



Cowal Way News



Winter 2016/17

National Award for Cowal Way

The Cowal Way was awarded Scotland's Great Trail status at a ceilidh event at Glendaruel Hall on Saturday 22nd October, joining other world-famous paths such as the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way. To achieve this prestigious award long distance routes must fulfil a list of criteria. For example, each trail must be at least 25 miles long and largely off-road with a clearly defined path. The

routes must all have a high standard of waymarking and signage in place, with a range of visitor services along the way, and an online presence with detailed information to help all kinds of visitors plan a visit or trip. SNH developed and champions Scotland's Great Trails to identify, improve and promote the country's network of long distance paths so they can be enjoyed by as many people as possible.



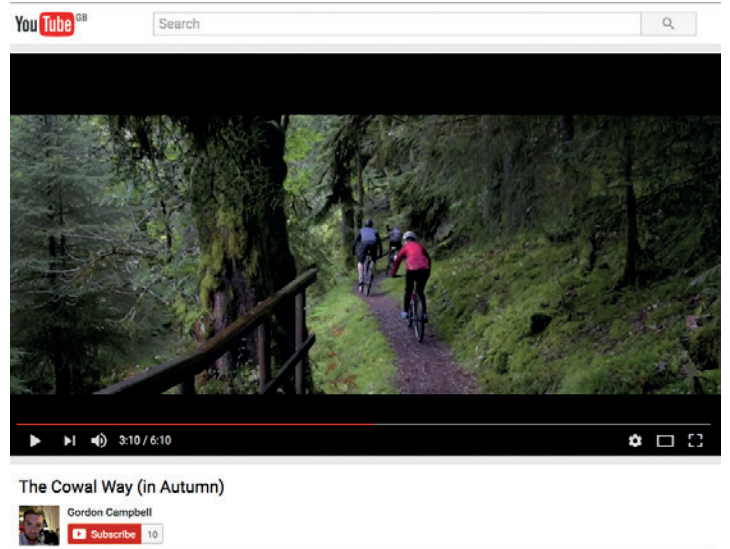
Ian Ross, SNH Chairman said: "We are delighted to be able to give this much-deserved award to the Cowal Way. We have

been really impressed with the recent improvements and the trail is another excellent outdoor tourism asset for Scotland."

Promo Film

Working with Interface (an organisation that connects businesses to the right academic expertise in Scotland for collaborations), the Cowal Way appointed student film-maker Gordon Campbell. Gordon's remit was to produce a short film for the Cowal Way, to promote the path to walkers, cyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts, to

attract more visitors to the path. This collaboration with the Cowal Way gave Gordon real work experience, along with financial and other types of assistance. Gordon did an excellent job, not just with the creation of the film but also with the music score too. Check the film out on the homepage of the Cowal Way website www.cowalway.co.uk



Free Mobile App

Our free mobile app was launched in the summer. Available on i-phone and android formats, the Cowal Way app shows users where they are on the walk,

using a map-based system with GPS. It is downloadable prior to or during the walk (for the latter, assuming you have good mobile connectivity).

Once downloaded, the app works entirely offline. The app provides useful information about planning for a long distance walk, and

of course detailed information about the Cowal Way itself. To download this free, innovative and user-friendly app, please go to www.cowalway.co.uk

Local Business Feature

Balliemeanoch Breaks B&B

Balliemeanoch Breaks B&B is a luxurious, good value bed and breakfast with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Located at Strachur in a quiet location a few hundred metres from the Cowal Way path, Charlie and Angela have been looking after new and regular Cowal Way walkers and cyclists for many years. Balliemeanoch was once a working farm with a farmhouse and traditional steading dating back to the 19th Century. The current owners restored the farmhouse to become a lovely family home and high quality bed and breakfast. Charlie and Angela also have advanced plans to convert the steadings into high quality self catering/bed and breakfast accommodation. Charlie also provides a dedicated baggage transfer service for the Cowal Way.



Inver Restaurant

This award-winning restaurant is located in Strathlachlan, near Strachur. A small restaurant with plenty of character, Pam and Rob use the very best local wild and farmed ingredients to serve up mouth watering dishes. Typical favourites include fresh seafood, native meat, and game when in season. Also popular are the home made bread and scones, cakes and craft ale. Inver Restaurant was awarded "Restaurant of the Year – Scotland" by the AA Hospitality Awards 2016/17. The restaurant has won many other accolades and frequently appears in food critics' favourite lists. (Advice – if staying overnight in Strachur, pre-book a meal and get a taxi to take you to this lovely location).



Facebook

Please like our facebook page, then you will receive regular updates on our progress, to make the Cowal Way a "world class, multi-user tourism asset." Our facebook page is www.facebook.com/TheCowalWay

Contact Details

If you have experienced the Cowal Way recently we would really appreciate your feedback. Please go online at www.cowalway.co.uk/customer-survey and give us your feedback.

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www.cowalway.co.uk

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