



# Alva Glen Heritage Trust

## Dec 2013 Issue 15

# NEWSLETTER

### Annual report for year ending April, 2013

Prepared for AGM of the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013.

It's been another year of progress, with some dramatic changes starting to happen in the glen.

We have been supporters and contributors to the Ochils Landscape Partnership (OLP) since its inception, and finally we are starting to see some rewards from all the hard work we've put into it. It has been a very difficult process, with lots of hold-ups due to funding issues, and complicated council procurement rules!

So far, through a combination of OLP funds/contractors and volunteer work, the sensory garden has been designed and installed, and has proved a popular feature.

Work on conserving and repairing the lade is well advanced (and should be finished by the end of May). More work than was originally anticipated has been necessary, which has been funded from the council and OLP contingency fund.



This has been a major project, and work on improving access to the structure, installing interpretation boards and exploring the archaeology will continue for some time yet.

After a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, the contract for dry-stane dyking is being let to our favoured contractor, and we hope work will start in June. As part of the contract, there will be training available in building walls, so in the future we can do more work on this ourselves. Let us know if you'd be interested in training.

For future work, we have also prepared specifications for work on the paths and lighting installation in the glen, but this is being held-up by funding issues in the OLP. We shall have to consider how to progress this work, and we may need to look at alternative sources of funding.

As part of our aim to be less reliant on any one source of funding, we were successful in our application for a small grant from the Central Scotland Green Network, which gave us £2,000 for tools.

As ever, we held our Illuminations last year, which had a massive turnout (helped by the good weather!). We estimate 5,000 people came along, to enjoy a range of lighting “features” and performers. There was a brief light failure, which is a problem we hope the new lighting work will fix!



Preparing and running the illuminations takes a lot of effort, and it's not a level of effort we can sustain every year – due to lack of volunteers, we sadly have to take a year off in 2013 before holding the 2014 illuminations.

We have to take a hard look at the illuminations and their future; both at what form the illuminations take, and how we stage them.

We are considering returning the illuminations to the 2004 ethos; focussing on community and the more “spiritual” aspects of the glen, rather than on bringing in performers and increasing the number attending.

Whatever route we go down, we can only continue with the illuminations if we have help from volunteers, both in organising, and in staging the event on the day. Please consider what you can do to contribute, or we risk the future of the illuminations.



On a more positive note, we had a great day in April, celebrating our volunteers and the ten year anniversary since the Trust's work first started. Sir George and Lady Reid, along with Mr. Jock Marshall were our guests of honour, and we had a brilliant day showing them round the work we've done and sharing stories. It was amazing to look around at the range of supporters of the glen, the Mountain Rescue team, the Masons, the musicians who play at the illuminations, and the many individual supporters of our work.

Sir George spoke to the volunteers, saying “It is very encouraging to see a community conserve and explore its heritage, while getting both pleasure, socialising and fresh air as part of the package. The incredible difference you have made to the glen should be an inspiration to others.”

It is sometimes easy to forget what a difference we've made together since 2003, and we took time on the day of celebration to remember what we've achieved:

- Staged illuminations,
  - getting on for 20,000 attendees in total
- Dramatically changed the glen:
  - Path repair & seating
  - Removing non-native shrubs
  - Planting new trees and plants
  - Installing pond
  - Interpretation boards
  - Cleaning up the glen - 5 skips of rubbish on first clean-up alone
  - Repairing the sluice
  - Sculptures and carvings
  - Encouraging other action from the council

It's hard to work-out, but I think we've put at least 2,000 hours of volunteer time into the glen.

So, what does the future hold? That depends on you, our members and supporters.

We still have a large body of work to deliver:

- Lade finished
- Dry stane dykes built
- Interpretation boards
- Paths re-laid and access improved
- Subtle lighting installed
- Power for illuminations
- Artworks designed and installed
- Re-planting and woodland management

We will also be taking time to consider the future of the Trust and our direction; what do we want to achieve together in the next ten years?



We'd really like to know what you think, so please send comments in via the web site.

The work in the glen is only possible with your help; the board is really pleased to have this excuse to bring you together to thank you, and your work to put the glen back at the heart of the community.

As ever, I'd like to thank my fellow Trustees for all their hard work through the year, and look forward to another year of making a difference to our local environment.

**The Ochils Festival is a varied programme of events designed to celebrate the landscape, heritage and people of the Ochils and Hillfoots area of Clackmannanshire and Stirling.** For 2014 there are over 50 activities planned, there is something for everyone - locals and visitors alike! There are walks, talks, workshops, discovery sessions, tours of historic kirkyards and fun family activities. Each event helps to encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of this unique area and there're free!

The area includes rugged glens, rapid water flow, meandering streams, carseland, peaks, upland grazing, natural sponges, planted and ancient woodland. This spectacular landscape has directly contributed to much of the area's built and cultural heritage, including that connected with the textiles and mining industries.



Fancy getting up and out on the hills? Join experienced walk leader, Gavin Clarke for an Introduction to Hill Walking and Navigation in the Ochils. A moderate walk with guidance on the basic principles of navigation using a map and compass with valuable advice about how to keep safe and avoid going astray when the weather closes in. You might even be lucky enough to see a Brocken Spectre as shown in this picture entitled Scotty's\_Brocken\_Spectre.

Or how about taking it really easy and looking in more detail at the glen by joining the mindfulness walk. There are family friendly activities in the glen too including natural art and story telling events.



If you want to make your mark and try something new perhaps the woodcarving workshop will be for you. It's a really fabulous opportunity to get out there, have a go and take part in an activity....did I mention it's free too?



## CHRISTMAS UPDATE



Three dry stone dykes completed. Not only do they enhance the glen, the dykes will help to hold back earth from the paths. Planting on and in the dykes will also help to secure the earth.

Although we haven't got a lot of tools, having them all in one place makes such a difference. Our new storage container was paid for by funds raised from Alva Glen Illumination events.



Thank you to all our cheerful volunteers and our loyal members. It is only with your support that the opportunity has been created for so many to enjoy a truly beautiful environment.

Happy holidays to you all!

Please return your completed form with payment to:  
 Sandra Cashmore, Secretary, Alva Glen Heritage Trust,  
 182 D West Stirling Street, Alva, Clackmannanshire, FK12 5BG.



## Application for Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply for Alva Glen Heritage Trust Membership in the following category: (please tick ✓ one category)		
Ordinary Membership £5 • Individual resident in Clackmannanshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	£5.00
Ordinary Concession Membership** £2.50 • Individual resident in Clackmannanshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	£2.50
Associate Membership £5 • Organisations wherever located • Individual resident out with Clackmannanshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	£5.00
Associate Concession Membership** £2.50 • Individual resident out with Clackmannanshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	£2.50
Junior Membership No charge • Aged 12 to 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	No charge
	I wish to make an additional one off donation of:	£
	Total Amount Payable	£
I enclose a cheque/cash* to cover Total Amount Payable		<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Delete as appropriate – Please make all cheques payable to 'Alva Glen Heritage Trust'

\*\* Concessionary rate is applicable to: Senior Citizens, Unemployed, and Full Time Students.

I agree to abide by the requirements of membership and will endeavour to assist in the development of the Trust in accordance with its aims and objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please send me my Newsletter and updates of Trust Activities by email only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed..... Date.....

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