

Making Sustainable Places:

Green networks, empowered communities



Seminar & Conference

Rothes Halls, Glenrothes
7th to 9th November 2008



Community
Woodlands
Association

Community Woodlands Association

5th Annual conference

The Community Woodlands Association was established in 2003 as the direct representative body of Scotland's community woodland groups. We help community woodland groups across the country achieve their aspirations and potential, providing advice, assistance and information, facilitating networking and training, and representing and promoting community woodlands to the wider world.

The annual Seminar and Conference play a central role in the CWA's work, providing the opportunity for CWG delegates and volunteers across Scotland to meet, network and learn from each other and key staff from government agencies and NGOs, as well as listen to guest speakers, participate in workshops and visit other relevant projects.

Community Woodland Groups are immensely varied, both in terms of the woodlands they manage and the communities they serve, and this is reflected in a diversity of management aims and objectives. However, there are many common challenges, and a common vision that sustainable forestry (both words in their widest possible sense) can help build sustainable communities, and that the best way to achieve this is to put communities at the centre of the decision-making process.

This year's conference was held at The Rothes Halls in Glenrothes, Fife, and the main theme was "Making Sustainable Places". Subjects covered included green spaces, sustainable communities, Green and Urban networks, Transition Towns, climate change, composting, orchards and SRDP funding.

The main aims of the event were to:

- Facilitate networking and knowledge sharing between CWGs, agencies and non-governmental agencies working to develop community woodlands.
- Highlight the similarities between rural and urban groups in their difficulties, achievements and future development aspirations
- Provide useful information through presentations, displays, guest speakers, workshops, informal discussion and site visits to other association community projects
- Raise awareness of relevant projects which could be achieved in other areas
- Support, promote and represent community woodlands in both rural and urban locations through focussing on the positive aspects of what community woodlands can deliver.

40 delegates (including CWA directors and staff) attended the Seminar Day and there were 63 Conference delegates (including CWA directors and staff), representing a cross section of community groups, agencies, individuals and NGOs.



Seminar – Friday 7 Nov

Introduction

Jon Hollingdale, CEO, Community Woodlands Association



Jon welcomed delegates to the seminar and conference and hoped they would enjoy the very interesting and varied programme for the next 3 days, covering themes from architecture to firewood.

One of the key themes of the conference was 'sustainability'. In recent years the definition of sustainability has become narrowed down to 'sustainable economic growth'; CWA would like to encourage a much wider definition. Jon then introduced Deryck Irving of Greenspace Scotland to give the Keynote Address.

Keynote Address

Deryck Irving – Partnership & Enabling Manager, Greenspace Scotland



Greenspace Scotland grew out of SNH's Greenspace Initiative and reflects the need to create a step change at a national level. Greenspace works with national government and local authorities to create a more supportive policy environment and since 2003 their work has evolved from 'development' into 'partnership and enabling'.

In 2008, core funding came direct from the government in recognition of the public benefits Greenspace provides. They are now supporting partners, enabling action and transferring knowledge or 'telling people what they need to know'. Deryck highlighted some potential areas of concern:

- The distribution of green space is not equitable;
- There is still a great deal of translating into local action left to do;
- It is not hard to get people's views, but it can be harder to get people in decision-making positions to listen
- 25 or so out of 32 local authorities have a distribution map of green space in their area but there is scant information on quality
- There is always a risk that GS work can be downplayed or even disappeared if funding goes elsewhere.

To counter some of these issues, GS is conducting research on Social Return on Investment over the next 18 months. There is also a stronger shift towards community empowerment from all areas of government. By 2013, there will be an increasing number of ways to 'skin a cat'.

Presentations

Planning Sustainable Communities - The Fife Community Plan

Tim Kendrick, Fife Partnership Manager, Fife Council

Tim described how Fife Council was taking forward community planning. Community planning provides an opportunity for partner agencies to come together to carry out strategic planning in the medium to longer terms. At the same time community planning provides opportunities to re-align services at a local level to ensure that they are geared to the needs of service users and local communities rather than the service providers themselves.

Fife's community plan was agreed in 2000 and revised in 2004 and 2007. It sets out a clear vision for Fife that should be at the heart of the corporate and service plans produced by community planning partners. They are to deliver an inclusive Fife, a sustainable Fife and to have best value & excellence for Fife by:

- Building a stronger, more flexible and diverse economy
- Improving health and wellbeing in Fife
- Creating a well educated and skilled Fife
- Sustaining and improving our environment
- Making Fife's communities safer

Tim then went onto explain how community planning can provide opportunities for shared approaches to community engagement. For example:

- Fife People's Panel is a group of Fife residents who have agreed to voice their opinions on different aspects of living in Fife.
- The Big Shout is a way of working that aims to ensure that children and young people influence decisions about public services and are active in improving their communities.
- The Knowfife database aims to empower local communities by creating opportunities for information and intelligence sharing. It is a web-based information resource for community planning partners and the public in Fife.
- Fifelife Newspaper, which is produced jointly by all the community planning partners and provides public information on the key community planning themes. The paper is jointly funded by all the partners and is distributed to every house in Fife four times a year.

One example of how community planning can help ensure that local services are geared towards the needs of local communities is Fife's Community Warden Service which helps promote the quality of life in those parts of Fife experiencing high levels of crime, antisocial behaviour and deprivation. They have a wide ranging remit – including reporting, reporting and providing a quick response to local issues, and they've made a real impact. Figures show the reductions in levels of concern about key issues in the warden areas over the past four years.

He then raised the question of how do we measure the impact of the work being carried out by community planning partners and suggested there needs to be better ways of recording and tracking the views of the people whose lives they're trying to improve.

Building sustainable Communities

Siobhan Samson, Community Engagement Co-coordinator, Banks Development
Focus on Development with care.

".....At Banks we do care. By their very nature, our development activities can make a significant impact on the environment and on the life of local communities. We are committed to treating both with respect. At Banks we develop with flair. And - most importantly I believe - with care."

Harry Banks

Banks Brochure circa 1989/90

Banks Developments originated in a Mining Community and expanded to cleanup brown field sites. Look at renewable energies and reducing waste. Their original policy was changed in 1993 and then in 2003 became what it is today. They engage with groups when doing planning – various methods were described.

Liaison is most important – usually beginning with the community council to find out the best way to engage with that community – seeking development workers, environmental groups etc. The offer community benefits through a fund available to project within a 10 mile radius of developments. Banks also provide sports stuff when planning developments like the multi use field shown in the slides

Cardenden

The liaison group includes e.g. Fife Constabulary; Siobhan invited CWA to send someone to the group if they felt it appropriate. Banks don't go into a community with a blank piece of paper but with a plan that they think will work, and then include community input in further development of the idea. The community can influence changes. There is a dedicated community consultation plan laid down and each step is followed through.

Banks is there THROUGHOUT the consultation process and in many cases Development Trusts evolve from the community consultation as they grow in confidence and feel ownership of the area. They will build wooden houses on a Scandinavian model and there will be enough to create a factory in Scotland to build to the foreign design. As the process develops they keep going back to the plan as they need to get it right no matter how often they have to go back to it.

Questions

Why open up the woods?

The grid system builds safety as people are able to see around the park in all directions. The community felt that the Den area was unsafe so open space was created

Is there provision for local food? - They will create allotments to allow local food to be grown. Gardens will be larger to allow vegetable plots.

Who will maintain the greenspace?

It will eventually be handed over for the community to manage.

Will they consider compost loos?

Composting toilets will take a very large step to convince people that they are acceptable both to use and to reuse the compost created as fertiliser.

Green Networks to regenerate cities

Max Hislop, Programme Manager, Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership

The Green Networks project is an ambitious 20 year programme involving a myriad of organisations, whose aim is to co-ordinate and assist with the delivery of the project and work towards understanding the bigger picture. E.g. links between parks/ walkways/ woods/ countryside/ cycle routes – drawing all of these aspects together to bring social, economical and environmental benefits to the wider Glasgow area. The project covers a huge area and is the home to over 1/3 of Scotland's population - stretching from the mouth of the Clyde to South Lanarkshire.

