

Come and talk about the changes to the Woodland over the past year! Ask us about our third Green Flag (Community), our progress towards a woodland of fully-native trees, the presentation to the school of a display unit for the Jim Grogan Award book, our attempt to upgrade the paths - 'Grogan's Walk'. See how far we've travelled towards our goal of turning a good young wood into the mature, natural and well-used community woodland that Tarvin deserves!

## COFFEE MORNING

**with Cake Stall and Raffle!**

**at Tarvin Methodist Church**

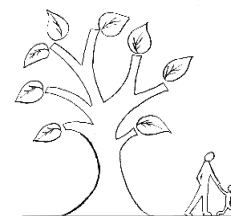
**between 10.00am and Noon**

**on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**

**Sponsor a (squirrel-proof) bird box.**

The Trustees will be on hand to talk about the work in the woodland and there'll be lots of photos to illustrate the progress we've made through the past year. We will also be pleased to hear **your ideas** for managing the woodland and for raising the funds which are vital to pay for our work.

***It is YOUR Woodland! Come and talk of your hopes for it.***



Tarvin Community Woodland Trust  
Created by the community for the community

[www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org](http://www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org)

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Tarvin 740337

"Crowsfoot Cottage,"

Old Moss,  
Stapleford,  
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CH3 8HR

September 2012

Dear friends,

Since our last newsletter in April of this year it has become clear that the **first** of TCWT's responsibilities, "maintenance of the woodland for sustainability at affordable cost" is being achieved. The vagaries of the spring and summer weather have resulted in tremendous development of new undergrowth, particularly around the new chipped pathways behind the laid hedges and the same weather did nothing to help the new wildflower meadow despite further seeding. Our **second** assumed responsibility of "fundraising for maintenance, developments and equipment replacement" has been remarkably successful due to your generous community support; thank you to you all. Our **third** remit is "development projects to protect, improve and extend the woodland facility for the benefit of Tarvin residents." In April our news on funding for replacement pathways, by far our biggest development project, was downbeat. Well, now it is more upbeat; while we have not as yet won funding, we are developing our proposals and the prospects are more positive than they have been. Again, thanks to the Community, our financial situation means we are in a position to contribute financially, albeit modestly, to the pathway project, hence increasing our chance of winning external funds. As a further development, Trustees have been working with the developers of the Tarporley Road housing project to extend the woodland along the by-pass to Austin's Hill. We believe discussions have been mutually fruitful and TCWT will continue to play its part in planning, implementing and eventually managing the woodland extension, assuming the interests of the Trust and the Community are protected. Finally, our **fourth** objective "to contribute as widely as possible, within our remit, to community village life" is and will remain a project in progress. In the past twelve months volunteers and trustees have invested over 1250 hours in working for the woodland on your behalf. Please let us know your thoughts on how we can improve the woodland, especially any ideas for improving or increasing its utilisation. The Trustees look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks and in particular at the Coffee Morning on October 13<sup>th</sup>. See you there or in the woodland!

With best wishes

Stuart Exell

Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust

## News from the Woodland.

This year, the woodland has begun to take on an altogether new appearance. We began in the early months when the snowdrops and wood anemones came smiling through in abundance and the hedgerows were white with quickthorn (sloe) and then hawthorn blossom, and went through the magnificent display of foxgloves (thank you, Tarvin W.I.), into a summer of truly dappled shade, as the canopy of our trees began showing itself for the first time. The bird boxes were busy, the range of wild flowers blooming was amazing and the 'secret' paths were well-used by children of all ages! The Green Flag judges visited and considered that we once again merit the award of a Green Flag (Community) – the award for community-run green spaces. There are only 16 of these in the North West of England and we are again the only one in the old County of Cheshire. We feel that we are developing a woodland of which we can all be proud! Thank you everyone for the help and support which we receive from the whole Tarvin community.

