



Introduction to Green-Woodworking: shake and shingle making Malls Mire Community Woodland, Toryglen, Glasgow 18th and 19th July 2013

Introduction

This 2 day course took place in the woodland and was led by Mike Ellis of Helmsdale Woods, with support from the Urban Roots woodland officer. It was open to a mix of Urban Roots volunteers, other CWA members and anyone who had a professional interest in learning more about making shakes and managing woodlands for green woodworking.

Why did we do this?

We are always looking at ways of engaging people with Malls Mire woodland, so regularly run courses in the woods that we think will help people to get involved with the management of our woodland. A number of people had shown an interest in learning more about using green wood products for the design and construction of buildings, so we were looking for ways to accommodate this within the woodland.

[Insert event title] Course Content

- ***Introduction to Green woodworking – historical context***
- ***Introduction to green woodworking tools***
- ***Tree ID and basic tree felling techniques***
- ***Making a mallet***
- ***Cleaving wood (including different species)***
- ***De-barking green wood***
- ***Shakes in Scotland – historical context***
- ***Making shakes from different species/different lengths***

The aim of the course is:

To introduce people to the basics of green woodworking, including its historical context and place in managing woodlands, to give everyone the chance to make something and take it home (mallet), give a brief introduction to some of the tree species growing in Malls Mire and their uses/qualities and a demonstration of safe felling techniques, to introduce people to some of the most important tools used in green woodworking and their safe use, to explain to people what shakes are, their uses, how to make them and what the pros and cons of using shakes are.



The objectives of the course are –

1. To introduce people to the basics of green woodworking
2. To give everyone a chance to make something
3. To teach participants about shakes
4. To make some shakes

Event trainer:

Mike Ellis, Bual Cottage, West Helmsdale, Helmsdale, Sutherland KW8 6HU

List of course participants

Name	Group Name	M/F	Age
Jim Ewing	Urban Roots	M	=>40
Laura Hainey	Urban Roots	F	<40
Emma Donnelly	Urban Roots	F	<40
Finlay Stevenson	n/a	M	=>40
Melanie Feydieu	Urban Roots	M	<40
Abi Mordin	Urban Roots	F	<40
Tom Cooper	Urban Roots	M	<40
James Marshall	Urban Roots	M	=>40
William Kirkwold	Independent	M	=>40
Carol Henry	Urban Roots	M	<40
Paul Cookson	Green Aspirations Scotland	M	=>40
Lindsey Duncan	Independent	F	=>40
Lisa Jennings	Independent	F	<40
Kerri	Independent	F	<40



Feedback from participants

How did you hear about this event?

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

	V. Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	V. Good
Location					5
Organisation				1	4
Catering	N/A				
Facilities				1	4

Do you feel that the event delivered your expectations?

Yes	3	No		Partly	2
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If your answer was 'No' or 'Partly' please tell us why, and how we might improve things.

'There was less focus on shake making than I imagined'

'Booked to make shingles – made some but learned more about other green wood working'

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

'To learn about making shingles'

'I'm building at my home – want to make a roof for compost loo & part of my home'

'To improve my green woodworking skills – to learn how to make shingles'

'To learn green woodworking skills'

'Improve my skills in green woodworking'

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

'Better comprehension on tree biology, more confidence'

'Learned useful practical skills'

'I feel I learned about chopping down trees although didn't actually do so myself. Also learnt how to make shakes'

'Great to use tools I never have before. Speaking to others more experienced in woodwork-great! Used wood in ways I never have before!'

'Use a range of tools'

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

'More green woodwork'

Use them in my home! Re-think how I make my roof'



'I will do more green woodwork and be able to share knowledge I learned and hopefully use some of the skills learned in future work'

'Make stuff for use around the garden'

'Organise green woodworking workshops and sessions'

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

Yes	5	No	0
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Please explain why / why not:

'Use of tools. Safe environment to use tools.'

'It was enjoyable and informative'

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

'More of the same'

'Longer courses'

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

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

'It wasn't clear from the info that there would be no lunch. Great trainer!'

'A lot was learned in just 2 days. But a longer course would maybe be better'