



News Update February 2018.

Weirs

Work due to start in May last year to install a new fish ladder at Fair a Far Mill did not commence until August. Construction was scheduled to take three months and six months later it was still not complete. Weather conditions, not to be unexpected, led to the access causeway being badly damaged or swept away three times. Construction was completed mid February but much clearing up remained

Once the causeway is removed, our aim is to ensure that the River Life Project properly restore the path and car park which have been in an excessively muddy state for an extended period. Although work on Dowies Mill Weir is not planned to start until 2019, we continue to put the case forward that the Weir cannot be removed without ensuring that the water level at Cramond Brig is maintained.



Work Parties

Many of our past work parties have been to clear away invasive species and general over-growth, without which the Walkway would be to a large extent reduced to a dark and narrow passage with glimpses of the river becoming increasingly limited. Many piles of cuttings or 'brush' collect as a consequence. We try to neatly hide as much as possible; a valuable resource for insect life. Much else is left to be dealt with at a later date. Just before Christmas a most successful Work Party was held in the most-used section of the Walkway, up from the Boat-Park to the Falls Cafe. Some extra clearing and path widening took place but the main activity was a massive bonfire which consumed all the 'brush' accumulation of several years



Shortly after New Year, 20 members laid woodchips forming the new pathway network in the Community Woodland by Peggy's Mill. These pathways were started in fine style by the Cramond Scouts last year and the recent party has completed our main objective. This was a heroic effort which far exceeded our expectations and used up all the available piles of material. Many thanks to all.

Our next big objective is a major clearing operation down-river from Dowies Mill and we will be hoping for another good turn-out a little later this year.

Please Come Along

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 19 March** – 7.30 Millennium Hall Cramond. There is much to report and discuss and everyone is welcome, both members and non-members alike. Without members, we can do nothing. The difficulties with the Weirs and Steps demonstrates again the vital importance of our being able show that we represent a substantial body of opinion.