



Sent: 13th October 2015

Subject: Cormonachan Woodlands Association Members Update No: 5

To: All Members of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association

### **Volunteers Weekend Update**

The next event taking place is the Volunteers Weekend on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October 2015 between 09.30 and 16.30 hours each day.

So far twelve members have said that they are willing to volunteer helping in Cormonachan Woodlands on one or both days.

We are now requiring to know exactly who will be able to help on the Saturday or Sunday or both days.

An e-mail would be helpful stating volunteers names and days that you can help please.

The tasks will be varied from lighter to heavier ones as follows:-

- 1) Map culverts & clean out any leaves / mud blocking them.
- 2) Map tables & benches and clean the vegetation which has grown up around them.
- 3) Clear out rhoddies & bracken from the tree nursery and other non-native species such as Sitka spruce leaving Scots Pine, Oak, Rowan, Hazel & Birch.
- 4) Clear overgrown vegetation from paths and ditches.

There will be a team leader for each task and tools will be provided. 1) & 2) will probably be done on different days because of each requiring GPS for mapping.

Members are asked to bring their own outdoor clothes, wellies and packed lunches and hot drinks please.

To comply with the insurance and Forestry Commission Scotland's requirements, all members attending the Volunteers Weekend are asked to complete the attached forms (Adult Medical or Minor under 16 Medical/Consent). Please bring these with you duly completed and signed. We will have spare copies on arrival at the woodlands if you forget to bring yours.

Parking will have to be in the large parking area down the hill on the left side of the road on the Carrick Castle side of Cormonachan Woodlands as there will be a Fife Countryside Rangers Volunteer group also volunteering in the woodlands that weekend and they have a minibus that will be parked at the woodlands with all their tools in a trailer. We will also have a committee car parked at the woodlands in case of any emergencies.

If you know of anyone else who would like to help out, they would have to become members to come under the insurance for the event. New members will be very welcome!

The Association has managed to obtain a 100% grant of £917.22 from Forestry Commission Scotland for the purchase of tools for the volunteer members to use. These tools have to be looked after and maintained well for five years. Hard hats, gloves, face shields and safety specs will also be provided but must be returned to the association after the event.

We are hoping to make this a working social event to enjoy - the idea is to maintain the woodlands for everyone's enjoyment and not for it to be 'hard labour'...

The Fife Rangers Volunteers group will be working mainly where they have been in the past at the top of the Squirrel Trail and will be felling some under planted Sitka spruce trees. We have managed to obtain permission from FCS to clear certain areas for the benefit of the Atlantic Oaks and will eventually be planting more native species.

If you can come and volunteer, you will be most welcome!

## **Other News**

The Cormonachan Woodlands Association had a stand at the Harvest Fayre in Lochgoilhead village hall on 5th September 2015. The stand promoted the Cormonachan Woodlands and added new members.

The association now has 34 members (26 Full Members, 4 Associate Members, 3 Child Members (free) and 1 Corporate Member).

There is progress with the lease for the woodlands and a GPS area mapping has now been carried out by FCS. Once the agreements have been reached between FCS, Ardroy and the Association over the exact area to be included and the five year plan is in place which is in partial draft form, we hope to have a lease later this year.

We will be planning further Volunteers Weekends for the spring of 2016.

We will continue to keep members informed through regular updates and via the website and Facebook pages. Committee Minutes are published on the History page of the website where there is plenty of other information to look at.

Douglas Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)  
Cormonachan Woodlands Association  
E: [Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk)  
T: 01301 703098  
M: 07748 130976  
F: 01301703098 (on request)  
W: [www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>