Key Themes:

Stronger Communities - well designed

Health Improvements - attractive locations for people to relax and exercise in

Biodiversity and Environmental - mosaic of habitats

Enterprise Development - attractive locations for business/ tourism.

Background: The main role for the Lead Partners is to provide a catalyst for change and co-ordinate/facilitate delivery. The Partnership Project launched in June 2007, involving 8 councils and 5 government agencies.

Case Studies: Gartcosh Area – Old steelworks, valuable area of wetland. The area has been earmarked for a large amount of development. Fine line balance – need to protect the environment, but also create a nice area for new housing. NB: There will be a Green Network built into these plans.

Ferguslie Park Green Network (East End of Glasgow): Issues – Poor life expectancy, poorest record of health in the country, low value green space; area is excluded from the rest of the city due to transport links, e.g. railway line. GCV want to turn the area around by enhancing green spaces and improving overall connectivity. They plan to hold a consultation (involving community engagement and participation) to assess opportunities for access, walk routes etc. So far 18 action areas have been highlighted (short and long term) e.g. woodland, allotments, play space, lighting improvements, gardens and boundaries.

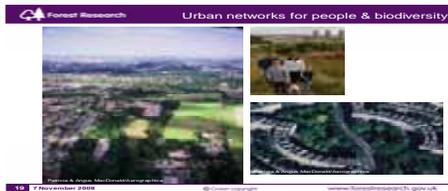
Greenspace Network Planning Guidance Non-statutory guidance: Gives assistance to those involved in development management – advises/ aids understanding of the vision for the GCV Green Network project. The wider Glasgow area has been given a spatial framework and is separated into 25 Green Network Zones – each zone has a breakdown of key priorities. This has enabled the Lead Partners to gauge what each separate zone requires and also build closer relationships with those involved (living/ working) in each different area.

Greenspace Quality Assessment - Planning and Strategic Development: This part of the project sets out to assess different aspects of different sites within the project area, e.g. access, and transport links, movement between sites. This level of study will highlight areas that need more attention, i.e. fall below par.

Sustainable Backcourts Study: The aim of this study to look at different examples of backcourts in all council areas of the project area. These studies will identify potential, overall quality, opportunities for social enterprise and training. The plan is to use Good Practice Case Studies, e.g. Edinburgh – to support resident groups and promote community gardening projects etc

Urban Networks for people & biodiversity

Darren Moseley, Forest Research



Darren has been working on a project commissioned through SNIFFER (Scotland and Northern Ireland forum for Environmental research) to look at how greenspace modelling can help with greenspace planning and therefore increases the network value of greenspace. Greenspace in an urban environment can allow people and wildlife species to move or disperse through the landscape, even though that might not be the primary aim for that greenspace.

Looking at two areas in Edinburgh, the research investigates how existing greenspace fits into the urban landscape and serves a variety of functions, e.g. making habitat networks for wildlife, providing green ways for people to connect through towns or to the wider countryside, providing other environmental services such as pollution buffering or simply improving the amenity value of an area.

Research at the ground level needs to identify why people use certain areas of greenspace – what is the greenspace pull? It also identifies limitations to greenspace use: Is use of greenspace limited by access points, or by perceived and real threats to personal safety?

What is the ecological value of the greenspace? Maps then allow for simple study of how the greenspace is located in a landscape, BEETLE (biological and environmental evaluation tools for landscape ecology) and GIS (geographic information systems) allow researchers to quantify relationships (distances between habitat types) and store information relative to a location.

Essentially the research is trying to identify how and where greenspace connects and where there are opportunities for improvements to make new connections or improve the quality of existing connections. It should enable planners to make assumptions about designing greenspace in new developments and more carefully plan redevelopment in an existing urban environment.

Transition Towns

Eva Schonveld, Transition Towns Initiatives



Transition Network supported by Transition Scotland has been set up to help communities who want to use the Transition model. This is a loose set of real world principles and practices that have been built up over time through experimentation and observation of communities as they drive forward to build local resilience and reduce carbon emissions. They are also there to help Transition communities keep in touch with one another, building a national network, so that people can learn from and support one another

Portobello Energy Descent and Land Reform Group

Pedal is a land reform group interested in doing social buy out of social space, a church ...to turn into a transition hub, from where many transition projects can be born and nurtured. One of the first projects was to introduce reusable jute shopping bags into the community. Initial concerns were that the bags would not shift. Not only did they shift but also they had the added bonus of giving people a collective identity that actually boosted community spirit. This can be seen as a first step on the waste awareness journey that will hopefully lead to the **realisation of zero waste**. There are a growing number of Transition projects around the world and kindred spirits. www.landshare.net

Oil production is not what it used to be and it is getting more expensive to extract as we use up the reserves. In the UK it would only take three or four days for shops to run out of food if oil became unavailable.

- Long term plans 15 – 20 years plans
- Bottom up
- Relocalise: Food, Waste, Transport, Energy
- Set up steering group
- Raise awareness
- Lay foundations find your natural allies
- Form working groups
- Make open space so the people that come along set up and agenda
- Visit practical manifestations of your project
- Facilitate the great re-skilling

Workshops

Green Networks For People & Wildlife

Ian Whitehead, Edinburgh & Lothians Forest Habitat Network Partnership

Ian explained he was going through the process with a forty-year plan, of connecting up the woodland strips in the city of Edinburgh, Livingston and rural areas of east and west Lothian. A very varied landscape indeed.

The workshop was well presented, relaxed and sincere, allowing for audience contribution. As the workshop moved to the question and answer section we saw Ian's vast knowledge of the subject come to the fore.

The first question asked by Max Hislop (program manager, Glasgow and Clyde valley Network Partnership) was "Is it woodlands network or green space networks?" The answer was that it is both depending on the demand from the local populace, allowing for the natural growth of recreation areas, urban greenways, forest habitat linkages, play areas, allotments, walking and cycle paths.

It was also raised that e.l.f.h.n.p. should guard against commercial developers cherry picking the best sites to the exclusion of the wider community. It was on that subject that Ian pointed out the strength of the Forest Habitat Network was to involve other partners in the process e.g. health department, Scottish enterprise, local authorities, Forest Enterprise and most importantly getting young folk into the woodland and hopefully set the precedents for life.

We should be looking for multi-functional woodland networks with local community ownership being preferred, as this is a proven success.

Community Engagement - Best Practice

Caron Hughes & Andrew Thompson
Community Woodland Association

This workshop looked at community engagement from the perspectives of a public body and the local community and the group came up with the following observations:

Public bodies may have a statutory obligation to consult; they may be external to a local community and think in generic, strategic, long-term ways. They need to be able to play a long game as consultation may not come over night and they also need to act as a catalyst for change.

Local communities face real problems and have immediate needs relative to the local environment and an intimate knowledge of the local situation. They want local consultation so that they are part of a decision, to make them feel included and listened to.

Those involved in local consultation will benefit from adapting methods to suit the location and the issue, but in general participatory methods will draw out a far better quality of response than more simple surveys.

Problems in community engagement arise when everyone is not open or honest about their true agendas. Open communication is essential.

The group had limited time to look at how to improve community engagement in community woodlands, reflecting on limitations created by a dependence culture where a community is reluctant to get involved where they are used to things being done for them and feel as though they have paid their taxes for a service to be delivered without further involvement.

Landscape and Infrastructure Design for Urban Woodlands

Donald McPhillimy



Urban woodland design appears a nebulous topic at first glance, however it applies to woodlands both in and around towns, from the village green to a 100 ha plantation. The woodland can be managed by the Council, FCS, private owners or the community itself.

Design helps to encourage positive use and discourage negative use. The process runs: brief, survey, appraisal, design, management and monitoring. The survey is usually a desk study, looking particularly at character, cultural heritage and sense of place, with a site survey. The design itself should reflect public preferences such as a diversity of structure, open areas, fluid rather than geometric shapes, views under the canopy and inclusion of water features. Bigger is generally better and more robust. A wide range of species can be used as native-ness is usually not a priority. The design can include buildings in the woodland.

