



Community
Woodlands
Association

CWA Annual Conference Report



“25 Years & Growing Strong”

1st & 2nd September 2012

Tweed Horizons Centre & Wooplaw Woods, Scottish Borders

Introduction

The 13th annual CWA conference took place on the 1st and 2nd September 2012 at the Tweed Horizons Centre, Newtown St Boswells, in the Scottish Borders. The weekend has been hailed a great success, with 72 delegates from throughout Scotland making their way to the Borders; to network, share and be inspired by a diverse line up of speakers, workshops and a very special site visit.

The conference was held alongside a weekend of festivities to celebrate the 25 anniversary of Wooplaw Community Woodland, Scotland's first community woodland buyout – located approx 10 miles from the Tweed Horizons Centre, delegates were given the opportunity to join the celebrations, with presentations from Wooplaw Wardens, past and present and a site visit to the woodland on the Saturday afternoon. Delegates were also invited on the Sunday afternoon to join Maggie Stead for an open house at the workshop and home of Tim Stead – exceptional woodworker and founding member of Wooplaw Woodland.

Our choice of location, venue and speakers reflected the theme of the weekend – 25 years and growing well! The celebrations provided opportunity for CWA to explore the roots of our organisation and a platform to explore the potential of community woodlands in the future. Topics up for discussion during the weekend included; Scottish Land Reform, working in partnership with local authorities and the NHS, woodland crofting, wild harvest and forest gardening.

A few quotes from the great feedback CWA received:

“This is the highlight of the year! It recharges all the batteries”

“Lots of interesting people, lots of good inspiration, great ceilidh”

“A great opportunity to find out more about other groups’ projects and learn from them”



CWA gratefully acknowledges the support of our funders: Scottish Government Skills Development Scheme, the Robertson Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands & Island Enterprise.

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Photographs from the weekend – including the lively Ceilidh and site visit to Wooplaw Woods, can be viewed at CWA's online photo bank: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/communitywoods/>

PowerPoint slide-shows from the weekend presentations are available to download in the public documents section of the CWA website (www.communitywoods.org)

Event Schedule

Saturday 1st September 2012

- 9.15 Registration and refreshments
- 10.00 Welcome and housekeeping: Isobel Knox, CWA Director
- 10.10 Keynote address; Mark Lazzeri, CWA Chair
- 10.20 Wooplaw in the beginning; Donald McPhillimy and Rory Macleod
- 10.55 Wooplaw today and in the next 25 years; Bob Fleet
- 11.25 Arts and creativity in community woods (outline of PhD); Rod Bain
- 11.30 Tea and coffee break
- 11.50 Break to workshops
- Workshop 1: Developing Woodfuel Businesses: Amanda Calvert
- Workshop 2: Plain English for Funding Applications: Joyce Faulkner
- Workshop 3: Working with Arts and Theatre Groups: Sadie Dixon-Spain
- Workshop 4: Establishing Mountain Bike Trails in Community Woods: Pete Laing
- 13.00 Buffet lunch
- 14.00 Site visit to Wooplaw Community Woodland

Sunday 2nd September 2012

- 9.30 Registration and refreshments
- 10.00 Chair's Welcome: Charles Dixon-Spain
- 10.05 Community Woodlands and Land Reform: Andy Wightman
- 10.25 Woodland Crofts & Enterprise: Ian Hepburn, North West Mull CWC
- 10.45 Working in Partnership with the NHS: Catherine McCluskey and Helen Thomson, CCI
- 11.10 Coffee break
- 11.30 Woodlands Working in Partnership with the Local Authority: Paul Towning, SWAT
- 11:50 Wild Harvest & Forest Gardens: Emma Chapman & Alan Carter
- 12.10 Volunteering, why people do it and what are the benefits: Lisa Brydon, Borders Forest Trust
- 12:30 Conference Summary: Jon Hollingdale CWA CEO
- 12.40 Lunch & end of conference
- 13.30 CWA AGM
- 15.00 Close

Saturday 1st September 2012

Keynote Address

Mark Lazzeri; CWA Chair

“Every community deserves a woodland”

Mark began by announcing how pleased the board were to be at a CWA conference so close to Wooplaw, where it all began.

CWA is somewhat younger than Wooplaw; the first national conference of community woodlands was held at Laggan in 2000. The decision to create a new independent organisation to represent and support community woodlands came two years later at a conference at Bettyhill.

CWA was launched with a reception at the Scottish Parliament in the summer of 2003 – by the end of the year CWA had 40 member groups. This number has swelled to a current membership figure that has passed the 200 mark – with 132 direct group members - plus many others represented through umbrella organisations, such as Borders Forest Trust.

Whilst the growth and development of the CWA and its member organisations is undoubtedly a tremendous success story, it is equally important to remember the historical perspective: knowing where we come from, and why we got involved in the first place - we are contributing to a broader and deeper narrative.

Community woodlands have always been conscious of the need to conserve what's precious to them: whether that is access and amenity, or biodiversity, or skills and crafts. But they also have been forward looking; aware that we can manage our nation's forests and woodlands better, so that our forests and woodlands can deliver a much wider range of benefits for Scotland's people. In doing so, they contribute to building better, stronger, healthier communities.

The community woodland movement came into being, driven by demand - to answer a need, to provide unity, and support for community woodlands, without inhibiting or proscribing their individuality. It has been a successful strategy, as evidenced by the strength and growth of member groups, and also by the growing membership.

CWA has unequivocal evidence that community management and ownership of woodland works – to the benefit of the particular woodland, to the benefit of the community, and to the benefit of the wider population and environment.

CWA could continue as we are, doing the things that we do as efficiently as we can, running courses and putting on rewarding events. We could – but we do not think that it is enough; it will not sustain us for the next 25 years. We are in a period of both change and austerity. This is precisely why we need to take the initiative and to start building now. And we have quite a lot to be optimistic about. We have an excellent relationship with FCS, who administer their Community Seedcorn funds with flexibility and sympathy. We have the National Forest Land Scheme, and we have the recent welcome news of a revitalised Scottish Land Fund. Highland Council have announced proposals to create a Community Benefit Fund using money from wind farm developers. We are optimistic about the prospects of the Scottish Rural Parliament/ Assembly, and the Scottish Government is currently consulting on a Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill, which includes proposals on community asset transfer, allotments, and common good land, amongst a variety of other topics.

The CWA have been involved with some of these policies and proposals from their very inception and have contributed to them all. We are in an optimal position to influence further these and new initiatives.

The task ahead is two-fold – to strengthen existing community woodlands and to facilitate the establishment of new community woodlands. We think that as an organisation CWA can best achieve this by becoming significantly more pro-active than we have previously been.

The CWA directors and staff met in Bridge of Allan recently to discuss potential strategies for the future. They tried to identify the common glue that binds such diverse woodland groups together. What became apparent was that there is no one thing we all do and we are about more than just the woodlands themselves. It is genuinely one of those rare instances where the mass or importance of the whole, really is much greater than the total of all the individual components and parts added together.

The Board concluded that it is the fundamental combination of community and woodland together that brings groups and individuals to the CWA. This was something of a “Eureka Moment”; they found that the Board members all shared a common belief that **Every Community Deserves a Woodland**. Having articulated that concept, they could not help but ask; why is it there are still communities in Scotland that do not have their own woodland?

The Board quickly realised that the CWA are the best-placed organisation to support and facilitate communities, and set them on an empowering quest to acquire their own woodlands. We are the ideal body to bring the voices of each of our individual member groups together to proclaim as one; to the government, to the people of Scotland and anybody else who will listen, that **Every Community Deserves a Woodland**.

CWA are uniquely placed to help deliver this strategy, as we are already doing the things that those whom we wish to help may want to do. The ownership, possession, occupation and management of land can be highly emotive, not least in Scotland. Navigating a path through these thorny issues is something where we can offer help, guidance and support to those who wish for it.

We want the CWA to make a case to every land owner, community council, regional council, government agency, charitable body and to our MPs and MSPs. A case where the argument is so strong and incontrovertible, that it will be impossible for politicians and decision makers not to listen and help. And impossible for our peers not to be moved into action by what is a simple yet important idea. **Every Community Deserves a Woodland**.

CWA staff would make representation to effect policy creation and implementation, not dissimilar to what we already do, but more targeted.

We will not tell groups what things they ought to do. We will not create an inflexible doctrine which tells groups how to use and manage their woodland. What we will do is share our ideas, promote our success and explain our past difficulties. Our member organisations have an enormous fund of knowledge and experience of how to identify and acquire woodland and land. Similarly our collective knowledge of funding sources is second to none.

We envisage a CWA which will continue to do what it currently does, with the same resourceful and dedicated staff. But some things will be done differently, with more focus and within a clear strategy, through this we will achieve more. The result will be to release more of the potential that we have always had, to do more, but with a new clear vision and objective. If we adopt this goal, it will not be easy and it may not be quick. There may be set-backs and disappointments, but with a growing membership of over 200 repeating the same truths, emphasising the same benefits, making the same demands, at each and every opportunity, the message will get through, we will achieve a woodland for every community.

The CWA has always tried to meet the needs of its members, sometimes because we are such a rich and diverse organisation; it has been a challenge to identify those needs. This suggestion represents something of a departure in that we, CWA directors and staff can anticipate some of

your needs and those of future Community Woodland groups, and by serving and representing you well; the CWA will become stronger and more successful.

Whatever we do, we must do it with one voice. Therefore it is important to give all members of the CWA an opportunity to shape that voice. CWA are proposing that the first step on which to embark is a consultation period with members, canvassing their opinions in the coming weeks, before formulating a watertight strategy that we know will deliver results. We should aim to launch this strategy in the following months.

Mark stressed that he was not suggesting that CWA should stop doing the things that we currently do, but asked that while delegates enjoyed the conference and listened to the speakers that they consider whether we can do more.

Wooplaw in the Beginning Donald McPhillimy & Rory McLeod

Donald McPhillimy; Donald gave his speech without any slides; however he did bring a few props along... including books and a wooden axehead.

Donald began by stating how great it was to see all the CWA guys down in his neck of the woods. He then stated that the one thing he is most proud of in his career in forestry so far is being in at the inception of Wooplaw Community Woodland. Today Donald will tell his personal story about those early days.

Donald lived in Edinburgh, but had a girlfriend down in the Borders, for his birthday of 1987 she gave him a wooden axe head. He never found out what the symbolism of this was to her, but he later found out the symbolism from the maker's (Tim Stead) point of view was that a tree has two lives; a life when it is growing, and the life when it exists as a useful / decorative object. It exists for a long period of time in its second life, as well as its first. The moment in which the tree changes from the first life to its second life is the moment when it is felled – the wooden axehead represents this moment.

The girlfriend's gift puzzled Donald, and sparked an interest in him to meet the person who had created it. Tim Stead, a fantastic person who understood wood and the different qualities of wood. If you don't know his work – there are a few books available about Tim and his wood and the objects that he created.

Donald and Tim met, and Donald learned about the work he was doing with old trees – elms in particular from the local area and he wanted to put something back, so he had the idea to buy a field, plant some trees and turn it into woodland. Donald told him not to be silly, to buy a woodland... don't wait for 20 years for the trees to grow, get stuck in now! Donald told him of the fun that he would have in working with the trees and the wood, as well as the fun that the community could have as well. This was the start of their friendship.

Other people met Tim at the same time – such as Alan Drever (who set up Scottish Native Woods) and Rory McLeod. They all began to think, this is good – let's do this! They held a workshop in Blainslie Hall, when they talked about the significance of a woodland for every community in Scotland, and what it might look like... two weeks later somebody said “did you know Wooplaw woods are up for sale”. They had 3 months to raise the money to buy the woodland, £30K... cheap by today's standards for 22 hectares. It was not much time and it was all hands to the pumps. This resulted in a fantastic community effort – jumble sales etc. David Bellamy gave a lecture in the Melrose Corn Exchange; this attracted 300 people, and went a long way towards the fund raising efforts. Donald submitted funding applications to the World Wildlife Fund and what was then the

Countryside Commission for Scotland, who contributed about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the money needed to buy the land.

The group heard about the woodland in May, and by October they had purchased Wooplaw Community Woodland. The first thing they did was go to the woodland, and to mark the opening of the first community woodland, a fallen tree (at the entrance to Big Wood) was cut in half and moved out the way... no ribbon required!

