



Community  
Woodlands  
Association

## Cordwood Wall Building Course Report

Milton Community Woodland

8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August & 29<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011



*This event is part of the CWA Knowledge and Skill Development Training Programme, funded by the Scottish Government Skills Development Scheme and the Robertson Trust.*



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### Introduction

This is the final report produced by Milton Community Woodland Trust for the Cordwood Wall building course held at Milton Community Woodland on the 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August and the 29<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2011. The course was well received with 16 people attending in total. The course was led by George Gunn.

### Course Objective

To build the barn walls round half of the Milton Community woodland Barn and to train the attendees with the use of Lime Mortar, what it is, why it is used, how it is made and how to build with it using cord wood (in this case, sycamore from Milton Community Woodland)

### Key learning points:

- How to safely use and make the correct lime mix
- How to safely incorporate that into a cord wall

### Short summary of the course activities:

#### Week 1:-

Trainees were introduced to Lime (NHL 3.5 ST ASI ER) its caustic nature and how to use it safely. How it is made from Lime stone that is cooked in a Kiln. The remaining powder, when mixed with Water and air, returns to lime stone. It is this characteristic that makes it good for making walls. When mixed with sand (2parts) and 6mm gravel (1 part) lime (1 part) and water it creates a breathable mortar which is perfect to work with, in this case, wood.

The trainees were shown and worked on the walls and shown how to incorporate the logs that had to be peeled, dried, cut to length and sometimes split to size. Window frames and a door frame were also incorporated

#### Week 2:-

As above

### Event Trainer: George Gunn

An award winning master Drystone Waller, who has been a professional member of the Drystone Walling Association since 1983 and is a fully qualified advanced instructor and examiner.



## Milton Community Woodland

Milton Community Woodland Trust was set up in 1997 and is responsible for the management of Milton Community Woodland, 12 hectares of broadleaved woodland cut through by a meandering river. The woodland is adjacent to the village of Milton, a deprived rural locality with a fragile economy. It is part owned by the Trust and part rented from a local farmer.

After initially working to improve woodland access, the focus of the Trust in the last five years has been on community events, training in woodland skills, arts and crafts activities, and developing a life skills and confidence-building programme called Stepping Stones. As part of its training projects, the Trust secured funding to create two log buildings: the workshop, which was constructed first, and the log barn. The log cabin style buildings at Milton aimed to provide permanent storage for timber, a workshop and a venue for exhibitions and events.

### List of Course Participants:

All those attending the course were linked with Milton Community Woodland.

Henry Fosbrooke  
Gordon MacLennan  
Ben Davidson  
Emiezf Blaauw  
Mike Maculloch  
Caorann Fosbrooke

Hamish Davidson  
Josh Bain  
Kyle Tulloch  
Allan Cleland  
George Gunn

Alan Macintosh  
Wendy Sutherland  
Christian Zanone  
Tracy Moir  
Andrew MacGillivray

### Photographs:





## Feedback from participants

Total number of participants returning feedback was 14 out of 16 attending

### *How did you hear about this event?*

- \* Support Worker x2
- \* Organisers x3
- \* Word of mouth x4

*Please rate the event against the following criteria, circling the appropriate statements:*

	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
Location				2	12
Organisation				7	7
Catering		1	5	6	1
Facilities			3	8	4

### *Do you feel that the event delivered your expectations?*

Yes	No	Partly
14		

*If your answer was 'No' or 'Partly' please tell us why, and how we might improve things.*

n/a

### *Please tell us why you wanted to take part in this event?*

- \* To learn how to make cordwood walls
- \* To gain more knowledge on lime mortar
- \* To learn new skills in wall construction
- \* To learn new skills and meet new people
- \* To learn new skills and meet new people
- \* New skills
- \* To consolidate my knowledge on the process and help get the barn walls up\_\_\_\_\_
- \* Interested in building my own facility
- \* Learning of a valuable skill and taking part in a tangible construction project
- \* New skills
- \* Keen to see building complete
- \* Get experience
- \* Work experience
- \* I am studying Concrete Technology in the states, so I am very familiar with cement operations. However I didn't know very much about Lime in its relation to a building material/composition, so I thought it would be quite interesting to work with and compare to Portland cement.
- \* Tried something I had never done before - gain new skills

