

Wild weather at Halloween

It was wet and wild weather for this year's *Halloween in the Woods!* but this didn't stop 46 people coming to take part in the activities. Under the tarpaulins and shelters children carved pumpkins, made witches broomsticks, magic wands, and crafted paper lanterns before two fireside performances from the storyteller. A pause in the rain allowed some of the group to go on a spooky lantern parade into the dimly lit forest with their lanterns. Thanks to everyone who came - hope it didn't take too long to dry out afterwards!



Wild weather for Halloween celebrations

Into the Woods

Our forest school club *Into the Woods* has now become a fixture in the woodland, and after two years of running it we carried out a survey of all the parents and children to find out what they think of it. We asked the parents whether the times and days suited them, what their children gained from the club, as well as asking for suggestions and general feedback. 22 of the 32 parents responded to the survey, all with positive feedback. It did reveal that some parents, weren't quite sure what happened at the club so we created a leaflet which we now give out to anyone who's coming. In light of the feedback, we also made some small adjustments, one of which was to extend the day from 4 hours to 6. This has been popular with the staff and children because it gives us a chance to get stuck in to making things and activities in the woods. The children's responses were all positive too, apart from a couple of complaints about midges!

Annual Fungi Foray

Another event, which has become an annual fixture is the fungi foray which was again led by our resident expert Bruce on a Sunday in early September. No one was quite sure how the fungi would respond to the unusually dry summer, but some heavy rain at the end of August brought out an impressive array of fungi throughout Glengarry.



With 40 people attending, it was a record number at the walk this year, and we started at the Depot with an explanation and demonstrations from Bruce about how fungi live and are connected underground. The group then went on a walk through the community woodland along the riverside where a vast array of fungi were identified, with everything from big to small and edible to deadly poisonous.



Volunteer group

Our monthly volunteer group had two excursions recently; in September volunteers helped the Glengarry Heritage Group with some work at the Daingean Settlement. This involved clearing scrub and small trees that were growing on the archaeology, and re-setting marker posts.



Two volunteers re-set a marker post at Daingean

In October the volunteers went out to the Garbh Islands on Loch Garry to help the RSPB improve nesting habitat for the scoters (a species of sea-duck). Scoter numbers have been in decline in Glengarry, and one potential reason is a lack of suitable nesting ground.



Volunteers return from the Garbh Islands, Loch Garry

Firewood update

At last, we are pleased to announce that we will begin to sell firewood from early 2019. In October we were awarded a grant to buy a hydraulic log splitter and vented log bags, which are crucial to start the enterprise off. The wood will be dried out in our new log-drying shed built by volunteers in 2017. The wood has been seasoned for 15 months, and is a mixture of hardwoods (about 80% birch, 20% other hardwood) and it will be sold once it's dry. To start with it'll be collection only; we'll sell the logs in large bags that will fit in the boot of a large car. Once we've been trading for a while we'll be able to invest in the machinery to upscale production, sell in larger units, and can begin to deliver. Information on the price, size of bags, moisture content of logs, log size, how to pay etc. will all be available shortly.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM has been set for Saturday 19th January from 2-4pm. We changed the day to a Saturday in the hope that more of the community woodland's membership will be able to attend. At the meeting Tom will run through the highlights of the last 12 months, and we'll be looking for feedback on the future use for the Drynachan 2 site (the field opposite the Depot). We'll also be able to update everybody on where we are with our other long-term plans for a tourism-based social enterprise in the woods.

Upcoming events

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.

Annual General Meeting January 19th from 2-4

Hear what's happened over the last year, future plans, feedback on Drynachan 2.