Since these early days it has been a slow rollercoaster ride; the energy keeps changing initially it was huge, the group wanted to be like a mini CWA, hosting a series of events, evening talks, workshops... then the energy petered out... as the group began to question why this was, there was another surge in energy and different people started to get involved. The SWT training course with Hugh Chalmers had a huge influence on Wooplaw. However this slow rollercoaster ride continued, with downs and ups, sometimes renewed enthusiasm and sometimes ticking along unaided. Donald is very glad to say that at the moment, the group are on a big up – under the leadership of Bob Fleet.

“The energy is back again and that is a great thing.”

Donald began his presentation by stating how proud he was of his involvement in Wooplaw, but finished by saying how proud he is of all the efforts that have gone into making Wooplaw what it is today. Donald referred to a copy of a European report he had stumbled across entitled “community and forestry management in Europe, a regional profile on the working group on community involvement in Forest Management – IUCN (Switzerland) and to demonstrate the significance of what was achieved 25 years ago... the photo on the front shows the log being cut away on the very first day of Scotland’s very first community woodland.

Rory McLeod; Rory started his presentation by welcoming everyone to the borders, stating that it was a treat to share some time with those present. Rory wanted to audience to know how important this was for him. He made it clear that he was not a tree person, nor a scientist, and not the kind of person who will lie down in front of a vehicle to save trees. He is however the kind of person who will lie down to protect the person who protects the trees, that is what he does. That is his role. And he believes that is why in a series of cataclysmic coincidences this inspirational group all met, in a strange place.

So why do groups work? Why do they come together? When on the face of it they have very little in common. Rory’s job is funded by the Scottish Government and he regularly tells them that they should leave 80% of their business plans left blank and allow people to collide and fill that space – because it will happen. There is nothing more powerful than a group of people who know what the issue is, and decide to do something about it. Rory firmly believes that if there is an issue community is the answer.

Rory offered some advice in hindsight –

- Stop setting up groups with people who all do the same thing; set up dysfunctional groups from day 1.
- It is critical to have people who can challenge you... at the very beginning; they had a chap in their group from the Forestry Commission who said “*whit... people... in the woods... I don’t think so... people walking about and things...*” Think about where we are now.. Forestry Commission embracing even the most creative of ideas, actively encouraging people into their woods.
- Always have an artist, architects or the creative in the mix; these people are used to creating solutions to blank issues.
- Be suspicious of those who may be wishing to push their own agenda, or those that are only there to tick a box.

Wooplaw happened by accident. The group would sit round Maggie's table and drink lots of "coffee" and more "coffee", then the next day Donald would phone Rory and say "that was a great idea we had last night... what was it?!" so they had to meet again.. And they would talk more, and have a few more glasses of "coffee"... This continued until they decided to go for it - which was in somewhat of a panic, as the woodland had become available and they needed to raise the cash fast.

Tim Steed began going to other people's art openings; which he hated, and used his contacts to secure the first lump of money for the purchase. The group added to this through ideas such as selling the wooden Axehead to fundraise. (Rory held his Axehead up to show delegates) To Rory this symbolises, warriors, stating that to him community workers are warriors without weapons. Stating that it is not about violence and aggression, it is about caring and passion.

One of the things that Rory has learned in the past 25 years is that passion and insight need to be mixed – passion on its own is not enough. One of the things we need to do is to find insight, look at emotion and science together. Capture the passion, and use logic to make it happen.

You don't have to share the same values, beliefs and understandings to know that something needs done. So tolerate, trust and be with everybody.

Wooplaw needed the mixture of folk in at the beginning, they needed those who came and went. They needed people who knew what they were talking about when it came to woodland management. They needed the people they didn't even know existed to inherit what this group of warriors were beginning. Rory believes that this is not the beginning of the beginning; it is at least a 700 year plan!

Rory advised delegates to keep sight of their collective group conscience, to remember why they started. Rory reminisced about the early days of Borders Forest Trust when they were offered big amounts of money, money that made them challenge why they started the trust in the first place. Delegates were told to know your own mind; it is very easy to go in small incremental stages from a cat to a dog (cat, rat, rag, rug, dug, dog) - to go from one place to another without even noticing the increments. But don't become petrified, don't build up barriers to keep people out, and don't become stagnant.

Rory offered his congratulations to Bob and all involved in Wooplaw for their 25 year anniversary and wished the CWA a fabulous visit to the woods in the afternoon.

"There was only one community woodland 25 years ago, now there are hundreds. How did it happen? Because people came, they felt it, scratched it, sniffed it... and they realised that a community woodland, wherever in the country it is, is a fine place to be."

Wooplaw Today and the Next 25 Years

Bob Fleet

Bob began by thanking CWA for the invitation to come and present, and thanking the delegates for accepting the invitation from Wooplaw to join their celebrations. Following on from Bob's presentation at the CWA conference in 2011, he highlighted that the delegates would be travelling through the liner forest on their way to and from Wooplaw on the afternoon site visit.

Bob then announced a very special guest to the conference, Mrs Elizabeth Fairbairn, who sold Wooplaw to the inspirational group we heard about in Donald and Rory's presentation. An action that has brought about significant change in the way Scotland's land is used. Bob also announced that Maggie Stead was very kindly opening her house and Tim's workshop to CWA delegates on Sunday afternoon.

Wooplaw today: Bob showed a slide of the new interpretation panel that is to be launched at Wooplaw, as a lasting legacy of the celebrations. The new board shows the various routes around the woodland, tells readers about the history of Wooplaw, and advertises the future – Wooplore.

Bob led delegates on a photographic tour of Wooplaw comparing photographs from 25 years ago, with images of the same locations now. Bob re-emphasised Rory's comment that not everyone who is involved with community woodlands are tree huggers, stating that everyone is different and everyone fits in.

25 years ago there was only one community woodland, now there are hundreds in Scotland and thousands across the UK. Funding has changed, we used to have forestry grant schemes, now we have SRDP. We now have the community right to buy, the political climate has changed, we now have the opportunity to influence people and policy, land purchase laws have changed. Somewhere in these changes are the seeds planted at the beginning with Wooplaw. This was the first community purchase. This inspirational group got together and bought a woodland, they could have had no idea what could come from it.

Bob advised delegates that this early group should have put up a big sign to say that a community woodland was being created, stating that he drove by the field for 2 years – thinking “my isn't that farmer doing great work” before realising that it was something he could get involved with.

Maintenance: Purchasing a woodland is just the beginning. After the purchase comes the maintenance – how do you look after a woodland? Grants bodies don't like maintenance. So how do you get £250 to fix the iron horse, how do you get the money to care for paths and maintain our walkways. In short, re-badge it, hide it.

Wooplaw recently received a grant from the local wind farm fund to improve the infrastructure of the woods. They wanted legacy money that could be contributed to the community. By re-branding maintenance as “infrastructure of the woodland” they have achieved 5 years maintenance in a few short months. In the future they plan to plan their maintenance better – having to rely on an injection of funding every 10 years is not a recommended route to take.

Volunteer groups: you need people, you need volunteers. Wooplaw has connections with numerous volunteer groups including BTCV and Lothian Conservation Volunteers – and although it may cost in expenses to get these groups to your woodland, the progress that can be made by a motivated group of volunteers is priceless.

You need an artist: They are a different group of people. You need their inspiration, they provide an opportunity for grants, art brings people into the woods. There are sculptures at Wooplaw - some permanent; some will be gone in time. When things go, they will be replaced by new art.

Structures: they like things quirky at Wooplaw and don't believe in making life easy by building things that are simple. There is a six sided log cabin, a roundhouse – with turf roof, a BBQ area made from Scots Pine, a greenwood shed / wooden tent, an owl box in the style of a chalet and a totem pole. Their best purchase has been a container, this has allowed for those with a key to access tools at anytime, allowing for instant clean up if required (with the high winds at the start of the year, this has proved a very valuable resource)

Employment: Wooplaw is not big enough to employ anyone, and not big enough to regularly harvest timber. As a result of this, this year, when thinning and timber were required the Wooplaw guys acquired funding from the forestry commission to host a horse-logging demonstration, this brought new folk into the woodland and provided the timber for benches and the BBQ area.

Bio –eco bit: there is an excel spreadsheet containing species lists on the Wooplaw website, the lists go back a little way. If you get the experts down to do fungal foray, wildflower survey etc., it

becomes official. It goes on the record. This can bring new interest to the woodland, and can be used to attract funding. Go for a walk with an expert and record what you find.

The next generation: You need to keep the momentum going, this can happen naturally. Bob has passed his enthusiasm for Wooplaw to his daughter, who now uses the wood as part of her job as a teacher, her school has now planted a woodland... the legacy goes on... there are lots of ways to get people interested in your woodland. In Wooplaw, they use the website, the newsletter and their monthly events.

Wooplore mobile application: running on android. You can download the app, which will work without a signal. You follow the signs in the woods, and tap on the link in the app that matches the sign. You will then hear someone connected with Wooplaw describing something about the site. E.g. At the pond you will hear Anna Craigen from BFT talk about pond dipping, as well as some of the children she works with sharing their experiences. Wooplaw has a router in the woodland so you can download the app in the car park.

Something magic: a path in the woods was getting boggy, to correct this the group needed to acquire some large pipe. Bob on a whim, visited the water board and managed to get some pipe off-cuts from the skip and got chatting to a chap that was working there. It emerged that their company offered paid leave for voluntary work and he wanted to know was there anything they could do to help at Wooplaw... they were put to work to build a new composting toilet. Design brief – it needed to fit the container; it had to have a heart on the door and it needed to be easy to access. This was produced in just a few days. It turned out that the guy Bob had met was in charge of water distribution in the borders, he was one of the volunteers and he brought his colleagues from other areas and his boss - the guy who makes the decisions for Scotland. Wooplaw will be working with the water board again. It just shows that being in the right place at the right time, and not being afraid of a bit of blagging can lead to big things!

Invitation: Bob finished his presentation with by inviting delegates to join the celebrations at Wooplaw in the words of Catherine the Great at the opening of the Hermitage in Leningrad:

“Enjoy, be merry, but neither spoil nor break anything, nor indeed gnaw at anything”

Arts and Creativity in Community Woods (Outline of PhD)

Rod Bain

Currently working for a PhD at the St Andrews Sustainability Institute, Rod completed an MSc Sustainable Development in 2011 and, several years before that, a music degree. His research interest lies at the intersection of the arts and sustainability. Rod's PhD is focused on creative activities in community woodlands.

Rod was introduced to community woodlands following employment at Laggan Forest Trust.

Rod is keen to hear about any creative activities taking place in Scotland's community woodlands, whether making, performing - or anything else! By developing a greater understanding of the reasons woodland groups choose to promote creative activity, and the impact this has, Rod hopes his research will support community activism.

Later in the year, Rod will be sending a survey to CWA members, and asks groups to please respond to this – the findings could be used to influence policy and support those who are actively doing already. Following this broad survey, he would like to develop a closer collaboration with 4 or 5 groups, ideally spread across the country and engaged in different forms of creativity, to explore their activities and impact in greater detail. If you're interested, Rod would love to speak to you - please contact him on rb55@st-andrews.ac.uk

Workshops

Delegates had a choice to attend of one of four 1 hour workshops

Developing Woodfuel Businesses

Amanda Calvert

Plain English for Funding Applications

Joyce Faulkner

Working with Arts and Theatre Groups

Sadie Dixon-Spain

Establishing MTB Trails in Community Woodlands

Pete Laing

Developing Woodfuel Businesses

Amanda Calvert

Amanda asked everyone to rate their knowledge covering log identification, which types make the best firewood and which make good chip.

Each of the 3 groups then had to identify the logs on display, these included:

Oak	Laburnum	Douglas fir
Beech	Eucalyptus	Ash
Lime (not guessed)	Elm	Lodge pole pine
Apple	Yew	Willow
Norway spruce	Cherry	Scots pine

The majority of the group were surprised at how much they do know.

Some key points to consider:

- Sawmill waste briquettes (burn hot)
- Paper briquettes (leave a lot of ash – only really any good as a children's project)
- Oil seed rape briquettes (very expensive to produce but burn quite hot)

Some key points to consider when establishing a woodfuel business:

- Important for a business to understand the calorific value of their fuel
- Important for a business to understand how to process the wood correctly
- If a business sells/receives a supply of timber it is important to be able to identify what it is in case it is being sold wrongly

The groups discussed the pros and cons of pellets and briquettes. Both are expensive to make. A small pellet maker will cost £20-30k, must be constantly watched, will produce uneven sized pellets, may not produce pellets which pass a relevant standard required by the customer and are only really any good for animal bedding or personal use.

