

EVANTON COMMUNITY WOOD: GROUP FEED-BACK (2017 backwards to 2013)

Hi Penny

[re National Lottery finalist]..... what a feather in your collective caps anyhow to get this far. Fingers crossed you'll go further. A great woodland and such great community usage, well done everyone concerned. Lynne Bannister, Step It Up Highland Co-ordinator

Hi Adrian,

Can I please thank you so much for Wednesday night. Beavers and Cubs had a fantastic time. We were so impressed with what you have done there in the Evanton Woods. It is fantastic. We will definitely be back at some point. Lorna

Great event today, brilliant work from Kenny and Douglas. Thank you.

I just want to say well done for today. It was a superb day! A great turn out, brilliant food, hospitality & even the weather was good, and its definitely the best course!!

Cheers, Stephen . 232 folks racing from age 7 to 70

Hi Adrian Congratulations on the RSPB award for Evanton Woods' which we read about in the Ross-shire J. Well deserved. You are all doing a fantastic job and you are a beacon to all. Heckie and Alpha

01 April 2016

Simon. Thank you and your board members for taking time to give me an overview of what you do. Collectively you have developed a inspiring facility.

I really enjoyed reading the learning support material you produced with Iona.

I hope to find a way to link young people I work with to you on a Friday.....

Regards Douglas Forbes-Work Coach, **Skills Development Scotland**

17.11.16

Hello Adrian

A belated 'thank you' for the link to your website with the HDR visit photos. I'm sorry I had to miss the ramble but I gather it went well. Thanks are also due to you for joining the ramble and enhancing the experience by explaining about the management of the woods.

www.highland-disabled-ramblers.org.

Elsbeth Kennedy, Hon. Secretary, Highland Disabled Ramblers

[RSPB Award] Totally well deserved! Well done to you all for the work you have done and continue to do at the woods. I know it is really appreciated by lots of people.

Carol Hallam-Kiltearn Primary

12th June 2017

Dear All

Thank you for facilitating our visits to Evanton Wood

This year I took the students to Evanton Wood a couple of times to look at the silviculture systems at various stages of development.

The students found the trips very interesting and an invaluable addition to their studies.

Please extend my thanks to your community team that are doing a great job.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Christison', written in a cursive style.

John Christison
Forestry Lecturer

EVANTON COMMUNITY TRUST

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From: The Chairman c/o The Stables Lower Balconie Evanton Ross-shire IV16 9XG
Email: chairman@ect.scot Phone: 01349 830953

Dave Smith
Chairman
Evanton Wood Community Company.

14th December 2016

Dear Dave

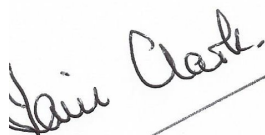
I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of the Evanton Community Trust to convey our warmest congratulations to all at the EWCC on receiving your recent accolade at the 2016 RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards.

You, Adrian and all your fellow Board members, staff and volunteers are to be warmly congratulated on what you have achieved in establishing the Evanton community woods.

You have created a wonderful asset for the village and one in which not only all your colleagues at EWCC can take pride, but one in which all of Evanton can take pride. We just wanted to place on record our appreciation and continued support for the work you are doing.

Please convey our congratulations to everyone at EWCC and long may you continue to flourish.

Kindest Regards



Iain Clark
Chairman

13.4.16

Hi Adrian

....This has been a very good project to be involved with and a good learning curve for some of the clients. I have sent the pictures of the tables etc off to my boss in Inverness and to Criminal Justice in Edinburgh as they are always interested in "good" projects we are involved in.

Mr Simon Harry
Education Officer
Evanton Community Woodland
EVANTON
Ross-shire

Please ask for: Jim Stewart
Direct Dial: 01349 884118
E-mail: Jim.Stewart@highland.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref: JS/DM
Date: 2 September 2015

Dear Simon

UNPAID WORK INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Since we took up our involvement at Evanton Community Woodland, it has enhanced the skill base of our clients and shown them a different type of work environment. As you are aware employability is a big factor in reduction of crime and repeat offending. The new skill base attained by some of our clients has encouraged them to go on to explore the forestry industry as a career. One of our clients successfully completed a chainsaw course as a direct result of working in the woodland and is now employed in the forestry industry and to date has not reoffended. A number of our clients have shown an interest in pursuing a career in forestry and we know of at least two who have attended the Scottish School of Forestry. Without this opportunity it is doubtful our clients would have taken up a career in forestry.

