

Dear Shareholder 18 November 2011

Here, at last, is your official Stroud Woodland Co-operative share certificate! Dennis Gould has kindly hand-printed it onto hand-made paper. Let us know if it is incorrect in any way and we can get a replacement done.

Below are details of the next stage of putting our plan 'Looking after Folly Wood' into action, the next Core Group meeting, our first ever AGM and how to use the website.

**Looking after Folly Wood**

The event on Sunday 23rd October was the start of the next stage of putting the plan into action. We know that many of the larch trees are too close together and very old. There are also too many of them and we have accepted a phased plan to fell a number of them.

Also Stroud Valleys Project successfully bid for some trees to plant on behalf of several groups. We have been allocated several hundred which will need planting before the end of February.

The sequence of events with the trees:

* decide which trees will be cut down in the first phase
* after this they will be felled, probably by a qualified chainsaw person
* then they will need trimming and cutting up
* then the re-planting with new trees

On Sunday 23rd October people started work on these questions

* which of the larch are to be felled to enable replanting?
* which species of trees will we plant? We have some choice over this.
* where shall they be planted?
* what do we need to plant in the hedges?

On the same day we:

* marked the route of the path and decided where seats will be in the quiet area
* chose the site for some children's play activities
* chose a place and a design for the composting toilet

and worked out what materials and tools we'll need. Lots of other decisions remain.

The people on this list below have started work in a particular part of the wood or activity. They aren't claiming to be experts and we have more people who have offered skills and/or energy. Please contact the person whose name appears by the work which interests you. Dates for work will be agreed amongst the people involved

**Path**:  Mark Harrison  mark@plumtucker.co.uk

**Hedge and tree planting**: Patch 1: Richard Keating, keatree@globalnet.co.uk, Seb Buckton  karen.seb@phonecoop.coop, Gabriel Kaye gkaye@talktalk.net.

 **Felling, cutting and storing**: Adrian Leaman  adrian@wholewoods.co.uk, Richard Lewis richard@stroudvalleysproject.org , Ben Spencer spencer.ben@btinternet.com.

**Children’s activity area**: Ali Coles Ali.coles@btinternet, Jade Bashford

**Quiet area**: Patch 6, Martin Large martinlarge5@gmail.com, Barbara Imrie barbara-scott@hotmail.co.uk, Ruth Illingworth  ruth@39slad.freeserve.co.uk.

**Composting toilet**: Patch 2: Jo Rowbatham rowbothamjo@hotmail.com, Andy Freedman andy@andyfreedman.org.uk.

**Website**

The calendar system is there on the web site so that people can 'book' the wood for a specific activity. Lots of us aren't sure about how this works. To find out how, please refer to instructions on the separate sheet.

**Core Group meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 7th December at Follywood around a roaring fire with mulled wine. We will be discussing the management plan, Director’s report and wider strategy for the Co-op. As ever, all are welcome. Let Ben know if you are coming.

**Annual General Meeting**

Our first AGM will be on Sunday 8th January 2012 at 7.30pm at The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud, GL5 1DF. At this meeting shareholders will:

* Receive the accounts, balance sheet and Directors’ report
* Confirm exemption from auditing
* Elect Directors
* Agree what to do with our surplus money
* Decide on a process for any people wanting to return their shares
* Review management plan progress and future plans
* Identify external funding sources for projects
* Decide if we wish to introduce a small yearly charge to cover our annual outgoings

Our rules state that the existing Directors all need to stand down at the meeting. We are looking for new Directors to be elected. It is not an onerous job! If you are interested please contact Ben to discuss what it involves.

It would be helpful to know if you want to stand by December 17th 2011.

We hope to see as many shareholders as possible at the AGM. We must have at least 7 present so look forward to seeing you there, and in the wood....

Very best wishes

Ben Spencer spencer.ben@btinternet.com

Richard Keating keatree@globalnet.co.uk

Martin Large martinlarge5@gmail.com

**Accessing the Folly Wood / Stroudwoods Website**

To access our website:

Type <http://www.stroudwoods.org.uk/> into the address bar of your web browser, and use the Main Menu on the left hand side of the webpage to navigate the site.

Registering on the website: To look at the forum or to add dates to the calendar you will have to register. This is so that we can make the site safe from attacks by Viagra sellers and people who don’t need to know our business.

1/ Firstly you need to find the Login Form on the left hand side of the webpage below the Main Menu.

2/ At the bottom of that area find the link that says ‘create an account’ and click on it. You will be taken to a new page to fill out a registration form.

3/ Fill out the boxes with your Name, Username, E-mail, Password and Verify your password by typing it in again. Then click on the box that says ‘register’.

4/ You will receive an automated email from the website and you have to click the link in it, this is to make sure that your email address is correct and that you are a real person.

5/ Once you have done this you can login to the site with your username and password. If you forget either of these then you can find them in the registration email or by clicking on the ‘Forgot your password?’ or ‘Forgot your username?’ link on the left hand side of the website.

Adding Dates to the Folly Wood Calendar: To add a date to the calendar

Sign in and then click on ‘Follywood Calendar’ on the Main Menu.

Underneath the calendar you will see the option to ‘add an event’. This opens a window in which you need to type in the Subject of the event; this is the title of your event. Leave the Event Creator, Categories, and Access drop down menus as you find them.

Next type in the activity box any more information you want people to know about your event, for example is anyone welcome? Do people need to bring anything?

Then click on the ‘Calendar’ tab at the top of the screen and enter your dates and times of the event.

When you have finished click ‘save’ and ‘apply’ in the top left. You should now see your event on the calendar.

Using the Folly Wood Forum

To add comments or to read the forum you need to sign in then click on ‘Follywood Forum’ on the main menu. The forum is split into sections and posts. Find the section you’re interested in and click on its title to see the posts below. To open a post click on its title and to add a reply click on ‘reply’ and type in your message and then click ‘submit’.

Need more help?

Email tomiswalking@me.com and I will try to support you with problems you may be having.