



## CWA / MLWW 2017 Conference Report

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire



## **Introduction**

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual CWA Conference, held in conjunction with the Making Local Woods Work Project, took place on 20 and 21 October at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld and attracted 124 delegates from across Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Delegates representing 54 community groups and 24 other organisations were inspired by a diverse range of speakers from across the UK, took part in a range of workshops and had a choice of three site visits hosted by Beechbrae, the Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre and the Galgael Trust. On Friday night delegates enjoyed a dinner and danced the night away to the Hot Scotch ceilidh band. They also found plenty of time throughout the weekend to network, catch up with old friends and make some new ones along the way.

## **Making Local Woods Work**

Making Local Woods Work is a 3-year, UK-wide partnership project, funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund and co-ordinated by the Plunkett Foundation, which aims to grow the capacity and confidence of the woodland social enterprise sector. There are eleven partners in the project, which is currently supporting 51 woodland social enterprises.

The project's primary delivery mechanism is bespoke advisory support focused on enterprises' development needs, but the project also supports networking and training events, research, the development of tools and resources, and sharing good practice.

You can find out more at <https://www.makinglocalwoodswork.org/>

### **Some of the feedback received:**

*Met some useful people, heard some inspiring stories, had fun*

*Information that you do not find elsewhere and excellent networking*

*This has been an excellent introduction to the process of setting up, establishing and developing woodlands and activities generated by them. Thank you for this valuable event!*

*Catering was great, organisation was brilliant. Thanks to you all!*

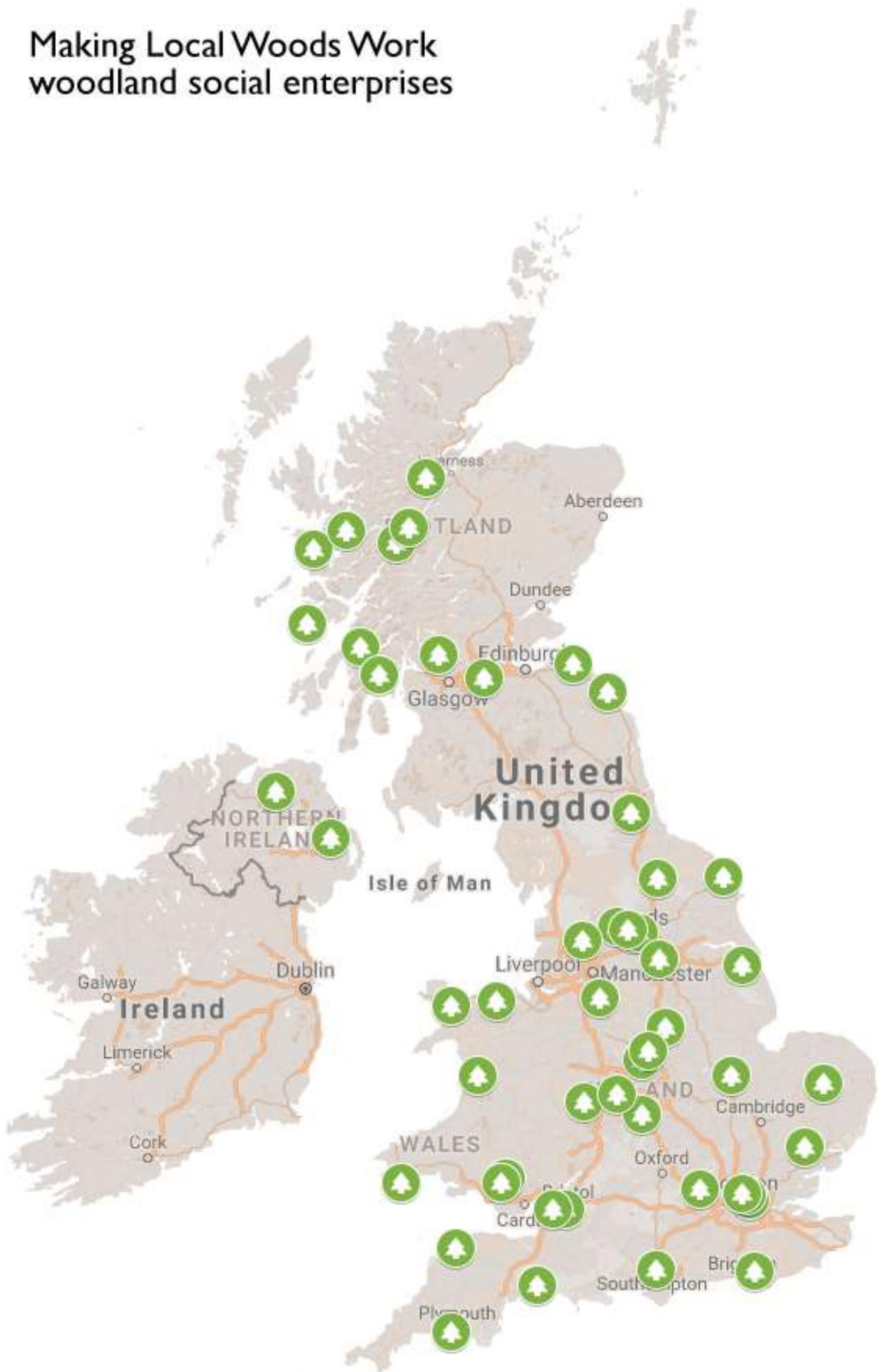
*CWA gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders: The National Lottery through the Making Local Woods Work project, Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.*

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# Making Local Woods Work woodland social enterprises



## Reception: icebreaker & marketplace

Delegates arrived at lunchtime; a buffet lunch was provided and they were invited to complete a postcard and affix it to a UK map: this provided an easy introductory focus for networking and stimulated many conversations over the conference. The postcard asked for the following information:

- My name is:
- My group is:
- I would like to learn more about:
- I would like to share my experience of:



An adjoining room was used as a “marketplace” where a number of NGOs and statutory organisations (listed below) hosted stalls and displays: again this proved a very welcome focus for networking and information exchange.

Community Woodlands Association  
Plunkett Foundation  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
greenspace scotland  
Community Land Scotland  
North West Mull Community Woodland Company  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Scottish Community Alliance Community Learning Exchange  
Woodland Crofts Partnership  
Reforestation Scotland  
Scottish Rural Action  
Hill Holt Woods  
Wood Knoydart  
Cormonachan Woodland Association  
The Field Group Duddingston

## Conference programme

<b>Friday 20 October 2017</b>	
12.30	Registration opens
2.00	Conference welcome and introductions: Jon Hollingdale, CWA
2.10	Neil Ritch, Deputy Director for Scotland, Big Lottery Fund
2.25	Two short films featuring MLWW groups: Elwy Working Woods & Wild Rumpus
2.40	Rob Borruso, Kilfinan Community Forest Company, Argyll
3.05	Steve Donagain, Hill Holt Wood, Lincolnshire
3.30	Coffee break
3.50	Workshops:
	Woodfuel – logistics, management and marketing: Chris Marsh, CWA
	Adding value to homegrown timber: Amanda Calvert & Dougal Driver, Grown in Britain
	Health and well-being initiatives: Suzann Barr, Abriachan Forest Trust
	Volunteering: Seeing the wood for the trees: George Thomson, Volunteer Scotland
	Accessing social finance: Pauline Hinchion, Scottish Community Re:Investment Trust
5.00	Round-up and reflections on the day
5.20	CWA AGM, networking, marketplace
7.00	Conference dinner, followed by ceilidh

<b>Saturday 21 October 2017</b>	
9.00	Registration
9.20	Saturday welcome: James Alcock, Plunkett Foundation
9.30	Jo Brooks, Eden-Rose Coppice Trust, Suffolk
9.45	Zena Wilmot, Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands, Powys
10.00	Lorna Schofield, Knoydart Forest Trust, Highland
10.25	Workshops:
	Sharing the lessons from MLWW: Anna Lawrence & team
	Good governance for social enterprises: Mark Walton, Shared Assets
	Hutting: Donald McPhillimy & Ninian Stuart, Reforesting Scotland
	Woodfuel – logistics, management and marketing: Chris Marsh (repeated from Friday)
11.30	Coffee break
11.50	Interactive session focused on initial outcomes from evaluation, future support and development needs and including round up and reflection on the day.
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Site visits:
	Beechbrae
	Twechar Healthy Living & Enterprise Centre
	Galgael Trust

## Friday welcome and introduction: Jon Hollingdale, CWA

Jon welcomed delegates to this, the 18<sup>th</sup> CWA Conference, the biggest to date, co-hosted by the Plunkett Foundation and held in conjunction with the Making Local Woods Work Project. CWA was particularly pleased to welcome so many delegates from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. He hoped that everyone found the conference stimulating, informative and enjoyable, and that everyone made useful contacts – peer-to-peer networking is always one of the most important outcomes of the conference.



## Neil Ritch, [Big Lottery Fund](#)

*The Big Lottery Fund gives grants to organisations in the UK to help improve their communities. The money awarded comes from the UK National Lottery.*

Neil, BLF Deputy Director for Scotland, began by saying that he felt his qualifications for this slot were questionable: he grew up on Unst, the northernmost inhabited Shetland Isle – above the treeline! He was however very pleased to speak at this event and to congratulate folk on the progress of the MLWW project. The spread and variety of enterprises supported is testament to the creativity and potential of communities. While there are obviously differing policy frameworks, structures and even cultural norms in different parts of the UK, the things that communities coming together to manage local assets have in common far outweigh those differences.

He reflected that those who work in national organisations can easily get sucked into thinking that the world is made through policy, funding, structures, meetings, regulations, projects and initiatives - but it isn't. People change the world and when people come together in community that's a potent force. So his main message is to say thank you: along with colleagues he manages a fuel station but if communities didn't build and drive Ferraris (or boilers or tractors) then they'd be out of a job.

In Scotland the Big Lottery Fund has a long track record in supporting communities to own, develop and manage assets including forestry; they've invested over £100 million over the years through a variety of initiatives.

