

The whole family is welcome at our
APPLE PRESSING DAY
on Saturday 6th October 2018
from 11am to 3pm.

IN THE WOODLAND (behind Crossfields)

plus apple peeling, apple bobbing, apple-themed
crafts, with teas & coffees, hot dogs and burgers
available to buy at modest prices!

All the fun of the AUTUMNAL FAIR!
Bring a box/bag/barrowful of apples plus a
plastic bottle, so that you can take home
your own fresh-pressed juice!

Join us for our Autumn fundraising
COFFEE MORNING
and Raffle.
at **Tarvin Methodist Church**
between 10.00am and Noon
on Saturday 20th October 2018.

Trustees will be there to talk about
the development of **YOUR** woodland.
Please come along and support us!



Tarvin Community Woodland Trust
Created by the community for the community

Email to: info@tarvincommunitywoodland.org

Church Cottage,
Church Street,
Tarvin.
Chester

Tarvin 740337

Dear friends,

September 2018

When Jim Grogan first conceived of creating our woodland from the "waste area" left from the construction of the bypass, his drive and focus was the creation of a woodland for the use and enjoyment of the Tarvin community. This continues to be the Trust's main aim but the scale is now greater and we have many more participants contributing their expertise, for which we are all grateful. In recent years our main focus has been on tree and plant cultivation and woodland extension. While Jim would have applauded us, he would have expected more and this we plan to deliver! A number of Trustees are leading a new initiative to create a fenced wildlife conservation area within the woodland to attract and stimulate more diverse fauna and flora, particularly aimed at bird species and populations allowed to develop without human and canine interference! Watch this space.

We have always had at least two further aims for the Trust viz: opportunities for wildlife education for the community and contributing as broadly as possible within our wildlife remit to support our community's wider objectives and projects. The woodland is now closer to Jim's vision and so these additional aims are occupying an increasing proportion of our endeavours and examples include:-

- More involvement with Tarvin Primary School, including guided class visits to the woodland and the annual wildlife award made to a student demonstrating growing commitment to and knowledge of local flora and fauna. We are grateful for school representation at monthly Trust meetings to further bind our activities.
- Informative educational signage/notice boards in the woodland which can be changed with the seasons and as new plant species are added. To aid communication, the Trust also makes regular contributions to the 'Grapevine' and the excellent Tarvin Online website.
- Our twice-yearly newsletter covers our wishes, plans and achievements. These are hand delivered to the majority of households in the village. Other village organisations, including the school, make use of this village-wide distribution from time to time to assist their own communication with residents.
- Annual events include the plant sale, coffee morning and, more recently, the apple pressing day. In this way we aim to continue to contribute to the social life of the village – plus being able to share in the fun! Please try to participate.

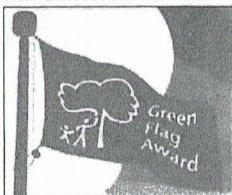
So the Trust is gradually broadening its activities to meet community expectations. Thank you for your moral, physical and monetary support, which we appreciate. Finally, we rely on your feedback to keep us on track, so keep your constructive comments coming - we will respond.

With best wishes

S.F. Exell.

Stuart Exell

Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust



Our NINTH GREEN FLAG!

The quality mark for public open spaces, the Green Flag (Community) is awarded to those which are voluntary-maintained, as is our woodland.

When the Tarvin Community Woodland Trust was first formed and given a 125 year lease to care for the woodland, it seemed unlikely that our little woodland would be worthy of what was then called a Green Pennant - the quality mark for well-cared-for community-run open spaces. We were so proud when Stephen O'Brien (who was then our M.P.) presented ours to us in 2010! It was the seal of approval for all the work done under the leadership of our founder, Jim Grogan, who subsequently died in January 2011.

Wanting to build on Jim's legacy, we hopefully re-applied in 2011 - and have done so every year since. Each time, our efforts have found favour with the assessors and we are pleased to tell you that, in 2018, we have been awarded Green Flag number 9! The organisers tell us that there have been only 184 Green Flag (Community) awards made in total this year across the whole of the UK - and that there are just three sites that are worthy of the award in the whole of Cheshire! We are immensely proud that Tarvin's woodland - funded and cared for entirely by the Tarvin community - is good enough to be compared favourably with the best in all Britain. Wow!

The "Jim Grogan Countryside and Wildlife Award".

Jim Grogan - our founder - was a true countryman. He loved the countryside around Tarvin, and it was his ambition that Tarvin's children would come to know and love their environment and the living things within it as much as he did. It was his wish that we should set up an award within Tarvin School to recognise the student who, over the past year, has shown the greatest knowledge and understanding of the local environment. This year, 2018, marks the eighth time the award has been made and the recipient, at a special ceremony held in the woodland on Thursday 19th July, was **Oliver Bebbington**. Oliver received a certificate, a plaque and a book token for £15, together with having a page bearing his citation inserted in the hand-made award book that is held within the school. It is worth a look, if you visit the school.

Botanical help.

