

Come and tell us your hopes for the Woodland!  
Hear about the plans we are making and the battles we are fighting in order to develop a good young wood into the mature, natural and well-used community woodland that we all hope it will become.

## **COFFEE MORNING**

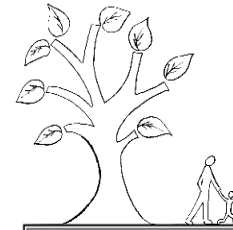
**With Bring & Buy Table,  
Cake Stall and Raffle!**

**at Tarvin Methodist Church**

**Between 10.00am and Noon  
on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008.**

All of the Trustees will be on hand to talk about the work in the woodland and a display will help to illustrate how far we have come in the development of this priceless community asset. We will also be pleased to hear **your ideas** for fundraising and for managing the woodland.

**This will be Tarvin's event for  
NATIONAL TREE WEEK.**



Tarvin Community Woodland Trust  
Created by the community for the community

Tarvin 741375

The Croft,  
Platts Lane,  
Tarvin,  
Chester.  
CH3 8EY.  
September 2008

Dear friends,

Tarvin Woodland has existed for over ten years and, during that time, the progress made has been spectacular. From an 'abandoned' set of part-fields has come a rapidly developing broad-leaved woodland which gives a great deal of pleasure to many people – and it has all been done for less than a thousand pounds per year.

However, the next projects (which include the drainage and refurbishment of the footpaths and the better management of the areas between the trees) will all cost a great deal more money. The Woodland Group has now become a trust, intending to apply for grants to help with the work. Clearly, we also need to do some very determined fundraising and, for this, we need your help. Please read this leaflet and see how you might be able to contribute. Please make it the first step to join us for our Coffee Morning on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Sincerely

Chairman of Tarvin Community Woodland Trust

## **The history of the Woodland**

As a part of the scheme to by-pass Tarvin village in the 1980's, a wide strip of land was left between the adjacent houses and the new road, in order to reduce noise. Some landscaping was undertaken by the Department of Transport and trees were planted to further help in noise reduction. It is this strip of land, approximating to 13 acres in total, which is now known as Tarvin Community Woodland. The land remained in the ownership of the Highways Agency and, as such, was private, without formal or agreed access for the public. The whole area was very much uncared for and overgrown, without any authorised access points or footpaths.

After long negotiation between Tarvin Parish Council and the Department of Transport, it was agreed that the land would be leased to the Parish Council for a nominal sum and would be managed by a working group sub-committee of the parish council. Since then the by-pass has been de-trunked and the ownership of the land has passed to Cheshire County Council, from whom the Parish Council hold a gardening licence.

Over ten years, the woodland has been much improved: the footpaths have been laid and access gates installed, much tree planting has been done (thanks to the generosity of village people), hedges have been laid, wild flowers planted, bird boxes installed, etc. An area which previously was abandoned, uncared for and very much overgrown has become a developing woodland, a pleasant place to walk, a rich and varied habitat for wildlife and a huge asset to the community.

However, it became obvious that further development will need much more money and that some grant-aid for projects is going to be necessary. Therefore, in January 2008, the sub-committee became Tarvin Community Woodland Trust and Cheshire County Council has promised to grant a proper lease on the land, to give some security of tenure. We now need to enlist the aid of the wider community in Tarvin and surroundings, in order to continue developing the Woodland as it should be done.

## **Plans for the future**

The Woodland Trust has a plan to support, protect and celebrate the natural habitats in our local community. It will enable the already created area to be properly maintained and, more importantly, to be improved and developed further.

Specific activities will be to:

- Improve the pattern and frequency of mowing to make the footpaths more open and to discourage the taller-growing rank species that will otherwise take over.
- Make improvements to the paths and drainage.
- Establish a maintenance routine for the existing natural woodland/grassland habitat that has already attracted a wide cross-section of wildlife.
- Create new habitats for species that are becoming rare, e.g. dormice, butterflies, insects and birds (via nesting boxes), wildflowers, establishment of a further meadow, an extension to the wetland and encouragement of a wider range of species
- Improve fencing and the natural hedgerows using traditional hedge laying techniques via BTCV and local volunteers e.g. youth club.
- Encourage the involvement of others (with Tarvin Community Woodland Trust or as Tarvin Woodland Volunteers) so that the Woodland can become a self-sustaining organization, in whose hands the woodland can safely be left to develop for the next hundred years.

The woodland has no waste – all material is mulched back into the soil. The five or six hundred mixed native trees (mainly oaks) that are established are taking up increasing amounts of Carbon Dioxide, so playing a part in reducing Tarvin's "Carbon Footprint".

It is our hope that the woodland, as it develops, will become used increasingly widely by the community, whether as a part of their schooling, for nature study, for walking with families or dogs or for helping to develop a respect for and a knowledge of a part of the Cheshire countryside and the living things that inhabit it.