

## **SOUTH WEST COMMUNITY WOODLAND TRUST NEWSLETTER 2018:**

Greetings to all our members and friends!

2017 was a fun and eventful year at Taliesin. We are delighted to announce that our antics have been recorded as part of the 'Taliesin Film Project'; with funding from Heritage Lottery, we have made a short documentary about Taliesin, and what kind of things happen there. The film will be launched at the end of March 2018, so please do come and see for yourselves what everyone gets up to in our wonderful community woodland.

### **EVENTS OF 2017:**

#### **Easter weekend:**

Workshops and activities ran from the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April, well attended and hugely enjoyable. We had a bike powered flour mill, and epic pizza production in the clay oven, there was egg dyeing, herb foraging, craft activities and extremely popular traditional pewter casting workshops.

#### **Spring Kid's Camp:**

Fantastic as ever, from the 28<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May, with a record attendance of 78 people staying for the weekend, plus more popping in and out through the days. A highlight was shelter building and overnight camp out with some of the older children.

#### **Teen Camp:**

The first of it's kind at Taliesin, and the start of many more to come. Held in July, young people from 10yrs upwards camped out in a 'self- directed' version of the kid's camp. There were 2 adults present at all times, but the teens built their own camp, had a go at organising their own catering and came up with their own activities. There was A LOT of laughter!

#### **Autumn Kid's Camp:**

Took place from 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September, with 64 people attending. Great activities, amazing food, great time had by all.

#### **October Weekend:**

2017's autumn workshop weekend from 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October had a foraging theme; we found a wide variety of wild foods that we used to cook up an evening feast, sampled some delicious wild boozy concoctions, identified a diverse range of fungi, and learnt how to make and apply medicinal preparations from the wild herbs on site. Meanwhile, a brilliant production line of peg loom rugs meant that everyone was comfy for music and songs around the fire later on.

#### **In loving memory:**

A celebration of Ellie Davidson's life was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, we sang amid a forest of origami harebells and planted a rowan tree. It was powerful and beautiful, just like Ellie.

**On-going:**

-Coppicing at Potterland; sessions in January and February, hazel coppiced and firewood stacked.

-Tree planting; 250 (hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan, hazel and a variety of willow) trees planted on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, a lovely get together with 25 volunteers helping out.

-Dalbeattie Explorer Scouts annual camp.

**UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2018:**

\*Coppicing weekend: Potterland Feb 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> (or 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> rain dates)

\*Easter camp and workshop weekend with film launch: Fri 30<sup>th</sup> March-Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April

\*Spring kids camp: Fri 4<sup>th</sup> May-Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May

\*Dragonfly day: June 16<sup>th</sup>? To be confirmed...

\*Teen camp: summer holidays, to be confirmed...

\*Autumn kids camp: Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Sep – Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Sep

\*October camp and workshop weekend: Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Oct – Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Oct

!And please remember that our membership renewal date is the 1<sup>st</sup> of February!

With big thanks to everyone, and we look forward to enjoying more Taliesin shenanigans with you all in 2018!