Donald then introduced another angle on the topic, that of minimising anti-social behaviour (ASB) through good design. Two approaches are recognised:

1. Target-hardening: make the facilities indestructible.
2. Place-making: create attractive new facilities, maintain them well, do not tolerate damage, repair it immediately (broken window theory). This can include clearing sight lines at access points, creating community gardens; engage with the people doing the damage. 11% of Council budgets for sites are spent on repairing vandalised items.

The discussion covered a range of topics:

- Checking that species planted are appropriate to the site
- Building up buffers and shelterbelts to prevent windblow
- Woodfuel from coppicing and thinning
- In local authority woodlands, talking to people and fixing damage tend not to happen. We need ways of engaging through youth workers, community police etc.
- 'Back-to-front houses' concept: need to encourage people to look at enhancing the greenspace right on their doorstep
- Art in the woods: are totem poles appropriate?

The participants were keen for CWA to work with FCS to repackaging the urban design course as 'urban design and management' and make it accessible to urban rangers and site managers.

Ensuring the Long-term Sustainable Use of Urban Woods

Ali Hibbert – Paths for All



By reflecting on some of her experiences over the last 20 years or so, Ali pulled out some key words and ideas that would help inform the workshop activity. Here are some of her recollections and thoughts.

It is useful to think about where you've been in life and what you've learned. We all have a wealth of life experience on which to draw, from many different places, but not often enough do I, for one, think back before I think forward.

Sustainable management isn't new. We've been doing sustainable management for years – or at least though we were. My first job was to write a management plan. The difference between then and now is how important the human component has become. 20 years ago we thought about how we split up woods; decide what to do with the timber and how to manage best for wildlife. People didn't feature much, maybe the odd path for recreational use. Human needs for food, housing and heat and paths for health and to reduce carbon were not part of the equation. So to be sustainable in today's world, woods need to **introduce the people element** big time into management planning. Woods have a massive role to play in our sustainable future but they need to be **useful**.

I worked for a while on an urban fringe country park, on the edge of Birmingham. It had a tiny piece of woodland. With (over a couple of years) thousands of local youngsters the explored, investigated, learnt, had fun, managed and socialised. It was a very small wood with huge appeal and endless uses.

Small can be beautiful. It's not what we do but how we do it.

I then worked for 4 years at Meadows Country Park in West Fife. It is interesting to re-examine my 'shock, horror' reaction to areas of the local woodland that was given a 'number three' (trees illegally hacked down at waist level) by local people during the miners' strike for firewood. In retrospect this was coppicing. Uncontrolled, yes, but biodiversity probably benefited in the long term. If someone had shown people how to coppice properly and to do it in a place consistent with the management plan they could have called them conservation volunteers and joined BTCV! We should try to harness people's needs and desires and engage with them. At the end of the day many of us want the same things, but we have to know what people want.

So consult, ask, talk to people and listen to their views. Be flexible, adaptable and ready to change.

We ran some big events at Lochore, play schemes and Art in the Park – a joint initiative between the Ranger Service and the Disability Arts worker with the council. Art in the park targeted people with disabilities and supported and encouraged them. The events were great but the point is they got funded because they fitted with the council's aims and ideas. If you want money to manage woods sustainably you need to show that you are helping to deliver on the funder's priorities.

Be politically (with a small 'p') astute.

I worked for 6 years at Mugdock Country Park – moorland, fields and lots of woodland, right on the edge of Glasgow. There was always massive volunteer effort in whatever we did, practical conservation work, events, wildlife survey. We achieved so much more than we ever could on our own. **Don't do stuff on your own, do it with others** change lives a

CWA Seminar & Conference: Making Sustainable Places

bit. Successful sustainable community woods can't be private places for cliques. They have to reach out to people on many different levels and in many different ways.

I've been working on paths and access for about 11 years now. A bunch of horse riders I know about had mutual problems. Very few places to ride, the paths that existed were poorly maintained and sometimes bad relations with local land managers. They got together, raised £45K for machinery and now look after the paths themselves. Result: more places to go, better paths, happier relations with land managers. ***People are motivated to do things that make life better and more enjoyable for them and theirs.*** These are ***basic human instincts*** and there's nothing wrong with them – indeed we need to understand and work with them if places are to be sustainable.'

This was followed by a sort of role play exercise based around fictitious small woodland on the edge of a town. Workshop participants split into small groups

- People interested in using firewood from the wood
- A Primary school with an interest in local food
- Young people keen on mountain bikes (and trail bikes)
- The Council that owned the woodland

And discussed what the needs and desires of each group were in relation to the wood.

Participants then split into 2 management groups (each with representatives from all of the interests) and tried to thrash out a plan for the sustainable management of the woodland.

Conference - Saturday 8 Nov

Keynote speech

Lesley Riddoch



Lesley opened by saying “I don’t know much about woods but I’m very keen on communities...”

The key obstacle for engagement is motivation. Human dynamics are complex, communities, like individuals, require emotional intelligence and need to keep recreating themselves and working at their relationships, taking nothing for granted. It’s necessary to have the community on board to make everything else work and vice versa because you also need the land.

Different people in different countries and cultures have different views i.e. if windmills have always been absent from the landscape then there is a greater chance of the communities objecting. For example in Scandinavia all remains of buildings have gone because they were traditionally made from wood, they even imported it from Denmark in Iceland when all their resources were lost; in Scotland people see problems with building with wood because it’s not a part of their landscape.

Lesley highlighted that lots of small communities in Scotland are now seeing a transfer of land to the community such as Eigg who have grown slowly and organically. She felt that if communities tried to do it more quickly then they will come across problems. If the process is slow then confidence builds slowly but more effectively. Another example is Aran Islands off the Galway coast - the community campaigned for a ferry to take them to a new plant that was constructed; they then persuaded the council to provide second homes with reduced council tax etc.

The main point she wanted to make was that each stone is a load stone - another on which to build. A lot can be achieved by small groups of people if they take the growth slowly and organically. Often what is required is an acceptance that their way of life has changed. E.g. on Lewis, the forest is very inaccessible and roads were developed making it impossible for anyone to walk anywhere, these changes were accepted including that crofting life had changed and people needed paths.

Ownership of land takes a lot of work it cannot exist on its own - it’s a radical move and unravels issues that have stifled communities in the past. In Scotland we need to overcome the syndrome of being prone to tolerate small wants and the tradition of keeping your head down.

Community Woods in a Changing Climate

Willie McGhee, Borders Forest Trust

Climate change is a large topic which is often misunderstood, but is increasingly used to justify government policies and private and voluntary sector activities. It is a global phenomenon with local impacts and needs to be understood on an international scale as well as at a community level.

Aspects of Climate Change

- Self evidently impacts on climate and weather patterns which in turn affects the physical environment including Scotland's woodlands and the people, and in turn politicians, policies and the economy.
- A large question hangs over how our forests and woodlands will adapt to changing temperatures, rainfall, frost, etc. and whether we need to be diversifying our tree species in new planting.
- Conservationists are 'using' climate change to justify their conservation positions i.e. The Big Issue – a winter 2008 edition sported a front page headline proclaiming hedgehogs as indicators for climate change..... 'If we save hedgehogs, we'll save the world!'
- In the Borders localised storm events have become more frequent and have had a major impact at one community woodland site – Glenkinnon Burn woodland, where paths washed out twice (at a great cost) over the last year. Working with/ motivating volunteers in these kind of conditions is particularly tricky.
- Forestry Commission Scotland launched a consultation document on Nov 2008 which is intended as a precursor to inclusion of forestry in the Scottish Climate Change Bill. The Scottish Government aims to expand forest cover to 25% by 2050 thereby creating a small but significant carbon dioxide sink.
- How will warmer, wetter weather affect us in the woodland sector? It may mean trees will grow more quickly or if the east coast of Scotland becomes drier it may mean that Sitka spruce is no longer the main production softwood species of choice.
- Woodland organisations have sought to position themselves in relation to climate change, carbon crediting and sources of revenue. Some like Central Scotland Forest Trust use Carbon Quiz 'carbon neutral or carbon nightmare?'