The groups then undertook 3 activities:

- Designing a shed and storage area for log / chip business, including the access area
- Listing everything need done to set up a wood fuel business from the idea stage onwards

- Identifying why one piece of wood is better than the other for a wood fuel business.

Designing a shed and storage area for log / chip business, including the access area

The design was based for a west coast location so was a log cabin store with gaps built in, a large roof and canopy to keep the wood dry. There was a rainwater harvesting system to water the polytunnel and grow tomatoes. The building would have at least 3 bays to enable storage of timber at different stages of drying, bagged and ready for sale and hard/soft wood separate. Customers will want either soft or hard wood but not a mixed bag.

Machinery included a logging machine, transporter and 7 tonne tipper.

The construction of the building was discussed and Amanda highlighted that building the lower walls from concrete helped future proof against damage by machinery and a double slatted wall would help prevent driven rain accessing the building.

Listing everything need done to set up a wood fuel business from the idea stage onwards

- Market research including a community consultation and a study of markets further away
- Identify areas for storage, drying, processing etc based on demand requirements – both initial and longer term
- Calculate potential income based on the forest timber supply after resource assessment
- Consider access to timber and future sustainable yield
- Meet with competition to introduce new community business
- Set up a delivery service/ pick up point
- Bring in a group of volunteers and train them up to undertake the initial works
- Secure some funding
- Create jobs through employability schemes such as Community Jobs Scotland
- Use start up funding to employ staff for first year then income for years 2 and beyond

Identifying why one piece of wood is better than the other for a wood fuel business

The group used the two pieces of wood, bucket of water, scales, two sticks and a calculator to confirm that the birch is better than the spruce because density of wood is related to calorific value.

Amanda thanked the group for their input and reminded people that there are resources and specialists (including the Forestry Commission, CWA staff and forestry consultants) out there to assist with any parts of the business they don't yet know about.

Plain English for Funding Applications

Joyce Faulkner

Joyce introduced the topic, explaining that the workshop was just a taster; a very short introduction to the subject that aims to help delegates to write clearly, so that their message can be understood quickly when applying for funding.

The workshop covered:

- The best vocabulary, tone and style for a variety of readers
- What the writer wants to achieve, and how best to make it happen
- Considering what people think of you, based on the impression they get from your writing

Joyce explained that there will always be different views on the “right” way of writing. However most of us can agree on some essential aspects for business purposes.

Plain English is not meant to replace creative writing, descriptive writing, persuasive writing, and advertising copy and so on. (There is still room in the world for those, so feel free to carry on being creative) However, for business purposes, you should learn to use straightforward, factual language, and that’s a separate skill.

Joyce stated that this is often thought of as “dumbing down”, it is not. “How can it be dumb to communicate more efficiently and more effectively, so that more people can understand?”

Most people like to read new or complex material at a reading level below their ability. If this is kept in mind while writing a funding application, you won’t go far wrong!

The main features of plain English:

1. Use shorter sentences (average around 15-20 words). Only reveal one or two main ideas in a sentence. Vary your sentence length. Where you need to soften the tone, add “softeners”
2. Use everyday language. This makes you sound more human. Avoid old fashioned language such as “aforementioned” or “notwithstanding”. Banish unfamiliar Latin phrases
3. Avoid jargon – unless your reader understands it
4. Avoid legalistic language. Be kind to your readers. Simplify things as much as you can. It will speed up the readers understanding.
5. Use the active voice.
6. Be positive rather than negative.
7. Avoid nominalisations. Use verbs rather than nouns.
8. Position transitional words at the front, these point your reader in the right direction.
9. Use personal pronouns: “We” for your organisation; “you” for the client or funder; “I” for yourself.
10. Avoid unnecessary capital letters. Watch abbreviations.
11. Use lists where you can.
12. Boldface is better than underlining if you want to emphasise something
13. Blocked text is more difficult to read than lower case.
14. A glossary (an explanation of unfamiliar words) is best placed at the front of a document so that the reader quickly notices that it is there.

Some key points to keep in mind:

Before you write;

1. **Be aware of the impression you give of yourself and your organisation.** Show you are a human being – just like the reader!
2. **Picture your reader.** Imagine them sitting in front of you. Be clear why you are writing, and what you want to say.

3. **Plan.** Save yourself time. Organise your information before you start
4. **Use planning tools.** Post-it notes are fine. Set down the main things you want to say (one point on each note), then move them around until you are satisfied with the order. Consider using mind-maps such as: www.mindmeister.com for individual or collaborative work.

As you write;

1. **Aim to get quickly to the point.** Your writing must be immediately clear and interesting. This will give your reader confidence.
2. **Read a sentence or two out loud.** From time to time, when a sentence is giving you trouble, test it out loud to hear how it sounds when you speak it. Any awkward words will stand out a mile. Then you can re-think what it is you are trying to say, and say it more simply. Imagine you have the other person right there in front of you “speak” to them.

Afterwards;

1. **Revise and proofread.** Get someone else to proof-read your work for you if you can. Most people read what they think they wrote in the first place, and miss their own errors.
2. **Test out your document.** Gerry Kelly of Quadrant Research Services in Melbourne, Australia says this: *“you don’t need hundreds of people – if only one person in your test misunderstands any part of your document, you’ve learned something.”*

Working with Arts and Theatre Groups

Sadie Dixon-Spain

This workshop was participatory, fun and held outside. Sadie checked that everyone had appropriate footwear and wouldn’t be cold. She reminded the group about ensuring health and safety by using a character from The Walking Theatre Company and gave people roles e.g. to bring up the back of the group, count numbers etc. Ask organisations that are booked to come and use your woodland/ space for copies of their insurance and disclosure certificates where appropriate. Performance licensing has changed recently for organisations too – you no longer require to apply on an annual basis but for each performance – this is to save groups that only have one or two performances a year money. For more information on licensing contact your local authority.

Some of the key points she highlighted included:

- The benefits of using the arts to engage with a space
- Check out the history of a place – consider the ‘creative heritage’ – this is very important in terms of connecting people and culture
- The outdoors brings opportunities to use traditional skills and crafts
- The landscape is constantly changing (both long and short term) – be prepared to go with it and use it to your advantage

The walk took the group through various types of landscape including well maintained paths, ‘off piste’ and rough ground, through gates, under trees, into a graveyard, past edible trees and plants and open space.

Sadie made sure the ‘audience’ were involved by asking questions, giving people parts and characters e.g. smugglers, excise men and Vikings. The group went into battle and later, entered in a tug of war

between smugglers and excise men to try and save their Highland still industry. Participants at one point were hidden behind trees in a line and asked to all 'pop out' and shout boo on the same side on the count of three which provided a very visual and audio impact.

The use of plants to tell a story was demonstrated by some lichen which the Vikings believed to be a 'giver of strength' and of course, its use as an environmental indicator. Poetry was used to involve the group and tell the stories of different types of wood with different people reading different verses.

Each place the group stopped presented opportunities to create different atmospheres and tell different stories, share bits from plays, use shade and light, connect environment and emotions, connect environment to people and each other, get folks moving and use sound as well as visual senses. Tree canopies provide a great opportunity for performers / audience to be under or outside, or an 'enclosed' space for crafts etc. Performances can also involve activities – practical crafts, tree planting etc. Using the environment provides not only a space to 'perform' telling the story of a cultural heritage but also an ideal venue to collect stories by getting the participants to share their recollections, stories and traditions. This info can be collected for future creative activities.

Many performances take place in the evening or at night and lighting can be arranged cheaply by providing torches for participants rather than trying to 'rig' lighting along the way. The torches can be used in a variety of ways e.g. getting the audience/ participants to shine light from below their faces/ onto each other, one character etc.

Performance is not just about the visible environment – musical or sound gardens can also be created using the wind, water, hanging shells etc. This could be linked with an eco waste project where groups make wind chimes from waste e.g. old CDs. The 'performance' or activity does not necessarily need to be at a set time either - use the trees to hang poetry and images, perhaps a 'gallery' along an avenue of trees. Performances can also involve activities – practical crafts, tree planting etc. Afterwards the group felt that they had travelled quite a distance yet, in reality, it had been a very short walk with the route doubling back over itself – no-one had really noticed.

Establishing MTB Trails in Community Woodlands

Pete Laing

Mountain biking history

- Mountain bikes appeared in Britain in the mid 1980's – a sport enjoyed by an enthusiastic minority.
- The first purpose built trail established in Wales in 1998.
- Mountain biking is now a mainstream sporting activity.
- Mountain biking can generally be broken down into multiple categories: cross country (XC), trail riding, all mountain, downhill, freeride, slopestyle, dirt jumping and trials. The vast majority of mountain biking falls into the recreational XC, and Trail Riding categories

Trail centres

Provision of mountain bike centres grew dramatically in a relatively short period of time. In 2000 there were only 2 purpose built trails centres in the UK – Coed y Brenin in Wales and Glentress in the Scottish Borders. By 2006 there were 32.

Trail centres typically offer:

- All weather trails
- Graded trails (green, blue, red and black being the most common grading used)
- Cycling friendly gradients
- A mountain bike scene and meeting place
- Variety

Who rides at a trail centre? (Pete showed a variety of photographs to highlight the diverse user group a good trail centre can attract.)

- Pro and semi-pro riders
- Skilled amateurs
- The more mature rider (pensioners like mountain biking too!)
- Kids (teens and toddlers!)
- Families
- Cycle clubs
- Tandem users!!!

A trail centre can be used all year round, and are equally accessible on a fine summer day as they are in the thick of winter. They can be a base for a number of activities; large scale adult competitions, children's competitions, as well as non-bike activities, such as all ability walking, horse riding, orienteering and rambling.

Pete showed a variety of photographs highlighting the kind of obstacles found on the graded trails in the UK: from gentle berms to sheer rock downhills. Those who use the graded routes need to assess their own ability to determine which route they are capable of. To do this, most trail centres offer a skills section, this will not only show the kind of obstacles that you are likely to face on each of the graded routes, it provides a place to learn the skills needed to overcome them. Pete used a "wheelie drop" as an example of technique that will prove useful as you progress your skills. (Wheelie drop is a low speed technique that allows you to ride over a sharp step or drop without mashing the chain ring or going over the bars.

Planning your trail network

Pete used Golspie and South Queensferry as examples of how to plan a trail network in a small community – with totally different landscapes. Pete discussed the materials that could be used, found on-site, locally or brought in. He talked briefly about consultation with community groups to find the best solution for all user groups – for example, incorporating path networks into the design.

Trail building

There are a number of ways that a trail can be created – it usually starts with some volunteers / enthusiasts with pickaxes, wheelbarrows and spades. Overcoming obstacles within the landscape can result in some interesting features (use roots, rocks and natural slopes to your advantage) ensure that all structures put in place meet with building standards. Bring in large equipment where it can be used, and where the budget allows.

Liability

Users will be taking risks when using your trails. Insurance is essential; as are correct construction, regular maintenance, and provision of an "out" for those who find themselves out of their depth on a particular route. And most importantly warn people, use recognisable, visual signs to highlight the dangers that are present. Pete gave an example from Tow Law jump track in Durham, where the interpretation clearly displays the slogan "Tow Law jump track requires a high level of bike handling skills.... if in doubt- stay out!!!" This is followed by a number of bullet points highlighting exactly how skilled you need to be to ride the track. (It also clearly shows the number to phone to report faults, as well as the location of the nearest hospital!)

Site Visit

Wooplaw Community Woodland

Wooplaw Community Woodland is made up of four distinct woods –Axehead Wood, Big Wood, Easterpark Wood, and Gullet Wood. The name Wooplaw comes from the Norse “uplaw”, meaning “shallow valley at the top of a hill”.

Wooplaw is the community woodland not for just one community, but for four. It lies within easy reach of Galashiels, Lauder, Stow and Earlston and is managed by a group of volunteers called the “Wooplaw Wardens” who help the woodland flourish for the benefit of all.

The group have a year-round programme of events, with something different happening each month. The woods are available as a venue for individuals, groups and organisations. Check the website for more information, and sign up for the newsletter: www.wooplaw.org.uk



Photographs donated by Mick Barnett

There were 2 buses taking CWA delegates to the site; dropping off at 2 different areas of Wooplaw Community Woodland. On arrival at the woods delegates were met by Wooplaw Wardens; Eoin Cox, Bob Fleet and Donald McPhillimy, who led the group on three different routes around the site.