BLF Scotland awards 2 - 3,000 grants a year: the key requirements of projects are that they should be people-led, strengths-based and connected. The current suite of grant programmes includes:

**Awards for All:** easy to apply for, small grants up to £10k, for community, sports or arts activities

**Community Activity:** medium grants up to £150k, for groups with social purpose, open membership and community control bringing improvements to the places they live and the wellbeing of those most in need

**Community Assets:** large grants up to £1M, creating strong and resilient communities by helping them to acquire, manage or develop assets such as buildings or land

**Scottish Land Fund:** up to £1M for local communities to buy important land or assets – this funding is just for purchase, not for building work.

Neil's presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/VqZyLmLutMk>



## Two short films featuring MLWW groups

### [Elwy Working Woods](#) & [Wild Rumpus](#)

Norman Dandy, Plunkett Foundation MLWW Project Manager, introduced two short films. These are the first in a series of eight which are intended to showcase the range of activities undertaken by woodland social enterprises. The films are intended to be informative, inspirational, and be a useful promotional tool for the groups involved.

Elwy Working Woods are based in north Wales: their work is based around timber construction, carpentry, woodskills and local livelihoods.

Elwy Working Woods film at: <https://vimeo.com/240653649>

Wild Rumpus CIC is a Cheshire-based social enterprise producing large-scale outdoor family arts events, most often in wild natural landscapes.

Wild Rumpus film at: <https://vimeo.com/241892970>



### **Rob Borruso, [Kilfinan Community Forest Company](#), Argyll**

*Kilfinan CFC purchased 560ha of Acharossan Forest from Forestry Commission Scotland in 2010 and 2015 and have carried out a very wide range of developments from allotments and affordable housing to a sawmill and hydro scheme.*

Rob, KCFC Ops Manager, gave a potted history of Kilfinan Community Forest Company and highlighted a couple of major projects.

2005: Steering group set up to progress the community buyout of 325ha of Acharossan Forest.

2010: After much perseverance, 127ha was acquired from Forestry Commission Scotland (this was all that could be funded at that time)

2011: Initial project was putting in road access, then composting scheme, and first buildings put up

2012: Kyles allotments set up and spun out, Cowal car share project was less successful

2013: They started work on their long-term forest plan and secured funding for future projects

2014: The first tranche of felling took place, generating income. KCFC acquired a sawmill, firewood processor and telehandler, and entered the sawn timber and firewood business. They also ran their first youth skills development programme; Rob considers this their best community engagement project

2015: Received planning approval for first housing, 75kW hydro scheme up and running – requires care and attention but provides core funding - and acquired a further 432 ha from FCS

2016: KCFC won Scotland's Finest Woods Award, otherwise it felt like a normal business with constant cashflow issues, projects delayed by bureaucracy, weather and Brexit

2017: They are moving forward finally on housing, next stage of harvesting, and there are more projects in development: woodland burials, hot tunnel (growing flowers) plus new community engagement projects

Rob highlighted three key projects:

- The **sawmill** (with woodmiser and forced drying shed) provides employment and adds value; making products and timber for construction. Off-cuts go for firewood, they are planning to turn sawdust into pellets to grow flowers.
- **Affordable housing** (always a goal of KCFC). The plan is for a simple, in-house design, using as much KCFC timber as possible. The houses have a £600m2 build cost (excluding land) – this is very cheap – and aren't particularly energy efficient: not necessary given woodfuel supply available. It has been a long and challenging process: the Council is supportive in words not deeds and the system makes innovation expensive. KCFC have to fight the assumption that if they are land rich they must be cash rich.
- Work is underway on their new **forest centre** which will incorporate office space, classroom, training centre and information hub.

Rob's presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/MP2JYm7s4q8>



**Steve Donagain, [Hill Holt Wood](#), Lincolnshire**

*Hill Holt Wood provides a wide range of services including education and training for 14-19 year olds, adult education courses in the woodland and countryside and forestry management.*

Steve, CEO, outlined the wide range of activities and income sources that Hill Holt has developed. Hill Holt Wood was originally a private business owned by Nigel and Karen Lowthrop; it is now a social enterprise (which bought 2/3 of the land 15 years ago) with a community controlled board. In 2005, when Steve joined the organisation, there were about 10 people working there and 99% of their income came from two big education contracts. They recognised the need to diversify their income sources, and established the "Hill Holt in the Community" trading arm in 2007 to facilitate this.

As of August 2017 they have 38 employees – job creation has always been a priority - and they have diversified their income sources considerably. Education is still their largest area of operation, but now accounts for between 55 and 60% of total income and covers a range of projects:

- Study programmes, for over 16s not in formal education or employment, 3 days a week, carrying out a range of woodland management activities [29%]

- Education health and care plans, for individual young people (up to 25) who have additional needs [13%]
- Under-16 school referrals for those still in school, max 2 days a week [7%]
- Growing up Green, a £1M 5-year lottery funded project, part of the Our Bright Future programme [12%]

Other income streams include

- Forestry: selling round logs and being paid to carry out woodland management (but most of their work in this area is unpaid – they work in two Woodland Trust woods, not charging but taking the timber) [4%]
- Firewood and timber: they have a woodmiser running 3 or 4 days a week but most sawn timber is for their own use. Firewood employs 1 person and they struggle to meet demand [5%]
- Wood products: this contributed only 1% last year but they have a long term plan to increase capacity and production, and have starting selling products via the Woodland Trust catalogue [1%]
- Local authority contracting: litter picking, countryside management, garden services. They have just won a major 10 year contract with North Kesteven District Council [8%]
- Hill Holt Health, delivering a mental health recovery programme [4%]
- Woodland burials: they have had 12 burials and 22 reservations so far, and the income cross-subsidises the mental health programme [2%]
- Events and functions: weddings, parties, conferences, team building, corporate events [8%]
- Design:HHW Architectural Services [4%]
- Hill Holt Gainsborough: rental income from an affordable housing project [2%]
- The Hive café: only open on Sunday but is a good shop window for their products [1%]

Future development will focus on those activities such as local authority contracts, events and functions, wood products, where they have more control over the income and are not vulnerable to Government policy shifts, as has happened with education.

Steve's presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/XhOig5YtPOw>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Why Buy Ulva? Ian Hepburn,</b>  <a href="#"><b>North West Mull Community Woodland Company</b></a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>North West Mull Community Woodland Company is attempting a community buyout of the Island of Ulva</i></p>
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North West Mull Community Woodland Company was set up in 2006 to purchase and manage the Langamull and West Ardhu forests in the north west of Mull, and has an enviable track record creating a 16km timber haul route to establishing nine woodland crofts. Current projects include development of affordable housing and installation of a micro hydro scheme. The company also has a woodfuel business (Island Woodfuels) supplying woodchips and logs for heating.

When the community became aware that the Isle of Ulva was about to come on the market there was a strong feeling that community buy-out should be pursued. A petition showed substantial support throughout North West Mull for an application to be made under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 for a Community Right to Buy registration. Earlier in October the Scottish Government gave consent to the community's registration of interest.

The island covers almost 2000ha, including about 400ha of woodland, some of which is recently planted and not in good condition, and has over 400 deer as well as lots of other wildlife including otters, golden and white-tailed eagles. There are 8 houses (4 “habitable”), a listed church, 3 steadings and a restaurant; inhabitants and operators have never been offered decent tenure. Other assets include Ardalum House and oyster fisheries.

In 1841 Ulva’s population was 859; by 1991 this had fallen to 30 and it is now down to 6. NWMCWC aim to increase the population to 20 by 2033. They plan to provide habitable housing with liveable tenure and (working in partnership) to develop other assets such as Ardalum House and oyster fisheries.

Next steps are the finalisation of their feasibility study, a valuation, a community ballot, and then a lot of fundraising and partnership building.

Ian’s presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/rl-IIAVLmVc>

## Workshops



### **Woodfuel – logistics, management and marketing: Chris Marsh, [Community Woodlands Association](#)**

*CWA is the representative body for Scotland’s community woodland groups and supports them to meet their potential and achieve their aspirations*

Chris opened with a brief summary of reasons why firewood production is such a commonplace activity for many community woodland groups. Then - through review of a variety of community woodfuel operations - the workshop sought to identify fundamental components in each and every firewood business that require due consideration and decision making to ensure business efficiency and success.

Individual groups considered ranged from non-woodland-owning woodfuel enthusiasts collaborating to glean firewood from 3<sup>rd</sup> party harvesting sites; through small and medium-scale woodland-owning communities where operations are undertaken by either volunteer or sub-contracted labour; to larger community woodland concerns where greater scale and corresponding business investment supports direct employment and more significant income returns.

It was apparent that the complexion of any individual woodfuel operation is determined by the unique context within which the aspiring community group exists. Woodland size and species composition; its maturity, quality and productivity; access to investment capital and suitable labour (competent, sporadic/part-time/seasonal?), the potential market demand and geographical distribution of the customer base all influence woodfuel business development choices. This makes it difficult (and unwise) to ‘cut and paste’ wholesale the experiences and choices made by one group in the design of a firewood enterprise of another.

However it is possible to consider every firewood business as simply a series of discrete and sequential steps in a chain: from standing tree to delivered seasoned firewood. By breaking down this so-called Woodfuel Supply Chain into a number of fundamental stages, it is easier to plan business development that is appropriate to your own unique set of circumstances. With this ‘links-in-a-chain’ perspective, it is also easier to look at the constituent stages in other firewood operations and decide whether there are discrete lessons to be learned (types of equipment, labour arrangements, site

layout, administrative systems etc.) that can then be replicated, modified or consciously avoided in favour of solutions more relevant to personal circumstances. The workshop presentation illustrated a number of solutions that individual community groups have taken to deal with timber supply, handling and processing, storage and delivery.

Essentially, all woodfuel enterprises **Procure** timber, **Move** timber (to accumulate and store/season raw material), **Process** timber (into firewood products), **Store** it (further seasoning and stockpiling of sales Product) and then **Sell/Supply** it to an end user. None of these steps is in itself 'rocket science' but – if poorly thought through – can be the difference between overall business profitability and failure.

Additionally there is an administrative burden to consider, to ensure that all steps in the supply chain are orchestrated in a timely and logically sequential way. This is a pivotal role in any firewood business requiring very good sense of all links in the supply chain: ensuring resources are scheduled appropriately (labour, machinery, fuel, maintenance/repairs, space), stock levels are maintained (timely procurement and throughput of raw materials and accumulation of saleable product) and the business adequately promoted, orders taken, deliveries aggregated and scheduled efficiently and that all associated financial transactions are duly implemented and accounted for.

