



Evanton Wood Community Company

Incorporated in Scotland as a Limited Company No. 332678; Charity Ref. SCO 042025

Members' Newsletter June 2011

Development Period

We have appointed Duncan Bryden Associates in conjunction with Rowan Tree Consulting to assist us in the Development Plan of the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery fund process. This will focus on the 5-Year Activities Plan which will be an integral part of the final application. It will include the development of various policies including for Conservation, Education and Interpretation, also the updating of the Business Plan and submission of the application itself. Meanwhile Cameron Ross has been tasked with updating the Woodland Management Plan, investigating improvements to the paths and roadways and in organising some training trips for Board members and others interested. The above appointments are funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. The HLF application will be submitted at the beginning of December and we will hear the result on March 15th.

Workshop at Cornerstone on Tuesday 28th June 7.30pm – All Welcome

Update on progress, then Duncan Bryden will leading a workshop to discuss the way ahead, focusing on increased access, woodland management and skills and training. Information on members' views gathered at this workshop will be used in completing the activity plan which is the main part of the HLF stage 2 application. In order to get a fair representation of members' views, it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Access Audit

On Tuesday 5 July at 2.30pm the Ross-shire Access Panel and the Area Access Officer will be assisting EWCC in doing an access audit of the wood. Anyone interested in taking part is welcome to attend (contact 830517).

Recent Activities

It is likely that you will have noticed some thinning activity on the two main paths leading from the main intersection. Many thanks to the good numbers of volunteers who took part in the Activity Days on the first Saturday of April, May and June. The work focussed on removal of the invasive Western Hemlock trees/saplings and significant impact has been made; however it also shows up the extent of the invasion. Some clearing of ditches was also done. We were very pleasantly surprised at the good numbers who showed up on the first day in spite of the heavy rain. Attendance at the following two sessions has also been good. We are particularly grateful to John Weaver who took a busman's holiday from his work with BTCV, to give safety talks.

The second Easter Event was a success. We are again grateful to Rev. Donnie Macsween for doing the service of worship.

Murdo MacDonald of the Highland Biological Recording Group and Simon Cohen, local ornithologist, visited the wood in May and have made various suggestions to improve the biodiversity. We are looking for people who would be interested in joining a Habitat and Conservation group to take these matters further and help the Board to develop appropriate policies and action plans.

We have also held a couple of information stalls at the Co-op to whom we are most grateful.

Funding

We are delighted to announce confirmation of funding as follows:

- Heritage Lottery Fund - £9000 towards the Development Period (fees, activities, visits, training etc)
- Kiltearn Community Council - £500 towards volunteer days and equipment
- Kiltearn Community Council - £6000 towards Purchase Fund
- Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm - - £6000 (ditto)
- Bentley's - £200; McLeod's Caravans – donated two gas rings and £100; Evanton Coop and Lidl donated food for events; Highland Industrial Supplies – discount on tools; Novar Tulloch Sawmill donated wood for bat boxes and processed timber; Pat Munro have offered a load of scalpings.

We are now a registered Charity so are eligible for Gift Aid which can increase charitable gifts by 20 per cent (or more for higher tax payers).

Donations should be sent to Keith Kennedy (preferably using Gift Aid/Membership Form to Kiltearn Steading, Evanton IV16 9UY.

News from Novar

Novar Estate have informed us that they need to consider a recent valuation of the wood that has increased the value to c £335,000. However they have indicated that they are happy to discount the price to £300,000 for the community, within the timeframe of the HLF funding process (decision by March 2012). Novar have also indicated that they are planning a thinning operation in the autumn of around 1500 tonnes of trees. They will share the Harvesting Plan with EWCC. No Douglas Firs are to be included.

Membership Renewal is now due.

£5 full; £3 associate; £1.50 Youth.

Please fill form and send to Douglas Wilson, Assynt Mill, Glenglass Road, Evanton IV16 9XW

(Available [Here](#) or at

<http://www.spanglefish.com/evantonwoodcommunitycompany/index.asp?pageid=205304>)

We are planning a **Family Biodiversity Day** after the schools return. If anyone would like to assist with this please contact Douglas Wilson on 01349 830444

Board

Adrian Clark (Chair), Christine Hamilton (Vice-Chair), Janey Clarke (Secretary), Keith Kennedy (Treasurer), Douglas Wilson, Penny Gray (co-opted member), Diane Baude de Bunnetat (co-opted director).

We have space for an additional co-opted member and will have at least one vacancy for an elected director at the AGM. Enquiries to Adrian Clark 01349 830517. To find out about the consultation process and involvement in working groups please contact Janey Clarke 01349 830796.



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