



Kilmallie Community Company

Kilmallie Community Company News

The Woods - July 2011

It seems incredible that our woodland project started over 8 years ago, that our company has been in existence since 2006 and that we have owned the woods now for two years. But as far as the trees go you could say not a lot has happened. The woods are probably well over a hundred years old. Many of the mature trees in the woods will happily go on for another hundred years. This is how most people want to keep it. Most see the woods as part of the Corpach scenery; part of the landscape. You don't have to walk through the woods to appreciate them.

So what has happened? In the last year or so we have had a few work parties. We had one at the foot of the Cnoc nam Faobh Oakwood – near the bus stop next to the sawmill. Here we took away the remains of an old fence and cleared up piles of old rubbish. Various enthusiastic individuals who have regularly picked up litter have followed this up. A persistent problem is dog fouling. Amongst others these woods are used by children. We would like to encourage a “Stick and Flick” campaign so that at least the paths are clear. Picking up and placing dog fouling into a bin would be the best practise. The worst is to find polythene bags of dog poo thrown into the vegetation.

Gales have caused some damage. Thankfully this has been restricted to a few branches being broken from the trees. Considering the strength of the gales it is an indication that the trees have a good hold on the ground and will stand for many years to come. One or two large branches had to be cleared because they were an overhanging danger. This work was done by Ewan Kennedy contractors on a voluntary basis.

In the Tom Giubhais pine wood another work party was organised primarily to repair the stock fence which neighbours crofting ground. At the same time we had a litter pick and cleared vegetation from the network of informal paths.

So what for the future. As long as we keep on top of the litter and keeping the path network clear of vegetation there should not be much to do. We could put up signs, we could spend money on building and improving paths. But this is money we don't have at the moment and most people are happy with the paths as they are. One problem we are aware of is that there are a lot of small tree seedlings. There is a lot of holly some of which is not so small. If this is left unchecked then in a few years time parts of the woods may start to look quite different.

If you are interested in the woods then you can become a member of the company. All the details are on our web site www.kilmallie.org.uk/community/kilmallie-community-company. Membership is open to anyone and the only requirement is that you do take an interest. If you haven't done so already have a walk through the woods. They are your woods.