Chris concluded the presentation with a number of factors that he has observed as being common to most successful community woodfuel operations. Ensuing discussion considered different machinery/delivery options appropriate in different woodland scenarios; how to build reputation (responsiveness, quality & consistency, woodfuel certification); and the importance of communicating the undeniably positive message behind each community woodfuel venture to sustain growth and earn customer loyalty.

The workshop presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/2eVgFeWhhUc>



**Adding value to homegrown timber:  
Amanda Calvert & Dougal Driver, [Grown in Britain](#)**

*Grown in Britain is a not for profit Limited Company established in 2013 as a vehicle for increasing British timber production and supply.*

Amanda from Grown in Britain (GiB) gave a presentation describing what the organisation does, particularly noting its UK-wide remit and its mission to break down jargon around certification and assurance schemes. The GiB team highlighted the free licences available via the MLWW project.

The workshop sought to stimulate discussion of ways in which to add value to homegrown wood products through processing: from woodfuel through bespoke furniture to construction uses. Ideas mentioned included several other potential products (glulam, Christmas trees, thermally modified cladding, birch brash construction board, flooring, furniture, drinking cups and others).

The importance of assessing what material and species are present in a woodland prior to looking into products was reiterated. It was also noted that value is often generated by the customer service associated with a wood product – particularly, for example, good, efficient delivery of woodfuel.

The workshop presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/yjzdgMd993M>

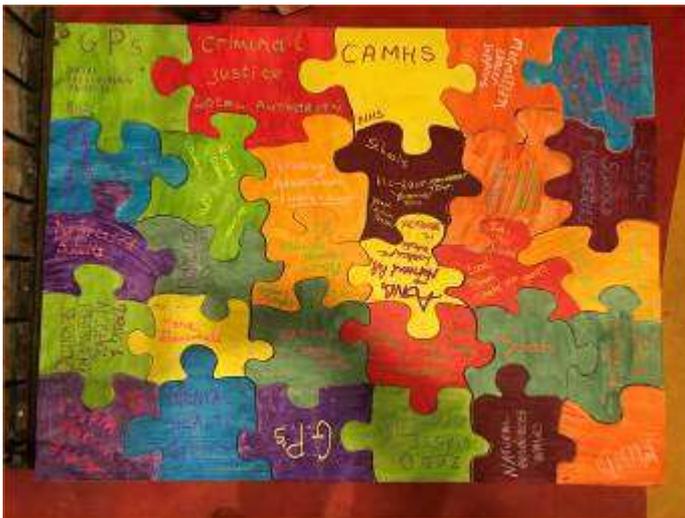


## Health and well-being initiatives: Suzann Barr, [Abriachan Forest Trust](http://www.abriachan.org.uk)

*Abriachan Forest Trust (AFT) bought 534ha of forest and open hill land from the Forestry Commission in 1998 which is managed for a wide range of economic, environmental and social outcomes.*

The workshop remit was to highlight Abriachan's Roots to Resilience programme promoting health and wellbeing for all in our community woodland. Through the programme, AFT work with different hard to reach groups, all ages, needs, and vulnerabilities and to sustain this they ensure they build collaborative relationships with the NHS and other statutory bodies.

Participants in this workshop came from a wide variety of backgrounds, lots of differing areas of expertise, from rural and urban projects across Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales and all with expressed interests in health and wellbeing initiatives. They began by discussing amongst themselves the partnerships their own organisations have developed to deliver health and wellbeing programmes and projects and created a jigsaw as a visual aid. We did run out of time to practice some of the *Outsider Decider* skills in the workshop but some pictures of them in action at Abriachan can be seen at [www.abriachan.org.uk](http://www.abriachan.org.uk)



Abriachan Forest Trust has collaborated with many partners in many projects over twenty years. It is, in part, this flexibility and being alert to relevant new initiatives, that has ensured our community woodland's sustained success as a social enterprise. The Roots to Resilience programmes in Abriachan are used with family groups from disadvantaged areas in our 'Early Days' sessions; with primary and secondary school pupils in more traditional "Forest School" programmes; with young people who have left school but who need some additional support to find other skills development opportunities or work; with adults who have mental ill health; and with those who have been involved in the criminal justice system.

All of these groups attend on a regular basis, mostly one full day each week, during which they participate in meaningful activities, cook a mutually appreciated communal lunch over the campfire and take part in some physical exercise –whether they realise it or not! We also deliver Forestry Commission Scotland's Branching Out: a greenspace referral programmes for those adults who have severe and enduring mental ill health. In conjunction with this we have delivered Branching Out Leader training to more than sixty practitioners from all over Highland and Argyll so its efficacy is cascaded out in partnerships with other community woodlands, local authority countryside rangers,

NTS rangers and NHS community psychiatric professionals, occupational therapists and other third sector mental health and learning disability support organisations.

[https://issuu.com/gcvgreennetworkpartnership/docs/branching\\_out\\_resource\\_guide\\_greens](https://issuu.com/gcvgreennetworkpartnership/docs/branching_out_resource_guide_greens)

Tasks vary, depending on the interests, physical fitness and emotional wellbeing of individuals and the group mindset, but recent sessions included seed collecting, propagating juniper, tagging “conservation” Christmas trees, clearing a path, resurfacing the Peace Trail, designing, sanding, then painting wooden bunting and decorating woodfuel sacks for their Volunteering and Enterprise SQAs. A recent initiative has been the use of [The Decider Skills](#) because NHS Highland has been encouraging and supporting the roll-out of pro-active mental health cognitive behaviour therapy skills through large scale staff training in The Decider Skills. It is hoped that the enthusiastic uptake of this programme will spread from NHS and its community mental health teams, the criminal justice teams in the local authority through to youth action, schools and the general workplace.

It was important for us to keep up, so Abriachan staff are now trained in running The Decider Skills so all participants can relate the *Outsider Decider* activities they do in our woodland to some of the skills they can use when they need to manage their own emotions and mental health. The underlying message is that impulsive, unhelpful habits are not hard-wired into our brain. Neuroplasticity means we can change and strengthen neural pathways and synapses and if we practice these new skills and thinking we can develop new positive habits. Different skills appeal to different personalities but we have found that the particular emphasis on using the outdoor environment and natural resources as the perfect place to practice, results in real sustained success for many of our participants who talk of using “*It will pass*”, **STOPP**, **REFLECT**, **FOCUS**, **WISE MIND** and “**54321**” for example. The fact that they are able to discuss how they use the skills with each other, with their psychiatrist, their social worker and with us means everybody is speaking the same language rather than all suggesting their own favourite programme. We hope to begin collaboration with local secondary schools and primary mental health workers to deliver The Decider Skills to transition groups of young people in 2018.

**Some of the points raised by participants in this workshop:**

- Keep your eye on the changes in emphasis of Local Authority Improvement Plans
- Maintain communication links with strategic departments in NHS / Local Authorities
- Notice when key decision making personalities move roles, get to know new supporters
- Evaluate, evaluate, evaluate....even just attendance statistics, feedback and follow-up.
- Mindfulness, forest bathing/Shinrin-yoku and yoga fit well with The Decider Skills.

Thank you to Di Oliver for her calming ten minutes of the yoga tree!

**Partnerships, collaboration and links exist with the following agencies, support groups**

NHS; GPs, social prescribing; Community Mental Health Team; Personality Disorder Team; Coping & Succeeding Team; Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS); Primary Mental Health Workers; Children’s Service Workers; Drug & Alcohol Recovery; Criminal Justice Department; Homeless Daycare; Argyll Countryside Trust; Young Carers; Housing Associations; Active Woods Wales; SAMH; Support in MIND; Forestry Commission; Local Authority Schools; Forest Schools; Outdoor Learning Centres; Looked After Children; Home Educators; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; National Parks; APEX; John Muir Groups; Wildlife Trusts; RSPB Wildlife Explorers; Eco-school groups; Alzheimer’s UK; Dementia awareness groups; Refugee groups; Community Horticultural Projects; MacMillan Cancer Support groups; Natural Resources Wales; Zero Waste Scotland; Paths for All; Scottish Natural Heritage; Adult Learning Initiatives .... and there we ran out of jigsaw pieces!



## Volunteering: Seeing the wood for the trees: George Thomson, [Volunteer Scotland](#)

*Volunteer Scotland works to support volunteers and organisations providing volunteering opportunities across Scotland.*

Sixteen participants took part in a highly engaging and enjoyable workshop, which was structured around the question “What was the best from our experience of our community woodland volunteering?” in four key phases: beforehand, first impressions, main experience and endings.

The group identified the useful metaphor of a “silvicultural” (i.e. the practice of the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of [forests](#) to meet diverse needs and values) approach to volunteering.

### a) **Nurturing:**

- Young people
- Disadvantage/diversity
- Volunteer engagement
- Connections and relationships
- People to people (it’s being asked that’s the key and not “Volunteers urgently required” posters)
- 

### b) **Harvesting**

- 5 point approach expressed by one participant (excellent range of different touch points and choices for a person to volunteer with the group)
- Different levels, moving between culture of finding, something for everyone and understanding that the first activity might be helping with the teas.
- Outcomes and outputs- making a difference- feel good factor
- Outcomes (purpose leads to results, outcomes and impacts)
- Leading without authority – we recognised that to get things done requires leadership and assertiveness and perseverance.
- Challenging where support required is not forthcoming- is there an opportunity to enable public servants to do the right thing and undertake upward empowerment rather than the current model of top down?
- Radical approach to mindset e.g. funding bodies- enabling up the way!
- 

### c) **Regenerating**

- It is necessary to keep things fresh and adaptable. The importance of good endings or moving into different volunteer activities that fit in with circumstances. The importance of reaching out to folk that don’t normally get asked, and ensuring people from all backgrounds are welcomed in.
- Understanding, just like silviculture, that clearing the ground for renewal and felling trees etc., is all part of a healthy volunteer eco system. The same sense of renewal, planting, etc is again a useful metaphor for volunteer growth and development.

