



**Greenwood Working Weekend**  
**Dunnet Forestry Trust**  
**14th & 15th July 2012**



**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.**

## **Greenwood Working Weekend Dunnet Forestry Trust 14th & 15th July 2012**

This report summarises and gives feedback from the two day Greenwood Working event delivered as part of the CWA Knowledge and Skills Development Scheme 2011/12. This event took place on Saturday and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012, with a total of 17 delegates learning new skills and gaining more experience with greenwood work.

### **Why did we do this?**

- Set up a green wood working group – a new skill in the locality
- Broaden the skill base of our current volunteers and attract new ones
- Create equipment which can be used by forest ranger to diversify activities offered to community groups
- Find a means of making replacement xylophone beaters on site!

### **Weekend overview:**

Places were available to those wishing to learn some green wood skills over a weekend in Dunnet. The event was advertised locally and through the CWA network.

Under the supervision and guidance of skilled craft makers from Wooplaw Community Woodland – in the Scottish Borders, delegates were put to work developing and constructing shave horses and pole lathes. This new equipment was constructed for Dunnet Forestry Trust using timber from site, and was the first event to take place in the newly built log cabin.

Over the weekend delegates enjoyed good conversation and renewed community empowerment - with discussions leading towards the establishment of a greenwood group). Delegates learned skills such as;

- Identifying timber suitable for construction – and for craft on the completed pole lathe / shave horse
- Identifying what tools are required and how to use them – for construction of the equipment and for use following its completion
- Discussing and making the various products can be produced on a pole lathe and shave horse
- How to use pole lathe and shave horse safely



**Trainers:** Bob Fleet and Jay Read travelled to Dunnet from the Scottish Borders; where they are committee members of Wooplaw Community Woodland (Wooplaw Wardens). Both have been involved for years in running a number of similar events at Wooplaw, and they successfully duplicated the model in Dunnet.



**Bob Fleet - taken from [www.onegoodturn.co.uk](http://www.onegoodturn.co.uk)**

Fundamentally, I enjoy working with wood. I first started woodturning using a pole-lathe deep in the depths of Wooplaw Woods, our local community woodland. I mainly use local hardwood from the Scottish Borders, this is a lot cheaper and more personal - you know where the object you make from it came from.

When my legs got too tired I graduated onto a small power lathe and began turning a wide variety of objects from fruit to pens to lamps. Later I bought a larger lathe and now prefer to turn bowls giving me the ability to produce shavings in industrial quantities.

I still demonstrate the pole-lathe at local events including the Hawick Reivers' day and the Border Union Show at Kelso

## Delegates:

Most delegates were members of Dunnet Forestry Trust, with 6 new members joining to take part in the course) Scolty Woods in Aberdeen was also represented. A third of delegates were under 40 and over a third were female, both above average percentages for similar DFT events. Some were complete novices, while some were already very skilled in wood turning – greenwood turning was new to everyone.

Please see Dunnet Forestry Trust Facebook page for more photos from the weekend:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dunnet-Forestry-Trust/368838866464988?ref=hl>



## Event feedback:

11 forms were returned

|              | V.Good | Good | Fair | Poor | V.Poor |
|--------------|--------|------|------|------|--------|
| Location     | 11     |      |      |      |        |
| Organisation | 11     |      |      |      |        |
| Catering     | 11     |      |      |      |        |
| Facilities   | 10     |      | 1    |      |        |

Do you feel this event delivered your expectations?

|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Yes    | 11 |
| No     |    |
| Partly |    |

## Why did you want to take part in this event?

- Local materials - new techniques to enhance the facilities in the area
- I have been a volunteer for years and wanted to try something different
- To learn new skills
- Being a wood turner in my retirement I have never used a pole lathe
- To learn about pole lathes and have fun!
- To find out what is happening in the forest, to find out how my class at the local primary can become involved
- To do something different
- To learn about greenwood working, to meet new folk and see a bit more of Scotland
- To gain knowledge and understanding of Greenwood working to pass on to groups, schools etc
- It sounded fun

## What benefits do you feel you gained by attending this event?

- Learned new skills
- I can make a shave horse - and use it, can make a pole lathe and use it
- excellent instruction provided in-depth working knowledge
- Enormous benefits about pole lathes, Bodgers and shaving horses
- I feel I have gained the knowledge and the experience to build and use pole lathes and shave horses
- access to people, involvement in the forest, feeling in inclusion in the community
- It's been really good seeing how a group of committed individuals can create such a focus for the local community with such a wealth of potential uses
- Personally I have learned how to make shave horse and pole lathe and how to use different types of tools
- New skills and met new people
- Networking and greenwood skills
- Learned lots, met nice people. Had fun

**What will you do with the skills & experience you have gained in attendance?**

- Develop further for art projects related to the botanic of the area
- Make a shave horse and pole lathe and use them at home
- Use the skills to develop a new hobby and possible income
- Try to pass the knowledge I have gained to other people, especially young people in our village
- Build my own equipment
- Ways to involve children in our school and pass on skills learned
- I will look to set something at Findhorn when I go to live there next month
- Use them in my own workshop - help with future courses
- Pass on to others as above
- Make things from greenwood, maybe xylophone beaters

**Would you recommend this event to a friend**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| Yes |  |
|-----|--|

**Comments (from yes)**

- Very well organised - good community atmosphere
- The knowledge I have gained from the instructors and the general comradeship from the other members
- A fun and beneficial experience
- Excellent course
- I think that lots of people would enjoy

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

- More please! Basket making, living willow structures, grass weaving, building kilns for ceramics - local loom fires and local clay, bread oven
- A course on what can be made
- Open to all events offered by this team!
- Further development of skills learned
- Dry stone walling, willow structures, basket making, charcoal making, kiln building, Grass hooping techniques

**General Comments on this event:**

- Brilliant atmosphere
- Very good trainers, always there to help you when it is needed
- A very well organised course, learnt a lot and made new friends
- Overall excellent event well organised, good tutors and sunny weather - amazing!!
- A really enjoyable 2 day course