

Green Glen Way Slighe a' Ghlinne Uaine



Strimming the route near Drumnadrochit

The Great Glen Way Rangers are going green!

As part of our work the Rangers are improving things out on the route as well as in the office. We have developed an environmental policy which covers everything from the way we cut grass to the cleaning products we buy. Bruce Kocjan-Briggs from the Rangers said "As Rangers we have a big role to play in educating people about the environment. This also places a duty on us to look after it ourselves."

One element of the environmental plan is to change the way we look after the ground that the GGW passes through.

For example, if we choose carefully the times when we strim path edges this will allow wildflowers spread seed into areas they may not have grown in before. This in



Butterfly Orchid on the GGW

turn will allow a whole variety of wildlife to follow in their wake, improving the habitat as well as the experience for our route users.

Within the Ranger office there are also changes that have been made. Turning the thermostat down a degree or two not only helps save the planet but also the pennies (in this case Council Tax paid by local people!). Although we have been recycling in the office for some time, there is always something new that can be tried: we are even recycling our old uniforms and safety equipment as part of a national scheme to equip National Park Rangers in Malawi!

These and other measures that we are putting into place will hopefully ensure that the Great Glen Way is with us for a long time to come.

New Ranger on the GGW Neach-raoin Ùr air Slighe a' Ghlinne Mhòir



The GGW is pleased to welcome a new addition to our Ranger Team. Dunstan Cribb joined us at the start of May. He replaces Scott Callison who left us after 5 years on the GGW and 25 years of excellent service to the council.

The Great Glen Way is managed by The Highland Council with the support of our partner organisations.



Visit our web site at: www.greatglenway.com or contact us at: **Great Glen Way Rangers, Auchterawe, Fort Augustus, PH32 4BT**

The Great Glen Way

Cuairt-litir Slighe a' Ghlinne Mhòir Newsletter 2008



A new perspective for GGW Rangers

Long Distance Route Week Seachdain na Slighe Fhada

The Great Glen Way Rangers recently joined other staff from Scotland's 4 official Long Distance Routes in celebrating the first National Long Distance Route Week. Six activities took place on the GGW, aimed at people and groups who would not normally use it.

Saturday 14th June
A Bilingual walk for Gaelic learners took in the spectacular views of Loch Oich (loch of the sticks) and the surrounding hills. Towards the end of the day there was an improvised Gaelic conversation class. This walk was put on with the help and support of the Community Learning & Development Officer for Gaelic in Inverness.

Monday 16th June
Pupils from Glen Urquhart Primary School entered the wilds of the River Oich woodland for a day of survival fun. Activities included a walk where they learnt to hunt for food, find water, make a compass and light a fire using a bow-drill.

Tuesday 17th June
GGW Rangers experienced a section of the route on horse back from the stables in Fort Augustus. They gained an insight into how riders perceive the route and brought back valuable feedback.

Wednesday 18th June
A small group from Inverness Women's Aid took a walk around Abriachan

Forest to do a bit of bird watching as an example of what the Rangers can offer.

Thursday 19th June
Mums and toddlers from Invergarry and Fort Augustus Toddler Groups joined in games and activities themed around minibeasts, including a close-up meeting with local wildlife.

Saturday 21st June
For Midsummer 14 participants enjoyed a ranger led walk along the Great Glen Way up to a view point above Invermoriston. Upon reaching the top, great views welcomed the walkers along with hot soup, home made cake and the thrill of roasting marshmallows over an open fire.

Contents:

Page 1:
Long Distance
Route Week

Page 2:
Contributions
Exceed
Expectations

Page 3:
Summer Event
Success

Page 4:
Green Glen Way
& New Ranger
on the GGW



© Christine Spreiter



Contributions Exceed Expectations

Barrachd Taice na Bhathar an Dùil

Since the launch of the GGW Voluntary Contribution Programme in June 2007 the amount donated has been £6943.92. These funds have already allowed some seating to go ahead and it is looking very promising for the others. All thanks to GGW users and supporters!

Project 1: Seats £1157.19 Donated

At the moment the Rangers are negotiating with the local high schools to construct seats and tables along the route as special projects for students. In addition 4 recycled benches have been purchased and will be installed this summer. Although these are more expensive than was budgeted for, the recycled element of the benches is as important as the cost. With some of the timber seats that have been installed since the start of the project costing less than expected we will still be able to install all of the 16 seats planned.

Project 2: Reduce road walking £5521.99 Donated

Reducing road walking has been a popular project for donation. A recent project



Enjoying a break along the Way

sought grant funding to match with the donations. However the project was shelved when landowner consent was not granted. Negotiations continue with landowners on several sections of the Great Glen Way where it is on tarmac roadway to install the track off road.

Project 3: Trail Blazers Rest £264.74 Donated

While not the most popular project it has never the less generated donations that will be used to match fund the project. The siting of these Trail Blazers Rests is critical to the sites working. They will not be

accessible to road users though still allowing access to walkers, cyclists or, for one of the sites, canoeists. The 2 planned sites are Glas Dhorie on Loch Lochy and high above Invermoriston

Our thanks again to all who have given money, and we will keep you informed of our progress

Comming Soon to the Great Glen

Planning work continues on two new routes through the Great Glen:

- The Great Glen Canoe Trail
- National Cycle Network Route 78

Summer Event Success

Soirbheachadh as t-Samhradh

As some of you may be aware the Great Glen Way Rangers along with the Glen Nevis Rangers and the John Muir Trust Nevis Conservation Officer, held a series of events over summer 2007 to help children to **Discover, Explore, Conserve** and **Share** all that the Fort William area has to offer. Events were held in Glen Nevis, in Fort William and at Clunes Forest School. At the end of the Summer 10 children had completed the Discovery Level of the nationally recognised **John Muir Award**



Spring wonder on a Wee Wild Fun Day

and all expressed an interest in doing more to help their local environment and gain higher levels of the award.

To build on this success it was agreed to run the programme again in 2008 under the heading 'Wild on Wednesdays' the idea being that every Wednesday throughout the summer there would be something fun and exciting for children in

Lochaber, whether that be exploring the shoreline in Fort William or learning how to survive in the woods around Loch Lochy. An addition to this year's programme has been the inclusion of events in Salen, with the Ardnamurchan and Forestry Commission Rangers and out at Mallaig with the Sound of Arisaig Ranger.



Home sweet home - Survival style!

Information on the events was handed out at schools before the holidays to allow parents plenty of time to book places. Included with this were details

For more details on any of the issues mentioned in this newsletter please call the Great Glen Way Rangers on:

01320 366633

or e-mail

greatglenway@highland.gov.uk

A full list of our events can be found on our website: **www.greatglenway.com**

of the John Muir Award which was once again on offer.

As if all that wasn't enough there were 'Wee Wild Fun Days' this year for children aged 3 – 6. The events focused on story led activities allowing children and adults attending the events to learn about the great outdoors in a fun and interesting way. The first event, held during the Easter Holidays, was called 'Searching for Spring' and took place at the River Oich Forest in Fort Augustus. The second, 'The Legend of the Amber Beads' was held in Glengarry Woods.



Up close and personal with wildlife

If you want any information on these or other events please contact the Great Glen Way Rangers on the number below.

"Even a journey of one thousand miles begins with a single step."
Traditional Saying.



"It is good to have an end to journey towards;
but it is the journey that matters in the end."
Ursula Le Guinn.