**Activity 1: Word association to volunteering** (as an ice-breaker participants introduced themselves and gave one word associated with volunteering). These fell into 4 clusters:

**Social:** Friendship, Community, Connection, Fun, Contact

**Purpose and passion:** Service, Give back, Place, People

**Getting things done and learning:** Skills, Work, Effort

**Resilience:** Exhausting, Frustration



## Activity 2: What's best?

### ***Before I volunteered in our community woodland?***

*Sense of purpose:* Wanting to make a difference, Shared perspective with others

*Personal needs:* Benefit to self, Connection with nature, Opportunity to address nature disconnect, Human needs, Personal journey, Learning

*Sense of connection:* Other people, Affinity, Community, Place

*Wanting to give back:* Reciprocal, Local need, I was asked! Partner persuaded me to help with ancient woodland. Now do 800 hours!

### ***What was best about my first day? First impressions***

Sense of achieving something, Felt valued, Was thanked, Camaraderie, Flexibility- allowed for special interest groups, Welcome, togetherness, belonging, That everyone has something to offer, Play to strengths, Volunteered to JOIN in, Enjoyment

### ***What was best about my actual volunteering?***

Outcomes (sometimes very substantial, e.g. refurbished building, 1000 pupils into woodlands), Stakeholder +VE relationships, Greater ownership (Paths for all support for a local path), Greater sense of community (Festival), Good relationship with paid staff

### ***What was best about endings?***

Need for high status on leaving (as opposed to guilt and loss), Austrian example of uniform and symbols/badges recognising a person's contribution and what this says to others, 2014 Clyde-siders- great stories and relationships that continue to this day, Cycles of organisations (An 8 year implosion cycle for Groups is common), Silviculture approach - need to regenerate- celebrate endings? Ins and outs / ups and downs / re-structures.

Volunteer Scotland research is at <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/policy-and-research/research/>



### **Accessing social finance: Pauline Hinchion, Scottish Community Re:Investment Trust**

*The Scottish Community Re:Investment Trust works with communities across Scotland to create 'Community Loan Funds' that lend to local community businesses and organisations at low cost.*

Pauline gave a full and useful overview of the landscape with respect to Social Investment and the associated infrastructure across the UK. She explained that for community projects the more traditional “borrowed” social finance tended to be highly intermediated money and had to go

through multiple tiers before it reached the frontline body – the consequence was that money tended to be expensive with interest rates of 7.5% and above. There is therefore a need to explore alternative sources of funding. A number were considered – such as “blended” finance, which can be a combination of loan and grant funding; and “patient capital”, which in very simple terms can be where no repayment is expected until a project has been completed or objectives achieved.

The presentation and discussion then focused on community investment, where the community generates the funds, the finance is then less intermediated, and the community source has an interest / commitment to the project and a willingness to lend. It was described as an example of a “latent sense of self-interest”. The two examples examined were Community Shares and Community Bonds. Workshop participants shared their personal experience of two Scottish projects – one a renewable energy scheme, the other the construction of a community facility. In both cases the projects were funded by a combination of Community Share with matching loan finance – the loan was at a favourable interest rate from the Triodos Bank (an ethical bank) with the availability of an option to suspend interest payment

There was discussion and clarity provided over financial regulation and the role of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the nature of appropriate legal structures. There was also an exploration of issues around ownership of the project and how this might be influenced by the source / location of the community shareholding. The likely minimum scale of funding was considered – community shares would normally be for a minimum of £70k.



In summary, community sourced funding was able to:

- Make effective use of assets available within the community
- Act as a leverage to access other financial sources
- Address market failure
- Be seen as more democratic form of investment
- Be successful, but required early participation to generate confidence

This was an active and productive workshop and participants valued the full and open discussion and the high quality of the information provided.

## Saturday welcome and introductions: James Alcock, Plunkett Foundation

James Alcock, General Manager of the Plunkett Foundation, welcomed delegates to day two of the conference and explained why Plunkett got involved in the Making Local Woods Work project.

The Plunkett Foundation was established in 1919 to support rural communities solve problems by setting up cooperatives and social enterprises. Plunkett is particularly well known in Scotland for supporting community shops. It provides advice, support networking, awareness-raising for community owned organisations. Their advice line has 100 advisors across UK and they provide business support, training, mentoring, study visits and sometimes bursaries and grants.

Making Local Woods Work grew out of the public response to the 2011 proposals to sell off Forestry Commission England – there was lots of concern about the impact on local communities, and, working with a range of partners, Plunkett convened a Woodland Social Enterprise network and eventually, after discussions with the National Lottery, this led to Making Local Woods Work.



### Jo Brooks, [Eden-Rose Coppice Trust](#), Suffolk

*Eden Rose Coppice Trust helps people during the last few months of their lives and works with vulnerable children and adults to transform neglected urban woodlands.*

Jo's mum was diagnosed with terminal cancer 11 years ago and given 6 months to live. She was fortunate in having lots of friends of family, a big garden and was surrounded by acres of ancient woodland. We all understand the benefits of spending time amongst trees and how this can transport us into a magical childhood world or isolate us from modern day stresses of home and work life, and it was obvious to the family that even five or ten minutes in woodland had a significant effect for Jo's mum.

The charity was started because of the number of people they met in doctor's surgeries, hospices and hospitals who didn't have access to woodlands. Their mission is to provide accessible green spaces to people at the end of their lives. They take on neglected and often illegally misused town centre woodlands and restore and transform them into wonderful green spaces rich in biodiversity for people with a life-limiting illness such as cancer, with wheelchair friendly and hospital-bed friendly paths, disabled compost toilets, etc.

Most of the restoration work is carried out by vulnerable people: children, adults with learning difficulties, disabilities and other complex problems, which gives them a great opportunity to recognise that they have something to offer – this can be transformational for some individuals. Despite the great work they were doing, they found it very difficult to sustain the level of funding needed to cover their core costs and wages, and realised that they needed to change.

They applied to join the MLWW programme and were very pleased to be accepted. Through the project they have received lots of business advice, as well as help with chainsaw and first aid courses. They are now setting up a community benefit society to carry out more commercial activities: education and health programmes, outdoor learning for schools, forest school holiday clubs, events, venue hire, weddings, corporate meetings, team building courses and added value wood products. Any surplus income from commercial activities goes to sustain the charity.

Jo's presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/HyyyCJoU2vk>



**Zena Wilmot, [Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands](#), Powys**

*Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands is a collective of experienced woodland practitioners specialising in social forestry, outdoor learning and woodland management which helps people of all ages to develop a deeper understanding of the natural environment.*

Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands was established in 2010 when a group of woodland practitioners with different skills working in the same geographical area decided to collaborate rather than compete. They set up a not-for-profit company so that they could share resources, support each other's work and develop opportunities.

They are based at the forestry hub at Machynlleth in the middle of Wales – Llais y Goedwig has their office at the same site – which is in the middle of the UNESCO biosphere area. They carry out different activities in different woods, working under agreements with lots of woodland owners including Natural Resources Wales, Woodland Trust, and private owners. They work closely with the local community to ensure that they are doing work that the community wants to see.

Coetiroedd Dyfi started with education and training, engaging local groups and schools, and social forestry, working with MIND in Aberystwyth, doing eco-therapy. Over the years this has become a specialism and they train trainers as well as delivering directly. They also do surveys, getting the community involved via citizen science.

MLWW have been supporting them to diversify their income; they are hoping to deliver more practical woodland management. Their niche is to manage small woodlands and sensitive sites that no-one else wants – they have the knowledge and skills, but need to acquire some small machinery. They are also seeking to develop more woodland and non-timber forest products.

Their main challenges to date have been: volunteer capacity (the organisation is managed by volunteers) – they would like to employ a paid coordinator / administrator but aren't large enough yet; and working with Natural Resources Wales – they used to have a good relationship but a change of staff has led to a greatly increased bureaucratic burden which is very frustrating.

Zena's presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/jBGyQXvrcDw>



**Lorna Schofield, [Knoydart Forest Trust](#), Highland**

*Knoydart Forest Trust was established in 1999 and manages 800ha of woodland on the Knoydart peninsula. They produce milled timber, firewood and small wood products, and are planning to design and build affordable housing.*

Knoydart is a remote peninsula on the NW coast of Scotland renowned for its stunning landscapes: it's on the mainland but access is by boat or by a long walk in over the mountains. In 1999 the Knoydart Foundation bought the nearly 7000ha Knoydart estate after decades of neglect had left the land the infrastructure and community in a fragile state. 18 years on they are still going strong.

Knoydart Forest Trust is a charitable company ltd by guarantee, which employs 2 foresters and Lorna as manager, and has established a trading subsidiary; Wood Knoydart. The Trust manages 800 ha of woodland under a management agreement with the Foundation, working to a 20 year management plan.

As there is no road access timber has to go out by boat: they have carried out two large harvesting operations, in 2007 and 2015, exporting 11,000t and retaining some timber at roadside for local use. Over 18 years they have planted 300ha of new woodland (and would like to expand woodland across the peninsula), restored ancient woodland, eradicated *Rhododendron ponticum* and created paths, mountain bike tracks, benches and shelters.

They are seeking to diversify and add value, developing products and markets to allow harvesting on a smaller scale. Lorna likened this process to doing a large jigsaw: they know what they want to achieve but sometimes the right pieces can't be found, at others they fall into place.

Firewood sales started in 2010. Initially they hired a contractor but in 2013 they bought a firewood processor and built a storage area. The business has grown – turnover £17,500, volume 230m<sup>3</sup> – and they are now selling across the water to Mallaig, but the scope for future expansion is limited.

A second initiative is making and selling small woodland products: Knoydart receives 15,000 tourists a year so there is a significant potential market. Inspired by a CWA training event at Lochgilphead and two workshops in Knoydart led by Eoin Cox in winter of 2013, they enlisted 3 volunteer makers, commandeered some space in the woodfuel workshop, invested in tools, developed skills, processes, packaging, brand, and launched in 4 months. They now have a market tested range of products, with low overheads and turnover has grown to £5,500. To grow they need a bigger workshop and more tools, but the biggest constraint is people

They have a woodmiser and planer thicknesser, and 14 years of milling experience. They built an A-frame for worker accommodation and the firewood shed with local timber, and have sold varying amounts for cladding, sheds, fences and to self-builders and DIY projects, as well as carrying out a trial of planed pine flooring. Annual turnover is £12,500, but market demand is inconsistent.

