

## Into the Woods

We were very pleased to launch our Forest School club *'Into the Woods'* this year during the Easter break. The club ran for three days a week through the Easter holidays, and then again during the summer holidays. *'Into the Woods'* is based on the principles of *Forest School*, which emphasises the importance of free play, as well as taking part in led activities as part of a group, such as carving with knives, building a camp or playing games. This summer, the children took part in lots of different activities including foraging for wild berries, a lot of cooking on the campfire, and building lots of dens. We hope to keep running this club so that children growing up in Glengarry all have a chance to play in, and get to know the community woodland.



## Harvesting Plans

The community woodland has been working with forestry consultants to develop a Forest Plan throughout the last year. The plan is now complete and has been officially signed off by the Forestry Commission. This means we are now able to start planning how to harvest timber, and in particular, how to get it to the roadside so it can be taken away and sold. To do this, we've been talking to contractors and looking at the value of the timber and the costs of extracting it.

It's likely that the timber furthest away from the Depot would need to be extracted via the Faichem Rd, as this road runs the length of the forest. This might involve creating a new entrance to the forest in Faichem, with a stacking area for the wood. Timber nearest the Depot would exit via the Depot straight onto the A87. However, we're still looking at all the options and will update the community in the next newsletter once we have a clearer idea of the best way forward for the community woodland.

## Forest Classroom

Throughout May and June, pupils from Invergarry Primary visited the community woodland to carry on with developing a Forest Classroom area, which they chose earlier in the year. The P4-7 class spent five afternoons battling midges, extreme temperatures and rain to clear their space! Thanks to all the parents who joined them to help with the heavy lifting. Fundraising is now underway for the next stage of this project, which we hope will ultimately result in a building for the school to use.

## Volunteering

This summer has seen the first construction project at the community woodland, the woodshed / multi-purpose shed at the back of the Depot. The shed was designed by local resident Ken Grant, using a design that makes use entirely of locally sourced materials.

Most of the wood for the shed was taken from the community woodland and milled up on-site as part of an event which took place last year to showcase small-scale forestry equipment, and we also made the most of some hydro-poles that had been left in nearby fields. Meanwhile, our regular weekly volunteer group continues to run every Friday from 10-2. We can usually be found working near the Depot, generally tidying up and cutting back the years of overgrowth. Tea, biscuits and friendly chat all provided free of charge!

## Wildlife Walks

This summer was the community woodland's first programme of wildlife interest walks. We had Dawn Chorus in

May, Wildflower Identification in June, then Bats on 9<sup>th</sup> September, and finishing with a Fungi Foray around the woods on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to run these walks again next summer as they were a real success. We're always keen to hear feedback on everything that we do, so please let us know if there's anything you'd like to see happen in the community woodland.

## Green Woodworking

Following the success of two green woodworking drop-in sessions over the summer, we'll be running an evening course starting in October. This will be a structured course running over six sessions, get in touch to book a place.

## Firewood update

Planning for our firewood business has been underway now for a good few months. After a good response to the *Community Woodfuel Survey*, we have now estimated the amount of wood to supply potential customers for the first three years. Progress on the firewood is closely tied to harvesting operations elsewhere in the forest, so we hope to be in a position to start selling wood in autumn 2018. Thanks to everyone who returned their firewood surveys, the results of these have helped us to plan this business for the first three years.

# Upcoming Events

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October Annual General Meeting

7.30 in the Depot, review of the last year's achievements, plans for the forthcoming year

## October Holidays

'Into the Woods' our Forest School Club (watch facebook/emails for when booking opens)

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm, for 6 weeks (course will run every 2<sup>nd</sup> week)

Green Woodworking Course in Depot with Bruce. BOOKING ESSENTIAL

## October 28<sup>th</sup> 3.30 pm Halloween in the Woods!

Lantern Parade, Storyteller, spooky crafts, bushcraft cooking and LOTS more