

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/project-costs-1998-to-2008/> as Project Costs 1998 to 2008.

<http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/project-costs-2015-to-2018/> as Project Costs 2015 to 2018.

The Future Projects page has been altered to show those projects completed and the projects still to be achieved:- <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/future-projects/>

## **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 quotation 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 big project but the result in the end will open up all of the 58.9 ha of Cormonachan Woodlands to members and visitors.

## **Red Squirrel Hide Update**

Since the Red Squirrel Hide was erected in March 2018, the donation box has received **£67.27** 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 £135 pa.

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

GoRaise has now raised **£121.77** to Cormonachan Woodlands Association from just five of our members (3 full members and 2 associate members) that regularly purchase on line and at no cost to themselves! Eighty eight purchases have been made to date donating £121.77 to the Project Fund.

It has been disappointing that **only 5% of members** have used this with

no catches attached. 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> 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.

There are lots of energy providers on GoRaise, so as well as saving a few pounds, you could also raise BIG donations for the **Cormonachan Woodlands Association**.

We've included some deals below so you can raise a donation and save some pennies at the same time!

### **Switch & Raise**

[EDF Energy](#) - Prepare for winter with EDF Energy and get a free HeatSmart® thermostat worth £199!  
*Up to £25.00 donation*

[Good Energy](#) - Want to make a difference? Switch to Good Energy and you could reduce the carbon footprint of your household.  
*Up to £25.00 donation*

[Love Energy Savings](#) - Switch to a cheaper deal today and save an average of 40% on your gas and electricity bills.  
*Up to £25.00 donation*

[Energy Helpline](#) - Get a comparison today and you could save up to £537 a year.  
*Up to £15.00 donation*

[uSwitch](#) - Want to beat the energy price rises? Find your cheapest supplier here.  
*Up to £8.00 donation*

[MoneySuperMarket](#) - Compare cheap energy prices and suppliers, Save up to £250 on your bills.  
*Up to £3.75 donation*

[Which?](#) - In few simple steps compare tariffs from all the major suppliers and switch to a better deal.  
*Up to £2.50 donation*

**Travel Deals** - If turning up the thermostat just won't cut it, here are some travel deals so you can soak up the last of the Summer sun, at reduced prices now the kids are back to school...

[Lastminute.com](#) - Flash Sale! Discover exclusive flight + hotel packages to some of our favourite destinations.  
*Up to 3.5% donation*

[Expedia](#) - Experience the Northern Lights. Book a flight + hotel together and see the aurora borealis in all its splendour.  
*Up to 6% donation*

[Opodo](#) - Escape to Portugal. Flight + 3 nights from £70!  
*Up to 2.75% donation*

## **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...**

The minutes to the last committee meeting held on 5th September 2018 can be viewed at <http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/cormonachan-history/minutes-of-meetings/>

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)  
E: [Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk)  
T: 01301 703098 M: 07748 130976  
W: [www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>