

In 2002 a number of people came up with ideas to restore and enhance the woods around Argyll & Bute Hospital, for environmental, community and health benefits. A Partnership was formed between Reforesting Scotland, Argyll Green Woodworkers Association, NHS, Scottish Association for Mental Health, and Lochgilphead Community Council. Extensive research, consultation, and appraisal was carried out, followed by detailed planning and fundraising.



Hospital through the trees

It is intended that Blarbuie Woodland will be for the benefit of people who use health and social services in Mid Argyll and beyond, plus all people, young and old, living in or visiting the area.

**we welcome groups
. . . . and individuals**

There is lots of work to be done, restoring and enhancing the two main strips of woodland - the Low Wood and the High Wood. We have groups working on paths, on woodland management, on timber construction, on signage and on environmental education.

join in . . .

We welcome groups of people and individuals wanting to join in, and can offer supervised training and voluntary



part of the Low Wood

opportunities on a regular or occasional basis. Please contact us (see back page) and let us know your interests.



across to the High Wood

Argyll & Bute Hospital was opened in the Victorian era. At the time of the creation of such health care provision – usually in rural environments – the name ‘asylum’ was commonly used, literally meaning refuge or place of safety and tranquillity. The woods around the hospital were created with this in mind, and along with farm and gardens were part of the outdoor resource for work and recreation. Much of this resource was lost, and the Hospital changed, and the Woods became inaccessible and dangerous. But the Woods contain

trees from all over the world, as well as native trees such as Ash and Scots Pine. There is groundcover of heather and wild flowers and there are red squirrels, bats and birds, and views over loch, sea, hills and islands.

With community participation we want to protect the Woods, and make them accessible to everyone and we want to create opportunities for people to learn about plants and wildlife, and local history. We want to help people gain in health and happiness, knowledge and skills.



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Blarbuie Woodland Project

at Argyll & Bute Hospital

