



Sustainable Wood Solutions



Friends of Glasgow Woodland Seminar

Crookston 13th March 2010



Sustainable Wood Solutions CIC

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Background

Organised by Sustainable Wood Solutions CIC, funded by Community Woodland Association

Many urban areas across Scotland contain areas of woodland that are undermanaged. Much of this woodland attracts anti social behaviour such as fly tipping, drinking and drug taking.

Many of these woodlands have had no formal management in recent years. This issue was identified in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and the Woodland In and Around Towns grant scheme seeks to address this through funding to re introduce management.

Glasgow has over 1300 hectares of woodland and has been successful in receiving WIAT funding to develop management plans and reintroducing woodland operations. This has led to a range of initiatives based in woodland within Glasgow.

This includes; over 30 forest school leaders being trained, healthy walks in woodland, mental health projects, arts projects and work to develop community groups.

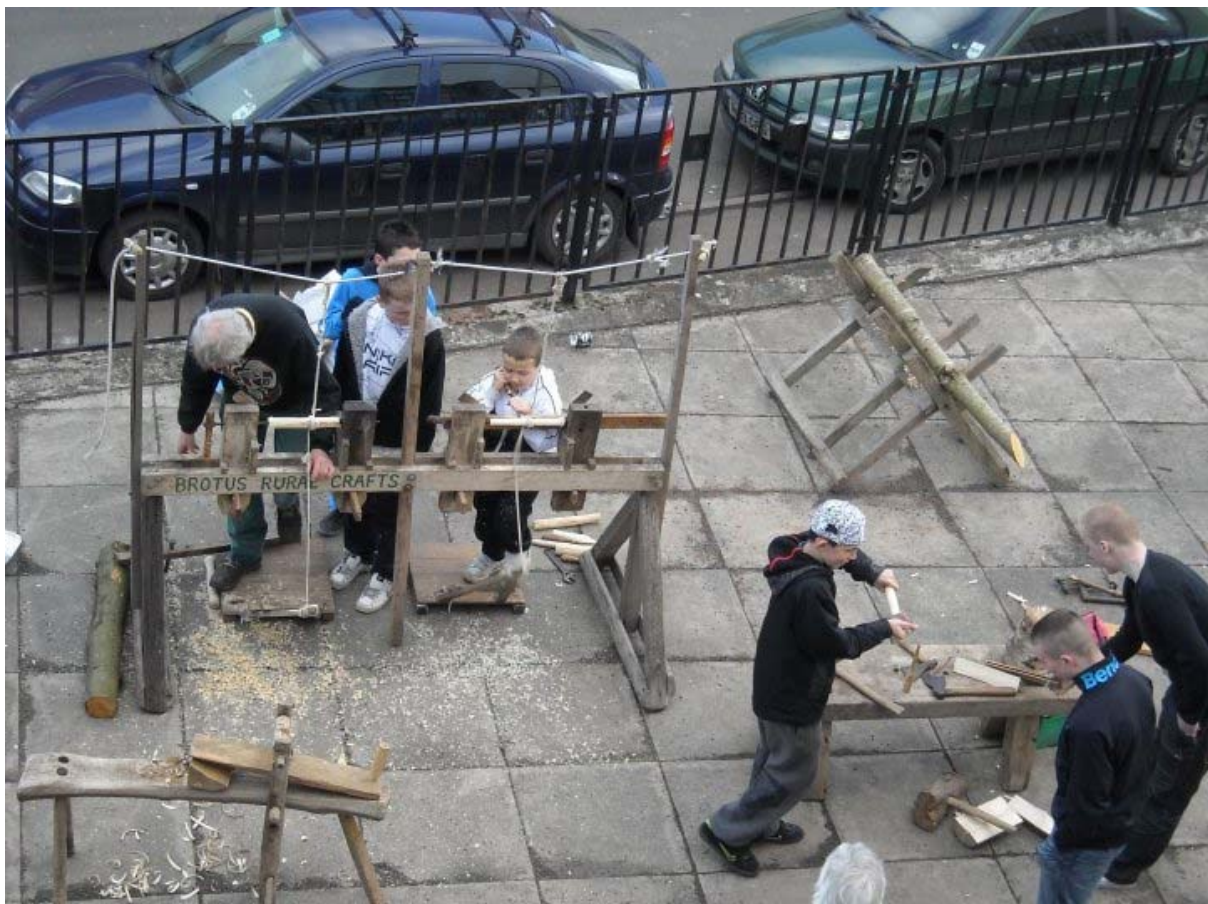
There have been several attempts to start community groups within Glasgow that have been unsuccessful in recent years.

This seminar seeks to pull together individuals across Glasgow with an interest in forming community woodland groups or supporting existing groups.



