

Strathnairn Community Woodlands

22 October 2009

Dear SCW Member,

This year we've made efforts to develop links with other Strathnairn organisations, as working with other groups creates better benefits for the members of both SCW and the other organisations. By doing so, we have sought to raise the profile of Strathnairn Community Woodlands in the local community, by raising local awareness of the woods, the role the woods can play in the community, and emphasising their intrinsic value as a resource to be looked after, nurtured and managed appropriately.

This operates on several levels. The green space the woods provide is increasingly precious, simply for people to enjoy, for providing wildlife and ecological habitat, for landscape benefits, to relieve pressure on other land areas where access may be more of a problem, and for their sensitive use by community groups.

For examples, this year:

- Highland Council Rangers held several public events, including the Outdoor Cinema, Cinema under the Stars, and more children oriented Fungi Day.
- Highland Council, Strathnairn Community Council (SCC) and Farr School Parent Council strongly support alterations to the entrance of School Wood to make the car park a safe practical option for parents to use when dropping off and collecting children at the school. Funding is being provided by Safer Routes to Schools.
- Cutting up redundant timber stacks have enabled Care in Strathnairn (CiS) to distribute five tonnes of free firewood to local people most in need of it.
- Two joint social events were held in January and a September BBQ specifically inviting those already involved running other local charities, including CiS, SCATA, Farr School, Daviot School, Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund, Farr Hall and SCC.
- Farr School regularly use the woods and cabin in the education programme.
- We received a very positive evaluation from the Community Land Unit who conducted a mandatory review five years after the woods were purchased.

We are entirely dependent on volunteers to both manage and help with ongoing maintenance work in School and Milton woods, and are keen to hear from anyone who can contribute at any level. A nomination form is also included if you would like to stand as a trustee on the management team yourself.

Our AGM is being held on Monday 30th November, 7:30pm Farr Hall. Some legal matters require attention and are detailed on the enclosed letter, with a proxy form if you would like someone to vote on your behalf. Please copy this proxy form if required for multiple voters. We look forward to seeing/hearing more of you in the next year.

Best Wishes,

Donald Longden, Chair

Strathnairn Community Woodlands

Company Number: SC 228026 Charity Number: SC 033499

Registered Office: Stroma, Farr, Inverness, IV2 6XG