

Cormonachan Woodlands

Sent: 1st November 2022

Welcome to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.

Cormonachan Community Woodlands - Members Update No 53

The Latest News - <https://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 Community Woodlands Latest News

1) Great news to report that the Upper Cormonachan Heritage Paths Project has been underway with construction since Wednesday 19th October 2022



So far in the Upper Cormonachan area, the new paths have been cleared of vegetation from the Forest Road to three points where the paths will

cross the burns where bridges are to be built. Temporary bridges will be installed for the excavator to clear the rest of the paths routes.

Please note that the whole of this area of Cormonachan Community Woodlands between the Contemplation Shelter and the Forest Road, Medieval Settlement, Cormonachan Falls and new car park area are closed to the public until the spring of 2023 for safety reasons.

The Cormonachan Community Woodlands project management is being shared between Dee Locke, Secretary on administration and Richard Hall, Chair & Treasurer and Jacqui Matthews, Woodlands Manager, both with regular site visits.

Once the paths and car park are completed early in 2023, signage will be installed and there will be a formal opening in the spring of 2023.

We have just received this letter from our Jenni Minto MSP congratulating our team on achieving the funding for this project.



Jenni Minto MSP
Member of The Scottish Parliament for Argyll & Bute



Douglas Locke
Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd
Carrick Castle
Lochgailhead
Cairndow
Argyll
PA24 8AF

27th October 2022

Dear Douglas,

My congratulations to you and everyone involved with the Upper Cormonachan Heritage Paths project on the fantastic £160,173 grant awarded from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

I wish you all every success with Upper Cormonachan Heritage Paths project. It is so important for everyone to have the ability to access and explore this area of important Atlantic Rainforest as well as the medieval settlement and other nature features.

I hope that I may have the opportunity to visit Cormonachan Woodlands in the near future.

Best wishes,

Jenni Minto
MSP for Argyll and Bute

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The Secretary's reply is below:

Dear Jenni

Thank you very much for your letter of 27th October congratulating our Cormonachan Community Woodlands team on obtaining £160,173 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for our Upper Cormonachan Heritage Paths Project that is now underway since 19th October 2022.

This project has taken five years to put together and obtain the funding costing just over £ 1/4 million for a new 2 km paths to join the existing 2.5 km of existing paths in the northern area at the Contemplation Shelter to the Forest Road above Upper Cormonachan, the Medieval Settlement dating back to the 1500's, the beautiful Cormonachan Falls and a new car park below the waterfalls.

So far in the Upper Cormonachan area, the new paths have been cleared of vegetation from the Forest Road to three points where the paths will cross the burns where bridges are to be built. Temporary bridges will be installed for the excavator to clear the rest of the paths routes. Please note that the whole of this area of Cormonachan Community Woodlands is closed to the public until the spring of 2023 for safety reasons. (Map attached).

We would like to point out that we also obtained a further £106,879.20 of funding from Nature.Scot and £18,400.00 from local donations and grants from Lochgoil Community Trust. The grant from National Lottery Heritage fund included £18,000 for a part time Heritage Developer, one day a week for three years who will be employed by our partner Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre and a grant to train 12 volunteers to offer archaeological and historical tours at Upper Cormonachan next year.

We have further managed to obtain grants for six Finger Posts for the new paths junctions, a Donations Post for the Upper Cormonachan area and a People Counter for the new car park funded by the Scottish Landfill Community Fund. There will also be a new Interpretation panel on a lectern in the new car park with a replacement board in the existing car park, road signage to indicate both car parks and further signs to stop any overnight parking in the new car park. We have already installed an Interpretation panel on a lectern in the Medieval Settlement funded by the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Nation Park.

You may be interested to view the BBC The One Show film that was shown last night on BBC 1 on 31st October now on BBC iPlayer.

We would like to point out that the project has had wide political support and huge support from very many organisations, hospitality businesses and the local community.

If you would like to visit our ancient woodlands that are part of the Scottish Rainforest at some point, we would welcome your visit and would be happy to give you a tour.

Best wishes,
Dee

Dee (Douglas) Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan>

Highly Commended Award in Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2022

2) BBC The One Show, Monday 31st October 2022 at 7 pm

The BBC production team only managed to give us a few hours notice that Cormonachan Community Woodlands was to go live on The One Show that evening, so if you missed it, it's on BBC iPlayer to view the short film.

