

# Glengarry Community Woodlands

## Newsletter – February 2016

### Celebration Event - January 30th 2016

Residents of Invergarry gathered on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January to mark a significant milestone for the community - the transfer of ownership of Invergarry Wood from Forestry Commission Scotland into ownership by Glengarry Community Woodlands. We were successful in raising over £200 000 from the SLF, HIE and The Glengarry Trust to purchase the site, after the woodland and depot were declared 'surplus' by Lochaber Forest District in 2013.



For many years the forestry depot provided a base for several FC staff based in Invergarry, however the building has lain semi-derelict for much of the past decade. We are developing exciting plans for the woodland and the old depot to improve its value as a visitor attraction and recreational resource for local people, as well as a training and demonstration site for sustainable forest management and woodland crafts. Bruce Kocjan-Briggs, Chairman of GCW, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be here today celebrating the fact that this woodland is now owned by our community, and we are looking forward to ensuring that it can contribute to the sustainable development of the whole area."

Don't hesitate to get in touch with Gary or the GCW board with YOUR ideas and suggestions for the site at any time!

[gary@glengarry.org.uk](mailto:gary@glengarry.org.uk) or 07834 515383

### Other News

George and Gary attended an event on 'Leases and licences in community woodlands' held at the new Wolftrax centre at [Laggan Forest Trust](#) recently. The event focused on developing income streams and social enterprises - everything from selling timber to mountain biking, woodlots and woodland crofts. Read the full report [here](#). The next in this series of courses and events organised by the [Community Woodland Association](#) is a seminar on 'Green Burials' to be held at Aigas near Inverness. Details of this and other events can be found [here](#).

We have been successful in getting funding from the [Landfill Community Fund](#) to allow us to buy tools and supplies to restore native Upland Birchwood habitats in the area between the road and the riverside path. We hope to begin organising volunteer days to remove *Rhododendron ponticum* seedlings later in the spring - watch this space! Thanks also to Bryan Millar for a generous donation towards this project.



### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

**EASTER EVENT: TREASURE HUNT AND BBQ** Monday 28th March. 10am at the old forestry depot.

Glengarry Community Woodlands - SC 501083

<http://www.glengarry.org.uk/>

## Ancient Woodland Restoration Project:

Steve Morris of the Woodland Trust's [Ancient Woodland Restoration Project](#) has been working in the area in recent weeks assessing the remnants of native woodland habitats on the 30 hectare site, and he will be working with us to enhance and restore the ancient woodland habitats and features as we begin to develop our Long Term Forest Plan for the woodland over the next few months.



So far the evidence suggests that there is a great deal of interest and diversity on the site - with pinewood, birchwood, oakwood and wet woodland habitats present, as well as a variety of important biodiversity features such as veteran oak and hazel stools with oceanic mosses and lichens, as well as Red Squirrels of course!

### Footpaths

Work is underway to re-open the riverside path and replace the footbridge, we hope this will be completed by Easter. We are also beginning to map out existing routes and rides through the main woodland block, and we aim to begin applying for funding to create a path network in the wood in the near future.

**Next GCW Directors Meeting**  
**16 March 2016 @ 7.30 pm in Glengarry**  
**Community Hall**



## Other News

We have been selected as one of just a handful of sites in Scotland to join the '[Making Local Woods Work](#)' project, organised by The Plunkett Foundation. This will provide us with tailored support and mentoring to develop a 'woodland-based social enterprise' on the site, to generate income and support jobs and livelihoods in the Invergarry area.



Representatives of the Woodland Trust will be visiting the site again on **Wednesday 2nd March** to discuss ancient woodlands, and how they can assist with interpretation and resources - get in touch with Gary if you would like to come along and find out more.

Along with Invergarry Primary School we are working with Trees for Life, who are developing a funding bid for a '[Re-wilding Project](#)' - which will see a series of talks, events and education activities delivered in the area later this year. An online vote will help to secure this major European funding award and will take place over two weeks, from 8-22 March - look out for more details on social media and show your support!

Minutes of the latest members meeting on January 13th [here](#) and the latest board meeting on February 10th [here](#).

We need your support - if you have not already signed up - membership forms are always available on our website.