



Community  
Woodlands  
Association

**Scribe Log Building**  
**Morvern Community Woodlands**  
**28-30 October and 4-6 November 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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This report focuses on the Scribe Log Building events delivered as part of the CWA Knowledge and Skills Development Scheme 2011/12. This event took place on 28-30 October and 4-6 November 2011, training a total of 11 people with additional participation from 5+ community members in log peeling. This report summarises these events and gives feedback on the success of the project.

**Why did we do this?**

The purpose of the events was to encourage networking between community woodland groups and to teach you the skills and knowledge to enable you to create a building using logs

**Course Content**

***The aim of the course is:***

On successful completion of the training participants will be able to select timber and undertake a simple 4 sided log building project. The event is an opportunity to encourage networking, to build community ownership of the MDCDC allotments site, and to encourage community cohesion around an exciting and iconic log build that will be used for community gatherings, teas and coffees, etc.

***The objectives of the course are*** - participants will be able to:

- Timber; suitable logs for building, differences between species, sourcing timber
- Preparing logs; Felling, peeling, handling
- Handtools; Use of appropriate tools, chisels, adzes, axes, drawknives, together with correct sharpening techniques. Use of Chalk/ink lines, squares
- Powertools; Chainsaws, safe use and handling, sharpening, introducing techniques such as ripping logs, cutting grooves, brushing, and planing
- Scribing; Using a double bubble scribe to mark logs.
- Cutting Notches and lateral grooves; Using chainsaw and handtools to create a chinkless fit between logs

**Event trainer:**

Alan Mackintosh, member of the Reelig Woodland Group, is a respected log builder with experience of a range of large and small projects, including log buildings, viewing platforms, giant picnic tables, etc. He has delivered similar courses in Knoydart with funding from the CWA Knowledge Share.



## List of course participants

Attendee Name		Group Details
Dave	Mealand	Morvern Community Woodlands
Russell	MacIntyre	Morvern Community Woodlands
Simon	Bolt	Morvern Community Woodlands
Caff	McCluskey	Clydesdale Community Initiatives
Gene	Wrathal	Clydesdale Community Initiatives
Jake	Willis	Morvern Community Woodlands
Donald	Kennedy	Morvern Community Woodlands
Peter	Quelch	Argyll Green Woodworkers
Robert	Kinghorn	Reelig Community Woodland Group
Andy	Bone	Fernaig Community Trust
Alasdair	Grier	Morvern Community Woodlands
Dave	Christian	Morvern Community Woodlands
Allan	Davidson	Morvern Community Woodlands

## Course content

### Day1.

Safety briefing  
Log peeling and layout  
Log halving

### Day2.

Cutting notches  
Scribing

### Day3.

Use of hand tools  
Roughing out grooves  
Refining notches  
Assembly

## Feedback from participants

*Total number of participants returning feedback was 7 out of 13*

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

Locally advertised  
CWA e-bulletin



Allotment group

Word of mouth

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

	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
<b>Location</b>				1	6
<b>Organisation</b>					7
<b>Catering</b>				1	7
<b>Facilities</b>				1	7

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

Yes	No	Partly
7		

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

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

I read a book by Guy Grievess which included him building his own log cabin and was keen to find out more about the building techniques involved.

To learn new skills and help community.

To learn about log building from a recognised expert in the sector.

To learn a traditional skill and to build build build!

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

I feel that I got to know several other members of my community better

More chainsaw control.

New skills. Better understanding of techniques

Updated myself with what is happening in other community groups, surprised myself by the unexpected community interest and support in the training courses

The obvious benefit of learning a cool new skill.

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

Continue to assist with the log building in Lochaline & perhaps build my own log cabin in the future.

Help community build a log cabin and for work.

Continue construction of the building.

Build and train

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

Yes	No
7	

**Please explain why / why not:**



Even if they never use the skills, it's a good experience.

It is a very satisfying way of building using local materials and craft techniques that are relatively quick to learn.

It was well organised and did what it said on the tin.

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

***Are there other training / seminar opportunities would you like to see organised?***

Follow up log building course.

Chainsaw course.

Green wood working course.

Wood carving.

Many! Green wood-working and natural materials construction skills courses will always prove popular.

Any green or traditional woodworking courses. I felt Allan Mackintosh has a lot of knowledge and

Traditional skills and I would recommend him to anyone. He should be your first port of call when

Considering more courses. I would come on them for sure.

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

Could have been longer than 3 days, a lot to cram in and remember in short time.

The community of Lochaline were very accommodating and it felt like a home from home.

Except for all the nutters on the course! Jokes aside I will really miss those guys... ;-}

The bonfire night on the Sat night was exactly like our one we have at home.

I would have stayed out for a few ales but I was on strict instructions...

Good to get up fresh and early to scribe more logs