

# DUNBAR COMMUNITY WOODLAND GROUP



Autumn 2013/Issue 24

## DCWG

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27TH NOVEMBER

2013 7.30PM

Hallhill Sports Centre

All Welcome

If you care about your  
local environment,  
please come along to  
find out more or to

GET INVOLVED!

## THE GROUP

Lochend Woods are open to the public and the Dunbar Woodland Community Groups exists to manage Lochend Woods on behalf of the community. We aim to:

- Manage Lochend Woods as a community resource.
- Maximise potential for educational & recreational use.
- To value and nurture wildlife.
- To steward the environment, maintain pathways & waterways.
- Encourage all who use the woods to treat them with respect, not litter and discourage damage to trees and wildlife habitats.
- Encourage group membership and conservation volunteering.

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## *'For Trees, For Wildlife, For People'*

More info at [www.dunbarwoods.org](http://www.dunbarwoods.org)

Facebook: *Dunbar Community Woodland Group*  
(Lochend Woods)

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## 'MAD ABOUT MUIR'

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August, Quids In Theatre Company presented 'Mad about Muir' in Lochend Woods, a production about the life and times of the Dunbar-born environmentalist.

The audience that gathered at The Stone had the opportunity to stroll through the woods with "John Muir" – though this one surprisingly spoke with a Glaswegian accent - hear his thoughts on nature and the environment, meet a gold prospector and even Teddy Roosevelt.

President Roosevelt, was a good friend of John Muir and created the first American national parks under his guidance. This outdoor theatre production was a fun and different way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

DCWG are always happy to hear from people with new ideas on how to experience and interact with the woodland. More John Muir related activities are planned for 2014.



Audience enjoying the 'Mad about Muir' production in Lochend Woods 18<sup>th</sup> August 2013



*Inaugural firing of the clay oven in Lochend Woods 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013*

## CLAY OVEN

At the end of August, thanks to Forestry Commission 'Community Seedcorn' funding, we had a clay oven built in the Gathering Area. We appreciate Rhyddian and Laura providing their expertise. It's all made from re-cycled materials and clay sourced from an area adjacent to the oven site.

The inaugural firing took place a month later, once the clay had dried out. This will be a great facility for community events, for cooking breads, pizzas, scones, pies, cakes and casseroles even! Dunbar cubs were among the first to enjoy al fresco oven tasty bites, at their Halloween party. Spooky snacks were definitely on the menu!



*Photo courtesy of Andrew Morris*

## BREEDING BIRD COMMUNITIES - LOCHEND WOODS

In 2012 David Bates and Marc Eden mapped the breeding birds of those parts of Lochend Woods managed by Dunbar Community Woodland Group. They came across 50 species including Mallard, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Cuckoo, Brambling and Common Crossbill. Commonest were Wren, Blackbird, Rook and Chaffinch. Scarcer breeders included Moorhen, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest, House Martin, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, Siskin and Bullfinch.

The gardens, as they mature, may attract more birds. Hole nesters such as Blue Tit and Great Tit were comparatively scarce or absent, perhaps due to the lack of dead or decaying trees. Felling of alien trees and replanting with natives as recommended in the management plan might be expected to change the bird community. The full report can be read on the DCWG website. <http://dunbarwoods.org/reports/>.



*Greenwood classes in the woods March 2013*

## GREENWOOD WORKING CLASSES - MAKE A STOOL FOR CHRISTMAS

**7 & 8 December, 10am to 3pm. In the Gathering Area, behind corner of Kellie and Middlemass Roads.**

£40 per person, includes a hot lunch cooked on the fire. Places are limited - book quickly!

As there was interest in the 'taster' sessions of greenwood techniques we had in the woods earlier in the year, DCWG are facilitating 2 weekend courses. The first one is to be before Christmas, so that you have the opportunity to make a very special present for someone!

Participants will learn the techniques of greenwood working using traditional tools, and have a stool to take home, made to their own design.

All materials and tools supplied. To book, phone Isobel on 01368 863239 or via the DCWG website or facebook page.

DCWG committee would welcome members of the community who are able to give their time and expertise to running the woodland. This could be as an office bearer, helper at our events or simply talking to people about the work of the woodland group, and encouraging them to join and take out membership. We'd would love to hear from you!

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**Contact Email:** [ute\\_penny@live.co.uk](mailto:ute_penny@live.co.uk) (Membership Secretary)