We are aware that equipment for working in the forestry is too expensive for individuals to purchase but if CJS had access to the equipment it would be very beneficial to our clients and also potentially increase the scope of work we are able to undertake.

It has also been of great interest to our staff and clients to be involved with the construction and installation of the "Eco Toilet" and also the broader message for the Environment demonstrated by the Evanton Community Woodland project.

At the Unpaid Work Unit in Alness we try to react in a positive manner to all local projects be they large or small. Our involvement with the Woodland Project has proved to be both enjoyable and enjoyable, giving valuable experience of the many types of work required to carry out such a project. The progress made in such a relatively short space of time is very encouraging for all involved with this project.

Yours sincerely



Jim Stewart
Community Payback Officer
(Unpaid Work)

Jim Stewart, Community Payback Officer, Alness

18.2.16

Hi Adrian,

There were 231 runners, not sure about others, but probably an easy 100. I can give you a breakdown of ages if required. As for feedback, everything was perfect, Kenny was a great host, woods were clear and storm damage was quickly dealt with. I hope we cleared everything up. I posted this on our club FB site.

Many thanks for everything you guys do in the woods.

Tom

10 February 2016

Just a brief note to thank you on behalf of our members for your very interesting talk about your work with Evanton Wood. I am sure we had no idea how much was involved and certainly not how many different groups of school pupils of all ages are using the Woods as part of the National Curriculum. I am sure that some of our ladies will wish to take up your offer of a walk round - in the better weather hopefully - so that we can see at first hand the progress of the different projects you told us about. It is good to know we have such a wonderful asset on our doorstep and that it is being used so much more. We see it all from our kitchen window - last weekend it was the cross country people - not the best of days, but they seemed to be enjoying themselves anyway!

Many thanks again for fitting us into your very busy schedule.

Elspeth C., Secretary, Kiltearn SWI

From: Gregor Comrie

Sent: 24 November 2015

Evanton Scout Group are very fortunate to have Evanton Woods on our doorstep. The Cubs section have used the woods for a whole range of activities such as learning about the natural environment and conservation, Capture the Flag in the dark, learning about photography, mountain biking and night time navigation. When summer turns to winter we embrace the darkness to play wide games in the dark and, if we're lucky enough to have a clear night, use the stars to navigate.

Although only recently started, the Scout section continues to use the woods on a regular basis to provide our fun and adventurous programme.

The woods have also been used by Dingwall Scouts for special ceremonies and night time activities.

-----Original Message-----

Karrie Marshall

@KarrieMarshall

Thanks @evantonwood for beautiful space for #PoetryInMotion@creativitycare great turnout! m.facebook.com/story.php?stor...

5.11.15

Thank you for meeting us and for your time on Monday, it was a very enjoyable visit. I am waiting to hear back from colleagues about a visit with our certificate groups and will be in touch as soon as we have decided on a date(s).

Kind Regards

Laurence, **Inverness College UHI**

Evanton Community Wood

Feed-back Form

Green Wood-working with Mike Brady 14-15 April 2016

Responses – 9

Residence: Evanton – 4, Dingwall – 2, Marybank – 1, Tain – 1, Strathpeffer - 1

Age: Under 20 – 1; 40 – 49 - 2; 50 – 59 - 4; 60+ - 2

Gender: M – 5; F - 4

Did you enjoy the activity/event (mention highlights or low points including tuition, organisation, equipment, refreshments and facilities etc):

- Yes (even the snow didn't dampen our spirits)

