

# Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland Newsletter August 2008

A charity registered in Scotland No SC 034434

## Primrose Walk

Once again the Primrose walk, which took place on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, was a resounding success. The primroses gave us a particularly spectacular show this year and we had a good turn out of people to enjoy them.



*In search of Loch na Creige the blue route*

Three new routes, blue, yellow and white, prepared for the more adventurous and sure footed met with approval from those taking part, with comments supporting the idea of creating trails that were less obvious and more challenging than the main trail.

Once again we had the Thistle Camp to help us prepare for the day, carrying out a make and mend operation which was sadly disrupted by the heath fire. However, all was completed well enough for the walk to take place and a volunteer workforce turned out some time later to complete the tasks we had scheduled for this year, prior to increased Summer usage.



*Flowers of the Forest*

So, many thanks to the National Trust Thistle Camp and to all those volunteers who turned to, to rake and level the materials required to repair the path surface and carry out many other necessary tasks such as moving the notice board etc.



*Tony's Buffet the most popular stop on route  
You all contributed to a great day.*

## Army Invade Laide Wood

The invasion which took place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June was a hearts and minds exercise carried out by members of the British Army, who were taking time out from their more arduous duties in foreign fields to assist village communities.



*Work commences*

Under the watchful eye of Tony Carpenter who seemed at times to do

more work than watch, they set about building a bridge over the burn leaving Loch na Creige.



*Well on the way*

The bridge will allow us to cut an extension of the blue trail to access the waterfall cascade. This is now the biggest bridge in the wood and whilst very safe and substantial is not yet complete, steps still have to be constructed on both sides. The task of clearing the trail to the waterfall will hopefully be completed by late August. in the meantime it remains for now, our beautiful "bridge to nowhere".



*The finished product*

Many thanks to our helpers from the Armed Forces, we wish you well in your future deployments and a safe return to may be take a walk over the bridge you built.

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*Photos this page Kevin Ginty and  
John Rippin*

## Next Steps

As well as picnic tables at Loch na Cathrach Duibhe and extending the blue trail to the waterfall cascade, we are hoping to build a hide at Loch na Creige. The aim is to complete these tasks by late Autumn and once again we will have to rely on our good friend TC for his design, building technique and ability, with the help of as many volunteers as we can muster. Loch na Creige is a beautiful tranquil lochan teaming with wildlife. Home to our family of mallards, and the many brown trout that leap out of the water creating early evening entertainment for the patient voyeur, it is also home to dragonflies and damsel flies during their mid summer displays. This loch should be treated with respect and most people using the woodland would agree it should be given special status within our woodland environment.



*Loch na Creige viewed from possible Hide Position*

The next priority in this latest shopping list will be the cut through to the waterfall cascade and a call will go out to our volunteers for their assistance very soon to help complete that task as quickly as we can. So far we have relied upon e-mail to notify our helpers and this remains our best option as we often have to muster a working party at very short notice. Telephone calls takes time and people are not always available at the end of the phone so e-mail would seem to be the logical answer.

If you would like to be on the helpers list and you have e-mail address please send an e-mail to [info@laidewood.org.uk](mailto:info@laidewood.org.uk) simply stating "put me on the helpers list" and it shall be done.

## Members Photo Gallery

We would like to try out a member's photos gallery on the website, where we could publish photos taken in and around Laide Wood. Peter Jarosz will be our resident expert for setting up the regulations for the gallery and after consultation with Peter we will publish a set of rules for submitting your favourite snaps. Maybe we can run a monthly competition with the best photo taking centre stage. Keep an eye on the web site for the latest developments

**Subscriptions** are now due for 2008 to 2009. If you have not completed a standing order and you are not a life member your subscription for year commencing September 1<sup>st</sup> is now due. Basic rates are Individual £5 and family or business £10 of course any donation in addition to your subscription is always well received and especially well used to improve your wood. For those who have opted for e-mail newsletter please return this part completed to The Treasurer whose address appears opposite.

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Cheques only through the post please made payable to Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland (address opposite).

Many thanks for your continued support

## Annual General Meeting.

Aultbea Village Hall commencing 7.30 pm on Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup>. All welcome your opinion counts.

## Knife and Fork

We are frequently asked about our Knife and Fork which marked the picnic area at Loch na Cathrach Dhuibe and regretfully the answer is still the same. We have not had them returned and they have not been spotted anywhere. However, we are planning to put picnic tables at the spot but since receiving Ben's gift of a picnic table now sited in the Car Park we have come across yet another problem. Picnic tables have their obvious uses. But with food and drink comes "the packaging" and we have already had a litter problem in the car park just two weeks after the table was put in place. Fortunately a couple of members spotted the problem and dealt with it straight away.



Please help us to boost our membership by sharing this newsletter with a friend.

If you do not have access to the web membership application forms can be obtained from:-

Peter Jarosz  
Treasurer  
Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland  
Lochview House  
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