



Gifford Community Woodland

Protecting Speedy & Fawn Woods for the benefit of the local community

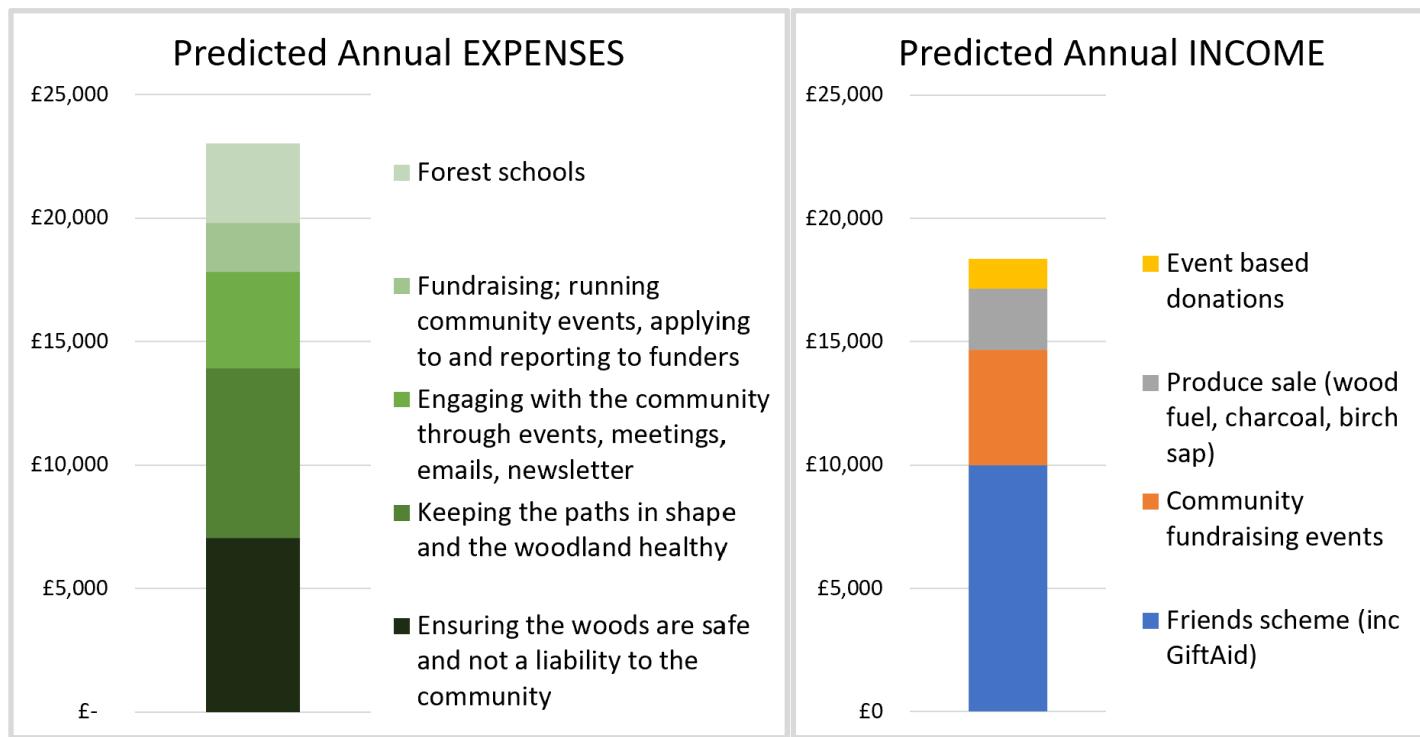
AGM Update & Cinema Plan...

September 2023

As you may be aware we recently held our Sixth AGM, and there was lots to report from the past year! We shared with attendees some of our key achievements over the past 12 months, which included:

- ◆ Over 1,800 hours of community volunteering have taken place!
- ◆ We've become the only fully accessible wood in Scotland (that we know of!).
- ◆ We've tackled Ash Dieback in our woods.
- ◆ We've new community groups using the woods in creative ways.

So what's next? As we enter the final year of our Heritage Lottery funding we also started to look forward at the AGM, and plan what happens next for our community woods. Based on our experience of looking after the woodland to date, the trustees have estimated the following costs and income streams.



We are incredibly grateful to everyone who continues to support the Woods. You will have noticed that the Expenses column is still a little higher than the Income, so we will have some decisions to make in the year ahead.

Read on to find out more...

See inside... ↗

AGM Update cont...

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

At the AGM we were keen to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us over the past year, whether through the Friends scheme, our various events, buying produce or through committing time. Volunteers make a massive difference in the woods, but also at our various other events whether at Forest School or baking for the Horti Teas. All support is hugely welcome, and we also wanted to say a massive thanks to Paul Hurd - Paul has done weeks of volunteering this year, whether with tree inspections, at stalls, making charcoal or single-handedly preparing the Christmas and Easter gifts for decoration. Thank you so much Paul, you're a star!!

Marie Beaman Legacy.

One other piece of news that we shared at the AGM was that we were incredibly grateful to receive a legacy in the past year, from a local resident Marie Beaman who many reading this will have known well. We'll be eternally grateful to Marie and her family for this, as it provides the charity with a little financial stability to look to the future. If you would like to do likewise and leave a gift to Gifford Woods in your Will, we would be similarly grateful. You can of course speak to your Solicitor, or for more information try: www.lawscot.org.uk/making-a-will/.

