

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013



wood for all

GREETINGS!

Welcome to the first newsletter from Wood for All! We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the project and to update you on what we have been up to, and what we have planned for the year ahead.

Some of you were at our launch event in December 2012 at the Albert Halls in Stirling – it was a great way to mark the start of the project and to get a range of really useful input into the way we can shape our project in the area of woodland skills, creating local wood fuel hubs, and supporting attempts to reduce carbon by using wood fuel heating.

Since then, our energy coordinators, Simon and Gavin, have been running drop in sessions in many of Stirling's rural villages, from Thornhill, to Callander, to Killin and beyond, informing people about their options when it comes to renewable, wood fuelled heating systems – biomass boilers. We have also used these local events to tap into community interest in woodland involvement, from determining skills people want to learn to identifying locally owned woodlands that might be suitable for community projects. We are happy to report that there has been a keen interest among many of those attending to get involved in future projects.

A couple of woodland owners have already offered their woods for use within the project, and we are now looking at the best ways to get the local communities involved – each woodland offers its own set of opportunities and challenges. More to come on these projects and how you can get involved soon...

WORLD OF WILLOW

We ran our first woodland skills workshop in February – an inspirational day on the World of Willow, combining a mix of interesting facts and some hands on outdoor willow work, plus some indoor basket weaving. Thanks go to Kate Sankey of West Moss-side Organic Farm for hosting such a great first workshop for us, and all in the beautiful surrounds of her lovely farm with her home cooked lunch!



Some Wood for All volunteers also took part in a Willow Coppicing day, run by Green Aspirations, for the Community Woodlands Association. As members of CWA we were able to offer volunteers a free place and quite a few took part on this productive day out at Carmunnock! The willow at the coppice site was a great example of what happens when there is little management, so attendees got busy coppicing and went away with plenty of cuttings to plant at home!

We are looking forward to running some Wood for All courses with Green Aspirations in the near future.

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome!

World of willow

Woodland Management

Chainsaw Training

Drop-in sessions

Logo

Coming up...

VOLUNTEER

There are so many ways you can help with the project... let us know your interests and availability and we can work out a role that best fits... from running a workshop in a woodland event, to getting involved with woodland management work days, to helping promote the project, to helping with biomass surveys - there are numerous ways to get involved.

To find out more, phone Nikki at the office on 01786 451888 or email: nikki@transitionstirling.org.uk



OPPORTUNITIES

Woodland Management Workshop coming soon! Learn how to manage your woodland in a sustainable way- if correctly managed, your woods could supply you and your neighbours with a constant sustainable source of wood fuel. In addition to providing a woodland habitat which has a diverse population of wildlife and also somewhere you can relax and enjoy.

The workshop will run in Fintry's Community Woodland and cover a range of topics including: woodland surveying & creation including foraging, access and interpretation, habitat and woodland corridors. This workshop is open to all and, weather permitting, will take place in April!

If you would like to attend please book your space by emailing info@fintrydt.org.uk

BASIC CHAINSAW TRAINING

Wood for all is currently training 3 volunteers to achieve their basic CS30/31 certificate. Deep in the woodlands of Kilmear, the participants have a busy week ahead of them. Once they gain their certificate, and complete their supervised hours, these volunteers will be putting in the hours into Wood for All projects for the benefit of local communities and sustainable woodland management. This will then allow us to bring others in to get involved and benefit from local, sustainable wood fuel. Woodlands will often need a certain amount of chainsaw work on wind felled trees before the community can come in and take part, so having trained volunteers is an important first step for the project.

LOGO

Thanks to Steph Mclean of Trilogy Designs for coming up with our logo – we are delighted with it and it has been great to work with a local talent, who has grown up with a love of woodlands and the special quality of wood. Being a talented young designer AND having a father who makes quality kitchens and furniture from local wood, and replants at least 3 trees for every one he uses, means Steph was a great fit for our project in every way!



wood for all

PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

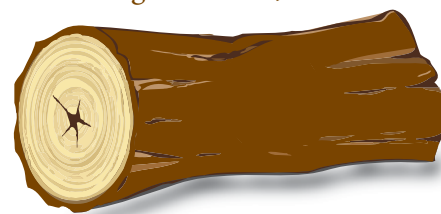
Our Woodland Coordinator, Iain Buchanan, has put together a great woodland skills training plan for the coming year. We will keep you posted via future newsletters on the details of these, and also post them on our Facebook page, and on the Website (once it is launched).

Here are just some of the interesting days we have planned, although the dates are still to be fixed, and there is a little flexibility on the final mix of topics.

- Annual Woodland Event
- Green Woodwork
- Tree Identification
- Tree planting
- Path Making
- Willow Structures
- Coppicing
- Woodchipping and log splitting

WOOD FUEL HEATING SYSTEMS - DROP IN CLINICS

These sessions involve a presentation on the carbon savings and financial benefits of using wood fuel, a discussion on the considerations and the grants/tariffs available, followed by an opportunity for one to one sessions with the advisors, and/or booking a home visit. There is also a chance to discuss the woodland side of the project and how to get involved with this.



We have run a series of these over the winter months and the next one is in Drymen Village Hall – Tuesday 2 April 7-9pm

To find out more contact gavin@transitionstirling.org.uk or simon@transitionstirling.org.uk

KEEPING INFORMED

There are currently two easy ways to keep informed:

Newsletter – if you received this by email you will continue to receive future issues unless you let us know you don't want to hear from us. If you have picked the newsletter up from an event, then please ask to be put on the email list.

Facebook - like us on facebook to receive up to date posts on what is going on

Website to come – we will let you know once this is launched (currently in development)

Wood for All is run by Transition Stirling, with funding from the Climate Challenge Fund.

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Opening Stirling's Woodlands



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