



Community
Woodlands
Association

CWA Woodland Living Seminar

Including site visit to Carbeth Huts

Charles Conference Facilities, Mugdock Country Park
Milngavie, Glasgow G62 8EL

Tuesday 26th February 2013



This seminar was funded by Scottish Government Skills Development Scheme, the Robertson Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Event Report
Rosslyn Mills, CWA Woodland Advisor

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Seminar synopsis:

A one day seminar aimed at exploring the various models for woodland living; with particular focus on how they can contribute to the objectives of community landowners and help deliver sustainable forest management.

The morning session featured brief presentations that highlighted the various models for woodland living, including crofts, huts, small holdings etc. there was opportunity for discussion with each of the speakers following their presentations, and during a very social lunch. The afternoon session took delegates the short distance to Carbeth Huts for a guided tour of the site, and discussion about the community buy-out of the site which was to be completed that evening.

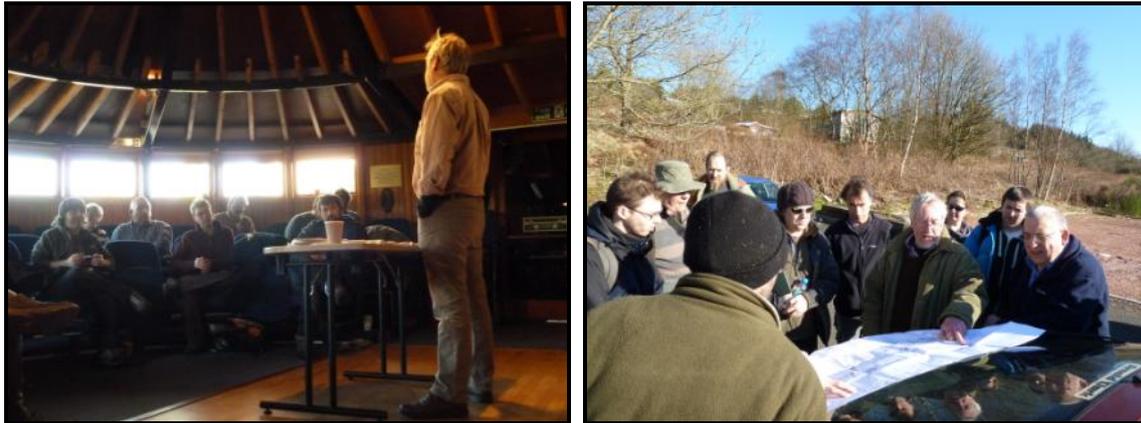


Photo left to right: Gerry Loose presenting to delegates at Mugdock & delegates gather at Carbeth for guided tour

Seminar Objectives:

The seminar was aimed at people involved in community woodlands, current and potential community land owners and managers, particularly those wanting to investigate the possibility of crofts, huts or other small holding systems. The event was also aimed at individuals who wish to learn more, and /or are interested in working with community groups to realise such projects, and those in national or local government who work to support the sector.

Featuring speakers from across the sector, the day aimed to provide current and potential community land owners and managers with a clearer understanding of the various models for woodland living and working, and how they might be of benefit to the future management of the woodland as well as the needs of the wider community. The aim was for participants to leave engaged, fulfilled and confident to learn more and share the potential for a woodland resource with their own groups and agencies.

Location:

Mugdock Country Park is located in beautiful semi-natural and formal landscapes 10 miles from Glasgow city centre. The conference centre holds up to 40 people, with break out rooms available at a very reasonable rate.

Carbeth Huts are located on the boundary of Mugdock Country Park (approx 1 hour walk through the park, or 5 minutes drive to the entrance to the site) on a wooded site occupying about 98 acres on the western side of Carbeth Hill in the Campsie Fells. The hutted community was originally founded during the 1920s and 1930s, and has had a turbulent relationship with landowners over the years, in February 2013 the community of Carbeth successfully raised the £1.7million required to purchase the land.

