

# • **Message to Supporters – Autumn 2017**

Here is the latest news on the goings on here at Steward Wood.

We have just submitted a proposal <[stewardwood.org/pdf/proposal-doc-v2.3.pdf](http://stewardwood.org/pdf/proposal-doc-v2.3.pdf)> to the Dartmoor National Park Authority for an exciting new project on the land called 'Dartmoor Roundhouse Innovation Centre'. We need your help for this to succeed (see details below).

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Notices requiring us to leave the land (following the refusal of planning permission by Inspector Freer in August 2016) come into effect on 2nd December.

So these are undoubtedly challenging and uncertain times for those of us living here. Whatever happens, Affinity Woodland Workers Co-operative will still own the woodland, so we can continue being guardians of this place with some sort of project happening here.

## **Steward Community Woodland bows out**

Steward Community Woodland, the low impact living and working demonstration, has been a great success for the last 17 years despite the challenges of the planning administration. Thousands of visitors have gained valuable inspiration and experience over the years through working with us and learning from our courses and endeavours.

Unfortunately, due to the unfavourable outcome of our latest planning application, the project needs to come to an end. This has left us with the decision as to how best to use the land at Steward Wood. After many meetings and a lot of discussion, we have come up with the following possibility which will allow us to continue living in a low impact way on the land and provide a valuable asset to innovative future technology development.

## **Introducing '*Dartmoor Roundhouse Innovation Centre*'**

The idea of this project is to demonstrate low impact living on the land through the ages – from those living in roundhouses in the Bronze Age to those living in roundhouses now. We can learn from our ancestors, with the project demonstrating living gently on the land, taking

inspiration from traditions and technologies through the ages. Designed using the tools and principles of permaculture, it would provide a venue for the woodland residents and others to run courses on, and demonstrate appropriate future technologies.

The project could consist of the following infrastructure:

- Low impact workers' dwellings
- Bronze Age Roundhouse reconstruction as a venue for workshops
- Workshop (forge, water or pedal powered tools etc...)

### **For this project to succeed, we would need the following skills, assistance and resources:**

#### People

- Resident Workers (this will mainly consist of the current members of SCW)
- Fundraiser to make application to Heritage Lottery Fund or similar
- PR & Marketing Person (inc social media & website)
- Business Manager to formulate a comprehensive Business Plan
- Project Manager to oversee the project on the ground, make sure it is meeting its aims etc.
- Expert Advisors & Consultants – legal, planning, historical, conservation, woodland management...
- Tutors/Course Leaders

#### Finances

- Start-up Finance (money for consultants, advisors, fundraiser etc.)
- Project Capital - this could be a Heritage Lottery Fund award or similar

#### Other Resources

- Building Materials
- Access improvement materials
- Fencing
- Signage

**YOU CAN HELP – please contact us  
community@stewardwood.org – 01647 440233 –  
www.stewardwood.org**