Bus 1: Dropped off at the Axehead Wood car park; this route was a shorter, more compact tour of Axehead and Big Wood – missing out Gullet Wood. During the tour delegates visited the outdoor classroom, greenwood building, the cabin and BBQ area, the new composting toilet, the owl box and the totem pole – surrounded by wigwams for the weekend. The tour concluded at the willow tunnels, where delegates were reunited with those on Bus 2 for a photo opportunity and speech by Bob Fleet, Wooplaw Chair.

Bus 2: Dropped off at the Gullet Wood car park (*Delegates were advised that this tour would take in a set of very steep stairs and a number of stiles – it was not suitable for those who find these obstacles difficult to negotiate.*) This route gave delegates the opportunity to see the Wooploft (a tree house designed and constructed by local school children) the Roundhouse (a beautiful stone building with turf roof), a number of sculptures – including large willow sculpture of a highland cow. The group visited Gullet Pond; home to a wealth of wildlife – accessed by the pond dipping platform. This area is also

the site of the Wooplaw Willow plantation. The group were led back to Axehead Wood to the Willow Tunnels, via Big Wood (taking in the same features as those on Bus 1. On arrival at the willow tunnels the group met with those who were on Bus 1 for the photo opportunity and speech.

Following the speeches, delegates were invited to roam the woods at their own pace; exploring the various areas on site and trying their hand at the activities that were on offer. Donald McPhillimy led a group of interested individuals to Tim Stead's memorial in Easterpark Woods.

For the weekend celebrations four distinct areas had been created in the woodland to showcase the various activities that take place in the woods throughout the year. These were:-

- The Art and Heritage marquee in Axehead Wood (at the outdoor classroom)
- The Working Woods area at the Greenwood building
- The Bio/Ecodiversity area in Big Wood (at the owl box tree)
- The Education and Wellbeing area in Big Wood

Delegates were collected at 4.30pm and returned to the Tweed Horizons Centre with plenty of time to spare before the evening meal and ceilidh at the Buccleuch Arms.

Sunday 2nd September 2012

Community Woodlands and Land Reform
Andy Wightman

Andy began with a brief history of where we have come from with regard to community ownership. In "The History of the working classes" (1920) Tom Johnson states that "common acreage in the later part of the 16th Century stood at fully one-half of the entire area of Scotland" so the question is not can we have more community ownership, the question is what has happened to all the stuff we used to have.

A lot of the land was filched, Andy referred to title of a chapter in his book "Robert the Bruce, a murdering, medieval warlord" – a title his nationalist friends do not like, however it is not untrue. At the time folks like Bruce were not fighting for freedom, they were fighting for power and power under the feudal system granted you ownership of the entire country.

16th Century, all the church land disappeared – one of the biggest land grabs in our history, Scotland's reformation took place in 1560, by which time most of the land had disappeared into the hands of nobility, through various processes.

17th Cent – lawyers get to work, and we began the laws of registration, prescription and entail division of common land; much of our common land was lost at this time. Reference to "the Poor had no Lawyers".

There is a history of resistance against the appropriation of the commons, notably in the highlands but also in the lowlands, for example, the crofters wars 1870'/80's which culminated in the Crofting Acts which gave tenure and access to their common lands.

There came a point in this debate where a decision had to be made as to what extent of Scotland this new law would apply. The big lairds – like local Buccleuch, were against to this law extending over the whole of Scotland – which was a serious proposition – there were tenant farmers in Aberdeen, Perth, Angus and the lowlands who were in exactly the same position as crofters in the highlands, on their insecure, year to year leases. Because of this resistance they had to find some way of coming to a decision on where the line was drawn, so they decided – on a whim, that only the counties that the Napier Commission had visited would be covered by the act.

One county not covered by the Act was Highland Aberdeenshire, this means the whole of highland Aberdeenshire is now empty of people, and in 1992 a lady called Jean Bain died, the last native speaker of Deeside Gaelic, so Deeside Gaelic is now dead too.

Scotland had self governing boroughs for 100's of years. In places such as St Andrews, what was their common land is the now-famous Links. Which they were very proud of; however because of corruption within the town council they went bankrupt, and had to lease their common land to a rabbit farmer – Mr Dempster, this was OK until the rabbits began to multiply. Warrens were creating a mess on what was once a top quality 18 hole golf course. Golfers got hacked off and demanded the end of the lease... this is known as "the rabbit wars" and blood was spilt. After some period of time a local landowner gave the town council money to buy out Mr Dempster's lease, and the fairways returned to just that.

This historical memory of people owning their own common land came to a head in 1975 when we eliminated local government in Scotland. Referring back to St Andrews, who didn't want its common lands getting into the hands of North east Fife district council and actually got a private act of parliament to transfer the title from the town council to the St Andrews Links Preservation Trust, which is where it sits today.

Scotland is full of examples in urban and rural areas of resistance against the seizure and appropriation of the common property. And it is basically important to understand, when fighting for community woodlands that you are not fighting for anything new, you are fighting to return what was the norm.

In Scotland our local government is the least “local” in Europe. Andy showed a number of slides that showed the massive reductions in local representation in Scotland, and compared our situation with the level of local representation and democracy in other European countries.

Andy reminisced about cycling through Europe and stopping in Lutherstadt, Wittenberg, the home of Luther – an amazing revolutionary and theologian. He cut ties politically with Rome, he also convinced the town council and everyone else in Wittenberg to stop paying the church the tithes. This act could have led to the execution of the town councillors. However they did stop paying and the money that would have gone to the church was put into a common good chest, this was in 1520. It was used to pay for education and for social welfare payments for children who had lost parents, or parent. It was revolutionary at that time.

Forestry – once again we are different to the rest of Europe. Andy was recently involved in a study for the Forest Policy Group, into forest ownership in Scotland. They started by having a quick look at who owned what, it turned out that not a lot of work had been done on this. With the exception of Geographer, Sandy Mayer (TBC) – 1987 survey – his results showed that 245 hectares was the average size of private ownership and he stated that:

“There has been no stated policy towards ownership structure, whether by design or default the state exerted an influence of fundamental significance for the structure of forest ownership through its choice of policy instruments, whether by design or default, the state has facilitated the expansion of financial ownership of forests in Scotland”

One might think that the government would hold accurate information on land ownership today, but this is not the case. In 2011 the Forestry Commission went to a EU meeting with data about forest ownership in Scotland, when asked where the data came from they said it came from a sample survey, conducted in 1972 across the whole of the UK, and it was not disaggregated between the home nations.

Andy then showed a map from the survey he had been involved with. Explaining the pattern in private ownership of woodland in Europe was that 60% of holdings are less than a hectare in size. This is a reflection of their pattern of ownership, driven by their laws on inheritances, which give children legal rights to inherit land. Children do not have that right in Scotland. The pattern of private ownership in Scotland is that 44% of holdings are over 100 hectares

There is no reason why Scotland cannot be governed at a local level. There is no reason why local bodies cannot take ownership of the public forest, at no cost!

We still have such large areas of land owned and enjoyed by just one individual. This is really the bigger challenge of land reform, to get control of this land back.

What are the opportunities?

- Government has set out a land reform review group – big opportunities
- Community empowerment and renewable bill
- Forestry commission governance is right up for grabs as they only manage the land for the government, they do not own any. There is no reason why the government cannot put this land at the disposal of local authorities or community groups.
- Each year £36 million is available in forestry grants – for forestry expansion, it currently has no restrictions as to where it is spent, so the large land owners are grabbing it and investors ... Andy believes that they allocate given amounts to particular types of land owners

(community groups, farmers etc.) If this happened, and they dedicated say £12 million to communities, this would allow communities to get back into the land game...

Q&A Session

Q: Municipal government – very like community councils, is that the sort of density that we are talking about.

A: Yes. Community councils came about because of all the squealing that was taking place in town councils – as mentioned about St Andrews. This was compensation for losing so much – i.e. property, decision making, land... they were to be advisors to the larger council body. Andy thinks that we should eliminate community councils and start from scratch. The governing body needs to be important enough for people to notice it and to want to be a part of it... if nobody stands for community council, it just ceases to exist, imagine if this happened at a council level, and the same would not be true.

Q: With reference to forestry panel in England, which the questioner is involved with trying to fight a cause for communities. Because the panel is dominated in terms of wealthy land owners and large land owning charities there is only 1 paragraph in the report that mentions community, which pretty much dismisses it. This is despite major community organisations lobbying very hard. What are your views on these large charities, who are now major land owners?

A: They form part of an elite; to many of the decisions that the government makes are made by the elite. So the community sector, the people need to build bigger social movements. Andy does not think it is adequate enough to fight the corner just of the community woodland thing; it has to be a major social movement to reclaim power for communities – political power

Andy then complemented the questioner, stating that he thought their effort was a valiant fight, and that their cause it is still winnable. But they were trumped because these charities have too much power.

Q: What would be the utopia? What is the image we should have in our heads?

A: hold the image of Norwegian commune; 95% ownership is not normal, the image of localities of 5000-12000 people, substantially self governing, raising their own taxes, in Norway 12% of your income tax goes to your municipality, 12.4% goes to Oslo. These places have real political and fiscal power and they hold the land records.

Woodland Crofts and Enterprise

Ian Hepburn

Ian began his presentation with an overview of the beginnings of North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd.

The Woodlands: 700 hectares of woodland was purchased for £342K in 2006 under the National Forest Land Scheme from Forestry Commission Scotland, with the assistance of the Scottish Land Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Robertson Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, significant local fundraising and an interest free loan. The purchase price reflected the fact that the woodlands were effectively isolated from the public road network.

NWMCWC Structure: they are a Community Company, limited by Guarantee with charitable status. The Electoral Roll in their membership area is approximately 360. Membership to NWMCWC is 164 full voting members plus 62 associate and junior members. They have 11 Board members, 1 Development Manager (3.0 days a week) and 1 Administrator (2.0 days a week).

Revenue Funding: In 2008 the group received revenue grants from the Big Lottery and HIE which underpinned the overheads until September 2011. The challenge of replacing this funding is significant given that the first 2 years' timber sales revenue will be required to pay for the Haul Route and the subsequent years' revenues are needed to support the re-fencing and re-plant programme.

Key Forestry Tasks: Compile and agree a Long Term Forest Design Plan, Create a link to the A848 Tobermory - Craignure Road via a dedicated Haul Route, Obtain UK Woodland Assurance Scheme certification.

Long Term Forestry Design Plan: Returning significant areas to native species by doubling Broadleaves to 16%, increasing open space to 20% and increasing the commercial Sitka from 47% to 49%. Creating a more community friendly environment and extending the leisure and recreational use of the woodlands. Preserving and enhancing the historically significant sites. Obtaining UKWAS accreditation and thus ensuring that all activities are carried out in an environmentally friendly manner.

The Haul Route: In 2008 NWMCWC submitted a successful joint funding application to SSTTS with A&BC and FES to create a link between the woodlands and the A848 via the C46. It was a condition of funding that they had a fully funded agreement for the construction of the Haul Route with a Harvesting Contractor, so they concluded an innovative Open Book Contract with UPM Tilhill. The Haul Route which comprises 17km of class A Forest Road and 4 bridges is now complete and harvesting is underway with timber being exported via a floating pier saving 3000 road miles per boat load compared to movement by road and ferry. FCS are constructing a fixed pier which will save a minimum of 100,000 road miles for Langamull woodlands alone and reduce haulage costs substantially.

Why Woodland Crofts? They are a great way to pass management responsibility for some of the woodlands to a section of the community. They create greater community ownership, provide affordable housing opportunities, assist with creation of small businesses and by using the crofting legislation to provide long term tenure without the community losing ownership. They bring greater diversity in the use of the woodlands and help to repopulate a previously thriving area.

NWMCWC Woodland Crofts: Up to 4 Hectares, cannot have more than 20% open space including house and garden ground. To ensure that the crofts remain accessible to the community they may not be purchased and de-crofted. They are likely to be used for; tree nurseries, orchards, organic vegetables, performance spaces, holiday accommodation and housing.

