

myglengarry.com conservation trust

Trust documents signed

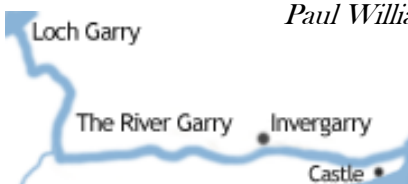
Welcome to all owners of land at Glengarry as well as those who have signed up to become members. This is the first bi-annual news letter that will keep you informed as to what is happening with your land. As some of you will know the project was formally launched on July 20th at the Glengarry Community Hall where I signed the deed of Trust.



Trust Chair Paul
Williamson

I had the great pleasure of meeting with 8 members of Clan Donald USA and they had the opportunity to have their photograph taken standing on the very plots of land they own. Over the past 6 months I have received many emails of support and several of you have asked about coming over to visit Glengarry. There are some wonderful hotels in the area if you do wish to visit. I can highly recommend the Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel who provided catering for the launch as well as the Castle Hotel at Invergarry. There are also a number of high quality Bed & Breakfasts in the area and these are listed on the information sheet sent out with the owners pack. If you are planning a visit do let me know when you will be over as I am in the area almost every month and it would be great to meet with you.

What Next? Over the next 12 months the plan is to draw up a list of immediate projects to spend money on. Three likely candidates are the replacement of bridges for the local community, improvement of access to the top of the river at white bridge (see plot number 158858) and work to remove unwanted Rhododendron still left over from the 1998 project. Plot owners will be sent an email with a link to allow you to vote on which project you would like to see carried out first. The aims of the project will be clearly explained and the successful project will be announced shortly after your vote. I hope you find the rest of the newsletter interesting and if you have any feedback please let me know. Please pass this newsletter on to anyone you feel may be interested.
Paul Williamson



July 09 plot picnic success

Our first plot picnic took place on the same day that the Trust was officially launched—July 20th. The morning's rain gave way to glorious sunshine for the duration of our trip to the river.

Over 40 people attended including 8 members of Clan Donald USA, representatives of the local outdoors community, residents from Invergarry and plot owners from elsewhere in the UK.



Members of Clan Donald
on their plots of land at
the Dog Pool.

The Trust would like to thank the **Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel** for the wonderful lunch they provided for everyone.



Scottish Native Woods

Our part in the project

In 1998 **Scottish Native Woods** was asked by Paul Williamson to help in the setting up of a project to clear almost 7 miles of rhododendron from the woodland surrounding the River Garry in Glengarry. Paul, with the help of Forestry and Scottish Natural Heritage, raised over a quarter of a million pounds to improve access, repair footpaths and help preserve this beautiful and important Glen. Ten years on this project continues that work through the Trust and by providing it with the necessary funding helps preserve traditional Clan Donald lands for future generations.

This project is unique. The whole area was photographed in high detail - both winter and summer (even higher resolution than Google Earth). The result can be seen at www.myglengarry.com. The target is to raise an initial £1.25 million pounds to allow the Trust to care for this beautiful glen for many years to come.



Normally the Trust manages the land on owners behalfs but Pat who lives next to the river in Invergarry asked the Trust if she could to plant a garden on her husband and her plots of land. The result is a beautiful sight.

Scottish Native Woods will be proposing woodland projects and John Parrott in his capacity as Trustee will be advising the trust on all matter related to the woodland management. We are waiting to hear who will be the marine biologist advisor to the Trust and this will be announced in the next newsletter.

Scottish Native Woods is a charity dedicated to the conservation of Scotland's native woodlands. We have been helping Paul to manage the woodland on the River Garry for many years and the trust will carry on this work. The focus of our effort until now has been to clear rhododendron from the woodlands and riverbanks. Rhododendron is not native to Scotland and excludes light (and people!) from the forest. We hope to cooperate with others to control its spread and finally eradicate it from the glen. www.scottishnativewoods.org.uk John Parrott, Scottish Native Woods.

River facts

- ◆ Glengarry is the historic homeland of the **MacDonells**, a branch of the largest of all the clans, **Clan Donald**.
- ◆ The area of the river called the Dog Pool was the home of the original **Glengarry Highland Games** in the 1700s. If you want to see this area do a search on plot number 196734 on www.myglengarry.com using the plot search tool.
- ◆ **The Sassesachs or Englishman's Pool** is so called because during the Jacobite uprising in the 1700's the English army used this point on the river to stage a major crossing of the Glen. The marks they left are still visible today. Search for plot number 182147 to see this part of the river.
- ◆ When viewing the Glen on the website at 100% the grid can sometimes get in the way. You can turn it off by using the buttons above the image. You can also see it in winter and summer

myglengarry.com conservation trust

About the Trust

The Myglengarry.com Conservation Trust has been set up to preserve a three and a half mile stretch of the River Garry, in the Scottish Highlands. Its goal is to protect the long term future of one of Scotland's most beautiful and historic of Glens, it's river and it's woodland.

The Trust will setup up projects such as rhododendron clearance, path maintenance and undertake replanting work to help restore this ancient forest.

New landowners get title deeds and hand over day-to-day management to the Trust. They can vote on which project the trust should undertake.

Landowners become a beneficiary of the trust and importantly have no financial liability with their land.

Contact Paul and the Trust on paul@myglengarry.com or telephone +44 (0)1603 872331