On the previous Monday 24th October, the BBC film crew arrived at Cormonachan Woodlands car park and spent the entire day filming, first the Rhododendron ponticum with expert Gordon Gary Stephens from the Scottish Rainforest Alliance where we had seven local volunteers helping to cut back the Rhododendron whilst filming took place and Gordon was interviewed by Lucy Siegle from The One Show. The film crew then visited the new path area filming the new path at Upper Cormonachan being cleared, from a drone. Finally, our Secretary, Dee was interviewed by Lucy at the Cormonachan Falls. The next morning, they returned to do more drone filming particularly of the waterfalls and the woodlands area. The director explained to Dee after the viewing that he had enough excellent material for a 15 minute film but The One Show producers have to limit film normally to 4 to 4 1/2 minutes although ours ending as over 6 minutes long...

3) Argyll Arts Collective's Woodlands Art Trail 2022 in Cormonachan Community Woodlands from 2nd-30th October

Argyll Arts Collective have had a lot of people actively take part this year particularly with the event in the Red Squirrel Hide.



We hope our members and visitors to the woodlands have enjoyed this special event despite a very wet month.

1,149 people visited the woodlands in October 2022.

4) Board Member availability

We are still looking for a member who has web site content management and social media experience or who is willing to learn these skills under instruction over the next year. The object is to relieve our Secretary of her Webmaster additional position. Any member who would be interested in this longer term position should contact Dee, the Secretary at Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk. We are also looking for any member who would be interested in supporting the woodlands and the board members for the future.

5) People Counters

The number of visitors to the woodlands through the car park in August 2022 was 1120 (36 p.d.), September 2022 was 622 (average 21 per day) and October 2022 was 1,000 (average 32 per day). The total through this entrance was 9,945 for year of 2021.

The walk in off the road Clach Bhadach people counter for the months of August 2022 was 103 (3 p.d.), September 2022 was 88 (3 p.d.) and for October 2022 as 149 (5 p.d.).

6) Rhododendron ponticum Clearance

We have still a lot of Rhododendron ponticum to clear in the northern area of the woodlands particularly in the Clach Bhadach area. This was shown in the BBC The One Show film and although we are looking for funding, we would welcome volunteers help to clear as much as we can in the meantime. The next Volunteers Days are on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November - if you can help please e-mail Volunteers@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk prior to these dates.



Our local volunteers at work...

7) BBC 'Loggerheads' programme - Series 1 (6 x 30 minutes) is available on BBC iPLAYER Episode 5 (CCW) for the year ahead.

As a matter of interest our CCW episode 5 has now been shown live on BBC 1 twice, BBC 2 twice and on BBC Scotland twice too.

8) Argyll Community Lottery

Argyll Community Lottery is currently raising £336.00 annually from 7% of our members, if you wish to support us, visit...

[Support Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd when you play Argyll Community Lottery - Argyll Community Lottery](#)

For every £1 you spend to win the top prize of £25,000, we receive 50p - our target is still to have 50 members supporting us however we only have 7 supporters at present with 2 members winning £25 each so far.



9) Internet Shopping - Amazon

This is only one way to support our charity, if you buy anything online please use https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ref=smi_ext_ch_SC050840 or easyfundraising using the links below to register where we get a commission of 0.05% on all purchases direct from Amazon. Thank you.

10) Internet Shopping - Everything else...



The Cormonachan Community Woodlands are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online.

Help us to support Cormonachan Community Woodlands by signing up for FREE on #easyfundraising. You can raise donations whenever you

shop online with over 7,000 retailers including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Argos, ASOS, M&S, B&Q, TK Maxx, Bookings.com and more. Plus, we will get a bonus £5 donation when you do!

Sign up today - this will make a BIG difference to us this year:
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?invite=1KQ390&char=243146&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox

Funds raised go to support the maintenance of Cormonachan Community Woodlands.

Thank you so much!

Tail Piece...



The latest Board Meeting Minutes of 26th October 2022 can be viewed on this link: <https://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk/minutes-of-meetings/>

And, Finally...

Please put a note in your diary for the for Community Discussions regarding Lochgoil Land Use on Saturday 5th November 2022 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Lochgoilhead Village Hall that's being run by the Social Enterprise Academy. Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Dee (Douglas) Locke, Secretary (Voluntary)

Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cormonachan> Highly Commended Award in Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2022