Why Not Woodland Crofts? Identifying land and allocating it to individuals has taken some time, delivering the first 3 of the 9 has taken 14 months – although Ian has been assured the next 6 will be quicker. With a £500 premium at Ingo they have will have spent £5,000 net on legal fees. Ongoing the crofts will generate £2040 per annum or £71,400 over a 35 year Sitka rotation. However, on the same ground Sitka would net, even at the current £7 per tonne standing, £95,200. And unless you're very lucky with the selection process you're likely to end up friends with no one and in the future the Community Company will be the "dreaded landowner." Incorporating a pre-emption clause if the house ground is de-crofted creates a potential future funding requirement.

Selection: Early doors expressions of interest from local and web site adverts, accompanied by draft single page Business Plans, they had clearly defined selection parameters and scoring. By fate or coincidence, the final group was exactly in line with available land. To select the plots, maps were issued and the Crofters sorted it out between themselves, with Ian holding the coats!

Forest Design Plan Issues: FCS has been supportive from day one, but were nervous of dealing with 9 more Forest Design Plans (FDPs). In a meeting with the Conservancy, Jamie McIntyre and Ian drew up a Memorandum of Agreement which sets out all the basic parameters and calls for the

inclusion of each croft's FDP within our overall plan as an appendix. The crofters' individual leases all contain a copy of the Memo of Agreement and an obligation to comply with NWMCWC FDP.

The future for NWMCWC: in the crofts they are trying something new with no financial upside, they are trying to come up with innovative funding for the Haul Route; including looking to build Micro Hydro to secure future overhead costs, they are considering woodland burials, and developing potential funding for housing by using a joint venture and charitable status to eliminate Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax impacts from the development profits.

Ian then offered his thanks to FES locally and regionally and nationally, Argyll Timber Transport Group, Scottish Strategic Timber Transport Scheme, UPM Tilhill their open book partners, Local Landowners and Tenants, HIE, Big Lottery, Argyll and the Islands LEADER and to all the delegates for listening,

Woodlands for Health – Working with the NHS

Catherine McCluskey and Helen Thomson

Cath and Helen began their talk by explaining the various definitions of health;

“Health is a state of complete physical mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” World Health Organisation

“Health is your overall state of wellness on all levels of your being, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual and extends to your resources, environment and relationships which are all interconnected” Holistic Model

“The body is viewed much like a garden. For health to flourish and disease to be overcome balance in the person's life as a whole must be regained” Traditional Chinese Medicine

“Health is a resource for everyday life, a positive concept, emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities.” Wellness Model

At Clydeside Community Initiatives, they provide the opportunity to make a contribution to the community, with the slogan “everyone contributes, everyone gains”. Their work is to improve health and well being, support and develop skills and independence and to work with others in a non care / non medical environment.

MIND: the recommendations from MIND are that access to green space should be considered as a key issue in all care planning and assessment, and that the allocation of health care budgets should be informed by cost benefit analysis of eco-therapies.

CCI work with many partnership agencies, including;

- Integrated Children's Services (Social Work),
- Adult Community Care (Social Work),
- N.H.S (OTs and CPNs,)
- Education Department,
- Skills Development Scotland,
- North Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Council.

All these are at field level, no service level agreements, just relationships built up over time, unique ICS pay for individual services, 16+ activity agreement (money for under 24s) no money for adults which is how CCI's social enterprise came about and how they choose to invest their cash.

2 years ago CCI developed their Social Enterprise, they see this the way forward to being sustainable, with no compromise on their values. As a social enterprise they aim to provide a quality service that is competitive and value for money. As a social inclusion project they provide supported work placements to those facing barriers to being included in the community. The money from the jobs allows CCI to offer these placements, so it really is important for the entirety of CCI to produce high spec work.

They have found for individuals the bigger the contribution the greater their personal outcomes become. CCI have a person centred ethos and give meaningful tasks to our volunteer workers, and at the end of the day everyone can turn round and say “I was part of that”. CCI have 5 teams allowing for progression and a wide variety of tasks. The teams support each other and allocate workers on ability and their personal development plan. There is a buzz about jobs and new contracts

Products and Services: All of CCI’s products and services create opportunities, for people from a wide range of abilities to come together and make a significant contribution to their community. Their woodwork department, run by Stewart Kerr offers a huge variety of skills including producing exquisite turned goods, supporting the landscapers in transforming local play parks & community spaces, to creating bespoke bug hotels for school and community work. Engaging in real work gives people something to talk about, new interest and an easy way back into socialising.

The work CCI do as part of their enterprise includes;

- School gardens and orchards
- Community space
- Bespoke woodcrafts
- Landscape services
- Horticultural services
- Community gardens and allotments
- Woodland paths / tree planning / restoration

Inclusion Model: CCI’s client group is anyone who wants to make a contribution and needs support to do so. The only qualification required is the desire to work and that they are able to work safely. CCI’s inclusion model works well in the school & community work CCI do, which includes delivering John Muir Awards based around biodiversity, landscaping the grounds around Beckford Lodge psychiatric unit. Including; putting in planters, then leading sessions with staff & patients planting veg. & flowers. CCI have been in great demand building living willow domes and with the help of artist Shirley, they created a willow stag at Harthill Primary. CCI are also training to deliver SVQ.

Nutrients for Health and Wellbeing; Person centred: individual support, individual goal setting, onsite training and supervision, accredited training. **Solution focused:** creating positive feedback loops, building on individual strengths, expanding horizons.

Co-working with Nature: At CCI they see both social and therapeutic benefits from their workers. Increased motivation and self esteem plus reduced isolation. Due to the physical nature of the work, people report improved fitness. At the end of the day peoples moods have lifted. Taking away the walls and being engaged in a task outdoors allows for rich social dialogue. “I feel part of a team” Being part of something is a human need often not met. To top this off contact with the soil promotes serotonin a well known mood enhancer.

Woodlands Working in Partnership with the Local Authority

Paul Towning

Paul began by apologising to delegates as his presentation was sure to resemble “*instructing your two generations removed, direct female ancestors, how to extract the yolk and albumin from calcium substrate shelled over, by means of orally applied negative pressure*” – i.e. how to teach your granny how to suck eggs... Paul explained that those in large, well established groups are likely to be doing all, if not some of what he will be taking about, and that his advice is probably more relevant to small and newly established groups.

Stewarton is a small town in Ayrshire with a population of around 8000. The town has grown over the past 40-60 years from a village of 2000 and can be considered a dormitory town outside of Glasgow. The growth has been fuelled recently by several factors including the creation of the M77 and double tracking of the railway line to Glasgow.

Stewarton Woods Action Trust (SWAT) has been in existence for 8 years (since 2004) formed by a group of proactive individuals. In 2009, the group status changed from unincorporated group to a limited company with charitable status. Essentially the group are a path network group; however they do not own the land that their path network traverses. They look after approximately 5 miles of footpath which partially circles the town. The paths pass through a variety of landscapes, including riverside (wooded and open), mature woodland, estate boundary (double row of trees), local authority ground, maintained open space, and a particularly interesting $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of mature linear coppice.

The group works to maintain the paths, extend the paths and ultimately create a path network that circles the town using a variety of routes, with the end goal of linking with other path networks being created by other towns locally.

The group plant a lot of trees with the agreement of the people whose land the path traverses. Because the group does not own the land, they have to get on well with land owners, in particular the local authority.

As with most community groups SWAT have bursts of activity, last winter for example, they had a huge amount of trees down, in particular mature beeches over the paths. When canopy falls onto paths, the groups is willing and able to clear this with their chainsaws, however where large 1m diameter trees that have fallen, the group need the support of East Ayrshire Woodlands – SWAT has a great working relationship with them, they do a lot of training and SWAT provide great venues for training their staff.

The group has the usual office bearers, Chair, Secretary etc. and consider that they are very lucky with the folk in these posts. The Chair is currently David Mackenzie, who has a background as a QS and deals very effectively with the various agencies that they have to deal with. The hardest working member of the committee is Alice Wallace, SWAT Secretary. Alice coordinates activities and keeps the group informed of the decisions that they have taken, a task described by Paul as herding cats.

There are 15 active SWAT members, with plenty of support locally. The 15 active members are mature individuals who have retired from employment, yet continue to be extremely active in their community - a third age of volunteering.

The most recent project SWAT have engaged in was a major upgrade to the path network running through Cunningham Watt Park – a council owned site. This was project that had been on the back burner for a long time and that Campbell Paterson (company treasurer at the time), was able to introduce to the local authority, at short notice when leader funding became available. The project included the construction of new pedestrian bridges and path works over difficult terrain. The council then piggybacked on this project and did a lot of complementary work in the park. The net

effect of the relatively small amount of work carried out by SWAT was 4x value because the council could hang their project on to it.

Paul stressed the importance of having projects ready and waiting should funding suddenly become available. Stating that even in today's financial climate local authorities find themselves with funds that must be disposed of at short notice. And with good personal relationships and a small stock of priced projects of different scales, it can turn out to be mutually beneficial to offer the local authority projects that fit with their existing plans.

The main driver in encouraging councils to engage with voluntary groups and community groups is set out very clearly in the Christie Report; which states that public spending is not expected to return to 2010 levels for 16 years, on top of that there will be demographic changes that will hugely increase the demand to services.

East Ayrshire demographic prediction for 2022;

- Up to 15 year olds expected to drop by 8%
- Up to 30 year olds to drop by 13%
- Up to 44 year olds to drop by 16%
- Up to 60 year olds to drop by 18%
- 60-74 year olds increase of 26%
- 75+ year olds to increase of 85%

Paul tied in with what Helen and Cath had stated earlier; the health benefits of access to open space and path networks are extraordinary. In Stewarton the group are providing a path network that goes past people's front doors, one that they do not need to drive to, that can be easily accessed by foot. Staying active is probably the biggest single driver to health that you can get.

In addition to SWAT Paul is a tutor and facilitator with the self management programme for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and the single message that he has to get out to people is that if you want to take responsibility for your health, you have to remain active.

The cost of health benefits is better by building paths than almost anything else you can do. There has been a sport centre recently built in Stewarton, it cost £7million and is a fantastic resource. It will probably be used by 15-20% of the population. The path network, in 8 years, has cost about £150,000 of public money. And the health benefits are extraordinary, because the percentage of the population using the paths on a regular basis is enormous. The spread of demographics using the paths is unrivalled; young mums, kids, families, dog walkers and older folk in large numbers are using these paths. If you can demonstrate this cross community use to the local authority and elected members you are much more likely to receive a warm approach from them.

Paul returned to the Christie Report, which sets out a lot of what is pushing local authorities into community engagement.

“Unless Scotland employs a radical new collaborative culture throughout our public services, both budgets and provision will buckle under the strain, and inequalities will continue to widen. The public service system is often fragmented, complex and opaque, hampering joint working between organisations that the commission deems as essential. At the moment it appears that we have a top down approach in most cases, which is unresponsive to the needs of individuals and communities. Lacking accountability and short term results which make it difficult to prioritise preventative approaches”

Paul said that while taking into account what Andy had mentioned earlier in the day about the scale of councils and the fact that they do not have the locality or the devolved power to really make a difference at local level, in Stewarton they are dealing with what they have got at the moment. And if they want to deal effectively with what they have, there are certain things that they have to do. They have to be seen as not just moaning at the local authority.

Paul referred to his role with Glasgow City as Parks Development Officer for the West of the City Council. His job allowed him to work with friends groups, community groups and enthusiastic individuals. From this Paul has been able to see from the “other side” what works when trying to engage the local authority with community activities. What works is continuous positive engagement with the council officials and elected members that you need to talk to on a regular basis to make sure that they don’t think “oh no, it’s them again”. It is all about the personal relationships that you develop.

There will be someone within the local authority that has been charged with maintaining and developing communication with volunteer groups, they are usually found in the Chief Executive department, or perhaps heading up Neighbourhood Services (East Ayrshire). If you make contact with them and offer them the type of contact that your group can give them, you are allowing them the opportunity to engage with a body of interested people. People who are genuinely representative of the community they belong to, you might be surprised to see how welcome you are. SWAT ticked so many boxes that East Ayrshire Council thought it was Christmas!

There are possibilities of developing income streams from your local council, in Ayrshire there is a massive problem with the three invasive species. The Ayrshire Rivers Trust used to bring in teams to spray the riverbanks, however they have since discovered it is more cost effective to train volunteers to do this. There are a number of people within SWAT, Paul included, who have been trained to City and Guilds, SEPA accredited standards, for spraying near watercourses. They are equipped, and they are a team who are qualified and capable. When East Ayrshire Council found out about this, they offered to contract the group to do some work for them. The group have not decided if they are going to go down this route, however it is a potential income stream for a small group.

