



Partner Newsletter

Issue 13
May 2026

LOCH LOMOND
& THE TROSSACHS
COUNTRYSIDE
TRUST





Welcome

We're delighted to bring you a fresh round of updates from our team and partners as we move into another exciting phase of the year of collaboration, community activity, and nature recovery across Strathfillan.

We're excited to share the launch of **Lomond Nursery** at Loch Lomond, a new initiative growing locally sourced native plants to support nature restoration and community engagement across the National Park on page 5.

Read on as we mark a special **milestone for Wild Strathfillan**: celebrating two and a half years of habitat restoration, collaboration, and lasting gains for nature (pages 6-7).

Discover more about the inspiring heritage project, **Stories of the Land**, bringing the memories, photographs, and voices of local communities together to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Wild Strathfillan, on page 8.

Thanks for reading, and don't forget you can also submit your own updates for our next issue – we would love to hear from you (page 9).

With best wishes,
The Wild Strathfillan team

In this issue...

Notice Board
Page 4

Our New Plant Nursery
Page 5

**Wild Strathfillan:
Celebrating Progress**
Page 6-7

Stories of the land
Page 8

Get in touch!
Page 9



Wild Strathfillan

Restoring nature in the National Park

Wild Strathfillan is a nature restoration initiative working across the north of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park to deliver **a resilient, dynamic and connected landscape where people and nature thrive together.**

The initiative is led by Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Countryside Trust with the support of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and is underpinned by a diverse and committed partnership, bringing together land managers, communities, statutory bodies, educational institutions and businesses who share an interest in restoring nature across the landscape and supporting rural communities.

The initiative is currently delivering a series of ambitious activity programmes, grounded in the landscape's rich natural and cultural heritage. These are focused around three main themes:

- **Nature recovery**
- **Nature connectedness**
- **Sustainable livelihood**

Our active projects are:

- **'The People and Nature of Wild Strathfillan'**, funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and runs until December 2026
- **Wild Strathfillan** is one of three landscapes covered by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs **Landscape Connections**, an initiative funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the National Park's native woodland habitat while creating lasting benefits for local communities. Landscape Connections will help to deliver the objectives of Wild Strathfillan.

To find out more about the initiative and the work we are collectively delivering, visit the Wild Strathfillan page at this link <https://trustinthepark.org/wildstrathfillan/>.

#WildStrathfillan

This project is funded with thanks to National Lottery players, by the National Lottery Heritage Fund



Notice Board

- **6 June 2026 10am-5pm - Plant ID Workshop with Ben Averis**

There are still a few spaces left on this fantastic workshop in Tyndrum – and with the glorious weather we're enjoying, it's the perfect excuse to get outdoors.

Join us to learn how to identify some of the common plants found in woodland. The session will be relaxed and unhurried, giving you time to really observe the incredible variety of plant life and understand the features that set them apart.

It's a mindful and fascinating few hours - ideal for anyone keen to build new skills while enjoying time in nature.

Location: Tyndrum Community Woodland

To book your place click on the link below to complete our registration form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/NLumdVSQVC>

- **18 June 2026 6.30pm – 8pm Tracks and signs workshop with Aquila Wildlife and Nature CIC**

We are delighted to once again partner with [Aquila Wildlife & Nature](#) CIC to bring you this fun and interactive event.

Open your eyes to all the signs our four-footed and feathered neighbours leave us and piece together the clues to find out where they live and pass through and what they eat. Starting indoors we will then head out to look for clues and learn some tracking skills.

No previous knowledge needed and suitable for all ages from primary school up to adult.

Unfortunately, this workshop is not suitable for dogs as they tend to destroy the evidence!

Location: Crianlarich Village Hall

To book your place click on the link below to complete our registration form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/7W9bKLL82a>

- **Watch our new short film.**



Filmed in the autumn, this short film features two Wild Strathfillan delivery partners as well as the Countryside Trust, exploring how important it is to create opportunities for communities to support and benefit from nature restoration.

Head over to YouTube and watch our film by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITMGpVY1mLU>



Images: (L to R) Hazel saplings growing in our new nursery; A lovely spot: the view from the nursery site to Conic Hill and Ben Lomond © TrustinthePark.

Our New Plant Nursery

Growing local roots for nature restoration, community and skills, and volunteering in Loch Lomond.

We are thrilled to announce that our new plant nursery, Lomond Nursery, is now up and running. Based at, and working in partnership with, the RSPB's Loch Lomond Reserve, the site will be used to grow local provenance native plants and trees to help supply nature restoration projects in the National Park. We also hope the nursery will be a hub for nature engagement, skills development, and volunteering – and we will be working with partners to develop this over the coming months.

How can I get involved?

Plans are in the works to organise a launch event for later in the year, where you will be able to visit the nursery and hear about ways to get involved. There may even be opportunities to get stuck into some hands-on nursery tasks to get a taster! We will be advertising volunteer opportunities a little later this year, so keep an eye out. If you are a land manager and you might be willing for us to collect seeds on your landholding, please get in touch with our Nursery Manager Ellie on ellie@trustinthePark.org.

Why is local provenance important?

The plants growing in the National Park are specially adapted to the specific growing conditions here, so it is important to conserve local genetic diversity and propagate plants that have evolved over many years to thrive in this particular environment.

