

Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland Newsletter April 2008

A charity registered in Scotland No SC 034434

New format for your newsletter

You are now aware we have a different format for your newsletter and we hope you will come to enjoy this A4 version. This is not a change for change sake but performs two very important functions. 1) It allows us to publish the newsletter on our website and 2) we can now deliver the newsletter in "pdf" direct to your computer using e-mail. If you have not already done so you should visit your website at www.laidewood.co.uk.

We are of course aware that some of our members will not have access to the internet they may not even own a computer or would prefer to continue to receive the traditional paper version so this change will be done only by request

We would like you to consider the following when you decide whether or not to continue receiving hard copy. Electronic version will save paper, time and money, as we are in the business of conservation and recreation it would seem appropriate for us to resist using even renewable resources and any cash saving will mean we have more money for improving your woodland.

In addition, the full version of the newsletter may not be published on the website so even if you intend reading the website version your choice should simply be paper or email, so we will continue sending your paper version unless otherwise advised.

If you wish to change to the electronic version all you need to do is e-mail "change me to e-mail newsletter" to the following address info@laidewood.co.uk

Volunteers and Helping Hands

Having completed the phase one replanting we were left with a surplus of trees it was planned to store these in a holding area to replace any casualties we have in the first year. Those which were delivered in plugs could be held back and watered in their containers the dry rooted trees needed to be in the ground to give them any chance of survival.



Angie and her friend Alexandria age four planting Scots Pine, it's never too soon to save the world.

If not used to replace casualties, these will become the first trees planted in phase two which will begin in January 2009.

Photos by Janet Whittington



In the past, we had people volunteering for any appropriate tasks as they come up and this was one such task. So, the call went out to those who had offered help. Eleven volunteers arrived to assist with the planting, including our youngest helper Alexandria who turned up with wellies, gloves, rake, barrow and spade all in matching colours.

Splitting in teams of two, the trees were soon in the ground and the chances of loss much reduced. Many thanks to all our helpers on the day, and to Old Smiddy holidays who have volunteered to keep an eye on and water the trees for us throughout the summer.



Dragon Quest

A role playing adventure for youngsters in which they are asked to participate in an adventure acted out in the Woods.



On Thursday 27th March, Laide Wood played host to a fantasy adventure for youngsters presented by An t-Sireadh Eu-comasach. This followed a similar event staged the day before at Flowerdale Gairloch. All costumes and weapons were supplied and an adventure story Narrated to the participants as they changed into costume and selected the weapons they would use to carry them through the events that were about to unfold. Having walked around at a distance with one group I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the youngsters involved and organisations arrangements which carefully covered any risk factor. The weather was super, blue skies and a back drop of snow clad mountains added to the atmosphere created throughout the event. It is some time since this type of travelling adventure had been staged and the organisers An t-Sireadh Eu-comasach may be back later in the year to put on another show. I'm sure the word will have got around by now and anyone missing it this time should have another chance later in the year. I would anticipate a much greater demand for tickets next time around so keep an eye on the web site where we will try to advertise the event well in advance.

Photos by Peter Jarosz



The plot



On the trail in search of the Dragons egg



Trouble ahead



The Battle



Our heroes achieve their aim.
The Dragon re-united with her egg

Primrose Walk

Saturday 3rd May
Don't miss it

The next event to start off the Summer season when the wood is used most will be the Primrose Walk.

We hope to make this an annual event with new trails or facilities to offer the Community and its visitors and coinciding with a good show of primroses along the burns. Hence the name.

Last year was a great success and we hope to do something similar this year.

Our aim was to open up new trails but the weather has been against since the beginning of March and we may achieve all our goals however its always good crack and Tony's Buffet will hopefully cheer us up somewhere on the trail. So make a note in your diary.

Primrose Walk

Laide Wood

Meet in the Main Car Park

Saturday 3rd May
2pm

For the fitter walkers who are prepared for a walk off the Main Trail waterproof boots are advised.