The Trust has identified what they really lack is human capacity; without affordable housing they cannot attract new people. They are planning to design and build a house / office to showcase products and provide accommodation for new people, they hope to be able to build next year.

Lorna offered the following key thoughts:

- Keep your vision for the future at the front of your mind
- Link woodland management with adding value and other benefits
- Develop the links of chain at an appropriate rate and scale for your resources
- Value your own insight and understanding of your woodlands
- Do everything to the highest possible standard
- And remember: a woodland that pays is a woodland that stays

Lorna's presentation is available at: [https://youtu.be/ARI8\\_nDhMFY](https://youtu.be/ARI8_nDhMFY)

## Q & A session with the morning's three speakers

Q: If relationships with big statutory landowners (e.g. NRW) are problematic should we be addressing this more strategically?

Z: Has worked with FCW and NRW in a range of capacities. Blockages can sometimes be down to one person. Agreed that template documentation might be helpful.

Q: We share issues of management capacity with the speakers. Can business development buddies be funded in future / next round of MLWW?

Norman: we'll be discussing this further in the interactive session later on but yes, a very good suggestion.

Q: Not really a question but a point that FCS have a grant to support processing: a small window for applications but very welcome. Would be good if FC England did something similar.

Q: Are you using deer or venison as a resource?

Z: We don't have a large deer population...

L: There are a lot of deer on Knoydart, but it's not our department The Knoydart Foundation is the landowner and they do the deer management and provide venison through their subsidiary (but there is scope for developing tanning)

J: We have one muntjac deer!



## Workshops



### Sharing the lessons from MLWW: Anna Lawrence, Star Molteno, Jenny Wong and Diane Campbell

MLWW is breaking new ground, trialling new ways of supporting woodland social enterprises to break through bottlenecks and lift their enterprise to the next level. Some things have worked well, others might be improved. The evaluation team have been working alongside MLWW since the start of 2017, visiting groups, talking with advisors and gathering experiences of all involved. This workshop was a chance to reflect and share experiences between MLWW groups.

The overarching question in this workshop was 'Why do some groups have better experiences than others, and how can we collectively (groups, advisers, the MLWW delivery model) shift more groups from the 'mixed experience' into 'good experience' box?'. There were 22 participants, representing MLWW groups from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The workshop had 3 sections:

#### **Activity 1 – Graffiti sheets:**

Participants were invited to respond to quotations from interviews, displayed in pairs – one positive, one negative, on each sheet. This provided a means to:

- a) Validating how general (or not) the comments were
- b) Stimulating thought processes for the subsequent parts of the workshop

#### **Activity 2 - Road mapping exercise:**

In small groups of 2/3 participants were asked to reflect on the start of their project, to order key events on the journey and to think how the MLWW support fitted into this journey.

#### **Activity 3 – Wider discussion:**

Building on the feedback from the road mapping exercise a wider discussion focused on three questions:

1. What do the journeys have in common?
2. Why do some groups have a different experience of MLWW?
3. What would help MLWW give greater impact?

#### **What we found:**

The first two activities worked well as a stimulus for some interesting small group conversations reflecting on the groups' experience of MLWW. The wider discussion was fruitful with many different issues being raised.

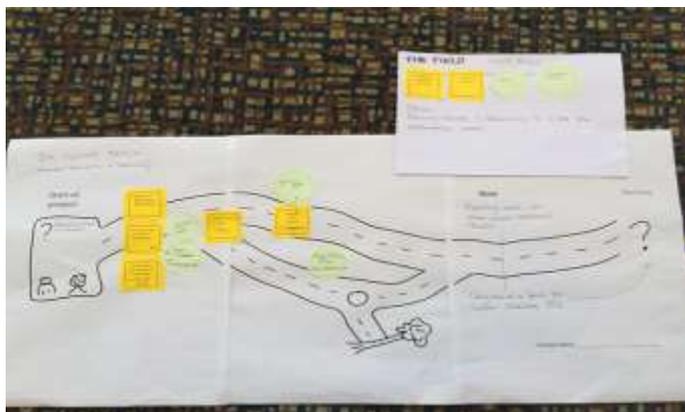
One group present had had a wholly positive experience of MLWW with the support coming at the right time and in the right way to facilitate a qualitative change in the way the group was functioning. However, most participants felt their experience of MLWW had been mixed, some very useful elements, but some things they'd hoped for had not materialised. The road mapping exercise helped participants become aware of how groups are at very different stages of their journey. In addition, the four different country contexts were mentioned by many as a reason for the diversity of experience.

#### **Looking forward:**

Face to face contact with other groups was reported as invaluable, both with other groups and the time with advisors. Hubs, both local and virtual were discussed as a good way forward. Although the project was praised by some for its flexibility, it was suggested that being offered a menu of advice

and sources would have been helpful, as would a list of the other groups involved. It was also suggested that focusing in on what the groups' particular 'passion' is could help match groups for visits, and smaller multi group events.

Detailed points from the discussion have been fed back to the MLWW steering group.



One of the road maps generated at the workshop (by the Goodie Patch, Berwick)

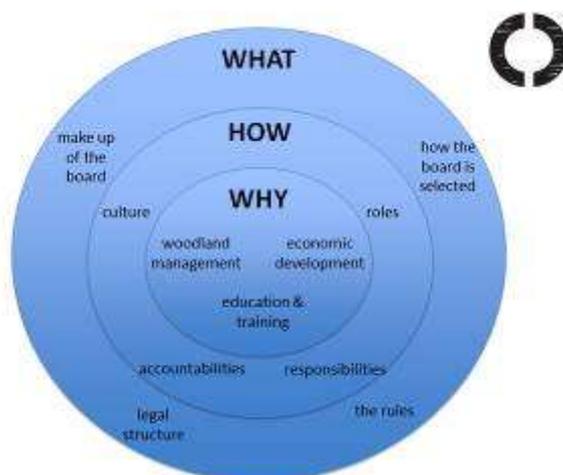


### Good governance for social enterprises: Mark Walton, [Shared Assets](#)

*Shared Assets provides practical advice, support and training to landowners and communities who want to manage land as a sustainable and productive asset.*

Mark's workshop discussed the principles and practicalities of governance for social enterprises, the key considerations when choosing a legal structure, what constitutes good governance, and some common issues, which include:

- Recruitment and renewal
- Conflicts of interest
- Managing risk
- Board / management relationship
- Managing membership
- Balancing social and financial objectives



Mark stressed that whilst there is a lot of guidance re good governance there is no single ‘right’ way: groups need something that works for them, and governance inevitably evolves over time. Currently there is lots of discussion about the value of diversity, limiting terms is increasingly recommended and there is a focus on entrepreneurialism in our changing economy.

The workshop presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/Q2QWvVOIVUU>

	<b>Hutting: Donald McPhillimy &amp; Ninian Stuart, Reforestation Scotland, <a href="#">Thousand Huts Campaign</a></b>
	<i>The Thousand Huts campaign promotes huts and hutting: the building and enjoyment of simple structures (usually wooden) for living, working and recreation in the countryside.</i>

The workshop described the significant progress to date made by Reforestation Scotland’s Thousand Huts Campaign and explored how hutting can interact with community woodlands and woodland social enterprises across the UK. Work to date has included:

- Campaigning for planning policy change
- Campaigning for a change in building regulations
- Developing a Voluntary Code of Conduct between hutters and landowners
- Supporting a growing movement

A hut is defined as “a simple building used intermittently as recreational accommodation (i.e. not a principal residence); having an internal floor area of no more than 30m<sup>2</sup>; constructed from low impact materials; generally not connected to mains water, electricity or sewerage; and built in such a way that it is removable with little or no trace at the end of its life”. Huts may be built singly or in groups.

The pilot site of the Thousand Huts campaign is Carnock Wood, a 100-acre wood in west Fife, managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES), which is the first hutting site of the new era to be given planning permission. Most of the wood is pine plantation of various ages but the hutting site is surrounded by broadleaves and is growing a healthy crop of bracken at present.



The huts will be owned by individual hutters who will look after them and pay an affordable ground rent (figure yet to be negotiated) to FES. There is room for 12 huts on the site, including 2 which will be made available to local people, plus a school hut or outdoor classroom for the use of schools in the local area. There will be a forestry road ending in a car park at the edge of the site but after that everything will need to be carried or wheeled in by wheelbarrow. The site will not be connected to mains services and there will be no rubbish removal, although there may be a water supply to stand pipes.

The 12 hutters or hutting families will automatically be members of the Carnock Hutters Group (CHG) which will be a constituted group with various rules and regulations to protect the hutters and the site. The group will enter into a lease agreement with FES through the Community Asset Transfer Scheme.

The workshop presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/32oEUPfuxQk>



**Woodfuel logistics, management and marketing: Chris Marsh, Community Woodlands Association**

This workshop was repeated from Friday

The workshop presentation is available at: <https://youtu.be/2eVgFeWhhUc>

The logo for Making Local Woods Work features a colorful, stylized tree with green, yellow, and red leaves on the left, and the text 'MAKING LOCAL WOODS WORK' in a bold, sans-serif font on the right.	<b>Interactive session focused on initial outcomes from evaluation, future support and development needs for woodland social enterprise.</b>
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The final session of the conference was introduced by Mark Walton, Shared Assets. He explained that Making Local Woods Work is a 3-year pilot programme, trialling a range of provision to woodland social enterprises, including consultancy support, training, site visits and peer learning sessions. This session was part of the wider evaluation process, seeking to learn from the current project to help develop further programmes of support.

### ***Sharing headlines from the evaluation work – Anna Lawrence***

Anna and her team had held a workshop at the conference earlier that morning and are in the process of meeting all of the 50-odd groups engaged in MLWW. It might seem odd to be talking about evaluation half-way through the project, but it is a pilot and the evaluation is part of the learning process, working out how best to deliver support to woodland social enterprises.

Headlines:

- There's a great diversity of groups and activities, plus 4 countries with different policy frameworks and support structures
- Groups do not always identify themselves with the term "Social enterprise" and there are differing definitions

- Is there something special about “Woodland social enterprise”? Not everyone agrees, although it seems clear that woodland management skills are essential alongside business planning and management
- Thinking about the different starting points (SE becoming woodlands, woodland groups becoming SE) is helpful.
- Communication and networking is important: face-to-face meetings, site visits etc are valued greatly above social media etc
- Desire to create more permanent hubs / networks in England – may be regional, and thematic (coppicing, eco-therapy, etc)

### ***Sharing lessons from the delivery partnership – Norman Dandy***

Norman offered some headline insights from inside the programme as to what seems to be working / popular.