Carbon Sequestration

There is much hype surrounding carbon markets and the economic crunch has seen a collapse in the price and demand for carbon offsets. BFT dabbled in the carbon trading market with companies who use BFT woodland and projects for team building and to fund tree planting activities as part of their corporate social responsibility policies.

Climate change evokes strong responses amongst individuals and organisations and there are question marks over the ethics of using trees to offset personal or company greenhouse gas emissions. Trees for Life have taken steps to distance themselves from carbon offsetting and crediting however they still encourage people to donate money to plant a tree which in turn is 'good' for the environment and climate.

Forests and Emissions

- Deforestation and land use change accounts for some 18% of global anthropogenic green house gas emissions [Power = 24%, Transport= 14%].
- Trees and woodlands are responsible for removing an estimated 700,000 tonnes of carbon per annum at a UK level, which equates to some 3.4% of overall greenhouse gas emissions
- The Scottish Government has committed to ratifying a Climate Change Bill in autumn 2009 and it is looking for ways to fund new projects and an expansion of private sector planting.

Modelling Carbon

Trees are relatively well understood in relation to their volumes and mass. Carbon is merely dried biomass – or charcoal. Trees are 50% water (very approximately) and once dried some 50% of the dry weight is carbon. To work out how much carbon is in a tree you cut it down, dry it, cook it and the result is carbon (approx. ¼ of the original mass of the tree). FC Research and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology have good data on tree growth and carbon balances so much of the uncertainty associated with carbon calculations regarding woody biomass has been eliminated. Soils however are complex and soil carbon is expensive and difficult to measure so in many cases it is treated as neutral.

Is there an argument for replacing removed broadleaved trees with fast growing species in the developing world!? Many of the industrial foresters and forestry companies argue that Sitka spruce, eucalyptus hybrids and other exotic species widely used across the globe are an answer to carbon capture. This is not a good argument and needs to be tempered with the environmental and social benefits accruing from maintaining or expanding indigenous forests.

Carbon nonsense

Terminology

- 'Bundling: what the banks did with consolidated financial instruments i.e. put risky unsecured mortgages with higher rated stuff so in carbon terms that may be bundling a methane gas capture project with an Albanian hydro project (that no one has ever seen).
- Baselines: what you have before you do a carbon project
- Additionality: what the carbon project brings i.e. the project could not proceed without the carbon finance
- Leakage: the shifting of an activity somewhere else because of the carbon project i.e. removing sheep from a farm to plant trees and transferring them to another farm
- Permanence: how long will the trees be there and how will the project be managed for risk such as fire, wind throw or pests.

The subject of additionality is fraught! SFGS/ SRDP communities with a percentage of costs to plant trees – how do we access the match funding? Could it be carbon? NB: without the carbon they couldn't be planted at all. There is a degree of cynicism using carbon finance in this manner however it acts like any match funding and if people are using it as conscience money then it is up to the individual organisation to decide whether they want to use it.

Kyoto Protocol

Flexible mechanisms for trading by private companies were built into the protocol and carbon trading through the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and the Clean Development mechanism are examples of this and an estimated \$66,418,000 was traded in 2007. Trading has fallen off a cliff due to the credit crunch and it may be a couple of years before it makes any kind of resurgence. Companies will not give carbon a high priority and governments will have other things to worry about, such as mass unemployment.

Community Benefits

What is the future for communities in relation to climate change? Communities can focus efforts on new planting and in their efforts to raise cash for subsidising planting should use climate change as an argument with institutions and govt. agencies for getting money. Where a community has bare land, government policies and therefore access to funding through the SRDP will have relevance and there will be potential for eliciting funds. However, if the community is managing existing woodland it is more difficult to envisage funding being made available through climate change.

Willie suggested that communities have a look at the Ecosystems Market Place website for more details on all of the development of broader market mechanisms that value biodiversity and social gains.

Building a Sustainable Place in Strathnairn

Neil Sutherland Architects



Neil looks at far more than just the conception but also the challenge of how we get sustainable structures built at a price, which is competitive with mainstream companies. Buildings can and do change the lives of individuals and communities and this aspect should not be overlooked. He has developed and works to these principles:

- Make use of local materials & components
- Ensure structures are adaptable, extendable and maintainable
- Adopt healthy specifications, keep away from chemicals & move towards technical understanding of natural materials
- Make best use of passive solar and ultra low energy
- Ensure that the building is appropriately serviced
- Make sure the building is economic in construction
- Think in a far longer timescale for sustainability: 100 years should be the bare minimum lifespan.

The main focus is on softwood species and Scotland has a better range than most of Europe. He feels we need to differentiate between timbers and designers need to use timber types appropriately. His own sawmill uses four basic grades: large section, carcassing, external and internal finishing. Almost all of this timber is sourced from the Highlands and about 70% of the build budget goes back into the Highlands. This is considerably higher than the industry standard.

The Strathnairn Project

Neil was approached by the Strathnairn Community Woodland Group with a proposal and £40k to be spent within 8 months. After planning, employing a consultant and various other unavoidable charges there was about £35,000 left. Leaving out services meant that no building warrant was required, which allowed a little more flexibility in the design and build process.

Timber selection was made from within the two blocks of forestry that the Group own. The felled timber was delivered to the Company's premises and processed on a woodmizer. Good workmanship is the key to Neil's approach to construction, however he feels the skills base in the industry has been eroded and hopes his company is playing a part in the resurgence of skill based craftwork: it's about the people, skills and training.

The local Primary School is close by and the children were a starting point in the design process. The children now make use of the building: ingenious use of gas struts allows a whole side of the structure to open up, creating a larger space that relates to the surrounding woodland and the open area within that wood.

He continues to work to achieve an integration of elements - architecture of awareness. The project involved the creative idea of taking wood from a community group, who were looking for a way to express their ownership. The process opened their eyes, and changed their perceptions of their own woodland.

Workshops

SRDP Funding for Social Forestry

Jon Hollingdale, CWA, Christopher Duncan FCS, Sheila Fraser SCVO & Rural Direct.

There's a lot of advice available on the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP), but unfortunately most of it is top down – about what the programme is intended to achieve, rather than how to access the money. The budget: £1.6bn over 7 years, seems like a lot of money, but is small in comparison with e.g. Single Farm Payments, and only 54% of it is actually new money for Rural Development. SRDP is a largely web-based system (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural/SRDP), comprising of a number of grant schemes. Listed below, in a rough order of importance from the community woodland perspective, these are:

- **Forestry Challenge Fund: Forestry for People** is for the people element of work in the wood. It can fund feasibility studies and, for example volunteer development, forest school, and walking & woodland activity. It does not fund capital works but groups can apply for activity on FC ground. It is competitive and with deadlines approximately every 6 months. It can cover up to 90% of costs for applications of up to £5k, 75% for up to £20k, and £50% otherwise, and applicants can use volunteer time as match funding.
- **Forestry Challenge Fund: WIAT** is for planning, silviculture and recreation provision in woods of over 1ha within 1km of 2000 people. Aimed at improving existing woodlands near people and pays up to 75% of costs.
- **Leader** is a bottom up innovative funding mechanism for rural areas, delivered by 22 Local Action Groups (LAGs). There is a budget of approximately £60m over 5 years for capacity building & community led projects.
- **Rural Development Contracts: Rural Priorities**. This is a competitive two-stage application. It's new, very complex and no one fully understands it. The Statement of Intent is a simple first stage, and gets an amber or red light. The second stage fully develops the proposal for scoring and consideration by the Regional Priority Assessment Committee.
- **Rural Development Contracts: Land Management Options**: These are available to all registered landowners and the scheme is non competitive. Every owner has a quota depending on the area of land owned. The grant provides annual payments and does not require an application. Can be useful for a range of activities, e.g. access, managing archaeological sites, tree seed stands, business auditing, electronic kit and new woodland creation. All community woods should take advantage of this.
- **Skills Development Scheme**: will probably not be relevant to individual groups, unless they have a big emphasis on training. However CWA has got 2 years of funding for training schemes through this grant. These courses will focus on the demands of the groups for non-certificated training (e.g. woodland management, rhododendron bashing or bog restoration, but not chainsaw training). Individual groups will host events, and is paid for some of the organisation and for volunteer time.
- **Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme**: This is almost all about farming, with the exception of a bit about shelter belts.
- **Food processing and marketing cooperation** is unlikely to be relevant to Community Woodland Groups.
- **LFASS** which is grants for farmers.