Event objectives;

1. Identify groups and individuals with an interest in woodland.
2. Organise and hold a seminar to inspire individuals and groups to get involved in managing woodland.
3. Generate ongoing development of community woodland groups in Glasgow
4. Share skills between woodland groups
5. Seminar attended by 100+ community representatives
6. Raised awareness of the potential to create community woodland
7. Skills transferred from existing groups to potential groups
8. Interest raised in a Glasgow wide community woodland group, with potential group members identified.
9. Participation in practical workshops in green woodworking and other crafts





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Event report

Invitees

The seminar was aimed at communities groups, community representatives, individuals, NGOS and public sector agencies.

Invites were emailed to;

MSPs	7
MEPs	5
MPs	5
GCC councillors	67
Community Councils	23
Tenants associations	18
NGOs	14
Charities	5
GCC officers	24
Known community groups	26

Promotion

The event was actively promoted by CWA (Ros) and SWS (Paul). Event details were posted on a range of national and local web site events pages.

In addition the seminar was promoted directly to the email members of Woodland Trust Scotland, Transition town, Reforesting Scotland,

Both local and national press were informed, with an events entry appearing in the Daily Record

Location

The seminar was held at the Jack Jardine Community Centre, Crookston Glasgow. This is community centre is entirely run and operated by the North Pollok Community Council. During the recent cold weather the water tanks froze then burst causing sever damage to the building. The volunteers made great efforts to repair the centre in order to host this event. This was done entirely through donations and volunteer time.

At the rear of the Jack Jardine Centre is Crookston Woods, owned by Glasgow city council. In recent years the woodland has had some work done under a WIAT grant scheme. This included creating whin dust paths, dangerous tree removal and thinning.

The Community Council have been successful in securing a water tower within the woodland for conversion into a community asset. Plans are being drawn up to make use of this for community benefit.



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Program

- 10.30 Arrivals and Coffee
- 11.00 Welcome and Introduction – Paul Cookson, Sustainable Wood Solutions
- 11.15 The Community Woodland Association – Rosslyn Mills, West of Scotland Advisor
- 11.30 What is happening in Crookston? – Raymond Goodall
- 11.45 Alva Glen experience – Russ Fenton
- 12.15 Possible Friends of Glasgow Woodlands Group – Paul Cookson
- 12.45 Lunch
- 13.30 – 15.00 Workshops Open

- Walk in Crookston woods
- Forest schools sessions
- Hands on pole lathe workshop
- Woodland Music workshop

- 15.00 Tea and Coffee
- 15.30 Workshops Open for 1 hour.
- 16.30 – 16.45 Close of Day

Attendees

Those attending the seminar came from across Glasgow and the wider region. Delegates included a MSP, local councillor, members of existing groups and individuals interested in getting involved.

The presentations were well received and provided an inspiring range of topics that demonstrated what is possible if the community works together to manage woodland.

Delegates were encouraged to discuss the potential for a Friends of Glasgow Woodlands group. The discussion supported the intention to form such a group though support from CWA is required to stimulate and train potential fledgling groups to achieve their aspirations.

There was discussion about ensuring that any such group would not be exclusive to residents of Glasgow. There was support for a flexible approach to membership.



Workshops

Raymond Goodall of North Pollok Community Council led a walk around Crookston woods looking at improvements already made and work required. Raymond has led the campaign to bring a water tower within the woodland in to community ownership.

Two GCC Countryside Rangers ran a Forest School taster session to demonstrate the ways children can learn in woodland. The delegates that attended this workshop were keen to work with schools near their woods to encourage children to appreciate woodland.

The pole lathe and woodland music workshops were run by Kenny Grieve of Brotus Crafts. The pole lathes and instruments were set up outside the local shops, to the amusement of local residents. These practical workshops attracted a crowd and there were plenty of volunteers to try turning and make music!

Photos





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Feedback

How did you hear about this event?

BCTV email

Word of mouth

CWA Facebook page

Glasgow Transition Towns website

CWA Staff

CWA Email

CWA Website

	V. poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. good
Location			3	8	
Organisation			3	8	
Catering				4	5
Facilities			3	8	
Trainer				8	4

	Yes	No	Partly
Did the event deliver your expectations?	9		1

Explained Partly

One comment unsure who the audience was and what is meant by “Woodland Group”. Felt that an introduction session at the start would have been helpful

Would you consider joining a woodland group after this event?

Yes

Yes and forming one

Depends on time

Already a member

Yes working with residents association

Would you like to start a group for local woodland?

Yes- assist

Maybe

I can help groups through work (BCTV)

Would you join a “Friends of Glasgow Woodland” group?

Yes

If it covers a wider area than just Glasgow

Maybe

What events would you like the Community Woodland Association to organise in Glasgow?

Setting up groups

Fundraising

Craft events coppicing

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Charcoal making

Bush craft

Family days

Ideas for events

Central resource pool – tools etc

Shared tree nursery

Out door education event

Would you recommend others to take part in such an event?

Yes 100% No 0%

Other comments that may be useful

It is vital to encourage and support communication between groups

Attract non CWA members, such as community councillors

Urban pack to demonstrate best practice from deprived areas to inspire action

Male 9

Female 2

Age

16 – 25

26 – 40 5

41 – 60 6

60+

Ethnicity

Scottish

British

White

Caucasian



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