

New equipment photo shoot!

Late in 2018 we entered the Falck Renewables Sustainable Energy Competition and won £5,000 towards our firewood business. This was supported in early 2019 by a grant of £3,000 from the Great Glen Energy Cooperative which, added to the prize money, allowed us to buy a small (and very old) tractor, and a brand new bench saw. To mark the collaboration between three local community initiatives, a photo shoot and press release was organized at the woodland in July.



Chairman of Great Glen Energy Co-operative Ltd., Murdo MacDonald makes a £3000 donation to Glengarry Community Woodlands Development Officer Tom Cooper, with Felix Paterson, Great Glen Energy Vice Chair, Glengarry Trustee Peter Walker and Chair of the Glengarry Trust, Maria MacRae with young helper, Robbie Fraser on the tractor

Murdo MacDonald, chair of the Great Glen Energy Co-operative, said about the community woodland: *“Glengarry Community Woodlands run an impressive social enterprise and education programme, and the wood fuel enterprise will be an extension to that. They work closely with Invergarry Primary School and this new project fits in very well with the curriculum and learning life and work skills. We’re delighted to have been able to support this very worthy cause which is very much a community project.”* The new machinery, which arrived earlier in the summer has already been put to good use processing firewood ready for the winter. Get in touch for details our firewood, including delivery within Glengarry.

Forest School Training

In early August we hosted a five day Forest School training course at the community woodland. We were lucky to benefit from the experience of a well known Forest School trainer, who also works as senior ranger for South Lanarkshire Council, to deliver the new Scotland-specific Forest and Outdoor Learning Award. The award teaches practitioners a range of theory and skills needed to take people safely out into the woods and to incorporate the natural environment into the learning and development of young people. The course, which was attended by one of the community woodland’s Board and sessional worker, is the first part of a two week programme which covers topics such as assessing risks in the woodland, woodland management, safe tool use, and child development theory. As part of our aim to encourage more children to use the community woodland, we arranged with Invergarry Primary for one of the school’s nursery staff to attend. We hope to work more closely with the school in the future, encouraging more use of the woodland. Other course participants included staff from the Broadford and Strath Community Company, who were all very enthusiastic about collaborating with us on further training in the future.



Day five of the course – Mike Brady took the group up to our own Forest School site to have a ‘cook-out’ on the campfire

Summer Activities

The school holidays are always a busy time for children's activities at the community woodland. For three years, we have run our holiday club 'Into the Woods' and this summer the club ran for six days throughout July and early August.



Children celebrating a freshly made batch of Welsh cakes at Into the Woods in early August

As well as our regular club for primary school children, during the summer holidays, for the first time we ran three full days of our new club for older children. 'Junior Rangers', which is aimed at children in P7 through to the end of High School, gives children a chance to progress from 'Into the Woods' to more advanced and educational activities, such as using tools, building structures in the woods, navigation, and survival bushcraft. This summer, the Junior Rangers spent their time on a building project, working through the

heatwave to build a wildlife hide and bench. The next stage will be to connect some of the tree canopy in front of the hide with thick rope so that the hide can be used to watch red squirrels and the other wildlife in the woods.



The wildlife hide built by Junior Rangers this summer

Development Work update

Ardoch Forest: We continue to work closely with the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust to purchase a small section of Ardoch forest. More feedback will be given once this work has developed.

Drynachan 2: Consultants have presented an early draft of their Feasibility Study for community ownership of the Drynachan 2 field, results so far look very positive. The final draft will be made public once complete.

Eco-tourism: We are now working with designers to look at exactly what type of accommodation units we will build, and other aspects of the site layout such as a new path connecting each unit and a new amenities building. Once we have chosen these designs we will invite members to view the plans.

Upcoming events *(all free!)*

Fungi Foray! Saturday September 7th, 2pm. Meet at the Depot.

The annual fungus walk through the community woodland, led by local expert Bruce.

Junior Rangers, new forest skills club. Weekends, monthly on last Saturday of month.

A new club for children ages in P7 – High School. Get in touch if you're interested or for more details.

Annual General Meeting Saturday 16th November, 2pm

This year the AGM will be on Saturday 16th November at 2pm.