- Advisory support: the project has taken a broad and flexible approach, but most work has been in four areas: business planning, objective setting and visioning; incorporation and governance issues; woodland resource assessment; securing tenure.
- Often, individuals or a small group of individuals are very important in driving projects forward
- Regional networking is recognised as a necessary future development, especially in England
- Community ownership of woodland is limited outside Scotland and needs support elsewhere
- Integrated advisory capacity falls short of needs
- Woodland social enterprise can play a stronger role in delivery, especially at a regional level

Where can MLWW do better?

- Support new enterprises (this was the original intention but actual focus has been more on supporting existing enterprises to develop)
- Support land acquisition
- Facilitate more cross-border learning.

## **Conference Summaries**

### **James Alcock**

James began by reflecting on the range of innovation and diversity of activity shown by the various groups, the social impacts being delivered by all groups and the value of networking being demonstrated. He thanked CWA for organising a very entertaining and enjoyable conference, all the Plunkett staff for their help in running the event and all the participants for their contributions.

### **Jon Hollingdale**

Jon thanked the conference funders: the Big Lottery Fund, Forestry Commission Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise; the staff at the Westerwood Hotel who looked after us very well; all the fantastic speakers and workshop hosts; all the delegates whose enthusiasm created a great buzz over the two days; and to everyone who helped organise and run the event: the staff from Plunkett, especially Ashley; the CWA Directors and ex-Directors and staff; Chris Marsh and Caroline Derbyshire-Laing.

## Site Visits



### Beechbrae

*Beechbrae, one of the Scottish MLWW pilot groups, is based at Beechbrae Wood in Blackridge, West Lothian. They offer healthy, tasty, high quality, home grown produce created through sensitive use of the land and give training to show people better ways of using the land.*

Beechbrae Wood is a social enterprise located on the edge of Blackridge, West Lothian – a village of c 2,000 historically sustained by local mining and quarrying but now suffering many social issues arising from high levels of unemployment, economic deprivation and limited opportunity. The site was purchased five years ago as part of the sale of local farmland on the outskirts of the village. The L-shaped landholding is lucky enough to ‘connect’ directly into the village and its primary school which makes pedestrian access practical and easy.

We were guided around the site by Sammy Saunders, one of Beechbrae’s two community workers who gave a good feel for the evolution of the site both in terms of its landscape/infrastructure and its community involvement. From the outset, Beechbrae’s ambition was to use holistic woodland management as a catalyst for wider social and environmental improvement. This was envisaged to centre around production of fresh quality produce, practical skills training for the local community, biodiversity improvements for the local area and opportunities for increased physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Sammy painted an honest picture of particular project successes and failures to date which have in turn taught the organisers valuable lessons and tempered future focus. Schools’ involvement at both primary and now secondary level has been rewarding and seems to have proved crucial in terms of fostering local relations and a positive sense of community ‘ownership’. The emphasis on local children and school groups in food growing, woodland and orchard tree planting, tree seed collection and nursery establishment as well as summer activities programmes, outdoor cooking, food tasting, composting, and study visits to other like-minded woodland/growing projects, have been equally well supported and valued. Ambitions to establish a commercial honey (bee keeping) operation proved less fruitful and problematic (too ambitious), whilst a lukewarm response to an early opportunity to allow the development of allotments by local people has now been seen as a classic Good Idea imposed on a community that hadn’t (at the time) expressed any desire to do so.

Across the site, young woodland (farm shelterbelt plantings from the late 90’s and early 00’s) is beginning to lend the site an increasing sense of structure, shelter and maturity. A series of interconnecting ponds have been created – some with dipping platforms – which are adding habitat variety as well as drawing in more wildlife interest. Two polytunnels with raised beds are tended by a Community Grower who works with visiting school groups, mental health referrals and local volunteers to trial and grow (in particular) funky and weirdly coloured varieties of vegetables. There’s a self-built compost toilet and fantastic chunky fold-away timber children’s picnic tables made for the site at the local prison (only £50 each!).

In terms of long term sustainability Beechbrae Wood are very keen to try and monetise whatever aspects of their activities they can and are one of Scotland’s woodland groups receiving support through Making Local Woods Work to investigate options. In the meantime, they have become very proficient at funding applications with Sammy listing a plethora of organisations who have helped finance their work to date: Coalfield Regeneration Trust; Greggs Foundation; Tesco Bags of Help; Paths for All; the council’s Village Improvement Fund; Scottish Government’s Climate Challenge

Fund; a local windfarm community-benefit fund; Scottish Natural Heritage and the FCS/NHS Branching Out programme. As the site is privately owned (leased to the social enterprise) this has excluded them from application to some of the more typical funding sources such as the National Lottery.

There are no utilities (electricity, potable water or waste water treatment) and planning constraints limit the development of any residential buildings on the site. However with MLWW support from Hill Holt Wood they are hatching plans for a number of new 'temporary structures' within the site that will offer off-grid offices and storage space as well as function as new social and communal event areas. Through the trees, we saw the first of these - the 'Tiny House': a straw-bale, stilted eco-build – still under construction but that will ultimately give the site and social enterprise a greater sense of permanency, administrative control as well as serving as a symbolic statement of both Principle and Intent.

It has been a particularly challenging 'journey' for Beechbrae Wood to this point with demoralising levels of vandalism at the outset - even obviously pre-meditated break-ins to steal all/any expensive, mobile equipment. However the Board and community workers feel the levels of anti-social behaviour targeted at the site is now decreasing and they have not let it dampen their enthusiasm to do more. As we walked and talked Sammy mentioned all manner of plans for the near and far-distant future: linking on-site paths with long distance walking routes, an upcoming children's Halloween party, plans for a community-build clay oven, increasing the scope and scale of their gardening and jam making etc etc.

Beechbrae may be a relatively young and presently 'economically fragile' organisation but they have ambitious plans and honourable intentions. Already you get the sense that they have established good roots within the local community. With a continued ethos of determination and resilience they should grow to fulfil an increasingly important role in the quality of life of all their neighbours and stakeholders.

### [Twechar Healthy Living & Enterprise Centre](#)<sup>1</sup>



*Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre is a community hub which houses a full time pharmacy, a satellite GP surgery, café, sports hall and meeting rooms.*

The site visit to Twechar Community Action was a real eye-opener. Their passionate and clever staff have, since 2001, used an old leisure centre to facilitate the resurgence of a dying ex-mining village. Their journey has not been easy and our host Sandra told it warts and all, which made their achievements even more impressive and inspiring.

Within Twechar they have regenerated the town centre including demolishing rows of old cottages and building a new housing complex; turned scraps of orphaned open ground into edible gardens; provide training in horticulture, landscaping, hospitality and child care backed with a landscape enterprise alongside the more usual café, pharmacy, youth clubs, football club etc. expected in a successful community centre employing 26 staff. Two things stood out for me: the commitment and time invested in consultation on a direction and plans for community development, and the way in which everyone and everything had multiple functions.

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<sup>1</sup> CWA thanks Jenny Wong for this report which has been adapted from her blog

The community engagement for the 2017-2022 action plan was carried out over a period of five months including meetings, drop ins, voting on options and access to materials and staff for discussions seven days a week and into the evenings. It was clear that Sandra considered this fundamental to the successes at Twechar and something which could only have happened with the Centre as a focal point and in community hands (council wouldn't have allowed it to be open in the evenings and without it there would have been nowhere to meet).

We were also shown a handful of the 120 gardens created by the Twechar Environmental Training Project which operates as a social enterprise with income derived from training bursaries for young people and landscaping contracts to employ training staff, maintain the landscape of Twechar, provide real work experience for trainees, and encourage people to maintain and grow food in their own gardens. The gardens include vegetables and fruit which are given free to the community members, used in healthy eating classes, used in the café and used in the catering part of the hospitality training provided at the Centre. A real-life virtuous circle!



### [Galgael Trust](#)

*GalGael, in Govan, provides learning experiences anchored in practical activities that offer purpose and meaning. They build traditional boats, produce a range of small craft items & make bespoke furniture.*

The Galgael Trust, established in 1997, is located in Govan, Glasgow, Scotland, near the River Clyde. GalGael offer hospitality to the margins, a sense of place to the disconnected and the right of responsibility to the disenfranchised. To the unskilled they offer a chisel that they might carve out a future. GalGael's vision is for a Scotland where the rights of the individual are balanced with the rights of the whole; a strong sense of peoplehood where strong values, dignified work and reverence of place binds our communities together.

For over a decade now GalGael have been a well-known landmark on the Govan landscape. During those years they have built a growing reputation for making a real difference to many who struggle with the challenges of today's modern culture that leaves some marginalized, isolated and disenfranchised. One of the ways in which they have achieved this is through involving the community in traditional boat building and restoration. In this way, people find skills, purpose and inspiration.

When site visit participants arrived at Galgael it was discovered that there was an event in progress: a presentation by writer and activist George Monbiot, so they joined the audience. The promotional blurb for the talk was as follows:

"What does the good life—and the good society—look like in the twenty-first century? A toxic ideology rules the world – of extreme competition and individualism. It misrepresents human nature, destroying hope and common purpose. Only a positive vision can replace it, a new story that re-engages people in politics and lights a path to a better world. George Monbiot shows how new findings in psychology, neuroscience and evolutionary biology cast human nature in a radically different light: as the supreme altruists and co-operators. He shows how we can build on these findings to create a new politics: a 'politics of belonging'. Both democracy and economic life can be radically reorganized from the bottom up, enabling us to take back control and overthrow the forces that have thwarted our ambitions for a better society."

