

# Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland Newsletter - September 2013



[www.laidewood.org.uk](http://www.laidewood.org.uk)

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## An Eventful Summer



*Visitors ready to go electro-fishing with Peter and Dave*

After the extended cold winter, and late, late spring the summer season finally kicked in and visitors and locals enjoyed the programme of events we had organised this year.

Way back in May, when we began the season with our annual Primrose Walk, there were relatively few primroses out (they all arrived a week or so later). We trudged around in winter clothes, and ran our annual Duck Race in the rain. How different it was just a few weeks later! The Western Highlands was the place to be, where fine weather and warm sunshine could be enjoyed, away from the oppressive heat further south.

The late spring didn't seem to bother the flora and fauna over much. By and large they did their thing, just a little bit later on. It has been several years since we last saw daffodils, bluebells and cherry trees all out in bloom at the same time.

This year our regular contributors helped us out by leading a number of visitor activities. Peter Cunningham from Wester Ross Fisheries Trust lead the ever popular electro-fishing demonstration, and trapping and measuring species and keeping a check on the populations of trout finding their way into the burns.



*The group sets off along the trail*

The insect life in the Wood also attracts a number of visitors each year, especially some of the more colourful and extravagant species such as the dragonflies and damselflies.

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Trout that were temporarily stunned by the electrofishing are measured, and then given some time to recover, before being released back into the burn from which they came.



*Young trout ready for release*

Many thanks to Peter Cunningham for a fascinating day in the Wood.

*Photos: Peter Jarosz*

*Editorial: Kevin Ginty*

## Waterfall Works...



Have you been through to the cascade recently? If you have, then you might have noticed that some more clearing work has gone on and the trail part of As well as the two fallen trees which we cleared from the cascade a while ago, we have also started preparing the way for the new path. Regular visitors will know that the trail from the 'army' bridge through to the cascade is particularly wet and boggy in places. Some sections of boardwalk have made it rather better than it was, but the real problem is that the path is too close to the loch, and the water table. In order to keep the path drier, we are planning a new route to the cascade, which will go slightly higher up and further away from the loch. This should keep the path drier, and make it more accessible in the winter months. Watch this space.

## Willow Weaving

This year we have really got underway with the willow project, coppicing and using some of the willow. Martin Rowe has been leading this work, and as mentioned in a previous newsletter, he ran a special session at the Primrose Walk to introduce people to the potential of this material.

Since then, he has been busy building windbreaks for the raised beds outside the GALE centre in Gairloch.



*Raised beds outside the GALE centre*



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