

# What's On Library

The library is open on the 2nd Sunday of the Month from 11.00am to 12.00pm. There is a good selection of books available for all ages, both fiction and non-fiction to suit a wide range of interests. You can put in requests for books.

Forest School Level 1, 7th -9th May  
Only 6 places available. If you are interested contact Suzann on 01463 861259

## EGM

Friday 9th May in the Abriachan Village Hall at 7.30pm  
For further information phone 01463 861278

## Gaelic place names

Have you ever looked at a map and wondered about the history behind the Gaelic names of local features and indeed how to pronounce these names? Achpopuli, Carn na Leitire, Dallaurach, Tomachoin.....

Help is at hand! On the May Day holiday we are having a family afternoon with Floraidh MacKenzie at the sheilings. Floraih will bring our place names to life, tell the stories behind the names and even make new ones.

Places are limited so please book- 01463 861259



Many thanks to all who turned out to the meeting on the evening of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We all learned a lot and the discussions were very helpful. Many interesting points were raised and the trustees of AFT now have a better appreciation of the concerns of members of our community. The trustees of AFT have taken the anxieties voiced at the meeting on board and although the EGM must go ahead to fulfill legal requirements, **the trustees will not be actively supporting the clause in its current form.** They would prefer to take some time to consider whether there are any practical limitations which can be incorporated into the clause to safeguard the assets of community members and to allay the concerns raised at the meeting. The final decision on the existing proposal will, of course, rest with the current voting Members of AFT with a 75% vote (of all voting members, not just those attending the EGM) in favour being required to carry the motion. Without the full support of the trustees we consider this to be a highly unlikely outcome.

AFT consulted the Scottish Executive and O.S.C.R., Scottish Charities Regulator, on updating our constitution

which is now ten years old and the additional clauses we were advised to include are default clauses which are now included in the constitutions of all community landowning groups. The directors were taken aback by the strength of feeling of the community against the inclusion of the community right to buy clause in our constitution. AFT exists to benefit the whole community both now, and for the future and we will continue to recognise this in reaching decisions.

We would like to thank Jon Hollingdale from the Community Woodlands Association and Richard Frew, Head of Community Assets Branch of the Scottish Government for attending the meeting and explaining the legislation and procedures.

### Membership Reminder

The last newsletter was delivered to every household in the Abriachan parish, inviting you all to renew your membership. It is still only £1.00 per year and we would urge you to take out a standing order so that your membership does not lapse. Standing orders can be cancelled at any time. This will enable everyone to be informed and involved. The membership secretary is Lynn Birch who will be happy to answer any membership queries. You can contact Lynn by e-mail Buskoesike@aol.com or by phone: 01463 861363

### **Aims of AFT**

AFT is now 10 years old and we are aware that new people who have arrived more recently in the community may not be aware of the aims of AFT. They are to:

- ◆ replace lodgepole plantation with mixed native species
- ◆ involve all our community and create local jobs through sustainable forestry
- ◆ ensure continued public access
- ◆ promote forest-based education and recreation
- ◆ enhance the biodiversity and scenic value of the area

### **RURAL SKILLS :**

#### **Glenurquhart High School**

Tuesday afternoons for the past two years have seen nine young people from Glenurquhart S3 and S4 coming out to do the practical element of their Intermediate 2 Rural Skills course. This has been a very good partnership in action and has resulted in the boys learning a variety of skills for the workplace from Andrew Macmillan – fencing, drainage and path building; drystone dyking with Craig, Neil and Tom Nelson – resulting in a

wall that went for a walk with lots of nooks and crannies for wildlife to hide in: forestry skills from Dietrich Pannwitz – tree identification, planting and beating up. They also have to produce paperwork evidence which will enable them to work towards their accreditation and also John Muir Awards. The group have been a pleasure to have up in the forest and we wish the S4s Joe, Liam and James all the best for the future.



#### **Wild Walks: young mum's group**

To help raise levels of fitness and to achieve John Muir Awards this group have been coming out once a month to plant trees, repair and surface paths and go for some mountain biking sessions with Simon. The picture shows some of the pre-cycle skills development – weaving in and out of a chicane of milk cartons – a lot trickier than it looks!



**Making the chicane look easy**

### **Stranger than fiction?**

An organism which is

- ◆ a partnership between two very different organisms
- ◆ can be over 9,000 years old
- ◆ can go into suspended animation for hundreds of years
- ◆ can survive extremes of temperature and levels of hydration?

Lichens are an important feature of the Abriachan landscape. The lichen workshop started in the car park where we studied some of the lichens growing on trees like the old man's beard, once thought to be a cure for baldness, which you can see festooning the conifers and to a lesser extent broadleaves. From there we

progressed to the top of Carn na Letire, where we were introduced to some of the crotal lichens which traditionally had been used for dyeing and the bizarre looking rock tripe lichens which are eaten in south east Asia and are used as a survival food in Northern Europe.



**Studying crotal dubh at the top of Carn na Letire**

### **From the archive**



**At Hughie's view point 1999**