The video of the talk can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nltBBhCowNY>

## Appendix I Event Feedback

### 41 delegates returned feedback forms

	V.Good	Good	Fair	Poor	V.Poor
Location	26	11	4	0	0
Organisation	31	5	1	0	0
Catering	28	10	0	0	0
Facilities	30	6	1	0	0

Friday	Content					Relevance				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Presentations</b>										
Neil Ritch	6	23	7	0	0	4	20	6	2	0
Films	21	13	3	0	0	17	10	5	0	0
Rob Borruso	15	17	3	1	0	17	8	6	0	1
Steve Donagain	20	16	1	0	0	19	11	2	1	0
<b>Workshops</b>										
Woodfuel	7	1	1	1	0	6	3	0	0	1
Timber	2	2	2	1	0	5	1	0	1	0
Social Finance	4	2	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0
Health & Wellbeing	1	4	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	0
Volunteering	0	5	2	0	0	1	5	1	0	0

Saturday	Content					Relevance				
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
<b>Presentations</b>										
Jo Brooks	25	10	2	0	0	18	9	7	0	0
Zena Wilmot	18	14	5	0	0	13	10	9	1	0
Lorna Schofield	26	9	0	1	0	17	13	1	2	0
Interactive session	6	12	3	0	0	6	10	2	1	0
<b>Workshops</b>										
MLWW	7	1	2	1	0	6	1	3	0	0
Woodfuel	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Governance	6	3	2	0	0	7	4	0	0	0
Hutting	7	2	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	0
<b>Site Visits</b>										
Beechbrae	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Twechar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Galrael	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0

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

### Do you feel this event delivered your expectations?

Yes	38
No	0
Partly	3

### Partly comments:

Workshops were rushed + poorly structured and of a limited value even those with relevant subject matter  
 Very wide ranging topics, some not relevant to our group  
 Maybe it is getting too big

### **Why did you want to take part in the event?**

*I wanted to take part to gain a better understanding of how woodland groups operate, what the main challenges are and also hear about where groups get their main income from*  
*To network and find out more about community woodlands in Scotland*  
*To gain knowledge of community-owned forests and how to manage them*  
*To gain as much knowledge as possible*  
*Networking / showcasing*  
*To learn and network*  
*To gain information, advice and network as a novice woodland group*  
*To learn more about possibilities within our community forest and to network*  
*To find out what's going on*  
*Network with other woodland enterprises particularly re wellbeing / ecotherapy*  
*Networking and learning*  
*To get a broader picture of what is taking place across the country with community forestry*  
*To be inspired, reassured, and taking away some key thoughts*  
*Networking – chance to learn more about MLWW*  
*To find out*  
*Good to meet faces behind the groups*  
*The members of MLWW are very scattered, plus the community woodland scene in Scotland is highly active and being down in Sussex we wanted to network with Scotland*  
*Improve my knowledge to make my organisation better*  
*Hear what others are doing, share experiences, get ideas, network*  
*To meet like-minded people with the same passion for woodlands*  
*I saw it as an excellent learning experience – which it was*  
*Relevance to work*  
*Networking and sharing good practice*  
*Learning and sharing experiences*  
*We are looking into setting up a community woodland in the Borders*  
*Networking, learning*  
*I wanted to connect with other people in woodlands and learn*  
*Networking, gaining knowledge*  
*Ideas to contact with others in our field of work in woods*  
*Always learn something and good to meet others*  
*Mainly the networking*  
*As a MLWW group all the topics were relevant to our future plans*  
*Networking and information exchange*  
*Networking, info gathering*  
*To meet like-minded, knowledgeable and interesting people and learn about their projects*  
*For inspiration and to meet friends*  
*Inspiration for our new woodland project, learning form others*

### **What benefits did you feel you gained from attending the event?**

*Networking, feeling less alone*  
*Gaining ideas*  
*Networking opportunities and sharing experiences of similar projects who are further advanced than us*  
*Useful info, re-energised*  
*Meeting old and new contacts*  
*A good insight into what other groups are doing*  
*Hearing what others are doing*  
*More about the UK overall situation of support and funding. Realised how well off we are in Argyll for information and funding*

*Funding and ideas for how to progress with practical activities of Trust  
Networking, gaining knowledge!  
Inspiration! Delighted to know there was so much eco-therapy work going on  
Meeting new people in sector  
Information and insights, contacts and strategies  
Great woodfuel and governance workshops  
Better informed  
Good healthy connections. A clearer picture of MLWW  
Opened my mind to wider opportunities and greater ambitions  
Mixture of different opinions and ideas  
Hear what others are doing, share experiences, get ideas, network  
Meeting people in same boat and share experiences  
Confirmation that we are on the right track. Simple catch-up on what other people are doing  
Meeting and talking. Useful to do our workshop  
Contacts and info  
Links with new groups / people. Re-establishing existing links  
Networking, gaining ideas and other points of view to review where you area as a group and compare with others  
Networking, clarity about the project  
Impressed by the range of activities, got some new ideas to try  
Met some useful people, heard some inspiring stories, had fun  
Better awareness of what's going on  
Networking and more ideas of linking with NHS, health and education  
Wide diversity of activities which can be used in woodlands  
New contacts, old ones renewed  
To be very persevering  
Understand more about MLWW and CWA and the support and information / experience that is available  
Learning about the core structures of groups in Scotland, learning about governance in workshop  
Building up key network*

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

*Pass on to group that I currently work with  
Feed them into the development of a potential community woodland UK wide programme  
Review this conference with Board and encourage membership of MLWW and more communications with CWA  
Feedback to other colleagues / residents / volunteers  
Support my future work  
Take back to our group  
Pass on relevant bits to fellow trustees  
Share with my Board!  
Use to inform woodland management plans as an advisor  
Organise a networking / learning event on wellbeing / eco-therapy with contacts made  
See if it is applicable in our situation  
Investigate hutting and some ideas for wood products and training  
Bring to our project  
Ask others with the group to take up the offers of training and attending events  
Implement  
Share, reflect  
Follow up contacts, use some ideas, follow up websites to find out more  
Run more workshops  
Get my forest road built with construction volunteers. Lobby MLWW for second round of support. Keep progressing the business plan as is*

Improve my experience  
 Carry on delivering the vision  
 Try to use them  
 Look to use it in my work  
 Dig them into the soil of my / our work  
 Pursue woodfuel development project and work on governance issues  
 This will enable us to get started in an effective way  
 Take back to group to discuss possible new plans  
 Apply it locally – thinking of ways to make more use of our woodland, our logs for labour group and our community garden  
 Use it to inform how we can better support community woodlands, particularly new groups developing plans to buy or use land  
 Feed it back to trustees and membership of organisation  
 Thank those who support us and continue to strive for good outcomes for our woodlands  
 Help inform the development of our business plan  
 Update the rest of Board and wider membership on matters of interest  
 Get cheaper insurance. Funding applications for training  
 Feed into our own development  
 Try to implement in our woods  
 Hopefully convince the trustees to diversify  
 Share

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

<b>Yes</b>	41
<b>No</b>	0

**Please explain why / why not:**

Good experience  
 Always good to discover new things, ideas, people  
 Great way of connecting to that world  
 The ability to speak with others, see how to tackle problems and develop ideas  
 Good event  
 Great relationship building opportunity, very relevant  
 A useful and enjoyable conference, great hotel, what's not to like?  
 I already have a Countryside Management Background so encouraging the CEO and Trustees to attend would align our aspirations  
 Useful experience and meeting like-minded groups  
 Information that you do not find elsewhere and excellent networking  
 Linking with national movement / sharing ideas and info  
 Strengthening of working together  
 Inspire and refocus  
 Excellent organisation and presentations  
 It's been great

**What would you like to see Community Woodlands Association and the Making Local Woods Work project do next?**

Open projects to new applicants i.e. a second round  
 Machine co-operatives  
 Build in a way to link with those enterprises who missed the first boat yet are totally aligned with the vision and values of MLWW  
 Extend and include others – beyond pilots

*A training grant or grants for trustees and Board members*

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

*Event for new projects in the making*

*More seminar opportunities focussing on broadening management expertise in developing business skills and adding value*

*Eco-therapy*

*More networking, training in specific areas, more learning transfer*

*More woodland site visits*

*Local (regional) group events*

*Regular schedule of webinar – check-ins*

*MLWW sub-groups*

*Workshop on timber extraction*

*Would be good to use the collective learning from the groups who attended this event to inform how we can encourage more people to set up woodland groups*

*I would be especially interested in green therapy and learning, and in sharing experience of social prescribing Workshops for new groups to present their ideas and get input from those with experience*

*Similar meetings of groups with same situations to discuss ways to develop further from experiences*

*Community Land Transfer*

*Practical / operational training to help drive woodland enterprise forward and increase / improve timber use*

*Training seminars, tool sharing*

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

*Catering was great, organisation was brilliant. Thanks to you all!*

*Large auditoria must be miked up both for speakers and questions from the floor and please explain to plenary speakers how to use a mic*

*Hotel environment was lovely but not v appropriate. Something more rugged next time?*

*Extremely well organised, good venue, good food*

*Good to have organisations from different parts of the UK but it also felt that there was less building of long-term contacts with Scottish groups this time. Preferred the weekend event to the Fri-Sat event this time – to travel far for such a short time seems less fulfilling*

*The Ceilidh band were brill!*

*This has been an excellent introduction to the process of setting up, establishing and developing woodlands and activities generated by them. Thank you for this valuable event!*

*More time needed for the workshop session to explore issues in more depth*

*V ell organised, retained my interest, I felt well-informed*

*Thank you for an excellent event*

*Great conference*

*It's a shame that given the urban location of this conference, there was virtually no discussion or site visits to urban projects. I feel this illustrates the rural bias of the CWA.*

*Much better venue than I expected for Cumbernauld*

*I knew nothing about CWA or MLWW so it was enlightening to hear everything on offer*