You can apply for multiple SRDP grants **as long as these applications are all for different operations**: e.g. Land Managers Options to pay for creating access routes for harvesting, Rural Priorities for forest management operations such as restocking or conversion to continuous cover, the Forestry for People Challenge Fund for help to establish a volunteer group, and a LEADER grant to contribute towards car parking and interpretation costs.

CWA staff can help you identify appropriate sources of funding for all of your projects if you get in touch.

Staff contacts: <http://www.communitywoods.org/index.php/staff/>

Transition Towns: How to get involved

Eva Schonveld

Eva opened by asking the following questions:

- Why & what are transition towns?
- Where do we go from here?
- What motivates the community?

It often takes a crisis to motivate the community; different people also have different values and it's easier to get people to protest than to get people to work for something. Transition Towns are the pulling together of a concept.

So how can this be encouraged without being all doom and gloom?

Planning needs to include productive land – orchards, allotments etc. - all integrated with the housing for use by the community. Its all about connections and appreciation of life.

An example from Glasgow:

A church burnt down and the community started to use the area to grow food, and then grew organically with even the children coming out to help. Vandalism did occur but it didn't stop the community as they saw a glimmer and were attracted towards it.

The provision of land is essential for a community.

There is a balance with how to scare people just enough to be motivated to do something, and this is different for different people and different communities. It's also important to engage the young.

Energy from woods: Community Woodfuel Supply; a Burning Issue

Jake Willis, Community Woodland Association

One of the key questions surrounding this ever more popular heating service is the issue of supply. As the demand is increasing, virtually on a daily basis, a good supply of properly air-dried firewood is needed for efficient heat output. This point is paramount.

As anyone who has ever tried to burn wet or damp wood will know the frustration and disappointment of not having a healthy supply of properly dried logs and given that community organised annual firewood runs for pensioners are taking off, the need for properly dried timber is that bit more important. There also exists the possibility of a social enterprise arrangement if the time, energy and equipment are put in place to make it happen.

This point was explored at a recent Biomass show. Another important point is the fact that good firewood is an almost carbon neutral fuel. Properly seasoned firewood sit at around 4g/Kwh of Co2 emissions, compared to the emissions of coal, electricity, oil and gas. Therefore if good woodland management where to be practiced now, the possibility of a steady supply could be met for many communities. This could include the use of low-grade/non-productive land being used for short-rotation coppice. Although, getting the balance right between the Biomass/Biodiversity is very important and has to be thought through.

One sad fact to come out of the workshop was the realisation that many hundreds of tonnes of perfectly good trees/ timber gets land-filled, dumped and even burned by our local authorities. Infrastructure companies/contractors also waste a shameful amount of decent timber.

But on a brighter note, there is a funding stream to help with some aspects of wood-fuel supply and demand. Namely the SRDP grant of up to 40% or 50% in less-favoured areas, which helps with wood-fuel enterprises

Using the Media: Building CWA Reputations

Catriona Ross

Catriona's background in media is extensive and has included local, daily and national papers, local radio, FCS Press Office as well as being freelance. She is now with the Cairngorm National Park.

The main purpose of the workshop was to look at how to use the media. What kinds of media were there and what were the obstacles. The first thing to consider was what was important to your organisation? The group were split in two and asked to consider the questions below. Once the groups had discussed these they each reported back.

The discussion threw up the following questions:

- How do you get people interested?
- What media can you use?
- How to get the people from the community involved?
- What media can you use for channels of communication?
- What are the barriers and how to overcome them?

This led to a discussion looking at the many types of media. For Example: Broadsheets, local radio, local TV stations, website, and local newsheet. In addition to that there are things that people don't always consider such as word of mouth, contacts within the organisation (never be shy to make use of the contacts that people may have such as a journalist) and local networks (shops, school, village hall committee)

The group then looked at the kinds of barriers there are to accessing the media and the following list was considered:

- lack of correct contact details
- lack of a hook to get media interested
- research – lack of time
- lack of training and know how by community group
- confidence

The workshop was then split into two groups again and discussed what kind of hooks might be of interest to local and national media. Possible hooks might be:

- Controversy
- Shock,
- celebrity attending event
- Royalty
- school children
- wacky and off the wall
- fluffy

The main thing to remember when contacting the media is to be clear on who, what, where, when and why and to keep the Press Release short and to the point. Catriona summed up by saying always consider the possible angles and remember it's always a good idea to thank the journalist and photographer.

Site Visits

Falkland Estate and Centre for Stewardship



The Group were met by Ninian and Michael and taken on a tour of the Centre and the estate.

At the centre we saw the Big Book, handcrafted from native Scottish hardwoods by local craftsman Dave McKeen who has created a beautiful piece of work for the Burgh. The covers have been made to house the growing collection of pages hand-made during the project, all inspired by Falkland, its people and landscape. The book will be exhibited around the town in years to come and we hope it will generate interest and enthusiasm – as well as being a source of pleasure and pride! Some beautiful pages have already been completed and more are in production.

Falkland Centre for Stewardship exists to promote the practice of stewardship locally and the philosophy of stewardship in 21st century Scotland and beyond.

The Centre believes that “Stewardship is the act and art of holding, nurturing and vitalising assets for others – including the next generation. The asset in question may be an organisation, a tradition, a building, a landscape, or at the highest level the planet’s natural resources and ecosystem” and that “stewardship is about responsible, long-term management. Good stewards draw from the past, mind the future and always look beyond themselves”.

In their efforts to address the local and global relevance of stewardship, they taking a long term perspective; focusing on built and natural heritage, craft and cultural traditions, people and organisations. To this end, we have committed to four main projects:

- the A-listed House of Falkland
- a landscape restoration programme on Falkland Estate
- Big Tent: Scotland’s Festival of Stewardship
- a rural leadership training programme.

Falkland Centre for Stewardship cares for some 120 acres at the heart of Falkland Estate and works with the local community, a range of partners and a group of dedicated volunteers to revitalise the estate and inspire good stewardship of land, in and beyond the estate.

The site visit also included a visit to Dave McKeen’s workshop and also met the Cadet Conservation Group who have done many projects for the local community, e.g. building bridges.

Portmoak Community Woodland



Portmoak Community Woodland has taken on Portmoak Moss near Scotlandwell, where you can drink from the well. This can be seen in the picture above. The area surrounded by trees with the line in the middle is the Moss. 4 years ago the area was covered by conifers. These were felled; brash used to fill the ditches and dams put in.

The wood/moss was purchased in 1996 with help from SNH, Heritage Lottery and community base fundraising where £10,000 was matched pound for pound by Perth and Kinross Council. A consultation lead by Portmoak CW and The Woodland Trust created a management plan with the following main aims:

- Proactive site management
- Enhance public enjoyment
- Improved access
- Improved biodiversity
- Enhance understanding

In 1998 neighboring Kilmagad Wood came into the fold linked in to the Moss by the Michael Bruce Trail. 2002 saw a feasibility study undertaken to assess the general idea of going from a tree dense environment of spruce plantation to no trees and ultimately a raised bog. During 2004/5 the trees on the moss were felled and the water table rose. Two large fields were purchased in 2008 which are to be planted up with woodland trees and maybe some fruit trees.

Early farming/peat cutting was said to occur 5,500 years ago. There are written records relating to farming and peat cutting 800 years ago. "16 slices" a medieval system, which gave people access to the valuable resource with a regulatory control that helped to conserve the resource and prevent erosion.

This changed when the Loch was lowered in the 18th century to reclaim land; this, plus over-cutting, led to damage of the moss. 1960 saw the Moss turned into a spruce plantation!

