



Shave Horse Construction Course
Buy Design Gallery, Jedburgh
3 & 4 March 2012



Dunbar Community Woodland Members and course tutors, with the products of the weekend – 4 shave horses for use in Lochend Woods Dunbar.



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.



Shave Horse Construction **Buy Design Gallery, Jedburgh** **3 & 4 March 2012**

This report focuses on the Shave Horse Construction event delivered as part of the CWA Knowledge and Skills Development Scheme 2011/12. This event took place on Saturday and Sunday 3 & 4 March 2012, a total of 8 people learning new skills and gaining more experience with greenwood work, with the end product of 4 shave horses to take back to the woods in Dunbar. This report summarises the course and gives feedback.

Why did we do this?

- To learn new skills and improve existing skills
- To construct shave horses for use in Lochend Woods in Dunbar, to be able to roll out greenwood courses to that community.

Shave Horse Construction Course Content:

The aim of the course is:

During this 2 day practical training, delegates will learn valuable craft and design skills as they prepare, fit together and construct a shave horse, then 'road test' it after completion, by using it to clamp and carve a piece of timber. Skilled tutors will take delegates through all the stages of design, construction and testing. Skills learned – preparation of timber, using axes and draw knives, tenon cutting, augering, fitting - will all be entirely transferable to the making of other products.

Objective of the course:

To develop and construct shave horses for Dunbar Community Woodland, for use in the delivery and development of greenwood working in the future.

The course consisted of evaluating available timber, the tooling, and the techniques that could be employed to make a value added item from a forest resource. During the course of the weekend the course providers assessed technique, approach to aesthetic design, as well as ensuring delegates understood the value of timber properties, the importance of ensuring quality of product, including overall presentation and cost analysis.

To learn practical craft skills: including splitting timbers of different sizes and girths, using three or four simple methods, the techniques that were used throughout the weekend could potentially be used to make products which contribute to group or individual income - and most importantly, with the new tools acquired and the new skills learnt over the weekend delegates can pass on to others.

How we achieved this:

- We examined the woodland resource
- We evaluated the tool bank most commonly available to community woodlands or small workshop infrastructure



- We designed around the timber available from our woodland (or using upcycling from other woodland products available to us)
- We discussed the products that could be made using the shave horses and low-tech tools, we discussed the potential income stream or future course development in our group, and for individual makers
- During the making time – we assessed the timber, tools and techniques that are required and where and how they can be improved.
- We developed a prototype design through group critique
- We examined our finishing, presentation, developed a back-story and brand
- We then re-visited the resource, process, production and retail opportunities, and discussed how to take this forward in our own woodland.

Event trainers: Eoin Cox, supported by Keith Wintrup and David Crosbie

Eoin Cox MBE

A native of Fife he has been involved in communities, landscapes and heritage for more than 30 years. His involvement in timber came through years of working in the ancient archaeological landscape of Scotland. He was predominantly involved in medieval and early industrial European trade with Scotland. He has worked in Russia, Central Asia, Saharan Africa and Scandinavia.

A chance meeting with the late Tim Stead sculptor and furniture maker saw them form a nucleus of local Borders people into what became the first community woodland buyout in Britain in 1985. Borders Community Woodland has been an international model of community engagement ever since. WWF asked No Butts (a company formed by Eoin and Tim) to explore the potential for a large Scottish based / woodland centred Millennium Project, quickly to become Millennium Forest For Scotland Trust, they were instrumental in being founding Trustees of Borders Forest Trust. Eoin founded and focussed on the economic restoration element of a BFT bid around Woodschool, a unique centre for local timber utilisation.

This unique collective of furniture designer / makers was widely recognised as an exemplar of social enterprise within Europe for the furniture, forestry and creative industries. Committed to raising awareness of Scotland's new makers and users of local hardwoods and in all traditional applied arts and crafts, he received an MBE in 2002 for his work in small business development in rural Scotland. He has provided extensive technical, commercial and strategic advice to companies, organisations and individuals throughout the UK, Europe, USA, Japan and Australia involved in value added community forestry. He is a past Director of Galgael Trust, a community enterprise in Govan which addresses the use of local timber in traditional boat building. He is also a strong advocate of social capital, community capacity and entrepreneurship.

Eoin left Woodschool in 2008 to concentrate on his gallery business BuyDesign Gallery, near Jedburgh and to take up more direct action in community woodland work. He is currently involved in a research project on Sustainable Development and Craft in Fife at



St Andrews University and working with Community Woodlands Association on promoting Arts and Cultural Heritage in Scotland.

