

### Timber harvesting update

The last few loads of timber will be leaving the Depot yard in early September, once it's gone we will know the exact amount of timber the operation has produced. The timber went to four destinations: woodchip, (for chipboard, plywood, sterling board), sawlogs, oversized sawlogs for niche building projects, and biomass for electricity generation. We are expecting the overall tonnage to be slightly under the estimated amount due to some loss of weight as a result of the unusually dry weather.



*Timber stacked ready for transport at the Depot in June*

The contractors brought the digger back to tidy up around the woodland, and many of the extraction tracks created by heavy machinery can now be used as walking routes through the forest.

### Re-stocking cleared areas

The areas that were clearfelled will be re-planted within the next 2-5 years. There will be two areas of native broadleaves, which will include birch, oak and rowan, and one larger area of Douglas fir. Currently, the piles of brash (branches etc.) would prevent us getting at the ground to plant trees, so we need leave it a while to rot down, which will also release nutrients into the ground. The area to be planted with Douglas fir will need to be monitored for pine weevil, which can devastate young coniferous trees. The weevil population usually increases significantly after forestry operations. Once re-planting is complete, the area of the community woodland that includes native tree-cover will more than double, creating a significant improvement for the area's biodiversity.

### Drynachan 2

In June, Forestry Commission Scotland advertised the sale of the field opposite the community woodland next to the Invergarry cemetery. Under the Community Assets Transfer Scheme (part of the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015), the community was given an opportunity to express an interest in acquiring the site. After discussion with the Community Council, Glengarry Community Woodlands registered its interest in the field. This has temporarily stopped the sale process and will allow Glengarry Community Woodlands some time to put together a proposal for how the field could be used by the community and to look at how funds could be raised for its purchase.

The options that have been discussed so far include: community gardens, polytunnels and an orchard, new community housing, business premises, a camping or campervan site, or a sawmill and firewood yard. The field is large enough to accommodate more than one of these uses, and we've already been in discussion with the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust to explore options for housing on the field, which could be developed in conjunction with their work for the Glengarry Community Council on the Drynachan 1 site opposite the community hall. Any new housing would be managed under the 'Rural Housing Burden' legislation which allows communities some control over its sale. This is an exciting opportunity for the community in Glengarry to have more control over what happens in the area, and for the benefits of new developments to be more fairly distributed amongst those who live here. The amount of land owned and managed by communities in Scotland is increasing steadily after the recent changes in legislation, and it is likely more opportunities like this will come up. Glengarry Community Woodlands will be inviting the community to have their say on the future of this field but in the meantime please do get in touch with your ideas or comments.

## Nursery visit

In June the Invergarry school nursery visited the community woodland for their annual day out. The four pre-school children spent half a day exploring the woods around the Depot: bug hunting, learning how to make a campfire, and watching some of the forestry machinery at work. It was the first visit to the community woodland for some of them; we hope to have them back soon!



*Invergarry nursery enjoying some tree climbing*

## Volunteer group

Our monthly volunteer sessions have continued through the summer with rhododendron clearing and maintenance on the riverside path. In September we've been asked to help with some work at the Daingean settlement, cutting back shrubs and bracken, and re-setting markers for the Glengarry Heritage Group. Volunteers will be treated to a complementary interpretive talk from Hector Rogers once they've finished. Please get in touch if you'd like to join in.

## Upcoming events *(all free!)*

### **Fungi Foray Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 11-1 meet at the Depot**

Join us for a guided walk to look at the amazing fungi around Glengarry.

### **Volunteer Group second Friday of the month, 11-3, meet at Depot**

The volunteer group meet every second Friday of the month, from 11-3. Bring a packed lunch, sturdy boots and waterproofs. In September we'll be going to the Daingean settlement.

### **Halloween in the Woods Saturday 3rd November 3 - 5.30**

Family event including pumpkin carving, spooky stories, face painting, lantern parade, spooky crafts and campfire cooking.

## Into the Woods

As usual during the school holiday our forest school club *Into the Woods* was on, with children coming along for a total of 12 days of activities in the woods. This time we have surveyed parents and children to see what they think about the club, so might be altering things slightly next time round to take account of the feedback.

## Longterm Development - update

Since the last newsletter, we have submitted applications for funding to carry out a feasibility study, business plan and landscape designs for a tourism-based social enterprise in the woods. This is a lengthy process and nothing can be done until we can be able to employ consultants to help with these steps.

We will be hosting a seminar on eco-tourism in community woodlands in collaboration with the Community Woodland Association in September, where we'll hear from other projects about what has and hasn't worked. Meanwhile, work on our five-year Development Plan has resumed after a brief pause. The plan will propose a direction for the community woodland, laying out the options for our future. Our priority remains the need to generate income to support jobs and services so we can carry on delivering activities that the community want. The plan will set out how we can achieve this, and what other areas of development are open to us in the near future.