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Those involved:

Jamie McIntyre	<i>Freelance Woodland Crofts Advisor</i>
Ninian Stuart	<i>Reforestation Scotland / Falkland Centre for Stewardship</i>
Ian Hepburn	<i>North West Mull Community Woodland</i>
Jon Hollingdale	<i>CEO Community Woodlands Association</i>
Gerry Loose	<i>Carbeth Hutters Community Company</i>
William Allan	<i>Convener, Scottish Woodlot Association</i>
Ros Mills	<i>Woodland Advisor Community Woodlands Association</i>
Laura Brickell	<i>Evanton Community Woodland Group</i>
Liam McCallum	<i>Individual CWA member</i>
Phil Friston-Reilly	<i>Individual CWA member</i>
Gavin Mitchell	<i>Bushcraft Scotland</i>
Ian Withers	<i>Reforestation Scotland</i>
Andy Ingles	<i>Reforestation Scotland</i>
Dave Crosbie	<i>Dunbar Community Woodland Group</i>
Diane Oliver	<i>Enterprising Woods Highland Dev Officer, Community Woodlands Association</i>
Joan Hepburn	<i>North West Mull Community Woodland</i>

We had 9 cancellations from Delegates in the 2 days before the event was due to take place. And we had a cancellation from 1 speaker on the day

Woodland living & Working

Example from person(s) living and working in a woodland setting

David Blair

Dunbeag

The programme was altered to accommodate this:

Programme:

10.00	Arrivals and Coffee	
10.30	Welcome <i>Introduction to the day</i>	Jon Hollingdale <i>CEO Community Woodlands Association</i>
10.45	Woodland Crofting <i>What is a woodland croft?</i>	Jamie McIntyre <i>Freelance Woodland Crofts Advisor</i>
11.05	Case study: <i>Community Woodland Crofting</i>	Ian Hepburn <i>North West Mull Community Woodland</i>
11.30	Thousand Huts <i>Hutting in Scotland</i>	Ninian Stuart <i>Reforestation Scotland / Falkland Centre for Stewardship</i>
11.50	Coffee Break	
12.00	Case study: <i>Carbeth Huts</i>	Gerry Loose <i>Carbeth Hutters Community Group</i>
12.45	Woodlots <i>The Scottish Woodlot Association</i>	William Allan <i>Convener, Scottish Woodlot Association</i>
12.55	Lunch <i>Opportunity to network with delegates and morning speakers</i>	
13.50	Site Visit: Carbeth Huts	
15.30	Return to Base & close of event <i>Coffee and Tea available</i>	

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Speaker biographies:

Jamie McIntyre

Jamie is a freelance forester and community development worker based in Strontian, and has had a special interest in woodland crofts for over 10 years. Throughout that period he has worked in community and rural development forestry, as community forester for the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative from 2000-2008, and following this as woodland crofts officer for HIE/FCS, supporting the development of community-based woodland crofts. When that role ended, he returned to self-employment. He believes strongly in the potential for woodlands to support local individuals and communities in ways which provide wider public benefits, and that the present lack of diversity in Scottish forestry is restricting the delivery of those benefits. He is a former director of the Community Woodlands Association and a current member of the Forest Policy Group.

Ian Hepburn

Born in 1948 and brought up in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Ian trained as an accountant and worked in a variety of industries from Heavy Engineering to Logistics before retiring in 2008 (2 years after fulfilling a long held ambition of moving to Mull) from a post with DHL/Exel, where he was responsible for managing the onsite roll out of information systems in many European countries. Ian has a significant project management experience and has been in post as the Development Manager for NWMCCW since September 2008. Working with NWMCCW Ltd kindled a keen interest in community ownership and Ian is now a Director of Community Land Scotland.

Ninian Stuart

After an early career in community social work in Glasgow and in the mental health field, Ninian returned to his roots and responsibilities in a run-down rural estate in the 1990s. Since then he has been working with others to revive a landscape, build community and mind the future of this wooded place. This has involved starting up and supporting a range of social enterprises and community initiatives. He is co-founder of Falkland Centre for Stewardship which runs the Big Tent Festival and currently leads a programme of learning activities and public engagement in Falkland's woods. Ninian is a recent convert to hutting - and instigator of the RS campaigning vision of "A thousand huts".

Gerry Loose

Gerry Loose is a poet, land-artist and activist. His most recent books are *Printed on Water, New & Selected Poems* (Shearsman 2007) and *that person himself* (Shearsman 2009). Forthcoming is *fault line*, concerning the language, history, flora, fauna and geopolitics of the area round Faslane, which is close to where he lives on his boat and sits on the Highland Fault Line. His most recent landwork is in Finland at Saaren Kartano. Carbeth Huts have been in existence for nearly 100 years. They first offered city folk a literal breath of fresh air from the industrial conditions of the early twentieth century. They were a refuge during the 2nd world war when many families relocated there to escape the Clydebank Blitz. They continue to provide solace and refuge, a place for both conviviality and simple, solitary off-grid living.