So now a process of restoration has begun. Portmoak have a varied remit from managing broadleaf woodland to raised bog restoration.

Craigencalt Ecology Centre



Craigencalt Ecology Centre is a charity formed in 1998. The project was kick-started with a variety of Nature Activities at the 80 Ha site (led by now member of staff Ronnie). Over a short period of time these activities gained recognition and support locally and a Community Group was formed which helped steer the centre towards gaining charitable status and the creation of a volunteer team to assist with the day to day running.

Julie Samuel arrived as a volunteer in 2000 and started work on fundraising to create new posts and earn a salary for herself. Since this time the Centre has further blossomed and now has 10 members of staff and 30 volunteers (wide range of ages) involved on a regular basis.

The site is managed under two separate leases (15 year lease with redundant local farm and another 15 year lease with ALCAN). Originally two sisters (Diana Botes) owned the land and were the main driving forces behind the development of the project. However, one of the sisters died and as a result the land was sold off to less understanding owners. The site is organic (chickens/ garden/ vegetables) with large areas managed simply for wildlife e.g. marshes etc.

The project team won millennium funding for an all abilities path to a bird hide NB: the whole site cannot be accessed by all - due to topography.

The Water Wheel – Prince Charles came to visit the site to open the water wheel feature. This gave the organisation/ centre more credibility and earned a great deal more respect from the local community.

Rabbit Warren - The site features a variety of different attractive and innovative pieces of play equipment, for example the rabbit warren which is a series of large underground pipes for kids to clamber through.

Plastic Bottle Greenhouse –This was a very early (forward thinking) creation based on the concept of waste minimisation (re-use/ re-cycle)/ cost efficiency etc.

The Earthship – iconic structure/ demonstration site operated by the Sustainable Communities Development Trust.

The Centre did have plans to incorporate Bunkhouses and other structures on the site, however over recent years the Centre's relationship with the local farm (owners) has deteriorated, e.g. the farm tried to throw them off the site in 2003. This created local uproar – with the Mother and Toddlers Group amongst others taking to the streets in protest. The whole experience apparently strengthened the organisation. NB: The centre now faces a big move to an adjacent area of land when the lease comes up in 6 years or so as the landlords will not renew the existing agreement over the land.

The Centre has its own Minibus for assisting with volunteer team/ school visit transportation.

The Mission Statement of the Centre is - 'To use nature as a tool to improve people's quality of life.'

CWA Seminar & Conference: Making Sustainable Places

Main Activities

Environmental Education (nature's classroom); team building days; teacher training days; corporate volunteer days; practical work/ skills with 'Alternative Curriculum' pupils (i.e. those that don't thrive in the school environment – challenging behaviour/ family problems/ non academic - practical learners); New Deal people come for four days a week; general volunteer days (NB: the site has an amazing positive effect on its volunteers). The centre now works with over 5700 visitors per annum. The Centre also hosts Project Scotland placements for 16-25 year olds who come for 2 days per week over the course of 6 months. However the centre no longer receives funding for this activity so they have to become more selective with their types of project delivery.

The Centre takes money from anyone who will give them any! SNH just extended the centre's funding for Education work for another 3 year period. They also receive funding from the Government, Trusts e.g. Robertson Trust, and a local couple of entrepreneurs gift £20,000 per annum which helps with the trickiest funding to access – for core activities. The Centre also has a social enterprise side to its running. Advice is given to local schools on wildlife garden creation and outdoor classrooms. The centre also makes furniture for public spaces and school grounds.

The centre's new project is for adults with disabilities. This encourages people to get involved with gardening projects, learn new skills and realise their potential through gardening.

The centre was recently successful (won the public vote) in their plight for funding on the BBC Scotland primetime BIG Lottery competition. This has provided the centre with over £300,000 to deliver an 'Environmentors' project for people over 50 to volunteer and pass on their skills to younger volunteers – bridging the generation gap. This project aims to improve the health and wellbeing of participants, as well as promoting other positive outcomes, such as making new friends and increasing sense of community.

Questions from CWA Contingent

What happens to the veggies you grow?

They get divvied up amongst the volunteers as a reward for their work.

Will everything have to move from this site in 6 years?

Yes, the whole thing. The Centre staff have had a long time to prepare for the move and it looks like they'll be moving to an area just on the other side of Kinghorn Loch. This is great news for everyone involved as it means they can continue to work with the same local people/ groups/ schools etc.

Will the Sustainable Communities part of the Centre set up also have to move?

Yes. The Development Trust will purchase the land and the Ecology Centre will then lease it back.

What contact do you have with schools – is it contracted through the council?

No. The centre works directly with schools, who pay to come and visit.

Crossgates Community Woodland

Crossgates was the first community to successfully purchase land - from the then Coal Authority in 2005 - using the Community Right to Buy provisions of the Land Reform Act (2003) Robert Arnott led off the visit and discussions by outlining a history of Crossgates, highlighting the community's ancient coal mining heritage and close involvement with the woodland site, known as the Taft. This is a 15 ha site lying immediately adjacent to the village on its north edge, and bounded by the A92 Kirkcaldy/Dunfermline trunk road.

The earliest map showing the village of Crossgates dates from 1237. It was also in the records as being a place where the Monks of Dunfermline mined coal from seams using bell mines, which when they collapsed left distinct hollows in the ground. The village for most of its life was a mining village, but unlike others was not company owned with its citizens displaying a characteristic independence of spirit. The demography and employment characteristics of the village have changed radically since the demise of deep mining in Fife in the 1970's.

The Taft woodland is shown on the earliest maps of the area, and remained productive until recently, with the village sawmill and associated cottages located here. Archaeological signs of the mill, with a still visible 'saw pit' were noted during the visit. The owner in 1842 was one Alexander Reid, and today the local timber merchant is still John Reid & Sons.

Under the recent ownership of the Coal Authority the wood suffered severe neglect, although remaining much used by the community as a place of recreation. In 1994, with the prospect of anticipated community dividend from a nearby opencast mining development the Community Council consulted the villagers about their priorities. Top of the list was improvements to the Taft area. During this period the woodland group was set up separately from the Community Council and applied for planning permission for establishment of a Community Woodland on part of the site. This was successful, and a second application was subsequently granted for an extension to cover the remainder of the site.

When the land was then offered for sale on the open market the community achieved an historic result by successfully registering an interest under the Community Right to Buy provisions of the Land Reform Act, and subsequently using this right to purchase the Taft in 2005, with help from the Scottish Land Fund – becoming the first community in Scotland to do so.

Of the 14.6 ha of land now owned by CCW, 4.3 ha was established woodland with the remainder arable and much affected in its quality by former mining activities resulting in impeded drainage and unpredictable changes resulting from subsidence. Much evidence of this was noted during the site visit with new wetland/pond areas coming into existence in three areas scheduled for planting due to recent subsidence events.

Work carried out on the site since purchase was observed during the tour of the Taft. This comprises improvement of paths, and the creation of new paths along with planting of 6500 trees, including oak, aspen, rowan, ash & hazel. A wild flower meadow area has also been sown on low fertility land associated with the Scottish Water reinstatement work around the car park.

As the group walked over the area key heritage points were highlighted and potential points for further development and interpretation were identified. Back in the Bowling Club discussions ranged far and wide, and came back to a number of issues touched on briefly in the wood. Amongst many strands were climate change, management of access, and the role of the Fife Core Path Planning Process in helping to resolve access difficulties, tackling vandalism, the future of sycamore and beech on the area of old established woodland, together with continuation of the debate about the desirability of managing all or part of the Taft for fuelwood or future timber production.

Conference: Sunday 9 Nov

Presentations

Woodland Crofts

Jamie MacIntyre, Woodland Crofts Project Officer, Community Land Unit



Jamie informed us there were no projects delivered as yet, even though the discussion has been on going since 1996 with a key consultation in 2004, then a steering group was set up in 2005/2006 with approval in 2006. There was a nice comparison to the evolution of man in the 24 hour clock and the coming to fruition of woodland crofts.