We have been able to set up Lomond Nursery thanks to funding from NatureScot, through their Nature Restoration Fund, as well as Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority and a generous private donor.



Image (left): Our two new polytunnels. The one on the left is called a shade tunnel and will provide a protected environment for seedlings without getting too hot in the summer months. The white polytunnel on the right will help us to extend our growing season by providing milder temperatures and frost protection in early spring. © TrustinthePark



Wild Strathfillan

Celebrating Progress

Images (above: L to R) New wader scrapes © Glenfalloch, Installing cactus guards on Ben Lui SSSI © Trustinthepark

As the 2.5-year Nature Restoration Fund delivery phase came to an end in March 2026, we're reflecting on a period of significant progress across Wild Strathfillan - and extending our thanks to the funders and many partners who have made this work possible.

Restoration activity has spanned wetland, woodland, and montane habitats, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and enabling long-term recovery. At Tyndrum Community Woodland and Coille Fillan, non-native conifers have been removed to allow space for native woodland to be replanted and naturally regenerate. Similarly, new deer fencing at Crom Allt Gorge is protecting newly planted montane saplings and supporting the natural recovery of this special site.

On Ben Lui, montane willow planting alongside conservation grazing is helping to restore sensitive upland habitats. Invasive non-native species, including rhododendron and Himalayan balsam, have also been (and will continue to be) actively managed, to reduce their spread and allow native vegetation to re-establish.

Along the River Dochart, a stretch of eroded riverbanks has been stabilised, preventing over-erosion and creating habitat for wildlife. Meanwhile, new scrapes along the River Falloch (image above) have created more valuable wetland habitat, increasing opportunities for waders and aquatic species to thrive.

This work is supported by growing infrastructure, including two plant nurseries that are growing locally sourced trees and plants (see previous nursery article). These nurseries will play a vital role in ensuring a sustainable supply of plants for future restoration projects.



Image(right): contractor planting at Crom Allt Gorge @Catkin Ecology

In addition to all the above, monitoring across nine sites took place, and recorded a rich diversity of species, including 59 birds, 88 moths and over 10,000 bat passes. Alongside this, research into herbivore impact methodologies, venison accreditation and beaver activity is helping to inform more effective land management, both locally and nationally.

Partnership and engagement have been central throughout. An expanding network, supported by regular partner meetings, has helped share knowledge and maintain momentum across the programme.

Together, these achievements represent a major step forward - delivering real gains for nature while building the knowledge, capacity and collaboration needed for the future.



Image: Planting at Tyndrum Community Woodland
© Trustinthepark



Image (above: camera trapping) © Ophélie@Trustinthepark

For further information please contact Sophia our Programme Manager
Sophia@trustinthepark.org

Thank you and well done to all our wonderful delivery partners: Strathfillan Community Development Trust, Scotland's Rural College, NatureScot, Glenfalloch, Auchlyne Estate, Auchreoch House Farm, Brackley Farm, and the Colin Burt Reserve.

This is just the first phase - stay tuned for more, including a full impact report to be published in the coming months!



Image: Happy Planters at Auchreoch Farm
© Diane Mailer



STORIES *of the* LAND

Killin & Strathfillan

Stories of the Land

Bringing memories alive

Last autumn, we introduced Paul Saunders who came on board to work on Stories of the Land. Stories of the Land is an important heritage project, celebrating the “stories of the land” in the Wild Strathfillan area by recording and collating memories and photographs from the local communities. Paul has been working hard alongside Strathfillan Community Development Trust (SCDT) and Killin and Ardeonaig Trust (KAT) for the last 8 months, and we’re delighted to share an update on this project.

Recording oral histories

Paul has reviewed 12 existing interviews gathered by Killin Media Team, SCDT and a couple of University of Stirling Heritage students last summer. He has also conducted an additional 11 interviews himself. These interviews feature a diverse range of voices including multi-generation farming families, former railway workers, business owners, artists, estate managers and long-term residents.

Clear common themes emerged from the interviews, exploring the relationship between people and the landscapes in Strathfillan and Killin. These themes include railways; farming and shepherding; forestry and land-use change; community life; tourism and outdoor activities and heritage.

Pupils and Principal Teachers of Killin Primary School and Crianlarich Primary School will also feature.

Collecting local photographs

We are now building a digital archive of photographs. Your images can be part of bringing these stories to life. If you have photographs of the area, past or present, that you would like to share please click this link <https://www.storiesoftheland.co.uk/> to complete the form to upload.

Sharing the stories of the land

Paul is now building a brand-new website to host all these stories. The website will feature snippets extracted from the interviews, along with old photographs and current-day images and video, organised by themes. We are excited to launch the website later this summer and we will be accompanying this with a wee exhibition.

If you have any questions or are interested in supporting Stories of the Land as a volunteer, please get in touch with Paul – paul@paulsaunders.co.uk.

Get in touch!

If you'd like to get involved, volunteer with us or find out more about Wild Strathfillan, please contact us below:

Contributions to our next bimonthly Partner Newsletter

If you've got a local wildlife sighting, news story, or opportunity you'd like to share with Wild Strathfillan partners, get in touch – the next issue is due out on 31 July 2026.

Email: info@trustinthepark.org



Follow Us @TrustinthePark on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for further project updates. **#WildStrathfillan**

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