Keith Wintrup

Keith is a founding member and active volunteer with Wooplaw Community Woodland. Keith has 30 years experience in working in green wood crafts, and regularly provides demonstrations and hosts training events in furniture making, willow chairs, willow sculptures, basketry, charcoal burning etc. Keith also established a willow collection in Wooplaw Community Wood to be used in the future for basket making and woodland craft courses. He has undertaken training in seed collection, propagation and harvesting to enable him to maintain the willow nursery.

List of course participants

Name	Group Name
Isobel Knox	Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Philip Revell	DCWG
Liz McLean	DCWG
Ute Penny	DCWG
Clement Penny	DCWG
Mark James	DCWG
Janet Barnes	DCWG
Jeanette Gray	Individual CWA member

Course content

Day 1

- 10.00am -12.30pm** Welcome and introductions
 Explanation of components of shave horse, and order of assembly
 Bed, legs, arms, fulcrum, foot, vice, board, peg
 Timber, Tools and Technique
 Choosing timber for, and preparation of shave horse bed
- 12.30 – 1.00pm** Lunch
- 1.00pm – 5.00 pm** preparation of legs (3) and fitting to bed, using auger and power tools.
 Boring holes in bed using augers, to fit fulcrum
 Choosing timber and preparation of timber for arms and feet

Day 2

- 10.00am – 12.30pm** fit fulcrums, split and prepare arms
- 12.30 – 1.00pm** Lunch
- 1.00 – 5.00pm** fit arms; prepare and fit foot, vice, board and peg; test our shave horses



Throughout the 2 days delegates were encouraged to think about, and discuss the following:-

Timber – What do you have available or could source?

What species, dryness, sizes, costs?

Where will you store this and volumes required?

Does it fit with your woodland management plans –coppice /thinning, enterprise

Tools – What are the basic requirements?

Nice to have vs necessary to have

Costs, overheads, further training

Techniques – One technique, two tools – explore the possibilities

Think of products you have seen and that you think you could now make or adapt

Further drying, kilning, woodland management training

Tools, sharpening, care, HSE

What are the advantages of power over hand tools?

Talent – Who is in your community that has skills that could be adopted, learnt from?

Machine time, workshop space, expertise

How do you decide what can be made for maximum benefit – commercially / educationally / environmentally, with the aid of the shave horses made on the course and other tools?

Product

Species – can we use other species?

Size - physical adaptation, scale,

Supply – does it still fit with your woodland management plan, recycling supply chain

Process

Now that you have these tools and techniques what else could be made by you now ?

Planning

How would you go about setting up the process?

What tools will you need and what will it cost?

How long do things take from woodland to workshop to market or skills course consumer?

Where would you sell them or how would you raise awareness of the courses and products?



Photographs



Splitting the wood



Smoothing the wood



Using the auger



The final touches



Having a go on our new shave horses!



Feedback from participants

Total number of participants returning feedback was 7 out of 8

How did you hear about this event?

- CWA e-bulletin
- Work colleague
- CWA staff
- Email
- CWA website

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

	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
Location					7
Organisation					7
Catering					7
Facilities					7

Do you feel that the event delivered your expectations?

Yes	7	No		Partly	
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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?

Learn skills and ideas to use in my own community woodland

To learn new skills to pass on to others in our community

To learn more about green wood and the different crafts that can be achieved through simple techniques

Gain green wood working skills

To get ideas for product development from my woodland

I want to gain greenwood working experience as I believe strongly in keeping craft traditions alive. I believe they are critical for many reasons including their importance in both heritage and conservation, and their ability to connect us to the land, our home and our practical minds... a connection which many of us are losing.

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

Tech skills, understanding of marketing, how to develop multiple products from one basic technique

Confidence to make something, design something. Take skills to workplace and pass it on to workmates and volunteers

Learned new skills

Achieved above plus confidence and lots of ideas to take home with me

Learned skills and made useful products and had fun



Take away with me new skills that I can put into practice and share with others
 More confidence in tool use, an opportunity to meet new like-minded people and find inspiration for future projects!

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

Put into practice in my woodland and share with other individuals / communities
 Start woodworking at home using our woodland
 Pass on to workmates and volunteers
 I hope to do more greenwood courses and perhaps become more involved with Dunbar Community Woodlands events.

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

Yes	7	No	
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Please explain why / why not:

To learn new skills, useful skills
 So they can enjoy learning greenwood skills too!

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

Chainsaw use and product marketing
 I would like to attend other CWA courses
 More courses and opportunities to make products
 Make some pole lathes for using at Dunbar Woods
 Advice for acquiring tools
 Continue providing courses such as these.

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

Inspiring and excellent teaching and sharing of knowledge
 Great day, lovely people, thanks!

The following section was optional:-

Gender	Male	3	female	4				
Ethnicity	White Scots	2	White British	5				
Age group	16-25	1	26-40	1	41-60	5	61+	0