

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**

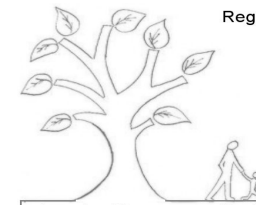
**between 10.00am and Noon**

**on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

**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.***



Registered Charity 1129586

**Tarvin Community Woodland Trust**  
Created by the community for the community

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

Email to: [info@tarvincommunitywoodland.org](mailto:info@tarvincommunitywoodland.org)

Tarvin 740337

"Crowsfoot Cottage,"

Old Moss,

Stapleford,

Tarvin,

Chester.

CH3 8HR

April 2014

Dear friends,

What a torrid few months we have had weather wise; our woodland work has been impeded both by the surface water and mud, plus our tree felling has been halted by the high winds which render it unsafe. This may turn out longer term to be a blessing in disguise as we see how the ash die back disease develops and we perhaps decide to retain more non-natives for a few years. It has already affected our behaviour as instead of coppicing (cutting down to the ground) and killing non-natives we are leaving a couple of meters of trunk which re-grow in one season to give good cover, especially for the birds.

We continue to be grateful to our band of Volunteers who turn out on Thursday mornings with a number of Trustees, regardless of weather! In addition to the physical work we have, as a Trust, had a busy time on a number of important planning, fund raising and administration issues including:

- Completing the new pathway which has proven to be a great success as evidenced by clearly increased Woodland usage. In the current very wet state the path remains dry but looking at the paw marks in the mud adjacent to the path the dogs appear to prefer the more gloopy route!
- We have agreement in principle to the Woodland extension to Austin's Hill which will be landscaped and planted to our design as part of the building project. We are embroiled in the legalities at present. Our access will depend on the rate of house building and sales so we have to be patient for a couple of years.
- We now have an outline plan for water scrapes, hides and a bird feeding station in the Woodland behind the school. Trustees are actively working up the detail and will be submitting applications for grant funding. If all goes well we hope to begin construction early in the Autumn so as not to impact wildlife through the Summer.

Each year we review and revise the Trust's Management Plan which is submitted to the various bodies who support and judge our efforts such as grant funders and the Green Flag awarders.

Our Vision for the Woodland in the plan features:

- A safe and accessible environment on the doorstep for the Community
- Low maintenance in terms of man hours and costs
- A resource for the school and all users to enable them to see, study and appreciate our native flora and fauna which will increase in variety and numbers as our various projects develop.

Trustees welcome your views and the chance to meet with you. So please come with your friends to our Plant Sale on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, details of which are on the back of this leaflet.

Thank you all from the Trust for your generous and continuing support.

With best wishes

*S.F. Exell*

Stuart Exell

Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust

## **News from the Woodland.**

**The Taylor Wimpey Estate and its woodland.** The developers always intended that their estate should be bounded along the A51 by a new woodland strip. The Trust's ideas for this were mostly taken on board and an extension of our existing woodland is now one of the planning conditions imposed by CWaC. Trustees have been in negotiation with Taylor Wimpey and an agreement in principle has now been achieved that will see the freehold of the new woodland pass to the Trust sometime before 2017. Matters now rest with solicitors. We will keep you informed of the progress!

**Memorial Oaks.** We are now at the end of our consultation on the future care for the oak tree avenue at Broomheath Lane. Thus far, an overwhelming majority of respondents have felt that having good, healthy trees is far more important than is the preservation of particular individual trees, as long as their original purpose (that of remembering the Tarvin wartime fallen) can be achieved elsewhere. If you still have a view to express, then you need to do it by mid-May. The Plant Sale is an ideal opportunity!

**The 2014 Green Flag Inspection.** We have applied for our fifth Green Flag and the inspection is due soon. This time, it will be done by a 'mystery shopper', who will visit the woodland alone and un-announced. Please help the volunteers to keep the woodland in good condition by being aware as you go through, reporting damage quickly, taking your litter home and, especially, being vigilant for dog faeces!

**Improved pathway & drainage.** Following on from the drainage work done in 2010, the upgrading done last Summer has resulted in the woodland pathway being clean, fairly dry and fully useable by ALL of the community. "You can walk through with clean shoes, whatever the weather"! How good it is when one's ambitions are fulfilled so successfully. Another great achievement, thanks to the support we received from the people of Tarvin!

**Coppicing.** Plants such as Ash and Hazel respond well to being cut off at ground level and being allowed to re-grow from the base. The thick growth of poles that result will give good crops of nuts and will produce bean poles for Tarvin's gardeners. At last, we're beginning to manage the woodland, instead of just looking after it!

**Work behind Heath Close.** Thanks to the vigorous growth of the trees, houses on our northerly boundary have suffered from diminished amounts of sunlight throughout each Summer. To try to improve this, the trees are being treated in a similar way to coppicing but cut off as a pole at about 4-5' from the ground and then allowed to produce thinner, upright growth that, in the future, would be harvestable using a handsaw. This growth should not block sunshine from the gardens but will give a dense 'privacy' screen, for the benefit of both the houses AND the walkers.

**Bird feeding.** At long last, work is due to be under way with the construction of the two hides behind the school – one in the woodland for villagers and the other in the school grounds, for the use of pupils at break & lunchtime. The feeding will be done on a rota basis, with the school dealing with term-time and the village covering weekends and holidays. The Trust will buy the food needed to get the scheme going but, for it to continue, we need the help of Tarvin folk in two ways. Firstly, we need people to go on the feeding rota – both villagers and school pupils - and Noel Radcliffe has volunteered to organise, this. Secondly, we need people who are prepared to SPONSOR the cost of the bird food. While not being hugely expensive, this will still involve a long-term commitment and so we could do with a good number of people to share the burden. We need to get the bird feeding up and running very soon – in time for this Spring would be ideal. If you can help in either (or both) cases, please do let the Trustees know – the Plant Sale would be your ideal opportunity!

**Water scrape.** For quite some time, we have wanted to get some water into the woodland, to improve life for animals & birds and (hopefully) to increase the range of plants which will grow. Plans are now being drawn up and we are in the process of applying for grants, to enable us to afford what will inevitably be a costly construction. Watch out for progress reports!

**The 'tenants' of the woodland.** With plenty of water and the hope of a warm spring, the flowers promise to live up to the standard set by our beautiful snowdrops. Our birds, too, are starting to make good use of the boxes and we can look forward to many broods of fledglings. Our woodland is such a lovely, peaceful place – have a walk and ENJOY IT!

**Tarvin Walks.** At long last, the series of "Walks around Tarvin" (centred largely around the woodland) have been published on the "Tarvin Online" website. *Look for Directories / Clubs and Activities / Wellbeing / Walks around Tarvin.* They are really enjoyable – do try them out. Our grateful appreciation goes to the team of 'walkers' who devised them – thank you all very much!

**Our Volunteers.** All of the work done in the woodland by volunteers and Trustees is on a voluntary basis. Last year, this amounted to over 1,000 hours, which, if paid for at minimum wage, would have been worth well over £6,000! We are all hugely grateful to the folk who volunteer their efforts and who have been instrumental in turning the woodland into the excellent amenity it is today. However, there is always more to do and people who could spare an hour or so of their time would be welcomed with open arms! If you could help, please do leave your name and your contact details with one of the Trustees at the plant sale – or phone us – our phone numbers are all on the woodland notice boards.