

Come along to
**Tarvin Community Woodland Trust's
Spring Fundraising Event!**

PLANT SALE

and Raffle

with Chapel Cake Stall and Bacon Butties

at Tarvin Methodist Church

between 10.00am and Noon

on Saturday 14th May 2016.

**An excellent selection of shrubs,
perennials, annuals, vegetable plants,
tubs and hanging baskets all at very
competitive prices.**

The Trustees will also be on hand to talk about the work we are undertaking in the woodland and will be able to further explain anything which is still unclear after reading this leaflet!

***It is YOUR Woodland! Come along
and help to support our efforts.***



www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org
Email to: info@tarvincommunitywoodland.org

Tarvin (01829) 740337

Dear friends,

Your community woodland, with its new constitution as a company limited by guarantee, ensures both greater long-term security of ownership of the woodland on behalf of the community and less exposure to personal risk for present and future directors/trustees. It is a registered charity, as was the Trust before it.

With our "army" of volunteers we are on top of our annual maintenance and are well-positioned to take over the new woodland extension in the coming weeks. We intend using the quiet, bird nesting period to take stock of where we are in development, what we must do on a regular basis, how we should do the work and also to examine our resources, both people and financial. While this will be ongoing for some months, we have already identified a number of issues on which we would welcome your input and, indeed, your involvement.

Your woodland management, while they are in the main "compos mentis" and active, are not young and we need fresh blood. Our new Trustee David Thorp is the first of what we hope will be the next generation of trustees so please talk to him and other trustees about joining him.

Current volunteers, mostly retired, work in the woodland most Thursday mornings and will continue to do so. However, clearly, working villagers cannot do this so we are exploring a parallel or replacement team to work for some time on weekends. Could you be interested? If so please call me or any trustee you know.

We lack some in depth skills/knowledge particularly in relation to the management of flora and fauna. Who amongst you knows about woodland plants and habitat and could give us some time - hopefully on a fairly regular basis?

While we have fun we are currently a "bloke-ish" group so we really want to diversify our gender/ethnic/skill mix. As part of this our woodland users are in major part dog walkers (and long may this group continue - including picking up!!) but how can we attract other users of different age groups and interests? We are exploring some ideas but would welcome wider involvement.

Please talk to us about the points above. The next event at which several trustees will be present and ready to meet you is the plant sale at TMC on 14th May (See the back page.) As a group of trustees, we look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes

S.F. Exell

Stuart Exell

Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust Ltd.

"Crowsfoot Cottage,"
Old Moss,
Stapleford,
Tarvin,
Chester.
CH3 8HR
April 2016

News from the Woodland.

Our 2016 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is the opportunity for our members – who are the representatives of the village community – to hear how things have gone during the past year and to be able to give Trustees the benefit of their advice for the year to come. April's AGM of the Trust generated many good ideas which very well may find their way into our Woodland Management Plan in years to come. It was agreed that we must work towards attracting a wider range of people to use the woodland and, in this respect, installing more benches for folk to sit and chat or just to enjoy the tranquillity would be very useful, while picnic benches could enable young families to eat and play safely. Information boards, improved signposting and a junior nature trail were all ideas suggested that will be considered by the Trustees. Another idea was that, in future years, we could combine our annual Apple Pressing Day (which this year will be on Saturday, 1st October 2016.) with a 'rural crafts' event, with people coming in to demonstrate the skills used in woodlands in times gone by.

The new Taylor Wimpey "Woodland"

Conversations with Taylor Wimpey reveal that they expect to be moving off the site and will therefore be able to hand over the woodland during summer 2016 – a full twelve months earlier than originally planned! Trustees are keen to move onto the site in order to begin maintenance and, once in a condition suitable for public use, we look forward to opening the path, thereby completing the walk through from Townfield Lane to Austins Hill. In order that Tarvin can celebrate our acquisition of the new land as a part of our Woodland, Trustees have arranged to run an event, in conjunction with 'ActiveCheshire' – a community walk for all ages. Starting at the back of the school, we will walk through the woodland to Hockenhull Lane and then to the Townfield Lane entrance. From there, we join the bridleway, walking all the way back to Broomheath Lane, following which we cross and join the 'new' woodland footpath up to Austins Hill. There will be marshals to keep us safe along Tarporley Road up to the entrance of the Saxon Heath estate and, after walking through the estate, we will stroll back to the school through the woodland. Everyone completing the full circuit will receive a certificate and we hope that small mementos will also be available. What a splendid way for the whole village to celebrate the extension of our lovely woodland! Watch out for the announcement of the date!

Why walking in the woods is nature's best medicine!