The initial case was made by a 'Community of Interest' and progressed by 'Community of Place'. Jamie asked "Why is this significant?" Because CWA, its members and friends have a key role in this. There requires preparation and planning which and it is important that there is assessment, options appraisal and a forest plan. This is complex but yet exciting and success will demand a good fit between needs, aspirations and opportunities.

How big could this be? If you consider that there are up to 7 FCS Forest Districts in the Crofting areas you could for example have 3 'townships' per district, plus some non-FCS woodland with a possible 10 further sites, giving up to 30 woodland crofts townships, each with around 8 crofts. The main issues however are funding, planning and housing and the usual issues that surround crofting in general.

However, that all said there is much help out there such as Jamie himself, the Community Land Unit, FCS (Malcolm Wield and Bob Frost), Crofters Commission (John Toal) and many more.

There were a few good questions despite the squeeze on time. The first was from Alan Torrance (Pit-Clachan), "Is there any chance of the woodland croft areas being expanded to other areas?" The reply was to talk to other areas such as The Isle of Arran, who have managed to be included despite not being part of the crofting counties. The aspiration to roll the woodland crofts model out across Scotland was expressed.

Ian Whitehead noted that the scheme should be designed with appropriate safeguards to encourage only those with a genuine long term interest in sustainable crofting (as opposed to attracting urban commuters who might wish to take advantage of the opportunity to live in the countryside).

Community composting/recycling

Pete Higgins, Golspie Recycling and Environmental Action Network (GREAN)



Images: GREAN

GREAN stands for **G**olspie **R**ecycling and **E**nvironmental **A**ction **N**etwork and is a Social Enterprise and Not for profit (actually re-investment of profit) company based in based in East and Central Sutherland. Pete asked the question: Why talk about GREAN? Because of the following reasons:

- Social enterprise
- Growth – re-investment
- Run Community composting scheme
- Plans for woodland-based community composting schemes

GREAN started in 2002 with 2 employees, collecting dry recyclates from households in Golspie village. They now employ 18 people, have kerbside collection in East and Central Sutherland, a dry recyclate bring site, Community compost bring site, Community and art garden, 12 training placements last year and much more. The aims of GREAN are to create local employment, provide recycling services, promote sustainable development and work towards a greener world.

Quality of the compost depends on feedstock and the process. You will also need to get PAS100 accreditation if you want to sell the stuff. The compost can be spread on land, but needs SEPA exemption. Some of the problems that can occur are that it could be too much wood which may encourage moss growth in moist areas or an excess woodchip (ha!).

GREAN are looking at forest composting with proposals for a community composting site on a woodland croft scheme. They are also looking at domestic garden waste composted along with brash, stumps and roots from woodland crofting and they are looking for similar sites.

Sarah Lagden of CRNS asked Pete if he could mention CRNS. They are a membership body for community recycling organisations in Scotland who provide info and advice. Their aims are to build a stronger community recycling sector, thus creating social and economic benefits. There are 40 active community composting sites around Scotland.

CWA Wales

Katie Harris



Katie Harris



Zena Wilmot

Progress was made in 2008 towards developing a 'CWA Wales'. Currently, Coed Lleol works with community woodlands, Forest Schools, woodland owners and woodland managers. Over the past 18 months, Coed Lleol has run a project that organised discussions with its members on ways of developing its support work, with networking considered by many as a key area for development. A meeting at CAT in March 2008 resulted in an impromptu vote for setting up a 'CWA Wales'. The project steering group has recently become a board. A name, a constitution and a logo were adopted on 3 November 2008. The new name Llaisy Coed Wig means 'Voice of the Forest' and the strap line will be 'the voice of community woodlands in Wales'. Coed Lleol is acting as secretariat until this function can be transferred to the new body.

Katy provided some background on the CW movement in Wales. FC Wales had funded a 6-year, 100% intervention rate, community woodland funding package called Cyd Coed that resulted in 120 groups receiving grant for projects ranging from footpaths to community engagement. The project ended in 2008 and a void now needs to be filled.

Initial work of the new organisation will be to engage with Forestry Commission Wales, networking with potential future members, liaising with the (supportive) Minister for Rural Affairs, etc.

A community woodlands conference is planned for October 2009 and CWA is invited to send a delegation from Scotland.

Katie handed over to a member of the new Llaisy Coed Wig board, David Petty, who emphasised the value of technical and moral support to be gained from networking and also the parallels between experiences in Scotland and Wales. He outlined his direct involvement in cooperatively-owned 140 acre woodland in Carmarthenshire running projects to develop Forest Schools, timber utilisation, a public footpath linking two parishes, and replacing spruce monoculture with woodland of mixed native species. He emphasises the value of working with and involving the local community in the project through open days and other events. See www.coedmarros.com

Food From Fife

Ellen McCance, WECAN Fife

WECAN! (Working for Environmental Community Action Now!) was founded in 1996 and has since then has created an Environmental Directory and Handbook, produced in 1997, held Our Land and Its Peoples Conference in 1999, received a Community Fund grant in 2004 to run pilot project and also received Big Lottery funding awarded in 2006 for 'Food for Fife' project. As for 2009 . . . watch this space!

"Food for Fife" has been the main action / research project of WECAN! since 2004. The project has an emphasis on active citizenship, helping to build communities and empower ordinary people to address a range of issues in their community. The ultimate goal for Food for Fife is to create a sustainable local food network for Fife. The main aims of the project are:

- Food growing
- Food distribution and supplying
- Food waste composting

WECAN's achievements to date are:

- Formal partnership with Elmwood College
- Exceeded all of our targets
- Website launched
- Contributed to academic studies
- Reputation known in Parliament



The Children's Orchard

John Hancox



John Hancox was once an environmental journalist who wrote a piece for a Sunday paper raising the question 'why are there no fruit trees in our local parks?' Following this article he received a response from some official stating that, "It's because people would eat them!" It took him some years before he did something positive about this ridiculous statement, and now his work revolves around fruit and creating delicious places for children.

Orchards are a 'place making' feature that can turn around urban areas. Fruit growing is a very traditional practice and in the Victorian times orchards formed part of a town's structural layout. However, fruit is what everybody had and it was readily available - people in those days wanted more exotic things and slowly, but surely our traditional orchards vanished or have been forgotten. NB: Even the Botanical Gardens have discovered an area of 'Forgotten Orchard'. As a result of this trend, very few people know much about our traditional fruits and their historical references and relevance. John's current work is based on creating great spaces for people of all ages and getting loads of different members of communities involved and getting their hands dirty in local orchard projects.

The Children's Orchard is a series of small orchards/plantings linked together, with the key mission being to get the fruit picked and used. The orchard business collapsed in Scotland because of cheap supermarket imported fruit, which has resulted in loads of abandoned, yet still productive orchards throughout the country. In the years that John has been working on this type of project it has become obvious that councils are scared of fruit trees! 'Kids may get sore tummies' or 'Apples may dent cars!' He carries on though and so far there have been no fatalities as a result of his work!

School Grounds Projects planting trees and if trees are already there, add other productive raised beds. In the past he has tried Fruit Treasure Hunts to engage with young folk. The good thing about fruit trees for school grounds is that they are in season whilst the school is in session.

Over the years his project has benefited from corporate sponsorship, volunteers, and staff team building activities, which have proved a great way to get more people involved in the planting of fruit trees. Another good spin off from this type of engagement is that banks etc. have loads of contacts locally, and also often money for local projects.

He has been working with kids to replant an ancient orchard, which has had no management or planting for over 150 years. Planting a fruit tree could potentially be a life changing activity for a young person, as it gives them a glimpse of something achievable and may encourage a long term interest.

John is promoting the **2014 Commonwealth Fruitful Games**. He would like a national fruit celebration to take place and aims to take the whole idea to Scottish Parliament early next year. NB: Even if he doesn't get formal support from the government he still plans to push for the 'Fruitful Games'. We need to plant now to have a fruitful legacy.