Some steps to a successful partnership with your local authority:

1. Find out who has responsibility for community engagement & development
2. Seek out a meeting with them
3. Have them or someone they recommend talk through their organisation chart – identifying the key individuals that you need to have regular contact with. If required request an introductory email to them.
4. Use your elected members - without playing favourites. Include everyone at all times
5. Invite officers and elected members to key meetings / gatherings; don’t be offended if they do not come, continue to invite them anyway
6. Include relevant officers and elected members in the circulation of reports and minutes
7. Do not contact them purely for negative reasons!

Wild Harvest and Forest Gardening

Alan Carter and Emma Chapman

Emma Chapman

Throughout her presentation Emma showed various slides of wild foods, including photographs of nettles, sweet cicely, hogweed and bracken. When Emma first became interested in wild harvests and foraging, it was seen as being quite obscure to be eating weeds, however of late it has almost become fashionable. Most people get into it because of the idea of food for free. Emma found the

joy of foraging because of a book of the same name. However having had some time to think about Emma has come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as food for free.

Emma gave 3 reasons for this:

1. It takes ages! Picking fiddly little leaves and processing them for a very small amount of food. Even if you collect a plethora of berries or leaf during a forage you have to weigh it against the number of times you have come back with nothing but a walk in the woods.
2. The food does not just materialise out of nothing, the leaves come from a system and there will be an impact every time you pick something. It might be on the species that you are picking, or it might be on a species that relies on it. It might be that the species is sustainable, such as Nettles or Ground Elder. But you need to be aware of the implications and possibilities.
3. Because there is not enough of it for all of us. Our hunter gather ancestors could rely on what they could hunt and forage, but this was because there were not very many of them. There are an awful lot of us and if we tried to rely on what we forage; we would strip the land bare within weeks.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the food that you do get is tremendous; it is high in antioxidants, in vitamins, in minerals and flavour. It can be beautiful; put wild garlic flowers in your salad; it is a taste explosion and brings some colour and luxury to your salad – available in abundance, a common resource! What you forage is not as important as the way you get it, and the knowledge of how to use it. Emma gave the example of Blackberries; the most foraged species in Britain, with around 1/4 of our population know how to pick them.

You need knowledge; it connects you to the place and the seasons. A woman who works with natural dyes work is bound to the seasons, a woman who works with willow for basket weaving – she knows exactly which plants will work for her, and where to find it in abundance. Hazel coppice is a great example of how our harvesting can be of benefit, if we do it right. Coppiced Hazel produces one of the rarest of habitats in Scotland. In the west of Scotland the coppice habitat is different, as the technique used allowed only the removal of one stem at a time. This produces a totally different coppice habitat, one that is home to some particularly interesting lichens. So it is important not only to know your species, but to know the locality and the impact this will have on it.

The honey bee is a wild species and one that we interact intimately with. We have not changed it but we have changed its environment, we have removed the flowers, the hollow trees, we have introduced pesticides. We manage the species itself in a way that introduces pests and diseases, and stress. And yet there is the potential here to have a symbiotic relationship with an ancient wild species, one that goes out and forages its own wild resource, which you can then use. If we get it right.

What we are taking from the wild depends on our knowledge, our motivation and how we do it. Some foragers forage for seeds and they sell them to the wildflower nurseries and tree nurseries. They are creating new habitat. Some find leaves; combine them with natural rot to produce leaf mould. Some grow their own weeds, sell their weeds.

Knowledge is important to enjoying wild food, once you start getting into wild harvest and foraging, you start to want more, you want to grow them, you want to share your experiences and tastes, you get to thinking about how you can manage land, or maybe a garden in a way that learns from nature. Maybe uses wild species, or the same structure. What it is providing for us is food; it is also providing a habitat for many other species. Although Emma did not offer food for free, she hoped that she did offer food for thought, about how to go out and forage; it is a great connection, it is a great way to learn, it gives you reason to be out there.

The Scottish Wild Harvest Association has been working with Reforesting Scotland in the publication of A Handbook of Scotland's Wild Harvests. This book is the collected knowledge of a number of foragers, and is the essential guide to edible species, with recipes and plants for natural remedies, and materials to gather for fuel, gardening and craft.

Alan Carter

Alan showed a photo of woodland and in contrast showed a photograph of modern annual agriculture practice; looking at something that is diverse in structure, to something that is as bland, simple and repetitive. The spectrum in between foraging in a completely wild environment and modern annual agriculture, it is a real spectrum; with some really interesting land uses in between the two poles.

Foraging | Enhanced Wild | Forest Garden | Orchard | Annual Agriculture

Orchards: trees – a permanent system, however little wildlife supported and no management of the ground layer.

Forest Garden – a forest garden is a food growing system based on the structure of the forest. You have your canopy layer, shrub layer ground layer, microriser fungi, climbers etc. All plants in a forest garden are rendered edible, useful species. The forest garden in Scotland does not try to replicate this kind of ecosystem; it is more a replica and manipulation of the forest edge. Alan showed a photograph of a forest edge, a rich habitat, where two ecosystems meet each other (sun loving species meet shade tolerant species.)

Enhanced Wild – ideal for community woodlands; not a completely natural eco-system – one where planted forgeables in the landscape, a typical woodland – such as Wooplaw, may already contain hazel, nettles, sorrel... however this is not actually very productive in terms of foraging. There are a lot of plants that can be added to make for richer foraging.

We are starting to discover that some great planetary ecosystems, such as the Amazon basin are actually very much influenced by thousands of years of people living there, they are in fact enhanced wild, and they are rich for being so.

Alan showed photographs from his own forest garden allotment, a very compact area.

Tree Layer – fruit and nuts, Alan showed an example of a Japanese plum which has been grown on its own roots (rather than grafted). Alan highly recommends doing this if planting fruit in a woodland. While Alan's grafted apple trees require maintenance and struggle when they have vegetation around the roots, the plum looks after itself and it is not troubled by competition from ground species. The plum has also thrived this year; with bumper crops, while the apples have struggled due to the poor summer / late frost.

Shrub layer – some of the more traditional fruit trees are forest edge species, such as currents and berries which thrive in this sort of environment. And well worth adding to woodland if you are setting it out.

Alan showed a number of photographs of plant species, suitable for different growing environments that could be grown in a community woodland – woodland edge. Alan grows a mixture of annual and perennial plants, stating that the difference between them is best given by comparing Turkish rocket (annual) and sprouting broccoli (perennial). You will pick them in a similar way and use them in a similar way, but it is when they are over that the differences and benefits become obvious. With sprouting broccoli you lift it and throw it on the compost heap, leaving you with bare land to weed or restock, whereas when finished the Turkish rocket will produce flowers, a haven for bees and hoverflies; it dies down covering the ground over the winter months – keeping all the nutrients locked in, before sprouting again the following year. You are getting a productive plant with benefits for wildlife, with no loss of either.

For Alan forest gardening has been as much a culinary adventure as a horticultural one, as Emma touched on; it is often finding the way to use a plant that really unlocks its potential, as much as the growing of it.

Alan has been blogging about forest gardening for over a year and you can read more about his forest garden at www.scottishforestgarden.wordpress.com

Volunteering, Why People Do It, and What Are the Benefits

Lisa Brydon

Lisa works for Borders Forest Trust, a woodland charity based near Jedburgh. Part of Lisa's remit in her role as Community Woodland Officer is to build volunteer capacity, and to have a dedicated volunteer day each week. Lisa stated that she had been particularly interested in Cath and Helen's presentation earlier in the day, as for her it is the health benefits that she notices when working with her volunteers.

The definition of a volunteer: "A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task"

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life, but people also volunteer for their own skill development, to meet others, to make contacts for possible employment, to have fun, and a variety of other reasons that could be considered self-serving. Volunteerism is the act of selflessly giving your life to something you believe free of pay. **Although if a person volunteers they may not earn money, it produces a feeling of self-worth** and volunteers earn respect and favours instead of money.

Lisa reflected back to her childhood, being made to volunteer by her parents, at the time she had little or no idea how much this had benefited her. The Scottish Government (2004) defined volunteering in its strategy as: "the giving of time and energy through a third party which can bring measurable benefits to the volunteer, individual beneficiaries, groups and organisations, communities, environment and society at large. It is a choice undertaken of one's own free will, and is not motivated primarily for financial gain or for a wage or salary".

There was a report produced on environmental volunteering by the Scottish Forestry Trust and the Forestry Commission in July 2008. This includes all the motivations and the benefits, for Lisa is the physical, social and mental benefits that are really important.

Barriers to Volunteering:

- Time pressures
- Management/risk and liabilities
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of information and awareness
- Disability
- Lack of transport/remoteness – BFT are able to offer volunteers a minibus pick up point, or reimbursement for travel
- Health Issues

BFT Volunteers

- Who are the volunteers? Bob Fleet volunteers, trustees, volunteers on site– wide range of people and a full bus every week, where they visit the 14 active community woodlands in the borders

- What organisations refer volunteers? volunteer centre borders, social work referrals
- Age groups? 16-80 year old
- What they hope to gain from volunteering; reciprocal arrangement, both sides benefit, it is not just free labour, it has got be mutually beneficial. If you have a day when you only get an hour's work done, but spend the rest of it chatting round the fire, it is still a productive day.
- Advantages to BFT, Community Woodlands, wildlife and the general public? BFT would not function without volunteers. General public benefit, because the volunteers give them it. Wildlife same.

Testimonials

Andrew, volunteer with a history of substance abuse, referred through Apex Borders

"The volunteering I have taken part in has boosted my confidence. I've learned new skills and met with different people I would not normally mix with. Before I started volunteering at BFT I sat around the house feeling pretty depressed and with no motivation. I really look forward now to going out with the other volunteers and seeing different parts of the Scottish Borders. My general health and mood is much better."

Melanie, volunteer

"Thanks to the Trust I was taken out every Wednesday to volunteer in community woodland sites. We did everything from conifer regeneration removal with hand tools to tree planting. We all worked as a team and got the chance to visit numerous sites throughout the Borders region. It got me out of the house for a full day in the fresh air (along with my dog!), giving me great exercise and getting me interacting with other people. I loved it."

Benefits of Volunteering:

Benefits to society; Social capital, community development, Social Inclusion, Environmental and biodiverse management and improvements, Pro-environmental behaviour and Pro-social behaviour

Benefits to organisations; completing work the organisation could not otherwise do, Increases capacity, Volunteers become ambassadors for the organisation, Connects people to the environment

Benefits to individual; skills and learning, well-being – physical, mental and social, Reintegration into society, Social connectedness and Rootedness to specific places

Benefits to communities; Pride in local community and green space Community cohesion, Usable and enjoyable green spaces

Benefits to the environment; Creation of new green spaces, Management to maintain and increase biodiversity, Clearance of rubbish and litter

Lisa showed delegates slides of the various activities that the volunteers undertake through BFT and ended by saying that to her *"volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know you had a hand in them!"*

Conference Summary Jon Hollingdale, CEO CWA

Jon began his summary by saying how fantastic it had been to have the conference so near to Wooplaw, and to hear the history from a fresh point of view, especially Rory's lively take on events. It is also interesting to reflect on the acquisition process and how simple, relatively, it was back then. What had been obvious throughout the weekend was that even 25 years on, the work at Wooplaw is just getting started. It is far from over.

In Jon's role as CEO he has the opportunity to talk to lots of folk who love community woodlands, and lots of people who are not so sure about them - those who are not keen tend to think that community woodland groups do luxury tasks - disposable, optional and fluff. Anyone saw the presentations given on the Sunday morning; particularly those from Catherine, Helen and Ian, will agree that these groups are not doing the easy things. They are tackling the difficult things, quite often making up for the failures of the existing bureaucracy and agencies. This is a message we at CWA need to keep putting across **community woodlands are not a luxury, they are essential.**

CWA decided to host the conference so near to Wooplaw, primarily because of the anniversary and to reconnect with the history of community woodlands, to remind ourselves of our narrative on where we came from and where we are going. And it was interesting to be reminded by Andy that we are a small (crucial) part in a much wider movement.

