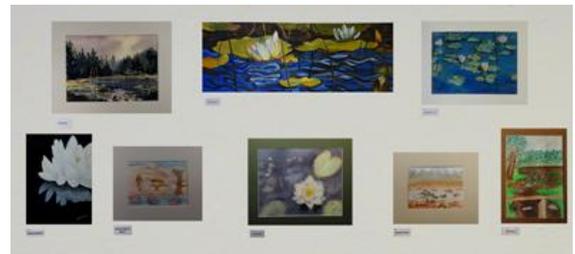


Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland Newsletter – April 2011

<http://www.laidewood.org.uk>

LACW is a Charity registered in Scotland No SC034434

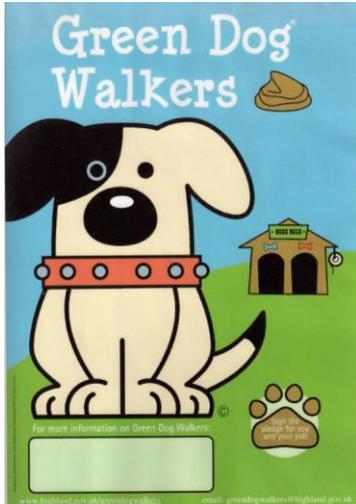


Part of the final display which covered all the walls and corridor in the exhibition area as well articles placed in the room for visitors to examine.

A very successful exhibition - The history Laide Wood took place at the Gairloch museum between the 4th and the 9th April. We have been informed by the museum staff that a considerable number of people visited the exhibition during the period it was open. The display told the history of Laide Wood, since it was purchased by the community in 2003 and we also took the opportunity to show off some of last year's painting competition entries. Getting involved in this type of display allows us to advertise the Wood and educate the public, our aim is to give people a green space to enjoy nature and the outdoors so that more people will realize what an attractive amenity we have on our doorstep.

Green Dog Walkers Launch

Green Dog Walkers (GDW) will be launched at the Primrose walk, and anyone can join the GDW brigade whether or not you are a dog owner. This is an initiative backed by the local authority and piloted successfully in Falkirk. The aim is to make people aware of the problem of dog fouling, and the dangers in not properly disposing of the unwanted deposits. If you are a responsible dog owner it's only fair that you remove the fouling left behind by your pet, and not to expect someone else to do the job for you.



Laide Wood is a place where dogs love to be, they can be let off the lead with a degree of control from their owners, and the worry of a dog attacking cattle or sheep is removed. People who have never before spoken to one another in their lives now enjoy the company of others, whilst their dogs play together and everyone benefits from a walk in the fresh air, in a facility created for the whole community.

So we now come to the downside: dog fouling. The volunteers who run and look after your wood know it isn't always possible to pick up every little deposit dogs leave behind. We also know that the majority of people walking their dogs along the woodland trails are responsible, and do their best to pick up after their pets but there is always the few that won't and don't bother. They don't seem to think it matters, and feel no responsibility. At certain times of the year there is very little evidence of (for want of a better way of

describing it) dog litter, but at others and sometimes very suddenly we have an unacceptable abundance of the stuff, and we can't work out why this is so. So now is the time to stand up and be counted as one who cares and considers others. Wear a wrist band whilst you are in the wood and make your own statement. Maybe this will finally tweak the consciences of those who don't bother. **Our motto is "leave only pawprints."**



Primrose Walk

The primroses are now out and this year's Primrose walk is going to be the best ever - all the usual attractions and a whole lot more. Commencing with the annual Duck Race, and moving around the Main Trail to visit various events on the way, finishing back at the Yurt with refreshments, the draw for the raffle top prize A TONY CARPENTER SPECIAL GARDEN BENCH which will be delivered in the Gairloch area. Prizes for the Duck Race, and a special guest band to entertain you as the event closes. What a way to spend a Saturday afternoon! So Saturday 30th April is a day for your diary - commences 2pm. **Don't Miss it!**

Photo Competition

The photo competition is now open for this year, but due to the disappointing sales of our 2011 calendars we will not be producing them for 2012. However, there will still be prizes for the best photos and we are getting our heads together to work on a better way of incorporating the winning entries into some kind of woodland souvenir. So keeping snapping and get your best shots ready for the judging.

Details of all the above can be found on our website at laidewood.org.uk keep logging on for the latest news and updates.