

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**

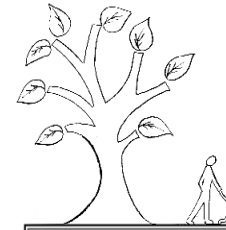
**between 10.00am and Noon**

**on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**

**An excellent selection of shrubs,  
fuchsias, perennials and vegetable  
plants 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.***



Tarvin Community Woodland Trust  
Created by the community for the community

Tarvin 741375  
[www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org](http://www.tarvincommunitywoodland.org)

The Croft,  
Platts Lane,  
Tarvin,  
CH3 8LH.  
May 2010

Dear friends,

What a momentous twelve months these have been for the Tarvin Community Woodland Trust! It was only last September that we celebrated the awarding of the 125 year lease, with the Woodland then becoming truly Tarvin's own. At the same time, the footpaths through the Woodland became public rights of way, thanks to the help of the Parish Council. We purchased our fine new mower, with beneficial results that are evident to all, and we continued with the fencing, so that the full fence around the Woodland is now nearly completed. Many wild flowers have been planted, squirrel-proof bird boxes have been installed and our stalwart team of volunteers are making a huge impression on the general tidiness of the whole area.

However, now that the Trust has the lease, it is our responsibility to **MANAGE** the woodland, in all its aspects – and this includes the trees originally planted in 1984. All the trees have been neglected over the years by previous landowners and the truth is that, if today we were to plant an amenity woodland, we would not plant all the species of trees we currently have or have them planted as they are at present. Please read this leaflet to find out what must be done, why it is so necessary and how we plan to do it to the maximum effect and with minimum disruption to the community. As ever, we do value your comments – please contact me if you need further explanation.

Sincerely

Jim Grogan

*Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust*

## Managing our Woodland trees.

When the work on the by-pass was completed, the Highways Agency landscaped the land which is now the Woodland, in order to mitigate traffic noise for the village. A wide selection of rapidly-growing young trees were put in, at densities that would produce a thick screen very quickly but which were far too overcrowded to allow them to develop into the healthy specimen trees needed for a mature woodland. Thus it is that we now have a large number of trees, many of them non-natives, which need to be thinned out and the spacing of those that remain needs to be adjusted to enable them to grow into healthy adult woodland trees. Only since September 2009, all of these trees have been our responsibility.

To manage all this would have been so much simpler had it been tackled by the then landholder ten or fifteen years ago! Now the Trust will need to do a good deal of felling of what appear to be perfectly good trees – and the sooner the better. We are not allowed to do this on a whim: we have had to apply to the Forestry Commission for a Felling Licence (the woodland equivalent of Planning Permission – designed to avoid poor management or the ravaging of woodland by cowboy landholders), to be sure that everything is done according to best practice. This allows us to undertake the work involved during the next few years (although we don't necessarily have to do it all at once – we could apply for further permissions if we need to take longer.)

However, it is certainly true that we cannot avoid creating what may look like devastation in the short term, while we do the work. Large trees that are in the wrong place, together with all the non-native trees, will need to be felled. For the native trees, their stumps will then be allowed to re-grow as coppice – beginning to recreate the essential woodland understory, while the stumps of all the non-natives must be killed to prevent re growth. Where there are resulting gaps, these will be filled with the saplings of native trees, so that, in 50 years time, we will have created a sustainable woodland with a structure which is as it should be.

Large tree trunks will have to be sawn up and the branches and twigs (brash) collected, before everything is removed. This will inevitably create some disruption, on safety grounds, to users of the woodland while felling is actually taking place, but only half of the woodland path will need to be avoided by walkers during the actual felling and all of the bridleway will always remain open. All areas of the woodland must be managed in this way and we will work through in the most effective sequence, minimising the cost and disruption and maximising usefulness.

Re-growth will occur quickly and, in five years time, it will be hard to tell that the work has been done. "Do it once; do it right!" needs to be our maxim. Our lovely woodland deserves no less than the very best treatment!

## Work on the footpath.

Ask anyone what is the greatest problem we have in the woodland and they will reply, "The flooding of the path!" When we were awarded the lease, we decided that sorting out the muddy path that runs behind the Junior School would be a really early priority! We had a survey done and produced a specification and a bill of quantities, against which a number of local firms submitted tenders. We now have a contractor who will dig the drainage trenches along and across the path, channelling the surplus water into soakaways, and we have been fortunate to get a grant that will cover the £10,000+ bill. The work will be supervised by one of our volunteers – a civil engineer – and should take about two weeks. The Rights of Way Department has therefore issued a **closure notice** on the section of the footpath between **Broomheath Lane and Hockenhull Lane** for **21 days**, beginning on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010**. The bridleway will remain open for the full time and so walkers will be able to continue to use the woodland and bridleway and can keep an eye open as the work progresses.

It is also our intention eventually to restore the whole length of the path to its original 6' (180cm) width and to apply for funding to have it all surfaced, so that it is of the right standard to meet the needs of the disabled people who use the woodland. Obtaining such a lot of funding is going to be difficult but we know that the money is there and we will keep this as one of our longer term aims.

As with the felling, we intend to keep the disruption to the community to a minimum and, during the time that work is going on, notices will be fastened to the gates, so that everyone is informed of what is happening and of the times involved.

Won't it be wonderful to be able to walk the entire footpath with dry feet?

## Further information.

There is a good deal going on and it would be impossible to tell you everything in a small leaflet such as this one. To explain things more fully, we have also prepared a full report for the community, which describes the situation in which we find ourselves, the work we plan to do and the way that it will affect the people who use the woodland. This report is freely available and can be obtained by phoning either 741375 or 741172 or by sending an email request to [info@tarvincommunitywoodland.org](mailto:info@tarvincommunitywoodland.org) for us to send you an electronic copy.

**Remember - NO THINNING OR REMOVAL OF THE  
COMMEMORATIVE TREES WILL TAKE PLACE.**

**The licence applies only to the trees planted originally in 1984.**