- Yes (especially the soup)
- I enjoyed the course very much. It had a nice relaxed atmosphere. I found it interesting to use the tools and was rewarding to make things from scratch. The facilities and refreshments were very welcome.
- The highlight was using the lathe to turn wood. A very relaxed atmosphere to learn how to use useful equipment.
- I found that all of the event was well organised and lots of tools. The tutor was very patient and always there to help; the volunteers helped as well. First time I had seen a pole lathe - helped assemble one and can now use one.
- Excellent event, relaxed pace and well led. Tuition very good.
- Great day, have never done green wood-working before. Very satisfying to smooth the wood. Tutor was very supportive. Lovely group of people to work with. Interesting variety of activities. Excellent soup and good craic. More tiring than I thought.
- I enjoyed it very much (used pole lathe and shave horse).
- Yes I did enjoy the activity. It was a good learning experience (shave horse, pole lathe)

Tell us what you learnt (and how you might use the skills):

- Wooden lathes, tent pegs; how to make traditional tools for woodworking
- Green woodworkinmg skills; pole lathe – a great skill to master
- I learnt a lot of practical skills that I will be able to show to my Scout group and use for various tasks.
- How to use a saw horse (NB shave horse) and how to make one. How to use a lathe and how to use a chisel to turn wood. I would feel confident teachers others to use one now! It was great!
- Learnt to make a pole lathe, shaving horse and the correct use of tools and how to sharpen. I can teach the pupils at St. Clements how to use the pole lathe and the horse.
- Use of carpenter axes/tools.
- Cutting wood, sharpening tools, smoothing, lathework. All useful things to make with

pupils.

- How to maintain and sharpen tools, use a shave horse and pole lathe.
- Use of wood-working equipment.

Any other comments:

- Great day out, never tried this before, learned a lot and am keen to take part in future events
- A very informative and hands-on experience – one that could suit all ages. Thanks to all for the tuition – very much appreciated.
- The facilities were great – outside in the woods and working on green wood and making useful things. If it were on again I would come back. I will make my own pole lathe and horse.
- Would like to try making a simple stool (maybe tomorrow). Excellent day – thank you.
- Great soup provided by Esther.

‘Into the Woods’ at Evanton

Posted on [July 9, 2015](#) by [CALA Childhood Practice](#)

Members of The Highland Council’s **Play Improvement Group/Play Highland**, including representatives from Care and Learning Alliance (CALA), held their latest meeting in the outdoors, at [Evanton Community Wood](#) on **7th July 2015**.

Despite the inclement weather, the area was buzzing with activity and it felt great to be part of the outdoor community. With our chair’s (Cath King) guidance we got through a packed agenda as usual, sustained by tea brewed on the log burning stove, and ginger biscuits! Included on the agenda was a presentation by Sandra MacBean, CALA’s QA Improvement Office (Out of School Clubs). Sandra shared the findings of her recent Community Asset Mapping (CAM) project which was very well received and will help to inform the group’s future strategic planning. You can find out more about CAM on [the CALA website](#).

We’d like to thank Evanton Wood Community Company for making us welcome, drying off the picnic benches, and helping us capture the moment, especially this one!

You can tell that the outdoors was having a positive effect on everyone! *Janine Donald, CALA Communications & ICT Support Officer*

4.2.15

All,

A little write-up, below, from last night if you want to use it for news/feedback etc. We had around 18 out. I'm pretty certain I picked up all the CDs and glowsticks this morning but do accept my apologies if I've missed any.

Simon, I'll pass on info about nest box making. I'd love to make it but I'll be working.

Evanton Cubs took the ice, snow and dark in their stride and headed out into Evanton Woods for a night time treasure hunt. Cubs had to spot the torch-reflecting CDs hung in the trees and follow the trail that these laid to get their hands on the treasure. The trail took them from the Cabin, along the ridge of Cnoc Ruadh, over fallen trees and onto Mag's Wood. They then had to find three lots of hidden treasure, marked by glowsticks. Using their instincts and trying not to use their torches, the Cubs found the hidden bags of chocolate with impressive speed. After this it was a quick march back to the Cabin where a warming fire, hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows awaited. However, the pace was slowed by the fascination of the huge icicles that had formed in the recent freeze!

