



Come and help us to
celebrate our **FIFTH
GREEN FLAG!**

Join us at our Autumn

COFFEE MORNING

with Cake Stall and Raffle!

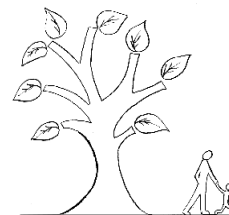
at Tarvin Methodist Church

between 10.00am and Noon

on Saturday 11th October 2014.

**Take the opportunity to talk to us about
our funding bid for putting in new water
scrapes, the fruit in the woodland, the
health of our oak trees, the negotiations
with CWaC and with Taylor Wimpey and all
of the other things that are important to
you in our woodland.**

Do come and support us!



Tarvin Community Woodland Trust
Created by the community for the community

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

Tarvin 740337

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

September 2014

Dear friends,

I hope you, your family and friends have enjoyed the woodland throughout the summer. As you can see from the attached "News from the woodland" we have a number of ongoing projects, not only to develop the community facility on your behalf but also to enlarge it. It is increasingly likely that the Trust, or its successor, will own the woodland outright in its totality in or before 2017. Our dual aim is that the ownership structure will protect the woodland on behalf of the Community as a natural wildlife resource and we will have a constitution which will encourage the recruitment of future Trustees and Volunteers. With this in mind, and having regard to the seniority of current Trustees (sorry guys!), could I please ask those who feel they could be interested in joining us to consider an exploratory meeting with me over refreshments to discuss, without any commitment, what is involved in terms of knowledge, skills and time. It is a fact of modern social life, including life in Tarvin, that voluntary organisations find succession management difficult. From my own experience with the woodland I can assure you that any involvement teaches a lot about nature, is satisfying at a personal level and we do have a lot of fun – the craic is good! My contact details are above so please do get in touch in the coming weeks.

This is the time of year when we again start to address tree management, which this year will include coppicing larger trees close to boundary fences, thinning the avenue of increasingly sorry looking oaks at Broomheath and if time permits thinning of the younger (mainly oak) trees in the millennium area towards Townfield Lane. The initial visual impact will be marked. The size of some trees plus the scale of the felling means that for safety reasons we will have to close sections of the pathway for several hours at a time. Please obey safety notices and when necessary make use of the bridleway which we have recently cleared.

As always, any comments, criticisms and ideas are welcome so keep them coming by speaking to any Trustee. Our coffee morning on 11th October will be a good opportunity to meet, so please try to attend and support us. I hope you continue to enjoy the woodland and meet some of our new neighbours there; we have some evidence that the woodland is influencing peoples' decisions on whether to move into Tarvin!

With best wishes

Stuart Exell

Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust

News from the Woodland.

Our 5th Green Flag

Wow! Five times in a row! Who would have believed, back in 2009, when we took over the lease of the woodland, that we would be awarded the prestigious 'quality mark' for well-run open spaces on five consecutive occasions! Trustees now feel confident that we are doing things properly and getting it right – the trick will be for us to CONTINUE to get it right. Let's hope that we can make it six – and even seven presentations!

Woodland fruit trees

As a part of our management programme, we have succeeded in introducing a sufficient number of fruit trees into the woodland for it to be classed as an orchard! As well as the large crab apple trees that we inherited, we now have nine apple trees (of "Cheshire" varieties) which are in their second year, together with another young crab apple tree as their pollinator. All of them are bearing fruit, although, while they are still young and trying to establish themselves, they have only been allowed to keep one or two apples each. Starting next year, the trees will retain all their fruit and this will mean that users of the woodland can enjoy helping themselves each Autumn! Additionally, we have planted several hedgerow damson trees, which, once established, should provide plenty of fruit for jam or gin! For those so inclined, we also have plenty of blackthorn (quickthorn) bushes, which should yield lots of sloes for the famous Tarvin Christmas 'Sloe Gin'. If you couple all this up with our two walnut trees and a large number of hazel bushes, which should all produce plenty of nuts, and our 'walks through the woodland' will become 'tasting opportunities'! That is, if the birds and squirrels don't get there first!

Ownership of the woodland

Negotiations with Taylor Wimpey are proceeding very slowly but it seems likely that, by 2017, the 'wooded' strip (with its footpath) between the new 'Saxon Heath' estate and the A51 will have been transferred to the Trust. Recently, we have also been in discussion with our landlords, CWaC, about acquiring the freehold of the existing woodland and it seems likely that this will also go ahead. The outcome should be that OWNERSHIP of the entire strip, from Austin's Hill to Townfield Lane, will soon have been passed to the Tarvin community, where it will stay (we hope) for ever. Our motto, "Created by the community for the community", fits better and better!

Our oak trees

You will remember that we consulted extensively about the health of our Memorial Oaks. Overwhelmingly, the village was in favour of doing what is necessary to ensure that, eventually, the memorial trees in the woodland will grow into fine, majestic trees. This, unfortunately, means that some of the trees in the avenue must be removed, and this will be done during the Autumn/Winter months. We're sorry that this may result in temporary footpath closures but these will be brief – and the bridleway will always remain available for walkers. Keep an eye on the woodland Bulletin Boards to keep track of progress!

Water in the woodland

When we became a Trust, our deed said we were "*To conserve, restore and re-establish native trees, plants and all types of wildlife by provision of a Community Woodland area in Tarvin for the benefit of the public at large and with the view to improving the quality of life.*" The absence of water within our woodland has been a significant problem for the creatures that inhabit it and it has doubtless limited the biological diversity. So, In line with our long-term plan for the woodland, we are now proposing to install some water scrapes in the space between the bird hides and the school path, behind the school. Unlike most ponds, these will be very shallow and, because they will be replenished only by rainfall, they may be dry for some part of the year. However, they will serve as a valuable source of water for many of our woodland creatures and, since we are intending eventually to put in a small jetty near to the school, pupils will also be able to study aquatic creatures during fieldwork outside their classrooms. Surrounding the scrapes with a dog-proof fence should help to preserve them from depredation by enthusiastic canines and ensure safety for small people. We would hope to have the job completed during 2015.

It would be possible to do a job (of sorts) ourselves using a JCB. However, such an approach would produce a very poor and amateurish outcome and so we have decided to employ contractors, in order to have everything done really well – indeed, to a standard in keeping with the rest of the woodland. Therefore, we intend to apply once more to the same funders, WREN and CWaC, who supplied the finance for the path improvements. As we learned with that application, the awarding bodies, quite rightly, are keen to ensure that there is considerable community support for any project before they will provide funds and so we have been asking people to write to us, in order to provide evidence of a considerable local need for a much-improved woodland. If you agree that we ought to undertake this project and you haven't yet written, please do! YOUR LETTER CAN REALLY HELP US TO DO THIS! Please send your letter to:-

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

Our work with Tarvin Primary School

The Trust takes the education of future generations, through our collaboration with Tarvin School, very seriously. The Trust's "Countryside and Wildlife Award" is now an annual event in the school calendar (we even have a date for July 2015!), with the winner each year having their own page in the beautiful handmade book produced by Andrew Brown of Barrowmore. We have recently installed the bird feeding station, with the school doing the feeding from Monday to Friday and the children watching the birds from their own hide in school grounds. You will find a flyer from the school inside this leaflet, distributed by Woodland Trustees, advertising their exhibition, "*To infinity and beyond!*" We hope that you will be able to visit to see the tremendous work that our children are doing. The displays are open between 3pm and 7:30pm on the 22nd and 23rd October 2014. Perhaps we'll see you there – we'll be helping Tarvin Methodist Church to provide the refreshments – and the donations will be used to buy bird seed for the children to feed our birds with!