



# Dunain Community Woodland

**Dunain Community Woodland  
Annual General Meeting  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
7 pm at the  
Charleston Community Complex**

**Gateway to the Children's Forest**

### **The Children's Forest**

Earlier this summer pupils from Muirtown Primary School successfully completed their tree planting exercise on a lovely spot in the Dunain Community Woodland. There are now 275 trees standing proud in the Children's Forest.



**Children's Forest**

### **Funding**

We have been awarded £5000 from the Community Fund for the Children's Forest Project. Work on the entrance to the Children's Forest will begin soon.

### **Lease of DCW**

It was hoped that we could report a closing of this deal!! Unfortunately things have moved slowly as much had to be agreed between the developer, Robertsons, and Highland Health Board before land could be released. We understand a concluding agreement is immanent, it would be grand to think that we might be able to report the signing of the lease at the AGM. A bold speculation you might think.... but we are ever positive!!!

### **The Survey Report**

As most of you will know we have undertaken a survey of DCW members plus folk who currently use the Woodland to establish how people use the area, plus aspirations for future development. We also contacted various clubs and societies in and around Inverness to investigate possible joint projects and consulted with local schools to see if they might be interested in using the woodland in their respective curriculum. The findings of the survey are available on our web site. [www.dunainwood.co.uk](http://www.dunainwood.co.uk).

### **Healing Well**

Many of you will be aware that the brick structure surrounding the Healing Well at the southern edge of the reservoir was vandalised some months ago. Although it was always our intention to improve public access to this site, its premature destruction prompted a small group of spiritual healers to offer to rebuild the Well as a minder of ancient healing practices. This work is now underway as a voluntary project with the hope of building a sandstone structure with open public access and interpretation.

## **Work Parties**

Work Parties have been going on all summer, meeting every second Saturday at 1000 hours at the Duck Pond. Tasks involving clearing the Chambered Cairn, Healing Well and Duck Pond have been the main activities so far.

Jobs for the Autumn include Reservoir clearing, path at rear of Cairn and a tidy up of the Duck Pond and Cemetery area on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November ready for the Remembrance Day Service the week after.

Everyone is welcome to join in the Work Party activities – phone John Cheadle on 01463 240488 for details.

## **The Green Gym**

Dunain Community Woodland is pleased to have the Green Gym involved in some of the practical tasks which are undertaken to maintain the area.

Green Gym offers an alternative to conventional gyms – the chance to improve your fitness by getting involved in practical environmental projects in their local area. It is a great opportunity to get out and about, learn new skills and meet new people.

The group helps out in our Woodland one afternoon per month and have been involved in fence clearing, path construction and gorse removal.

## **Footpaths and car parks**

We are working with the Paths for All Partnership to work out the design and estimated cost of a number of new paths.

The main path will run near the southern boundary of the site from the lodge at the A82 and past the Duck Pond up to the top Reservoir. At the steepest part it will link with the existing track which zig-zags up the pylon line. The path round the Duck Pond will be upgraded and the bank re-shaped in places to improve safety and access to the water. Another section of path will run past the Chambered Cairn which is on the high point at the north west to connect the Great Glen Way to the Drove Road and, eventually, through to Craig Phadrig.

A new car park and picnic area is planned for the old quarry, which used to house the incinerator, in addition to the one at the Duck Pond.

## **Project Officer**

As you might recall we were hoping to have a Project Officer in post by the autumn. This is proving a harder task than anticipated. Although we obtained 50% funding from SNH, we failed in our first attempts to obtain additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. So it was back to square one with an application to Awards For All. Hopefully this will be successful and we can have this much-needed coordinator in post by the end of the year.

## **Membership**

A big thank you to all members who now pay their annual subscription by standing order. Thank you also to those who have paid by cash/cheque. For the members who have not yet paid, your payment is now due for 2007/8. Please send your £5 to Mrs Jennifer Laws, 22 Ballifeary Road, Inverness, IV3 5PJ. If you would prefer to pay by standing order (the preferred method) please contact Jennifer for a form (Tel 01463 222491).

### **Contacts:**

#### **Art and Recreation Group**

Jennifer Laws, 22 Ballifeary Road,  
Inverness  
Telephone 01463 222491

#### **Education and Environment Groups**

Alastair Cunningham, 18 Upper  
Leachkin, Inverness  
Telephone 01463 711702 or  
e-mail welcome@anamcara.org

#### **Path Networks and Car Park Groups**

George Hawco, Dallauruach,  
Abriachan  
Telephone 01463 861257

