



Sent: 9th June 2018

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No 28

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 86 members of which 64 are Full Individual Members, 13 are Associate Members, 4 are Life Members, 3 are Corporate Members and 2 are Child Members (free). 6 full individual members and 1 associate member did not renew for 2018/2019. Volunteering to remain or 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. All other expenditure comes from funding applications and donations to the Association for its projects.

These subscriptions pay for insurance that now covers third party liability, the buildings it owns (Red Squirrel Hide, Shed and Contemplation Shelter) and all its equipment and tools. The running expenses also include website hosting and domain renewal, stationery, servicing equipment (chainsaw & strimmers), fuel for these, leaflets, membership subscriptions to community organisations and other incidentals.

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

The Red Squirrel Hide was officially opened on Wednesday 6th June 2018. Representatives from the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park

Authority, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, Cowal Red Squirrel Group, Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs and 26 Cormonachan Woodlands Association members and friends attended the event. Douglas Locke, CWA Secretary, gave a short speech about how the funding was raised for the hide and then David Thorpe, CEO of Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre cut the ribbon and gave a further short speech. We are grateful to Logspan from Milton, Dumbarton for donating to the Association a bench that has been added to the hide. To see the red squirrels, you have to be patient and wait for them to come to the feeders that they do at various times of the day. Please record the times you see them on the white board. There is a donation box in the hide for squirrel feed that to date has raised enough money to purchase a 12.5 kg bag of nuts. The red squirrels and pine martins are currently getting though 100 kilos of nuts a year that costs over £140 pa. We are grateful to Ardroy for donating nuts and to Frances Walker for keeping the feeders topped up.

'Contemplation Shelter' Update

On Wednesday 6th June 2018 at 11.30 am, 31 people gathered after a short walk from the red squirrel hide to the entrance of the Contemplation Shelter that is in memory of Liz Evans off the Squirrel Trail in Cormonachan Woodlands. Douglas Locke gave a speech about Liz's final request to ask her friends and family to donate towards a shelter instead of giving flowers at her funeral. As you will by now know £7,050 was donated and in just 4 months planning permission was obtained, the shelter ordered, groundwork with concrete base and path prepared and then the shelter was erected on 21st May. Liz's kayaking friend, Christobel Fallon was asked to cut the ribbon and give a short speech about her friend. The weather for the event was perfect - dry, sunny and very warm with a slight wind that let everyone enjoy the visit to the shelter midge free so there was no rush to leave but to contemplate on the words that had been written about Liz and to enjoy the wonderful view over Loch Goil from the shelter that was Liz's favourite view.



31 people attended the official opening of the Contemplation Shelter



Inside the Contemplation Shelter and the view over Loch Goil

This was followed by 22 invited guests going to a reception at The Lodge on Loch Goil where an excellent light meal was served at 1 pm sponsored by our corporate members at The Lodge. Alongside the Contemplation Shelter an oak tree in memory of Liz had been previously planted by Douglas, Liz's husband and Calum, her son and her ashes had been scattered around the tree with a plaque erected in her memory. The day could not have been better and was enjoyed by all.

Please note there are lots of photos of the day's event on the CWA website under Latest News and on Facebook.

The Walking Theatre Company on Sunday 15th April 2018

We had arranged in conjunction with Argyll Arts Collective two performances in Cormonachan Woodlands by The Walking Theatre Company.

1) For Children at 2 pm - 'The Celtic Tree Walk, An Enchanted Forest'

About 20 people were in attendance for this event and the children loved it, hopefully if we arrange another such event more children will come.

2) For Adults at 6.30 pm - 'Conference of the Faeries' an adaptation on Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Night Dream'

This performance was excellent. Unfortunately it poured with rain in the

hour before the start and so there were only a dozen people who came which was a great pity. The rain cleared up just after the start and everyone enjoyed the excellent interactive performance.

Volunteers Days

This spring we had six volunteers days. The weekend at the end of February was well supported with most volunteers coming from Fife and even Cumbria to cut down Sitka spruce trees in the woodlands. However we have sadly lacked local volunteer support with one of the days having to be cancelled. We really need to have about eight volunteers for each volunteers day to be able to make significant progress.

Cormonachan Woodlands has trained 10 trimmer operators, but we only managed to get 2 to trim the paths prior to the opening event. Don Kamsley, Chair, put in 5 hours to trim the whole of the Squirrel Trail and car park area and Anna Wynne managed to trim the path from Jan's Hideaway to the Clach Bhadach junction in 1.5 hrs. This leaves the remainder of the circular path from Clach Bhadach to the junction above Jan's Hideaway and to the Rhododendron tunnel that should take about 2 hours or a little more. If any of our trimmer operators could manage to do this soon we would be grateful. The paths will require further strimming again through the summer.

We do not have fixed volunteers days dates between June to August to avoid the midge season however the paths during this period still have to be trimmed. Suitable sunny & windy days will try to be chosen at short notice and hopefully as many of our ten trained trimmers will help to keep the paths under control during the summer period.

Douglas Locke (77 in August) has had to give up physically working in the woodlands from June 2018 as he now has a bad back. He has actually attended every single volunteers day since the association was formed in 2015 so we think he has really done his share of the work now.

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

Corporate Members of the Association

We would like to welcome The Lodge on Loch Goil as our latest Corporate Member, they join Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre and Carrick Farm, our other corporate members. The Lodge very kindly sponsored the reception of invited guests after the opening of the Red Squirrel Hide and Contemplation Shelter. They provided an excellent light meal in lovely surroundings at The Lodge for which we were very grateful.

Free Funds for Cormonachan Woodlands Association

GoRaise has now raised **£96.00** 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 two purchases have been made to date donating £96.00 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 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 95-100% grant but may have to find the 5% balance through donations. The likely cost of this project will be £60,000 and it will take about two years to achieve.

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...

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.

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