### *What benefits do you feel you gained from attending the event?*

- \* Met some nice new people, learnt about lime mortar
- \* Gained an understanding of the requirements of using lime mortar



- \* I learnt how to build a wall, working with others, mixing mortar and using different materials
- \* Team building, learning about different materials and using them in different wall building
- \* Learned how to build a wall, knowing different materials
- \* How to build a wall and use the mixer and more
- \* More experience in this technique of building and a cosy workshop area is working when we are finished
- \* Gained a lot of confidence
- \* A valuable skill and taking part boosts confidence
- \* Feel empowered and more confident
- \* How to work with this medium - lime mortar
- \* More confident about self
- \* Experience
- \* I have better knowledge of Lime and have taken a bit of an interest into it.
- \* Learned how to build walls out of wood and lime - useful skills

***What will you do with the experience / skills / ideas you have gained from attendance?***

- \* Learn more about lime mortar
- \* Use in job applications and CV
- \* Add to it and use it in future life
- \* Add it to CV and use in the future
- \* Add it to CV and use in future jobs
- \* I will pass the information and skills on when appropriate and use this technique when appropriate
- \* Use the knowledge to build / project plan my own facility / workplace
- \* This will strengthen my skill range and I will use them again when leading and supporting training
- \* Experience
- \* More confidence to tackle projects
- \* Put in my CV
- \* Put in my CV
- \* I have already done a lot more research of Lime and I am actually doing a topic and presentation about it as an ancient material; mortar binder; and concrete binder.
- \* Try and encourage the use of materials that were used

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

Yes	14	No	
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***Please explain why / why not:***

- \* It helped to construct a building that will develop the facilities for training opportunities at Milton
- \* It is good to learn new skills; it will give an advantage to new jobs
- \* Give opportunity to gain new skills
- \* Good experience
- \* New skills for job



- \* Good old fun
- \* Worthwhile project
- \* Good fun, learn new skills
- \* Good experience
- \* One will gain at least a basic knowledge of Lime in the construction industry, with potential for further interest.
- \* Good experience

#### ***What would you like to see Community Woodlands Association do next?***

- \* Bush craft, wild food, wood machining
- \* Bush craft, joinery, raft making, chainsaw, wood sculpture
- \* Chainsaw training, bush craft
- \* Joinery
- \* Joinery, bush craft, chainsaw
- \* Provide a service that helps groups with? Boards, make sure they have covered all their legal requirements \*if they chose to ask for help. And if the same is already there, make it clear \_\_\_\_\_ Carry on with helping groups with knowledge share, conference etc. Keep the dream alive and real
- \* More community work, seminar and group chats
- \* Chainsaw, jobs club
- \* More building with wood
- \* Log building
- \* I would like them to give demonstrations and lessons in the construction process of Log buildings and Log homes.

#### ***Do you have any other comments on any aspect of the event?***

- \* Very well explained tutorials with George Gunn
- \* Make sure whatever group take this on have a clearly designated person to co-ordinate all these aspects that need co-ordinated
- \* George Gunn explained all explanations very well
- \* Enjoyable
- \* 100%
- \* Good fun!
- \* George Gunn is a brilliant teacher and is very professional at what he does. Long after the course has finished, he still responds to my queries about Lime and its various applications.
- \* More funding?

#### **The following section was optional:-**

<b>Gender:-</b>		<b>male</b>	12	<b>female</b>	2		
<b>Age Group:-</b>		<b>&lt;40</b>	10	<b>&gt;=40</b>	1	<b>&gt;40</b>	3
<b>Ethnicity:-</b>		<b>Scottish</b>	6	<b>British</b>	1	<b>White</b>	5