

Chairman's Corner



By Alan White

Two years ago Glengarry Community Woodlands was formed on behalf of the community. The initial steering group took on the huge task of canvassing the community, who voted overwhelmingly to purchase the woodland. But this was only the first step; after raising the funds to purchase the woodland, more funding was secured to employ a full time Development Officer. Now, two years have passed and many of the original Board Members have stood down to make way for others. The Board now need new volunteers to join the organisation. We are currently looking for people to take on the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. These are important roles, but they are neither onerous nor time consuming. As a community, we voted to take on this woodland and all the responsibilities that come with it. Now it is our time to make this work. We need Board Members and volunteers to help make it a success for the future of our community. This is your woodland, so if you can spare some time or have a particular skill we need to hear from you.

Upcoming Events



Easter Eggstravaganza Saturday 15th April 2-5, in and around the Depot, Family Easter Event, children's games, campfire cooking, and lots more!

Into the Woods: School Holiday Forest School Club for 5-12 yrs. Contact Tom for more info

Dawn Chorus and Breakfast Butties Saturday 6th May from 6am Meet at the Depot. Walk with local birder Bruce, before a free breakfast roll and hot drink

Forest Flowers and Folklore Saturday 3rd June, 2-4 with local expert

Walking Group Every Tuesday 10am meet at the Community Hall

Volunteer Group Every Friday 10-2 at the Depot

1 Day First Aid Course Sat 22nd April. We still have spaces available, contact Tom for more info and to book



GLENGARRY
community
woodlands

Issue 01 Spring 2017



What's been happening in the community
woodland | what are our plans | upcoming events
how can you get involved

Glengarry Community Woodlands, The Old Forestry Depot, Invergarry, PH35 4HG

Telephone: 01809 501 287

Email: Tom@Glengarry.org.uk

Registered Charity SC046134

Invergarry Primary School



Before Christmas Invergarry Primary made a few visits to the community woodland. The P1-3 and P4-7 classes each came on separate mornings and took part in activities which had them looking at signs of autumn, classifying different trees and plants, and going for walks to explore and get to know the woods better.

At the beginning of the year a new project was launched - to design a Forest Classroom. So far, this has involved a few sessions in the classroom with Tom talking to the children about design principles, which helped the class to formulate a survey. In March, the class visited the woods to carry out their survey and after a vote, a site was chosen.

The next stage for this project will



be clearing the site, which is due to start after Easter. Parents will be getting letter inviting them along to help a bit nearer the time.

Volunteer Group



The weekly volunteer group launched on Friday 17th February and despite some bad weather, each week there's been a good turnout of people all keen to help out. The session usually starts with a cup of tea and chat about the jobs for the day, which so

far have mainly been tidying up around the Depot, and clearing some shrubs and small trees ready for the events that are planned for the year.

The volunteer group runs EVERY FRIDAY 10-2 at the Depot. Please contact us for more details.

Firewood Business



One of the main reasons for the community buyout of the woodland was to provide more employment locally, and selling firewood is one way we can start to do this. Therefore, we have been planning a firewood business which we aim to start in the next year. This will be a social enterprise, and run for the community, so profits will be re-invested to help produce more firewood and create more work.

However, to help us start this business, we need information such as how many households in Glengarry buy firewood, what type of firewood they want and how they want it delivered. Please help us by completing the questionnaire that came with this newsletter and returning it either to the Glengarry Post Office or directly to Tom at the Depot by **Friday 21st April**. If you need a questionnaire please contact Tom to get one delivered.

Walking Group



The Glengarry Walking Group meet every Tuesday morning 10am, at the community hall. Walks tend to be about an hour, following local paths to nearby viewpoints or landmarks.

The group was set up over a year ago and is a partnership between Glengarry Community Woodlands and *Step it Up Highland* who also

helped to set up groups across the Highlands aimed at helping people to lead more active lives and enjoy the health benefits that a short weekly walk can bring. The group is a good way of meeting new people and a great way to explore the paths around Glengarry. Tea and cake after the walk is optional!

To keep in touch with what's happening at Glengarry Community Woodlands, email Tom@glengarry.org.uk, follow us on **Facebook**, or look out for posters at the Community Hall and Post Office