The problem with having a bunch of volunteers running our woodland is that we are all amateurs - we are all quite literally putting in our effort for the love of it. In fact, one 'A' level GCE Biology pass amongst 10 of us is our only seriously academic qualification for the job - and that is nowhere near enough to begin to do it properly! While everyone has learned huge amounts through doing what we do, there are times when we need to talk to a genuine expert - someone who is a practical botanist and has great experience dealing with woodlands. We have been fortunate in obtaining the assistance of a lady called Jane Roberts, who has been appointed as Consultant to the Trust and who is able to give appropriate counsel and good advice when we ask for her help. She walked through the woodland with us in mid-June and, while she has left us with much to think about and many questions to ponder, she was full of praise for our volunteers' achievements since Autumn 2017. While there is much still to do, it is reassuring to know that we're travelling along the right lines.

Apple Pressing Day 2018

When, in 2015, we decided to try running an Apple Pressing Day, it was an experiment - an attempt to develop a low-cost day out in Tarvin woodland for families and friends to meet up. The one first went really well and, when the second was a resounding success despite it being run through an almost incessant cloudburst, we realised that we have the Tarvin event that we hoped for. We have now accumulated the Trust's own presses and pulper, our friends lend to us other bits of kit and we are supported by both Tarvin Wildlife Watch and Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Families are welcome to come along with buckets (or wheelbarrows-full) of apples - windfalls work well - (together with plastic bottles if they intend to take some juice home) and the whole day, including both apple pressing and craft work, is completely free. The only way to spend any cash is if folk want to purchase a burger or hot dog, or perhaps a tea, a coffee or a bottle of soft drink - and there our intention is only to cover our costs. So, come rain or shine, Tarvin will have its Apple Day in the woodland on the first Saturday in October - this year it's on **Saturday, October 3rd 2018**. See you there!

Producing a 'wild' area within our woodland.

As a 'Community' woodland, we expect that a great many walkers (and dogs) will pass through our woodland each week. Looked at in those terms, our woodland is a great success and is a very significant community amenity. However, lots of people and lots of dogs make the woodland a very busy place and that, in turn, means that those creatures that are shy and retiring may choose not to make the woodland their home.

Surveys have shown that there are a number of wild birds that might be expected to frequent and perhaps nest in the woodland but which are not to be found. Similarly, there are small animals that are unable to find the quiet, secluded places that they require to set up home in our busy woodland. The only way to cure this problem seems to be to exclude people and dogs from a small part of the woodland.

We are fortunate that, close to Townfield Lane and set some distance back from the path through the woodland, we will be able to enclose an area greater than 2,000m² which, during summer at least, will be invisible to most users of the woodland. The enclosure will be done largely using attractive chestnut paling. Those parts that have a boundary with the horse walk (sometimes called the bridle way) already have post-and-rail fencing and this will be made dog-proof by attaching unobtrusive sheep netting to it. The result will be an area that people do not (and dogs can not) go into, which will give dense, animal and bird-friendly vegetation the chance to grow.

Fencing the area may, in some ways, be the easy part of the task. Some of the trees in that area are so stressed in their competitive search for light that they are almost dead and will have to be removed. The range of vegetation currently present is limited and so will have to be augmented by the introduction of some other varieties – especially brambles and hazel, both of which will form dense, impenetrable growth quite quickly. The whole scheme will all take careful planning. It certainly isn't something that can be achieved instantaneously – or even rapidly. We'll keep you posted on our progress in future newsletters.

Funding the care of our woodland.

It is our proud boast that the cash with which we run Tarvin woodland comes entirely from our community. We hold a plant sale on the High Street each May, and that has become our principal source of income – this year raising £1,700 from the generous people who came along and bought our plants. We also receive an annual grant of £1,000 from Tarvin Parish Council, which comes from the local taxes paid by Tarvin households. We have also received two grants from the George Heath Foundation, whose money is all raised from Tarvin and environs. The more recent grant will help provide the fencing to enable our 'wilding' project to begin. In the Spring, we were also provided with a one-off grant by Councillors John Leather and Hugo Deynem in order to purchase a chipper. This machine, which will make such a difference to the way that we are able to tidy up the woodland, was therefore also purchased with money derived from your local taxes. And then there are the huge number of generous folk who, through donations or by sponsoring our bird boxes, have provided the steady stream of additional income which means that our Treasurer is able to produce the necessary cash for our maintenance and development work without suffering too many sleepless nights! To everyone in the Tarvin community - thank you so much for helping to fund our woodland, in whatever way and however much you give. None of what is done could go on without you.

Our new mower.

Different areas within the woodland require different treatments. Some areas will be left to grow, while other, mostly grassy parts will have a mower run over them to keep them fairly short. The time needed to mow all of the grass that needs mowing is considerable and the mower we purchased in 2009, while doing a very good job, was heavy and not easy to control. During the Summer of 2017, we purchased a ride-on brush cutter – a machine powerful enough to cut through brambles and undergrowth if necessary, while doing a superb job of keeping the areas intended for family and dog play at a good short length. Much of the money for its purchase came from the staff at Barclays Bank Radbroke Hall, who, thanks to our being nominated by employees who live in Tarvin village, had chosen Tarvin Community Woodland Trust as one of their annual charities. It is a joy to use and saves us a huge amount of work.