William Allen

William runs Forest Surveys, a forestry and woodfuel business. He has worked across the UK on forest mensuration, environmental and conservation surveys. William also has experience of small scale forest ownership and management and has a BSc in Sustainable Forest Management

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Photos:



More photographs from the day can be found on the CWA Flickr site

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/communitywoods>

Presentations from the day can be viewed as soundless slide shows on the CWA YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CWAcommunitywoods>

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Feedback:

	V.Good	Good	Fair	Poor	V.Poor
Location	9	6			
Organisation	11	4			
Catering	9	6			
Facilities	12	3			

How did you hear about this event?

CWA
through my community woodland
internet

Do you feel this event delivered your expectations?

Yes 14
No 0
Partly 1

Comments from Partly or No:

Would have valued less presentations (or time on presentations) and a bit more time hearing from and networking with other participants

Why did you want to take part in this event?

Interested in kicking off a project relevant to the event
Deep interest in the development of community and woodland in Scotland
To learn about access to the woodland life
I have a keen interest in the subject matter of today's seminar (woodland living) and decided to attend
To learn more about woodland living and working and to network with likeminded people
Very interested in woodland living and how community woodland groups can facilitate / encourage woodland living
Presenting and keen to learn about other living opportunities
Networking, find out about woodland ownership
to gather further information on the subject
Forestry interest / I was speaker
To hear about different models of accessing land for living, with woodland or forestry, to plant as woodland! To meet with other people wanting the same and to hear what the regulations, restrictions potential opportunities for changing these to our benefit.
wanted to learn
Interesting and exciting territory
It addressed some questions that I feel are really important

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

Hearing from a range of experts
Contacts, fun!

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This is a progressive movement to re-populate our countryside
Excellent talks and site visit to Carbeth, plus lovely scenery
Some very informative presentations, which have helped expand my knowledge and understanding of woodland living and working
Networking, better understanding of options, good to hear history from folks
Knowledge and options
contacts, face to name, an understanding of woodland ownership possibilities
greater knowledge, resources of information, good networking opportunities
networking
Heard of more than one way of doing it. Encouragement that it is possible.
Diverse opportunities to learn about. Mind broadening. Good to see "inspiration" fulfilled.
Opened out a picture of possibility
heard lots of stuff, I met interesting folk

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

Further the aims stated above (development of community and woodland)
Study more
I will certainly look into the topics discussed. I made some notes and took web addresses
I have been given lots of new information and resources to research further and also met some useful contacts
Share what I learned with others
See what fits with NWMCCW plans
look more into woodland ownership
I will utilise it in forwarding the need for shelters / huts in the local community woodland
Apply to our organisation - Scottish Woodlot Association
Share
Try to integrate the experience with the community and land owners near Inverleithen
Follow up online - websites, RS feeds, read up on guidance notes

Would you recommend this event to a friend?

Yes 15
No

Comments (from yes)

To understand more on the topic
I think it was a valuable experience and I am happy to recommend
For all of the reasons overleaf
great opportunity to meet likeminded people, great information imparted from knowledgeable people
Broad learning opportunity
The questions are essential
Because woodlands and communities go well together

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

Give training and information

I'd like more campaigning to gain access to available land

Longer duration workshops on the management of woodlands

Something practical perhaps?

Work with the organisations here today and membership to develop pilot sites, share good practice i.e. Support Jamie / NW Mull to support other groups to do crofts - great practical breakdown on how to do things. Would be good to see woodlots carried through to reality and a CW group with huts on / nearby / facilitated on community land

Small scale forestry productions - south scotland

Small scale community forestry

More of similar, highlighting planning regulations and possibilities and how to change these to make hutting and build your own possible!

Running a collaborative event with forest policy groups, or RS on new economics of the Scottish forest

To promote the openness of the question of "what is the essence of Human spirit"?

General Comments on this event:

No, it was great!

Very worthwhile and informative. Thank you.

Well done, thanks for putting / pulling this together

Wanted a better chance for general discussion about the different models and their benefits / difficulties. No questions after the talks made this difficult (everyone goes off into private conversations)

Friendly, relaxed

Demographic of those who returned feedback sheet

Gender

Male 10

Female 2

Age Group

16-39 5

40+ 8

Ethnicity

Scottish 3

White 2

British 3

Caucasian 1

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