Several speakers have mentioned the current atmosphere of "massive cuts" in financial expenditures: the message from government that there are no grants and there is no money. At one level this is true, however on another level it is a bit of a myth. The rural affairs department spent about a billion pounds on land management last year, and they will spend this again, more or less, this year and the same again next year. The problem is that whilst the cuts are only a tiny fraction of this overall budget, they are falling disproportionately on community groups. Those that have land have power, and they have been able use it to shape the world in their image, and to their own ends. So there have been cuts, and communities will see them, but the large land owners will not.

So when we say **every community deserves a woodland**, we need to be really clear that this is not about doing fluff, it is a challenge to this kind of power structure. It is something that fundamentally that needs to change. It is about doing the essentials. It is about giving every community the opportunity to empower themselves by taking charge of the assets in their community, to benefit of their community needs. We need to be clear that we are making a demand; we are challenging and not just asking.

This is the message that CWA will be taking forward to the governments Community Empowerment and Renewable Bill and we will be taking it to the Land Reform Board when time dictates. **Every Community Deserves a Woodland** is the message that CWA will be taking forward, and we hope that you will to.

Jon concluded by thanking all the weekend speakers, all the workshop hosts, the wardens at Wooplaw, everyone from the CWA Staff and Board who contributed to the event. He thanked the delegates for their buzz, enthusiasm, conversation and banter. Thank you to the staff at the Tweed Horizons. And special thanks to the funders, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government Skills Development Fund and the Robertson Trust.

APPENDIX I DELEGATE FEEDBACK

35 forms were returned

	<u>V.Good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>V.Poor</u>
<u>Location</u>	29	5	1		
<u>Organisation</u>	31	4			
<u>Catering</u>	24	11			
<u>Facilities</u>	27	8			

Please indicate how you rate the content and relevance to you of the following activities by circling the options which most closely match your opinion.

1 = V good 2 = Good 3 = Fair 4 = Poor 5 = V poor

	Content					Relevance				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Saturday Presentations										
Mark Lazzeri - Key Note	20	11				23	7	1		
Donald McPhillimy & Rory MacLeod - Wooplaw the beginning	29	2				27	3	1		
Bob Fleet - today and the next 25 years	23	6	2			24	5	2		
Rod Bain - PhD overview	16	10	5			21	6	3	1	

Workshops										
1. Developing Woodfuel Business	2	3	2		1	4	2	1		1
2. Plain English for funding applications	6	4				6	4			
3. Working with arts and theatre groups	4	3				3	4			
4. Establishing MTB trails in community woods	4	2				4	2			

Site Visit										
Wooplaw Woods - 25 year celebrations	27	4				26	5			

Did not attend Saturday session	4
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Sunday Presentations										
Andy Wightman - Land reform	24	9	1			24	10			
Ian Hepburn - woodland crofts & enterprise	24	7	3			24	7	3		
Cath & Helen, CCI - working with the NHS	10	19	4	1		20	10	4		
Paul Towning - Stewarton Wood - working with LA	14	15	5			19	12	3		
Emma Chapman & Alan Carter - wild harvest & forest gardens	16	13	3	2		17	11	4	2	
Lisa Brydon, BFT - working with volunteers	14	16	4			18	11	5		

Did not attend Sunday session	1
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Please tell us why you wanted to take part in this event?

My community has an ambition to buy a wooded glen c.20hec up behind our village
I always find this weekend motivating & inspiring, informative and exciting
To get inspiration / information / network etc. on how to best further & develop B&D CW
Reconnect with CWA members and staff
Very special occasion, had to cancel work commitment to attend - just couldn't miss it!
Interested in several of the speakers, and meeting CWA activists - particularly in South Scotland
To gain information & make contacts
To learn how I can contribute more to being a woodland group member, by learning from others
Networking, learning, inspiration
Forestry interest
Interest, meeting like minded people
Information, sharing and networking
Share experiences, get inspired
To learn about other groups / networking, good range of speakers and topics
Although we are community gardeners and only have a small wooded area on our boundary we are members of the CWA and were invited to attend. Particular interest in the talk by Andy Wightman!
To stimulate, reinvigorate, network, inform and build experience
Start to work more closely with CWA, to hear about Forest Gardening and CCI work, V interested in community use of woodlands
To hear the presentations, to find out where the CWA is going, to understand where it came from
Meeting people, sharing good stories and knowledge
Recent nomination for chair person of MCWT and put something back into the community
To meet up with likeminded people
To reconnect with the people active in this field get some inspiration, food for thought
To connect, learn and share with other groups (i.e. networking) as well as a visit to Wooplaw
To network and find out for myself what it was all about
Updating and networking
Always of interest and good networking
To be inspired
We are just starting out, so great to talk to and hear about what others have achieved
Active interest in CWA and in woodlands / orchards
Invited as a speaker

Do you feel this event delivered your expectations?

Yes 33
No
Partly 2

If answer was no / partly:

Disappointed that arts / drama workshop presenters had given no advance warning of footwear / clothing requirements for this outdoor event - unable to attend

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

A huge uplift in my ambition & knowledge of community enterprises
Networking, new ideas, renewed enthusiasm, helpful advice, great contacts, brilliant sharing of ideas
Speakers / speeches very knowledgeable and relevant, will be following up many of the things mentioned
Lots of new insights and contacts
Like all CWA conferences, this event was very inspirational - it's essential for reinjection of new life into our local group
Being reminded that a lot of diverse activities are still going on in CW's
Better understanding of woodlands
Networking, and learning from others

Met loads of interesting people, felt inspired to try!
Meeting like minded people
Meeting people
Meeting like minded people, inspiration
Talking to others who have found solutions to similar challenges
Discussions with likeminded people
Much better understanding of the ethos behind community woodlands, very interesting workshop on mountain biking - possibilities for our urban area
Stimulated, reinvigorated, networked, informed and built experience
More focused on community woodlands, personal contacts. Learned useful info, feel more connected and empowered!
Far too numerous to mention! Most important --- enthusiasm, hope, inspiration, ideas
More informative, more inspiration
Great communication base, huge info base
More ideas, became re-enthused about benefits of community woodlands
Wider range of contacts, new ideas / starting "pointers" for future projects in our woods
Possible funding sources, fruit tree information
Motivation
Inspiration
Meet old friends and make new friends
Some great ideas on lots of different aspects of managing woodland
Knowledge & contacts, inspiration

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

Take them home and kick-start the village
We'll have a log cabin up next year (hopefully) and maybe a tree house!
Inspired to energise / gather increased involvement from local community. Make contact with relevant authorities / individuals for support, funding
Get in touch with Ian Hepburn re: woodland crofts and Diane Oliver re: enterprise for new NFLS project
Help and encourage more / continued CW development
Put them to use
Pass on to my group
Help me contribute more to the group I belong to
Aim to get out woodland more productive
Follow it on
Get CWA to England!!
Use in the future
New ideas, increased enthusiasm
Inform / feedback to rest of group
Not really relevant for the community garden, although the arts and crafts for children was interesting, plus thoughts on the problems / benefits of volunteering
Implement practical things immediately, introduce ideas into planning, be better informed to "sell" ideas to others
Use at work - share information
Enthuse others
As ever - try to implement them! try and see more of the good in people
Kick ass!
Can't wait to put all of them to good use at MCWT
Discuss with fellow members
Bring them to my group / work
Take them home, share my experience in my community to foster new support and let them know "we are not alone"
Hopefully include fruit in our future plantings

More community woodland projects
Use them in my job / role / project
Share them
Share with group
Lots of useful contacts, excellent networking opportunity
Firstly report back to group at home then put some into practice
Plant more edible plants along with planned fruit tree planting in Newport. i.e. A bit more of a forest garden....

Would you recommend this event to a friend?

Yes 35

No

Comments from yes:

It was so good & diverse
This is the highlight of the year! it recharges all the batteries!
CWA gave us great support at start-up and now even more important to us than ever
Excellent range of interesting presentations
It is a first class organisation
Sharing experiences is the most valuable way to learn
Nice people, nice venues
Interesting topics from various grassroots groups
Networking, knowledge, inspiring!
It is fun and informative. It is essential consumption for anyone interested in
Lots of interesting people, lots of good inspiration, great ceilidh!
Huge community spirit
It is very worthwhile
To generate inspiration, learn from what others are doing
The networking opportunities
A great opportunity to find out more about other groups project and learn from them
Good opportunity to exchange ideas, meet new people, trying to do similar things, but possibly from diverse starting point. (Networking)
I'd recommend it to anyone interested in community woodland, forest gardening and foraging because there is so much to learn from this event!

What would you like to see CWA do next? Are there other training / seminar opportunities you would like to see organised?

Visit to Stewarton Woods - perhaps a conference there?
Cookery class - (practical - using forest / foraged foods)
Be much more visible to a wider population across Scotland, and SHOUT about what you do!!!
Look hard at outreach to create new community woodlands, especially in Caithness and Sutherland
Possibly something similar in SW Scotland
Keep up the good work
Well organised & wonderful opportunity for learning and sharing
Possibly more in-depth forestry
Visit England!
Keep up the good work, perhaps splinter workshops on specific subjects, e.g.. Woodfuel which can be covered in greater detail
Longer talk on land reform / community buy outs - 20 minutes far too short for such a relevant topic
Specific, focused smaller events on the subjects covered and skills based training to enable project development and social / woodland project working

The forward "every community deserves a woodland" training on managing volunteers, and managing people with learning or social difficulties

Please, come and visit us!

I commend the new mission "every community deserves a woodland" just hope this (more strategy, policy, lobbying) role does not detract from business as usual

More of the same! Maybe 2 workshops over the weekend?

Coppice and visits to some of the projects from these 2 days - i.e. CCI. More information on wild harvest and forest gardens

Develop PHD research

Volunteering section was short - more like this

Do you have any comments on any aspect of this event?

Thank you!

I would like to add my thanks to the organisers for all their hard work - it is much appreciated

I found Sunday very informative and interesting, it is just a shame I couldn't attend on Saturday

Great event - keep growing!

We are very grateful to CWA that they were able to secure funding for travel expenses

Excellent organisation and content, would have been good to have had a few more folk attending

Excellent

Enjoyed the weekend

Cheers!

Fantastic, thank you

Enjoyable experience

Thanks to the organisers - excellent event

The best conference yet!

Thank you for the reassurance and support

Thank you Ros and Caroline - great efforts, superbly organised - well done!

Well done! Keep it up - shout if you need my help!

See you next year

Good opportunity to exchange ideas, meet new people, trying to do similar things, but possibly from diverse starting point. (networking)

Thanks for having me!

Thanks for organising it

Well done!

Demographic of those who returned the form (optional)

Sex	
Male	14
Female	16
Age Group	
16-25	1
26-40	4
40-60	18
60+	6

Ethnicity	
white, Anglo-Saxon, British	1
British white	6
white European	1
White	2
White Scottish	4
Yes!	1
British	1
Pink!	1
Scottish	4

APPENDIX 2 SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mark Lazzeri – Keynote Speaker; Mark trained originally as a botanist and then as an agronomist. After a brief sojourn in forestry he started work as an arboricultural consultant and then moved to agricultural research before migrating to agricultural and environmental economics and land management. Mark is a dog owning, whisky, drinking deerstalker with an abiding passion for the outdoors, particularly woodland. Currently works for the North Harris Trust. As a CWA Director, Mark's career history contributes practical knowledge and experience of land management to the Board, particularly in the areas of deer stalking, sporting potential, and estate management.

Donald McPhillimy – Wooplaw in the Beginning; Donald is a self-employed woodland manager living in Earlston in the Borders. He also works part-time for New Caledonian Woodlands who take groups of volunteers out into the woods for fun and useful work. His background is in forestry - Edinburgh University, New Zealand Forest Service, Ormsary Estate, Scottish Woodlands and Friends of the Earth. For 10 years he ran his own farm woodland business and planted (with a little help) 1.5 million trees around Fife and the Lothian's. Most of them have survived. Twenty five years ago he met Tim Stead, shared a bottle or two of red wine and helped purchase Wooplaw Woods. He's been fascinated with community woodlands ever since. Donald is a Director of Reforesting Scotland, a Trustee of Borders Forest Trust and also a Wooplaw Warden.

Rory Macleod – Wooplaw in the Beginning; Co-founder of Wooplaw, co-founder and first chair of Borders Forest Trust, enduring the pain of millennium forest funding and hoop jumping 35 years, community worker, radio broadcaster and producer, range of children's and other charities over the years, joint-founder of a number of local community based issue groups. Currently leading on a national initiative to develop a recognised professional voice and grouping for community learning and development activists and paid practitioners. "CLD Standards Council" and every day marvelling at the lack of belief and investment in communities shown by the range of "authorities". Community is the answer!!