Seminar – List of Delegates

Alan Torrance	Perthshire Pit Clachan	Ian Whitehead	Edinburgh & Lothians FHNP
Ali Hibbert	Paths For All	Iwan Thomas	Echline Community Woodland
Andrew Thompson	CWA Staff	Jake Willis	CWA Staff
Angus Hardie	DTAS	Jane Begg	Clackmannanshire Council
Anna Craigen	Borders Forest Trust	Jon Hollingdale	CWA Staff
Brigitte Geddes	Gearchoille	Jools Cox	South West Community Woods
Caron Hughes	CWA Staff	Karen Dobbins	South Lanarkshire Council
David Petty	Coed Lleol (Wales CWA)	Katy Harris	Small Woods Association
Darren Moseley	Forest Research	Kevin O'Kane	Fife Council
Deryck Irving	Greenspace Scotland	Max Hislop	Glasgow & Clyde Valley
Diane Campbell	CWA Staff	Mike Williams	Edinburgh Zoo
Donald McPhillimy	Donald McPhillimy Associates	Neil Gerrard	Community Land Unit
Eva Schonfeld	Transition Towns	Ossie Vietch	Kilmallie Community Company
Gareth Thomas	Edinburgh Zoo	Phillip Harris	Falkirk Council
Gavin Mitchell	Garvald Garden & Wood Project	Piers Voysey	Anagach Woodland Trust
Geoff May	Fife Council	Robin Fuller	FCS Ae Forest District
Graham Clarkson	Friends of Ferry Glen	Siobhan Sampson	Banks Developments
Hamish Davidson	Milton Community Woodland	Theresa Hughes	Fife Council
Hamins Neilson	South Lanarkshire Council	Tim Kendrick	Fife Council
Henry Fosbrooke	Milton Community Woodland	Zena Wilmot	Small Woods Association



Conference – List of Delegates

Alan Torrance	Perthshire, Pit Clachan	Iwan Thomas	Echline Community Woodland
Alette Willis	Researcher from Canada	Jake Willis	CWA Staff
Alison Simpson	CWA Member	Jamie MacIntyre	Community Land Unit
Allen Armstrong	CLEAR Buckhaven	Jean Barnett	Dunnet Forestry Trust
Amanda Calvert	Laggan	John Hancox	Glasgow Children's Orchard
Andrew Thompson	CWA Staff	Jon Hollingdale	CWA Staff
Angus Hardie	DTAS	Jools Cox	South West Community Woods
Anna Craigen	Borders Forest Trust	June Jansen	Greenferry
Antonia Swinson	SSEC	Katy Harris	Small Woods Association
Brigitte Geddes	Gearrhoille Community Wood	Kenny Cuthbertson	Garvald Garden & Wood Project
Caron Hughes	CWA Staff	Lesley Muirden	Friends of Leadburn Com Wood
Catriona Ross	Independent Consultant	Lesley Riddoch	Feisty Productions
Chris Duncan	Forestry Commission Scotland	Lisa Brydon	Borders Forest Trust
Chris Mitchell	Kinghorn Community Land Assoc	Mark Potter Irwin	Craignish Community Company
Chrissie Sugden	Craignish Community Company	Mick Barnett	Dunnet Forestry Trust
Christine Lea	Milton Community Woodland	Mike Steele	Closeburn Community Council
Colin Parsons	Fernaig Community Trust	Neil Gerrard	Community Land Unit
Danny Gorman	Knoydart Forest Trust	Neil Sutherland	Neil Sutherland Architects
David Petty	Coed Lleol (Wales CWA)	Ninian Crichton-Stuart	Falkland Centre for Stewardship
Denise Torrance	Perthshire, Pit Clachan	Ossie Veitch	Kilmallie Community Company
Diane Campbell	CWA Staff	Peter Higgins	GREAN
Ellen McCance	WECAN! Food for Fife Project	Piers Voysey	Anagach Woodland Trust
Eoin Cox	Woodschool	Ruth Sole	Mid Deeside Limited
Eva Schonveld	Transition Towns	Seumas MacKinnon	Galgael
Frank van Duivenbode	Gearrhoille Community Wood	Sheila Fraser	SCVO
Gavin Mitchell	Garvald Garden & Wood Project	Tara Mackinnon	Galgael
Gordon Gray Stephens	Argyll Green Woodworkers	Tom Conway	Redhall Community Woods
Grace Craigie	Crossgates Community Woodland	Willie McGhee	Borders Forest Trust
Graham Clarkson	Friends of Ferry Glen	Zena Wilmot	Small Woods Association
Karen Purvis	Knoydart Forest Trust		
Hamish Davidson	Milton Community Woodland		
Henry Fosbrooke	Milton Community Woodland		
Ian Whitehead	Edinburgh & Lothians FHNP		
Isobel Knox	Dunbar Community Woodland		

Feedback Analysis

Seminar	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
Location	0	0	3	8	4
Organisation	0	0	0	6	9
Catering	2	1	1	8	3
Facilities	0	0	3	7	4
Did the event meet your expectations?	Yes - 8	No - 0	Partly - 5		
Would you recommend others to attend such events in future?	Yes - 13	No - 0			
Gender	Female - 6	Male - 9			
Age Range					
Conference	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
Location	0	1	9	5	8
Organisation	0	0	0	7	16
Catering	0	0	4	8	11
Facilities	0	0	2	9	11
Did the event meet your expectations?	Yes - 19	No - 0	Partly - 3		
Would you recommend others to attend such events in future?	Yes - 20	No - 3			
Gender	Female - 12	Male - 11			
Age Range	16to25 - 0	26to40 - 4	40to60 - 13	60+ - 3	

General Comments

- “A great group of people doing interesting stuff.”
- “Always do a dry run of presentations to ensure that technology functions (sound on DVD)...”
- “Very worthwhile day. Some excellent speakers and good to concentrate on and develop one theme.”
- “Workshops should not be lectures – 10 mins max but constructive discussion. Ali did very well in highlighting pertinent issues and gave us real life roles, then demanded solution seeking. A very good challenge.
- “A great way to meet likeminded people and share knowledge and experiences.”
- “Thank you all for a very good and enjoyable conference.”
- “Next year’s conference in the North please and based in an active group. Thank you.”
- “Enjoyed the event even though I could only come for Saturday. Well done CWA.”
- “Would have traveled further north if the venue was not Glenrothes.”
- “Excellent – well organised; good range of speakers; relevant field visit.”
- “Was disappointed that transition workshop was so short. Not enough time for questions after many lectures.”
- “You meet a lot of very nice and interesting people, willing to share information.”
- “Glenrothes wasn’t possibly the best area to hold event – not the nicest of places. Would be good if could be held actually at a Community Wood if there were any that had facilities close by!”
- “Don’t forget to celebrate what you do best and give members a space to talk about what they do and their aspirations! Thanks for a great and very useful event, for your support and welcome to the Welsh delegation!”

Gallery



Thanks and Acknowledgements

CWA would like to thank all the Speakers, Workshop leaders Site Visits leaders, scribes and note-takers, the CWA Staff and all those who helped and supported the delivery of the seminar and conference.

In particular we would like to thank:

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- The Eden Ceilidh Band (booked through Jigs n Reels Music Agency) who got us all dancing.

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Displays:

Antonia Swinson, Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition
Shiela Fraser, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations - Rural Direct
Christopher Duncan - Forestry Commission Scotland
Deryck Irving - Greenspace Scotland
Piers Voysey - Anagach Woods Trust & Reforesting Scotland
Darren Moseley - Forest Research
Max Hislop - Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership
Ali Hibbert - Paths for All Partnership
Seamus Mackinnon – Galgael Trust
Henry Fosbrooke – Milton Community Woodland Trust
Brigitte Geddes – Gearrhoille Community Woodland
John Hancox - The Children's Orchard

This report covers both the Seminar Day and the 2 day Conference. Where workshops held on the Friday were repeated during the weekend, only one review has been printed encompassing the main points raised. Specific comments cannot be attributed to individuals nor do the views expressed necessarily reflect the views of the organisations involved.

Photographs by CWA staff and directors, with additional images from Graham Clarkson, WECAN and Lara McDonald.

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