The Jim Grogan 'Countryside and Wildlife Award' was again awarded by the Trust in July. It recognises each year the Tarvin Primary School student who has shown the best working knowledge of his/her environment, of the living things that inhabit it and the relationships between them. The young recipient is felt to have demonstrated that they have a genuine curiosity about, understanding of and a feeling for their surroundings, while being able to correctly name and to talk knowledgeably about a fair range of the flora and fauna they encounter. The recipient is chosen each year by the school staff and, for 2011-12, it was **Becky Cheadle**. At a special school assembly, she was presented with the award book (in which she has the entry for this year), a certificate, a plaque and a gift voucher. At the same time, the school was presented with a beautiful craftsman-made display unit, financed by generous donors, so that the valuable book can be seen daily by pupils instead of being kept in a drawer. If you visit our school, be sure you have a look at the magnificent book - and at Becky's page in it!

The next few months will see a return to tree felling in the woodland. Trees that are growing too close to the power lines at Hockenhull Lane must be removed for safety reasons by Scottish Power and we are also going to continue with the permitted felling of our non-native sycamore trees, in line with our felling licence. Both of these will require some closures of the woodland and/or the bridleway. We apologise for the inconvenience and assure you that it will be for the shortest possible periods. Once the felling is completed, it is our intention to manage the woodland by encouraging some specimen trees to develop (by giving them sufficient space), while filling gaps with lower-growing species, such as ash and hazel, which will coppice well. These will produce dense vegetation that can be managed with a hand saw as volunteers harvest the bean poles, which we can sell. As a part of the re-planting, we also intend to increase the number of damson, apple, bird cherry and red hawthorn trees in the woodland, so that trees typical of the locality are well-represented and can add to its interest and appearance.

## Improving our footpath.

The woodland footpath was originally put down by volunteers working for the Parish Council Environmental Sub-Committee. This group was entirely unfunded and so whatever materials were to be used had to be begged or borrowed. A 5 foot wide strip was dug out to a depth of about 6 inches by a borrowed JCB and thereafter road planings (donated by the depot at Guilden Sutton) were spread and rolled to make the path that is there today. Its shortcomings were apparent even then – it was not smooth enough to allow small wheeled chairs or buggies to travel easily – but it was cheap and it was effective. It was hoped to upgrade it when funds allowed.

Encroachment of the grass edges has meant that two people can no longer walk side by side and the depredations of time and weather have caused the surface to deteriorate to the extent that some less-able people now experience great difficulty in using the paths and others have reported that they are unable to use them at all. It is clearly time for the up-grade to take place so that ALL of the members of our community are able to enjoy our woodland.

Trustees are in the process of applying for the grants which will enable the upgrade to be done. The awarding bodies, quite rightly, are keen to ensure that there is considerable community support for any project before they supply funds and so we have been asking people to write to us, so that we can provide evidence of a considerable local need for a much-improved woodland pathway. If you think that we do need a better pathway and you haven't yet written, please do! The upgraded surface will make such a difference to everyone. YOUR LETTER CAN REALLY HELP US TO DO THIS! Please send letters to:-

*Charles Bradley, 4, Andrew's Close, Tarvin, Chester. CH3 8LN.*

## The Tarporley Road development.

From Autumn 2011, Trustees have been in discussion with Taylor Wimpey; the developers of the proposed estate. It is hoped that, at the boundary between the estate and the A51, a strip between 10 metres and 20 metres wide can be converted into a natural woodland, producing a community amenity and a safe corridor for wildlife that will also help to mitigate the effect of road noise on the new houses. Thus far, the developers have listened carefully to the points we have made and have been able to incorporate many of them into their proposed scheme. Negotiations are ongoing and it would be wrong to suggest that definite decisions have been made, but Trustees hope that there will be a footpath through the length of the strip, with dense screening vegetation to both sides and with pedestrian access at Broomheath Lane, at Austin's Hill and within the estate. There should be a range of native trees, some of which would become specimen trees and others which could be coppiced. We hope that Oak, Ash, Hazel, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Crab Apple, Damson, Wild Cherry and Rowan might all be in evidence, together with snowdrops, wood anemones, bluebells, foxgloves and a wide range of other local wild flowers. Our hope is that, once established, this extension of the woodland will become a continuation of the beautiful, peaceful, tranquil, accessible, community-friendly space that our existing woodland has become.