

HAWO

Winter/Spring 2018 Newsletter



A belated Happy New Year to you all. Although the centre has been closed over the winter period, we have had some successful events over the Christmas period and into the first couple of months of the New Year. These have included a Christmas Crafts market, a day making bird boxes with the Heads Up group from Lochgilphead and an open day.

Fundraising

Unfortunately our HLF bid was unsuccessful, however we have been encouraged to reapply, which we will do later in the year. We are grateful to the A' Chruach Windfarm Fund who have again shown their support by helping to fund the repairs to the compost toilet building and the cruck frame barn. We were also successful in being selected for the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. Money gained from this will also go towards our repairs – please remember to ask for your blue chip and use it to vote for us if you shop at the Lochgilphead or Oban Tesco stores! Also throughout 2018 we will benefit from the Coop Community Fund. If you are a member of the Coop, you can choose to support us by logging in to the coop website and selecting us as your chosen charity to support, this fund is made up of money donated by the Coop and from the 5p plastic bag tax. A few days ago we were judged by a line-up of dragons in Glasgow as part of a funding competition. We hope to gain an UnLtd Grow It Award to help to improve on the social enterprise part of HAWO. If we are successful, it will help us to develop the business aspects of our organisation in order to secure our long term sustainability. Finally on the funding front, we are working alongside Scottish Canals, Ardrishaig Primary School, the Waterways Trust and others in a joint bid for Argyll & Bute Council for Community Funding. Our particular interest is the wild flowers growing alongside the canal, and working with children to record all the different species that are found there. Don't forget that you can contribute to HAWO at no cost to yourself by using Easyfundraising every time you shop online. Most major retailers are involved including Amazon and Ebay, just go to www.easyfundraising.org and search for Heart of Argyll Wildlife.

Renovations & Maintenance



We are currently repairing the compost toilet building, although the weather is proving to be a bit of a challenge! We also need to carry out repairs to the legs of the barn. This is where you might be able to help! We need to find a woodworker who can carry out the repairs to this unique building. We already have some funding secured for these repairs so suitable candidates could start straight away. We will need a quote to draw down this funding. Don't be shy – if you are interested, or know someone who might be, then please get in touch. There are also dozens of little jobs to do around the site, and hopefully, as the weather improves, we will put a shout out on social media – any help would be gratefully received.

Plans for the season

The Visitor Centre will re-open on Sunday 1st April, and the rest of our 2018 opening days are now up on our social media pages and website and in our leaflets. We will continue our popular walks and events programme over the coming season, which will also include a few new ones too such as wild foraging, edible fungi events, and survival skills for children. Our first event on the calendar is our Easter event (on Sunday 1st April) which will be run in partnership with Kilmartin Museum. Come and enjoy an Easter quiz trail, make some handy craft items to take away and enjoy the 'kits and cubs' theme of the day. Hard on its heels will be a pond dipping day on Wednesday 4th April at Taynish National Nature Reserve, and our first Beaver walk will be on Tuesday 24th April at 6.30pm.

Beaver Update



If you have taken a walk around loch Barnluasgan over the winter, you cannot have failed to have seen all of the activity that has taken place. Millie and Bjornar have moved into the lodge on Barnluasgan with their kit who was born on Coille-Bharr last year. On Loch Coille-Bharr there are another pair of beavers who also have a kit that was born last year. Meanwhile a three year programme of releases is underway and the first three beavers are settling into their new homes in Knapdale. Up to a total of 28 beavers could be released into Knapdale over the next three years. Last summer we assisted with the production of a 360-degree film created by Biome Productions. 'Beavers and Bagpipes', featuring the Knapdale beavers, has just been uploaded to You Tube and will be formally released across social media on 20.2.18.

You can find it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG26v2OX6KM>. Don't forget to use the toggle button for the full 3d effect!

Community work

Over the next few months we will continue with a wild and wonderful selection of activities with the local scout, cub, beaver, and rainbow groups, and will also continue to work with the local primary schools both in the classroom and out and about in the area.

And Finally

Our AGM will be taking place on 24th March (details to follow) we would be very happy to welcome you if you can make it along. We will also be looking to recruit at least one more Trustee to our board. If you would like to find out more about then then please get in touch.

The school holiday season will shortly be upon us and HAWO have entries on both Google and Trip Advisor. If you have enjoyed a visit, or one of our activities, please leave us a review. Please don't forget to post your wildlife sighting photographs to our Facebook group, and take a look at our twitter and Instagram pages.

We are always happy to make your visit to Knapdale special and we can tailor an event/walk to your needs.

Also, if you are a community or other group, and you would like us to deliver a talk or presentation on a wildlife subject please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

info@heartofargyllwildlife.org

Membership of HAWO costs only £10 per year (£8 concessions). This gives you a range of benefits including 10% off our walks & events, members annual BBQ, and this year we will produce our first calendar, which will be free to our members. Membership form attached.

We hope to see you soon.

Oly & Pete

Heart of Argyll Wildlife Environmental Interpretation Officers.



Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation Membership Application Form

Membership entitles you to:

10% discount off any of our walks or events.

10% of venue booking fees for organisations.

Updates on 'Citizen Science' and bio-recording projects we become involved in, and opportunities to take part.

Attendance at our annual 'Members' Gathering' and BBQ at Barrandaimh.

Annual Membership £10.

Concessions £8.

Family (up to 2 adults and 4 children) £15.

Organisation Membership £30.00

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Email address	
Telephone number	
Mobile number	

Main areas of interest:

Would you be interested in joining our volunteer group? Yes / No

- Cheques. payable to 'Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation'.
- Bank Transfer. (Sort Code 87-43-62, Acc. No. 75074360)
- Cash in person.

Return to: - HOAWO, Crown House, Ford, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RH.

HOAWO website: - <http://www.heartofargyllwildlife.org>

HOAWO Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1209056745790124/>