Gregor Comrie, CSL 1st Evanton (17th Ross & Sutherland)

<https://www.facebook.com/1stevantoncubscouts>

22.10.14

Hi Adrian

A pleasure! The cabin looks amazing, I hope that the weather allows you to keep working this Autumn/Winter – quite wild in the last few days. There were around 130 runners with associated marshals, timekeepers, coaches etc so around 150 would be about right.

All the best **Karen Lyons**

6.4.15

Good Morning Adrian

Just wanted to say many thanks for the invite on Saturday- The Cabin is very impressive and the area surrounding it reminded me of places we would play in as children, something I think that is lacking these days is something that will stretch young people imaginations and give them opportunities to play in an outside environment.

It is a fantastic facility in which all the hard work that has gone into it is obvious and one in which I am sure the whole community will embrace and am sure you will attract many from outside too.

If I can be of any help in the future please let me know.

Best Regards

Martin

(NB Martin Rattray, Highland Council member)

.....
11 January 2015

Hi Simon

Just to let you know that we had a lovely time in the woods for our Christmas party event despite the weather. It was very useful being able to shelter under the roof of the hut.

Johannes Felter (our new Regional Development Officer) and I are planning a series of 3 coaching sessions for newcomers to the sport and would like to use Evanton Woods for the final session which will take place on 28th May from 4-5pm (the first 2 sessions are at the Tain Links). It might be useful if we could bring a car up into the clearing by the hut depending on exactly what we decide to do and therefore how much equipment we will need. These sessions are aimed at parents and children and will be advertised through the schools.

Regards, Suzanne Robins-Bird, Inverness Orienteering Club

Hiya

I visited Evanton Community Woodland yesterday and was very impressed with what I saw and the whole project - halfway around the visit I thought it would be good for both groups to go and see each other woods etc... and learn form each others project.....

Hazel MacLean

Communities, Recreation and Tourism Manager, Forestry Commission, North Highland Forest District

Feed-back from Orienteers (INVOC)

Comments re Evanton Wood.

1. Would be good if some of the fallen trees/windblown to the west of the area could be cleared creating clearings or more open forest.
2. Vehicles for forest work have created unsightly and deeply rutted tracks. Some are very difficult to walk or run along/across. Plan future forest work to limit this damage - either limit vehicle access or restrict vehicles to drier conditions.
3. Open up parts of the thicker forest (young plantations) with clearings etc.
4. Try and stop the spread of bracken.
5. Generally a really nice forest, especially the open eskers.

Steve

Hi Marsela

Just wanted to say I really enjoyed the event at Evanton and thought it was a great area with really nice terrain. Having the urban bit added in was really great as well.

Heather

Hi Marsela

As an orienteering venue I found it slightly disappointing as there was quite a bit of brashings etc that meant the going was slow and rough. At the same time it was clearly a nice place to go orienteering, and the brashings will settle/break down with the passage of time. I suspect the courses that stuck to paths will have had a more enjoyable time of it! As a wood it is a lovely place and the Company has done well to secure it. I don't know how much they've put out yet by way of maps of paths for visitors, signs, maybe the odd picnic table etc, but I'm sure it will come. I've never been down to the Gorge but mean to go back to do so.

Alec

My impressions were of a really pleasant and well-used community woodlands - it is certainly a great area for a small orienteering event, with a village hall so close by. I would certainly want to visit again at a more leisurely pace in future. ...I hope you manage to sort out the problems with the permanent orienteering markers getting vandalised, and I hope you can continue the connection with the orienteers.

Mike Rodgers, Forres
Moravian Orienteering Club

Skelleftea Rural Study Tour

I had a great visit in Evanton Wood. Thanks to Adrian for showing the group from Sweden around in the forest. We had a great time and I hope to visit Scotland in the future and see the progress and development of your project.

mattias.ahman75@gmail.com

Liz Macleod – Evanton Walking Group 19.9.13

We have been really enjoying the community wood as a group, exploring some of the new areas that have been opened up. I was a wee bit sceptical at first to be honest but what a difference you have made!