While in the woodland, you may have thought that you were just taking an enjoyable stroll! However, it seems that you may be achieving far more than that. Scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, have found that regular brisk walking **reduced the risk of heart disease by 9.3%**. An Essex University research team found that walking in green spaces **reduces stress levels, improves mood, enhances psychological wellbeing and improves attention and concentration**. And the Nippon Medical School in Tokyo found that walking in the forest **boosted the immune system**, potentially helping to fight cancer! If you wish to follow up on these, you might read *The Guardian*: **Why Walking is Good for You** and www.lifehack.org: **Seven Amazing Health Benefits of Walking in the Woods**

Spring in the woodland

Yet again, the snowdrops wood anemones, celandines, cowslips, and bluebells have made a wonderful display, to which have been added the odd fritillary, crocus and rogue daffodil. The snowdrops have been the best ever and, thanks to hours spent by volunteers on their knees, they should be better still next year! A walk through the woodland with a 'birder' succeeded in identifying 24 different species of bird in just 30 minutes – with many of the birds nesting! Again, thanks to the volunteers, the woodland is a great deal clearer this spring, which will allow the smaller plants to sprout and flourish. The relic of the clearance – great heaps of brash (removed branches and twigs) – must now itself be cleared before the spring is too far advanced. Our problem is that the chipper – necessary to deal with the quantity of trimmings – is very heavy and will churn up the grass and paths if they are too wet. Thus, we must await the dryer weather, which will enable the overdue completion of our winter work!

"Countryman's Notes"

For this edition, we are fortunate to have some 'Woodland Jottings' from a friend who wishes to be known as "Countryman".

"Recently, we noticed a couple of Mistle Thrushes mobbing a magpie. Although nervous of humans and rarely seen at the bird table, the Mistle Thrush can be very aggressive during the breeding season, even attacking dogs and gardeners. The magpie had obviously strayed too close to the thrushes nest in the bluebell wood and was given short shrift. The nest is in the fork of a tree about 12' high - but be careful not to stray too close.

Chiffchaffs can already be heard in the Woodland and although very difficult to see are easily heard because of their repetitive 'chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff' call. It is the male that you can hear as he is the first to arrive from the Mediterranean and is calling to stake out his territory. This is about all he does do as the female will be left to hatch and rear the young with very little help.

Sparrow hawks can be regularly spotted darting between the trees and, as our small bird population continues to grow, so will the sparrow hawk population. It takes its prey on the wing, flapping and gliding at great speed over hedges and between tree trunks, using surprise tactics, especially around bird feeders

The Nuthatches are again in residence in box number 16. They have been busy calling, feeding and going in and out of the box. They are fascinating to watch if you have a moment. They are very noisy, are always busy and are beautifully balanced, being able to climb along, up or down branches with equal ease. They like dead or decaying wood, especially oaks, and must have access to bark chips - usually from Scots Pine, as the nest is made entirely of chips. Finally they must have access to mud in order to adjust the nest hole to their required specification. All three of their requirements must be available within their territory

Finally has anyone noticed that our squirrel population is getting smaller - or am I just being hopeful?"

Countryman

Our Plant Sale

If you have spare plants that we could sell to help raise funds to run the woodland, we'd be grateful. Please call (01829) 741172 if you can help.

Your woodland needs you!

Running the woodland, and maintaining it as it deserves to be, is a job which is pretty full-on for the group of Thursday volunteers. The day chosen inevitably dictates who they will be – all of them retired ‘gentlemen’ (we’re short of ladies, you see). This means that taking on additional work becomes a problem – they’re working as hard as they can already!

Yet we are soon to take on the care of the ‘new’ Taylor Wimpey woodland. Can we cope? Perhaps – at a stretch. And there’s another project that we want to deal with – introducing water scrapes. These will bring a water supply for wildlife, increase the bio-diversity of the woodland and enable pupils of Tarvin School to engage in aquatic studies – all very good things. In the absence of grant funding, we intend to try to dig these ourselves - the job is possible using hand tools (so our two Chartered Civil Engineers tell us!) and they are hoping that we might make a start on the work once the autumn comes. But it can’t be left to the Thursday volunteers alone! We need more help.

What we’re asking is whether you would be prepared to give some time – perhaps just for a few hours in the autumn – over one weekend (or several weekends), either during the morning or the afternoon. There’ll be a variety of jobs to do, so it won’t all be pick and shovel work. Refreshments will be provided - and the feeling of camaraderie will be great (trust us – we know!) And ... think of this ... in years to come, as you walk the woodland with your family, you will have the satisfaction of being able to point to the scrapes and say, “*I helped to dig those!*”

Oh, by the way – we could also do with help from any of you who have a good working knowledge of botany or arboriculture! (Any suitable time!)



I would like to help Tarvin Community Woodland Trust as a part of a weekend work-party. I might be able to offer some time during (*Please tick*)

Saturday Morning

Saturday Afternoon

Sunday Morning

Sunday Afternoon

I would like to help with the botany / arboriculture.

Name

Address

Phone

Please return to 4, Andrew’s Close, CH3 8LN or to a Trustee.



**The particular bit of country(side)
we are interested in here is
Tarvin Community Woodland!**

Can YOU help us?