

Moss minutes

Tues 7.30 pm 15.2.11 Well Country Inn

Present: Elaine and Dave Carruthers; Louise and Dave Batchelor; Jim Shepherd; Mike McGinnes; James Gilmour

Apologies: Karen McDonnell; Jeff Gunnell; Stuart Garvie.(Thanks to Karen for her update. Good news about fruit bushes for Kilmagadwood).

BURNS SUPPER: Another triumph with great feedback. There were some complaints about the catering. Elaine has started a Burns Supper book to remind us of everything that needs to be done each year. We discussed ways of saving/raising money eg possibly printing our own programmes and running our own bar.

Action : Dave B to complete the BS book and ensure it is always with us on the night..

Action: Jeff Gunnell to produce a dummy programme.

Action: Elaine booking hall for Satdy 28th Jan 2012

WOODLAND UPDATE: Lots going on. James highlighted some key dates. 16th Feb Start of work on Upper deer fence plantation. RTS contractors to plant. This planting was delayed from November.

25th Feb - up to 60 delegates from the prestigious group, the Wetland International Symposium, to visit Portmoak Moss, to see the restoration work.

Action: Louise (and anyone else available) to meet and greet. 2pm Moss car park. Guided tour by a peat bog expert Andrew McBride from Scottish Natural heritage.

Action: James to take photos and organise press release.

8th March (10am): Karen and James (and Jim?)to take Carol Evans, the new director of the Woodland Trust Scotland, round the Moss.

9th and 23rd March: BTCV with the Princes Trust birch pulling and woodland skills training in the Moss with unemployed folk. Scottish Wildlife Trust to return later to continue their birch clearing work. Re-growth will be wiped with glyphosate

The new (draft) Moss Management Plan is now available for consultation. Louise and Dave have a hard copy.

Action:James to circulate electronic version to be discussed at the next meeting when we will also fix a date for a public meeting.

ORCHARD UPDATE: 15 people (+ 2 from the Woodland Trust) have signed up for the course and planting session on 27th February 9.30am at Louise and Dave's, The Old Manse, Kilmagadwood, Scotlandwell. Louise/Dave/Elaine and Dave/Mike have all offered contributions towards the catering.

James is bringing stakes, tree guards, etc

AOB: Red squirrel spotted by D Carruthers in the Moss. James reported fallen trees in the Moss and had also seen 16 roe deer.

Mike has a contact at Dundee University who may be interested in doing some mammal (and fungal?) recording .

NEXT MEETING 15th March Well Country Inn