

As a wet autumn is shaking the leaves from the trees, we are getting ready to launch the Community Action Plan Consultation and our woodland officer is preparing to host another highlight of the year—the Halloween Gathering.

Glengarry Forest Cabins

Since February, we've been flat out with setting up Glengarry Forest Cabins, and this summer things really started to take shape. After finishing the upgrade to the track the next stage was preparing the cabin sites and installing the pillars which the cabins sit on.



The cabins began arriving in our yard in sections, and in July the time finally came to take them up the new track to the new site. Watching the lorry go up the steep hill into the forest loaded with a cabin was a nail biting event like no other we've had here! But we're pleased to say it went smoothly, and over the course of 3 weeks, all the cabins were installed in their new, permanent home.



The next stage for the cabins is to put the cladding on; this is the larch that we've milled from our own timber in the community woodland, and it'll start going up in the next couple of weeks. North Woods Construction will be back to install the stoves and other internal works over the winter. In the meantime, we're about to start work on the amenity building (showers, kitchen and lounge) very soon.



Community Action Plan

As work gathers pace on the Community Action Plan, we'd like to take the opportunity to introduce the consultants who will be in touch soon.

'We are Valerie & Tom of Slikk7 Ltd, a small project and business consultancy based in Renfrewshire. We work with a number of clients across the Highlands & Islands and are delighted to have this opportunity to support Glengarry Community Woodlands in a crucial project to develop the Glengarry Community Action Plan.'

The objective of the Action Plan is to identify community needs not currently met and look at how land in community ownership could be managed to meet these needs. The plan will also highlight how community benefit funds could be used to ensure the sustainability and growth of Glengarry. The plan will be developed in stages over a few months. After we've gathered responses from the community and local stakeholders, we'll analyse the data and put together a report which will be published on the Glengarry Community Woodlands Website early in 2024.

*The community's involvement in the development of the Action Plan is vital and we encourage everyone to participate in the survey that we'll soon be sending out to capture your thoughts and insights. **This is your opportunity to contribute to shaping the future of Glengarry.***

So look out for the survey in the next few weeks! If you're a resident you will receive the survey by post and it can be returned by post or submitted on-line. If you are a business or community group, we will be contacting you by email—so please keep an eye on your inbox

Firewood Update

We are very grateful for all the continuing support we receive from our local community for our firewood business, the profits from which help to fund our organisation. For those of you who buy firewood from us over the winter, we have some changes to our business to let you know about.

Firstly, as management priorities for our woodland develop, the types of trees we are removing from the forest are changing, which in turn means the firewood products we can offer are also changing. The main difference for the coming autumn and winter is that we have much less hardwood available for sale, and more larch and pine available. In future years the availability of hardwood is likely to be even lower, and we are planning on only selling larch and pine from autumn 2024 onwards.

Regrettably, this year we also find ourselves needing to increase our prices for the first time in a while. With rising fuel costs and other increases in our overheads, we are raising the cost of our firewood, while trying to ensure it remains affordable to all our customers.

After a season of high demand last winter, we are also continuing, for the moment, to sell only to the community of Glengarry. However, as this decision was based on the demands from last year, if we find that demand has dropped over the coming winter, we may be able to resume sales to other people in the area.

For enquiries about firewood sales, including prices and the different products we have available, please contact bruce@glengarry.org.uk or phone: 01809501287.

Events Update

With all the rain we've had recently, you'd be forgiven for forgetting how hot and dry June was this year. In the middle of the heat, we held our Midsummer at Midnight event. A bunch of folk brought music and stories to while away our summer night, while food cooked on the fire kept us all going till the end.

Throughout the summer and into the autumn we've continued to run our children's woodland clubs, Into the Woods and Junior Rangers. With den building, fire lighting, cooking, drawing maps, building bat boxes, learning about moths, and plenty of games and exploring, there's been a

lot to keep the young folks busy. September has been busy too, with lots going on for the rest of the family.



Our Bat Talk and Walk brought some brave folks out into the dark to meet and learn about the secret lives of our local bats. Later in the month, in the bright light of day, we explored another secret world - this time below our feet. A sunny day helped us all enjoy a forage for the wild mushrooms growing prolifically around us at this time of year. From the well-known Chanterelles and Fly Agarics, to the less familiar Grisettes and Beefsteaks, we encountered a wide range of mushrooms, while learning about their mysterious lives.

For those of you who prefer a hands-on approach, we also ran 2 drop-in sessions of Green Woodworking, with a chance for attendees to have a go at carving with axe, knife and pole lathe. Look out in November for the start of our 6 session woodworking course. Details below.

Finally for October, join us for our spooky Halloween family event on the 28th October, as we follow a mysterious stranger into the forest to discover one of the secret tales of Glengarry.

Dates for your Diary

- Halloween Gathering**
Sat, 28 October
4.30 PM to 7 PM
- Green Woodworking Course**
1 night weekly, 7PM onwards
begins Fri 24th November
- Junior Rangers (P7-S6)**
Sat 25th Nov

If you're interested in any of these events, please contact Bruce on **01809 501 287** or by email: bruce@glengarry.org.uk