

Draft
TALIESIN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at Auchencairn Village Hall
11th January 2026

1. **Present:** Jen Stephenson (chair), Jif Hyde, Lorraine Ishak, Jools Cox, Phil Daube, Amey Turner, Leah Denton, Marion Bennardo, Karen Slattery, Mel, Douglas MacArthur, Tom Lyth, Hazel Lyth, Jem Cox, John Allison (minutes).
2. **Apologies:** Suzanna, Ed Inglehart, Trevor Leat, Aaron Gauld.
3. **Minutes of last year's AGM** read and approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report**, presented by Lorraine (Matt having remained the official Treasurer through the year). The accounts were approved by all. Membership subscriptions were down by half on recent years. The meeting agreed that we need a membership drive. Jen will include something appropriate in the Newsletter; Lorraine will change our entry in the Community Woodlands Association newsletter.
5. **Chair's Annual Report**, presented by Jen: she reported that Taliesin continues to be used by walkers and runners, as well as casual overnight campers; Men's and Women's groups each met monthly. Easter Weekend saw our first buckskin tanning event, plus peg-loom weaving and drop-spindle spinning. We demolished the log cabin for our Autumn event (the wanton destructiveness enjoyed not just by the teenagers!), carefully timing it for the weekend between the swallows moving out and the lizards moving in - leaving the timber nearby as reptile (and other) hibernating space. Kids Camps continued, in May and September. A trustee Welcome Pack is in preparation.
6. **Coppicing Report**, presented by Phil who talked of the success of last year's temporary fence - erected with the invaluable help of members and trustees around the two most recently cut coups. Regrowth has reached 4-6 feet of better quality poles (compared with 2-3 ft from the coup cut 4 yrs ago), and with an outlay of under £500.
7. **Orchard Project Report**, presented by Jools: The Wild Apple project has dominated the year, with a pruning course, crab apple walks, and autumn apple pressings. There has been liaison with Glaisters Community Wood (planting saplings), and DG Woodland (sharing Stewartry Show space, and a

big involvement around crab-apple propagation with HM Prison, Dumfries). Jools will be giving a talk at CD Crannog Centre on Feb 2.

8. Trustees: Phil stepped down after eight years of involvement. He was warmly thanked and applauded for all his many and varied inputs.

Sarah Jackets had stepped down from the trustees early last year.

Office Bearers: Chair remains moveable.

Lorraine will be Treasurer, allowing Matt Moodie finally to step down.

Aaron will remain Secretary.

Trustees staying on: Trevor Leat, Jen Stephenson, Marion Bennardo, Douglas MacArthur, John Allison.

New Trustees were warmly welcomed:-

Hazel Lyth (proposed Phil, seconded Lorraine).

Tom Lyth (proposed Phil, seconded Jools).

Amey Turner (proposed Karen, seconded Jen).

Leah Denton (proposed Maz, seconded John).

9. Other Business:

Coppicing: We agreed that for Coppicing Weekend (now Feb 7/8) we would this year enclose another coupe with temporary deer fence. Phil outlined where we could obtain materials.

The question ‘Why coppice?’ was met with an enthusiastic response covering a range of reasons: continuing this heritage skill; benefiting biodiversity; producing hazel rods for chair-making, tree stakes, wattle-and-daub and general garden use. It also means there is the possibility for a would-be coppice worker to gain work experience.

Notice Board: this would let visitors know where they are (GPS, postcode, what3words etc), who we are, what’s to see on site, how to volunteer/ become a member, contacts, and a QR code for more. Lorraine described getting it laser-printed on wood, and Mel offered sign-writing skills.

Maz’s ‘Taliesin’ sign (which was to have gone up as part of the AGM): a new time for erecting this will be arranged.

10. 2026 Events/dates so far:

February 2: Jools' Orchard Project talk at Crannog Centre, Castle Douglas.

February 7/8: Coppice Weekend (deer fencing).

March 3: Taliesin Forest School (Jen) (5-12 y.o.).

April 10/11/12: Taliesin 30 Years Celebration/workshops.

May bank holiday: Kids Camp.

September: Kids Camp.

Autumn Workshops: date to be confirmed.