Bob Fleet – Wooplaw Today and Next 25 years; He worked in the NHS laboratories for many, many, many years. Moved to the Borders to work in Borders General Hospital in 1988. He discovered Wooplaw in 1989 and got involved. It was already two years down the line and planting well under way and the first cabin constructed by then. He got dirty doing whatever was needed at the time and started pole-lathe turning on a Wooplaw weekend with Kenny Grieve. He became chairman of Wooplaw a few years ago and also a director and trustee. Now organising Wooplaw25 for 2012 as his swan song as chairman. Quietly increasing the avenues in the Borders for over a decade, going public this year. He is now one of the Crafters - a co-operative of 13 artists and designers with a shop in Melrose, he is the woodturner so spend several days a week in his workshop.

Rod Bain - University of St Andrews; Rod is currently working for a PhD at St Andrews Sustainability Institute. He completed an MSc Sustainable Development in 2011 and, several years before that, a music degree. His research interest lies at the intersection of the arts and sustainability. Rod's PhD research is focused on arts, culture and heritage activities in community woodlands. Previously, he worked as an arts project manager; highlights include eight years with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and producing the Edinburgh Festival Fireworks Concert. He greatly enjoyed a brief period working for Laggan Forest Trust, which ignited his interest in community woodlands.

Amanda Calvert – Developing Woodfuel Businesses; Amanda has over 30 years' experience working in the environmental sector. The majority of which has been in land management, specifically the community forestry sector, and includes everything from the development of management plans to managing forest operations. As a project manager within Highland Birchwoods she was responsible for the delivery of the Renewable Heat Advice and Support Service, focussing on woodfuel production and supply. Having worked as the Development Manager for Reforesting

Scotland and Events Coordinator for the Community Woodlands Association, Amanda offers a wide range of practical knowledge. She currently works part-time with a number of organisations as well as developing her own business as a rural enterprise consultant. Amanda holds a Masters Degree in Forest Ecology & Management from the University of Edinburgh.

Joyce Faulkner – Plain English for Funding Applications; Joyce Faulkner teaches Communication and English at Stevenson College Edinburgh. She also delivers business training courses in Plain English, Report-Writing, Minute-Taking, Effective Meetings, and Oral Presentation Skills. In her spare time, she manages GreenFerry Trust, an environmental group based in South Queensferry. She also has a 100% success rate with grant applications.

Sadie Dixon-Spain – Working with Arts and Theatre Groups; Founder of The Walking Theatre Company (TWTC), Sadie has enjoyed a long and creative career, with National Repertory theatre, TV and broadcast credits to her name. She thought that when she moved to the country, her acting days were done, however life in rural Argyll has proved her wrong. TWTC was created as a direct creative response to the rural landscape, shaping Sadie's work as an actor and writer to develop a unique brand and methodology behind award winning work. In 4 years TWTC has built a tremendous reputation for creating 'theatre in the landscape' and bringing 'walking theatre' shows to sites and venues all over Scotland and are proud to say that no show has ever been cancelled due to the rain.

Pete Laing – Establishing Mountain Bike Trails in Community Woods; Pete Laing is a self-employed trail building consultant based in Selkirk in the Scottish Borders. Pete is probably best known in mountain biking circles for designing and building the trail network at Glentress Forest in the Tweed Valley, a project that permanently altered the direction of his engineering career from 1999 onwards. Since then, mountain biking has gone mainstream and there is a growing demand almost everywhere for purpose-built trails, both at full-scale 'trail centres' and on a more local level. The building of local trail networks or riding spots now takes up a fair proportion of Pete's working year, with most projects of this type driven by an enthusiastic community group. Groups like the Hamsterley Trailblazers in Co' Durham or Highland Wildcat up at Golspie, Sutherland have been trained in the trailbuilding basics during volunteer sessions lead by Pete and are now managing and maintaining their own trail networks. Closer to home, The VAT Pack in South Queensferry have just started building trails in their Community Woodland and it is this project that will provide examples for Pete's workshop.

Andy Wightman – Community Woodlands and Land Reform; Andy Wightman is a writer and researcher on land rights and land reform. His books include Who Owns Scotland (1996), Community Land Rights, A Citizen's Guide (2009) and The Poor Had No Lawyers (2010). He has a particular interest in the relationship between land & property, governance, power and money and runs the www.whoownsscotland.org.uk website and popular blog at www.andywightman.com. He lives in Edinburgh.

Ian Hepburn – Woodland Crofts & Enterprise, North West Mull CWC; Born in 1948 and brought up in the West Riding of Yorkshire, he trained as an accountant and worked in a variety of industries from Heavy Engineering to Logistics before retiring from a post with DHL/Exel, where he was responsible for managing the onsite roll out of information systems in many European countries, in 2008, 2 years after fulfilling a long held ambition of moving to Mull. He has a significant project management experience and has been in post as the Development Manager for NWMCCWC since September 2008.

Helen Thomson – Woodlands for Health, Clydesdale Community Initiatives; Helen trained in social work and has spent the last 16 years working as a community gardener/support worker and complementary therapist. Helen is the volunteer co-ordinator for Clydesdale Community Initiatives, an award winning social inclusion enterprise, initially set-up in 2002 to enable young people at risk and adults with mental health issues to develop a derelict site in Lanark, South Lanarkshire.

Catherine McCluskey – Woodlands for Health Clydesdale Community Initiatives;

Catherine is a horticulturist and has worked in community projects for 13 years. She is totally committed to the benefits of a greener lifestyle. Clydesdale Community Initiatives have worked on a myriad of projects from community gardens, allotments, woodlands, orchards and schools. CCI's guiding principle 'Everyone Contributes, Everyone gains' is always at the forefront of everything they do. Supported work placements are provided, to volunteers who are excluded from their community, are severely disadvantaged often with a wide range of social and health care needs.

Paul Towning – Woodlands Working in Partnership with the Local Authority, Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust;

Paul Towning grew up in rural Dumfriesshire and after doing microbiology found the prospect of life in a lab too claustrophobic. He lived in Glasgow and following a number of short term jobs found a niche in the Parks Departments' Ranger Service. Later, local government cutbacks re-organised the Ranger service and he landed his dream job as the Park Development Officer for the West of the city until a further round of cuts. His final post with GCC was as supervisor for the West team in a section that dealt with a mixed bag of activities, among them Environmental Education, Recycling, Biodiversity and Cycle Training for both adults and children and interfacing with Glasgow's many Community Councils. He took early retirement and now has time to pursue his interests with SWAT and as a self-management tutor within the NHS for people with long term health conditions.

Emma Chapman - Wild harvests; Through her work for Reforesting Scotland, Emma Chapman became a contact point for the Scottish Wild Harvests Association before it even existed. She grew up with knowledge of foraging for food, craft and medicine, and her own hands-on experience is complemented by extensive contact with specialist foragers and growers. She has a longstanding interest in ways of meeting human needs which also allow wild ecologies to flourish. The talk will introduce the benefits, potentials and responsibilities of wild harvesting in 21st century Scotland.

Alan Carter - Forest Gardening; Alan Carter studied forestry at Aberdeen University and has worked in various aspects of greenspace management including forestry, conservation, gardening and community parks. His talk will be about forest gardening on different scales, from the allotment to the community woodland. He has been experimenting with forest gardening for ten years and blogs about the experience at www.scottishforestgarden.wordpress.com.

Lisa Brydon – “Volunteering, why people do it and what are the benefits”, Borders Forest Trust;

Lisa Brydon joined Borders Forest Trust in June 2008 as the Community Woodland Officer. She works with the local community woodland groups and manages the Trust's Volunteering and Healthy Walks projects. Lisa graduated from Edinburgh University with a degree and Honours in Ecology Sciences. Lisa previously worked for the RSPB in the Tweed Valley as their Osprey information assistant and has a keen interest in wildlife and conservation at both home and abroad. Borders Forest Trust was founded in response to sustained public enthusiasm for restoring these woodlands. Over the last 15 years BFT has brought together groups and individuals interested in the conservation and expansion of native woodlands to work towards our vision of the restoration of woodland heritage across the south of Scotland. BFT co-ordinates an integrated range of projects bringing environmental, social and economic benefits to the Scottish Borders region, these projects have been developed under the broad themes of Woodland Conservation, People and Using Wood.

APPENDIX 3 DELEGATE LIST

Bruce	Martin	Abriachan Forest Trust/ APEX Scotland
Gordon	Gray Stephens	AGWA / CWA Company Secretary
Piers	Voysey	Anagach Woods Trust / Director CWA
Lisa	Stewart	Badluarach & Durnamuck Community Woodlands
Lisa	Brydon	Borders Forest Trust
Donald	McPhillimy	Borders Forest Trust/ Speaker
Adele	Black	Broadford and Strath Community Company
Shirley	Grant	Broadford and Strath Community Company
Dorris	Brown	Bushcraft Scotland
Gavin	Mitchell	Bushcraft Scotland
Mike	Steele	Closeburn Community Council / Director CWA
Catherine	McCluskey	Clydesdale Community Initiatives
Helen	Thomson	Clydesdale Community Initiatives
Charles	Dixon-Spain	Colintraive and Glendaruel Development Trust / Director CWA
John	Hancox	Commonwealth Orchard
Caroline	Derbyshire	CWA Administrator
Jon	Hollingdale	CWA Chief Executive Officer
Diane	Oliver	CWA Enterprising Woods Officer
Rosslyn	Mills	CWA Woodland Advisor
Valery	Wallace	Dalbeattie Community Council
George	Wallace	Dalbeattie Community Council
Wendy	Reid	Development Trusts Association Scotland
Nick	Marshall	Duddingston Field Group
Freda	O'Byrne	Duddingston Field Group
Eva	Hurley	Dunbar CWT
Janet	Barnes	Dunbar CWT
Isobel	Knox	Dunbar CWT / Director CWA
Michael	Barnett	Dunnet Forestry Trust
Jean	Barnett	Dunnet Forestry Trust / Director CWA
Iwan	Thomas	Echline Community Woodland
Iain	Laidlaw	FCS South of Scotland
Naomi	Knights	Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
Alan	Carter	Forest Gardening/ Speaker
Brigitte	Geddes	GCWA Ardgay
Francis	van Duivenbode	GCWA Ardgay
Joyce	Faulkner	Greenferry/ Workshop Host
Ewan	Brown	Guest
Angie	Laidlaw	Guest
Neil	Gerrard	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Nigel	Webster	Hill Holt Wood
Nigel	Lowthorp	Hill Holt Wood
Steven	Donagain	Hill Holt Wood

Lt Col Michael	Rowney	Home Scotland
Rachel	Avery	Individual Member - Grantown on Spey
Anna	Lawrence	Individual Member - Peebles
Kirsty	Martin	Individual Member - St Andrews
Sara	Cudahy	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Eamon	King	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Amanda	Calvert	Kingussie Community Development Company / Director CWA
J.B	Blackett	Kirkbean Community Council
Vicky	Stonebridge	Kirkton Woods
Steffen	Taschner	Low Carbon Galawater
Patrick	Milton	Milton Community Woodland Trust
Denise	Ross	Milton Community Woodland Trust
Ailsa	Curnow	North Harris Trust
Mark	Lazzeri	North Harris Trust / Director CWA
Ian	Hepburn	North West Mull Community Woodland/ Speaker
Chris	Marsh	Sleat Community Trust
Andy	Wightman	Speaker
Rod	Bain	St Andrews Sustainability Institute/ Speaker
Alice	Wallace	Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust
Paul	Towning	Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust/ Speaker
Sheena	Walker	The Organic Growers of Bothwell
Dennis	Walker	The Organic Growers of Bothwell
Sadie	Dixon-Spain	The Walking Theatre Company/ Workshop Host
Diane	Campbell	Ullapool Community Trust
Simon	Dakin	Urban Roots
Thomas	Cooper	Urban Roots
Emma	Chapman	Wild Harvest Association/ Speaker
Sam	Stead	Wooplaw Woods
Maggie	Stead	Wooplaw Woods
Elizabeth	Fairbairn	Wooplaw Woods
Rory	Macleod	Wooplaw Woods / Speaker
Eoin	Cox	Wooplaw Woods/ Site Visit Host
Bob	Fleet	Wooplaw Woods/ Speaker
Pete	Laing	Workshop Host