Welcome to our new Trustees.

After the call to action from our last Newsletter, we were delighted to be able to welcome THREE new Trustees to join us this year as well. Carrie Sanderson, David Dawson & Tristan Swan bring a mix of artistic, educational and biology skills - and we are incredibly pleased to have their involvement during the years ahead!



If you've not yet become a Friend, PLEASE join if you can...

As you'll have seen from over the page, the loyal and regular support of our Friends of Gifford Woods is absolutely critical to our on-going financial stability. Without them (most of whom will be reading this!) we simply wouldn't be able to ensure the on-going safety and access to the Woods.

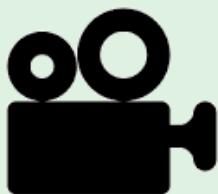
We were also told on the night however, that some people who live in Gifford either didn't know about the Friends scheme, or simply haven't yet got round to joining. If that's you, PLEASE do take a little time and support us if you can - even just a few pounds a year would be incredibly welcome, and help us enormously.

**CLICK
HERE**

You can join online using the QR code here or by visiting:
giffordcommunitywoodland.com/become-a-friend/

Both give the option of joining online via CAF or downloading a form. Or you can even email us and we'll drop a paper form to you!

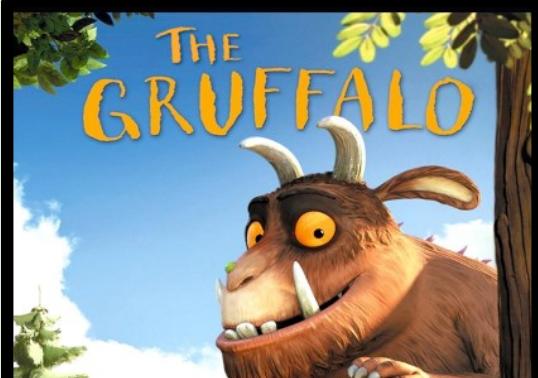
If you could make that commitment now, of any sort, it would really aid our planning for the future.



Cinema in Gifford Woods is back!

After a few years off we are delighted to bring back Cinema in the Woods, with a double-bill of family favourites AND one for more grown-up kids and adults!

Saturday 30th September, Cinema area at the end of Station Road.



The Gruffalo & Stick Man:

4.30pm

U, 27mins (each),
2009 & 2015



Wonder

7.30pm

PG, 113mins, 2017



If you would like to help on the day, please email

gifford.woodseh41@gmail.com

In other news...

The Fruit Trees have now been planted and were getting watered regularly by the volunteers over the dryer weeks, with thanks to our neighbours for the supply water.



Volunteer Days have continued, both with local groups and assistance from Lothian Conservation. These have tackled various tasks, including the continued battle against rhododendrons which can destroy native ecosystems when they are left unchecked.



Our very own Nev has led more **Fungi Forays** in the woods, with culinary support by Helle from Beech & Birch. Along with raising funds for the upkeep of our beautiful woods (nearly £600 at the last one alone!), the forays are a chance for the community to learn more about fungi, and specifically those found in our woods.

Dorothy Lyle has continued with more **A Meeting with Moths** events, where attendees learn about the moth population in the woods.

And indeed many thanks to the above and ALL our various volunteers who continue to run events, spend time with the school groups or help bring the Cubs into the woods for regular sessions. To keep up-to-date with all our events, be sure to check over-leaf, on the noticeboard, or follow us on social media (details on next page).

Dates for your Diary:



Event	When	Details / How to Book
Woodland cinema • The Gruffalo/Stick Man: 4.30pm • Wonder: 7.30pm	Sat 30th Sep 4.30pm / 7.30pm	Free event.
Silent Walk and Meditation	Sat 21st Oct 4pm - 5pm	No need to book. Meet at the woodland noticeboard.
Volunteer Day (path maintenance)	Sat 11th Nov 9am - 1pm	Please email to let us know you're coming.
Silent Walk and Meditation	Sat 18th Nov 4pm - 5pm	No need to book. Meet at the woodland noticeboard.
Volunteer Day (wood fuel)	Sun 26th Nov 9am - 1pm	Please email to let us know you're coming.
Open Woods Meeting	Mon 27th Nov 7.30pm - 9pm	Informal meeting in Gifford Bowling Club. All welcome!
Volunteer Day with LCV	Sat 2nd Dec 10.30am - 4pm	Please email to let us know you're coming.
Silent Walk and Meditation	Sat 9th Dec 3pm* - 4pm	No need to book. Meet at the woodland noticeboard. *note earlier start time
Volunteer Day with LCV	Sun 10th Dec 10.30am - 4pm	Please email to let us know you're coming.
Volunteer Day with LCV	Sun 31st Dec 10.30am - 4pm	Please email to let us know you're coming.
Volunteer Day with LCV	Tues 2nd Jan 10.30am - 4pm	Please email to let us know you're coming.
Women's Woodland Jogging Group meets informally on Mondays in the Village Square for a run around the woods.	Every Monday at 7.30pm	Anyone who wants to be added to the WhatsApp group can email gifford.woodseh41@gmail.com .

If you have any further thoughts or comments, please get in touch using details below.

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