*Needs to be held in a more suitable woodland location*

*Thanks to all for organising and making it happen. Great MCs – both!*

*Thank you to all*

*Excellent organisation and facilities*

*Excellent event, very well organised*

## Appendix 2: Speaker Biographies

	<p><b>Neil Ritch, Deputy Director for Scotland, Big Lottery Fund</b> Neil began his career in community work developing a host of community projects from play and youth work to economic development. He has worked in Lottery funding for over 16 years, managing funding programmes across a wide range of activities including rural development, environment and community.</p>
	<p><b>Rob Borruso, Kilfinan Community Forest Company, Argyll</b> Robert is passionate about sustainable energy use and renewables, leading seminars on these topics all over the country. Having been involved with Kilfinan Community Forest Company since its inception in 2005, Robert is currently managing the forest housing project, the long term aim being to provide a range of affordable housing for people who want to live and work in the area.</p>
	<p><b>Steve Donagain, Hill Holt Wood, Lincolnshire</b> Steve Donagain is CEO for the award winning environmental social enterprise Hill Holt Wood. Starting in a role as a ranger teaching forestry to excluded school children he took the reins in June 2016 after eleven years. His early working years in forestry were spent shivering in Finland, Russia and Canada learning the ropes before returning to the UK. Steve's a keen member of Nottingham Piscatorial fishing society and proud owner of Hill Holt Wood Mascot, Brook, the loveable border terrier.</p>
	<p><b>Chris Marsh, Community Woodlands Association</b> Chris lives in south Skye. He was a Community Forester for Sleat Community Trust and previously worked as Conservation Forester for the Forestry Commission, overseeing a large oakwood restoration project and a broad range of wildlife and environmental duties over a ten-year period. Chris has a croft where he raises rare breed pigs and has worked previously as a tree surgeon, contract tree planter, run a croft-based organic vegetable box scheme and worked as a forestry consultant.</p>
	<p><b>Amanda Calvert, Grown in Britain</b> Amanda is lucky enough to live in the Highlands with peace and quiet and views of Abernethy nature reserve from her desk. As a self-confessed workaholic when her kids all grew up and left home she discovered how much you can actually fit into a day (until most of them came back!). Amanda is a self-employed consultant in the forestry, biomass and land reform sectors, but also works as a project officer for the European SIMWOOD project which aims to increase the area of woodland in management and the volume of products coming to market.</p>
	<p><b>Dougal Driver FICFor FRICS CEnv APMG, Chief Executive, Grown in Britain</b> Dougal is Chief Executive of Grown in Britain which is driving the use of homegrown timber through assuring supply chains. Dougal's passions lie close to the woods and the people who manage and enjoy them and so Grown in Britain's partnership with the making Local Woodlands Work</p>

	<p>enables him to engage with communities and support management planning, entrepreneurship and access to markets.</p>
	<p><b>Pauline Hinchion, Scottish Community Re:investment Trust</b>  Pauline is Director of the Scottish Community Re:Investment Trust (SCRT), a new financial initiative that works with the third sector to pool its financial resources for the mutual benefit of the sector and the communities it serves. Prior to that she was a Consultant and Interim Manager within the third sector, where she has worked since the mid 1990's managing a number of social enterprises as well as being CEO of the Community Recycling Network Scotland.</p>
	<p><b>Suzann Barr, Abriachan Forest</b>  Suzann has been involved in Abriachan Forest Trust's development for over 20 years and still remains as passionate about the benefits community management brings to local folk and to the much wider community of interest.</p>
	<p><b>George Thomson, Volunteer Scotland</b>  George is CEO of Volunteer Scotland which works to support volunteers and organisations providing volunteering opportunities across Scotland.</p>
	<p><b>James Alcock, Plunkett Foundation - General Manager</b>  James was appointed General Manager in January 2017, and is responsible for the day to day operations of the Foundation. James joined Plunkett in August 2007, and has since established a core advisory service for rural community co-operatives, consisting an advice line, advisory support programmes, events and membership. James is a BA (Hons) and MSc by Research graduate in Human Geography, both of which focused on rural community issues.</p>
	<p><b>Jo Brooks, Director, Eden-Rose Coppice Trust</b>  Jo Brooks is director of Eden-Rose Coppice Trust, a Suffolk based charity that restores neglected and misused town-centre woodlands for wildlife, people with a life-limiting illness and vulnerable members of the local community. Being brought up in a small village surrounded by ancient woodlands, Jo has always had a passion for trees. She has around 10 years' experience in funding, grant bid writing, forest school style teaching, woodcraft, woodland management and community engagement. In addition, she has over 15 years' experience of teaching and supporting young people with disabilities.</p>
	<p><b>Zena Wilmot, Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands, Powys</b>  Zena lives and works in the Dyfi Valley in mid Wales; she is self-employed and a volunteer director of Coetiroedd Dyfi Woodlands. She has have been working with community woodlands in Wales for seven years and involved with Llais y Goedwig, the community woodland network for Wales, since it began in 2010.</p>



**Lorna Schofield, Knoydart Forest Trust, Highland**  
 Lorna Schofield escaped city life 21 years ago and has lived on the remote west coast peninsula of Knoydart ever since. She has been involved with the Knoydart Forest Trust since its inception in 1999, originally as a volunteer bookkeeper and for the past decade working full-time keeping things moving forward and managing the day to day stuff. When she can fit it in, Lorna seeks refuge from the office in the Wood Knoydart workshop as part of the small wood product making team.



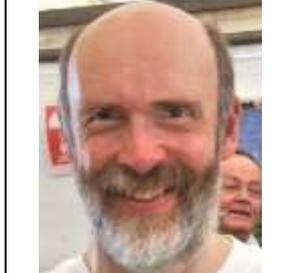
**Anna Lawrence, CWA Director**  
 Anna Lawrence is a social forestry researcher based in Peebles. Having working with community forestry groups around the world, she is hugely enthusiastic about developments in Scotland, and the need to share experiences to communicate the value of community forestry here. Until 2015 she led the social research team in the Forestry Commission; before that she was based at Oxford University, and at Kew Botanic Gardens, and collaborated on social forestry projects in Bolivia, India, Philippines, Romania, among others. Returning home to Scotland, she helped to establish the Tweeddale Woodfuel Group, and contributes voluntary time to Carrifran Wildwood and Peebles Community Trust. She is self-employed and an honorary professor of forestry at Inverness College, University of Highlands and Islands.



**Mark Walton, Shared Assets**  
 Mark is the founder and Director of Shared Assets, a think and do tank that supports the management of land for the common good and has over 20 years' experience of working with communities on environmental issues. He has acted as an advisor to Defra DCLG and the Canal and River Trust on issues such as working with civil society asset transfer and community engagement and is a 2012 Clore Social Fellow.



**Donald McPhillimy, Independent Woodland Manager Reforesting Scotland**  
 Donald McPhillimy is an independent woodland manager specialising in community woodlands and small mixed woodlands. He is part of the Reforesting Scotland Thousand Huts campaign, leading on the Pilot Study at Carnock Wood in Fife. He was one of the founders of Wooplaw Community Woodland and Reforesting Scotland.



**Ninian Stuart, Director, Reforesting Scotland**  
 Ninian Stuart is Chair of Falkland Estate Trust, co-founder of the Centre for Stewardship and the A Thousand Huts Campaign and a director of Reforesting Scotland and the Children's Parliament

### Appendix 3: Delegate List

Chris	Adams	Vert Woods Community Woodland
James	Alcock	Plunkett Foundation
Tom	Andrews	TCA Woodland Management
Shiona	Baird	Dronley Community Woodland
Edward	Banks	Colinton Amenity Association
Suzann	Barr	Abriachan Forest Trust
Frances	Barr	Friends of Plean Country Park
Liz	Beech	Immanent Associates
John	Bell	Axewood Coop
Rob	Borruso	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Wild	Bottomley	London Green Wood
Stewart	Boyle	Vert Woods Community Woodland
Adrian	Brooks	Brown Rock Woodland Project
Joanna	Brooks	Eden Rose Coppice Trust
Robert	Brooks	Eden Rose Coppice Trust
Jonathan	Caddy	Findhorn Hinterland Trust
Amanda	Calvert	Grown in Britain
Diane	Campbell	Ullapool Community Trust
Rebecca	Carr	Forestry Commission Scotland
Linsay	Chalmers	Community Land Scotland
Jane	Churchill	Scottish Community Alliance Community Learning Exchange
Adrian	Clark	Evanton Wood Community Company
Linda	Cockram	Dronley Community Woodland
Michael	Connors	Brown Rock Woodland Project
Paul	Cookson	Green Aspirations
Tom	Cooper	Glengarry Community Woodlands
Emma	Cooper	Scottish Rural Action
Frank	Corcoran	Isle of Cumbrae Initiative Community Company
Tom	Coxhead	Leeds Coppice Workers
Ben	Crabb	APIS Solutions
Donna	Crabb	APIS Solutions
Caroline	Crawford	greenspace scotland
Ailsa	Dalgetty	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Norman	Dandy	Plunkett Foundation
Amy	Davidson	Central Scotland Green Network Trust
Jennifer	Davidson	Stirling Council
Caroline	Derbyshire	Community Woodlands Association
David	Dixon	National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Steve	Donagain	Hill Holt Wood
Neil	Donaldson	Argyll Small Woods Cooperative
Peter	Downes	Groundwork Durham
Dougal	Driver	Grown in Britain

Suzanne	Driver	Grown in Britain
Karin	Eben	Garvagh Development Trust
Jo	Edwards	Green Aspirations
Harriet	English	Plunkett Foundation
Mick	Eyre	Kilfinan Community Forest Company
Alasdair	Firth	RDIA/Woodland Trust
Hannah	Gardiner	Shared Assets
Evelyn	Garton	Ettrick and Yarrow Community DC
Frank	Garton	Ettrick and Yarrow Community DC
Neil	Gerrard	Ullapool Community Trust
Gordon	Gray Stephens	Argyll Green Woodworkers Association
Gary	Haley	Woodland Trust
Jeremy	Hamilton	Pigotts Wood
Angus	Hardie	Scottish Community Alliance
Malcolm	Harris	
Ian	Hepburn	North West Mull Community Woodland Company
Pauline	Hinchion	Scottish Communities Re:investment Trust
Jon	Hollingdale	Community Woodlands Association
Syd	House	Community Woodlands Association
Assim	Hussain	Inspired Neighbourhoods CIC
Isobel	Knox	Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Sasha	Laing	Forestry Commission Scotland
Peter	Lavelle	Glasgow Wood Recycling
Anna	Lawrence	Eshiels Woodland Group
Ian	Leaver	The Development Trusts Association Scotland
Douglas	Locke	Cormonachan Community Woodland
Sarah	Locker	Woodland Trust
Rebecca	Long	Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust
John	Macdonald	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Clair	Malpas	Cassiltoun Housing Association
Chris	Marsh	Community Woodlands Association
Nick	Marshall	The Field Group (Duddingston)
Andy	Hines	Mark Hamilton Landscape Services
Megan	McFarlane	Plunkett Foundation
Jamie	McIntyre	Woodland Crofts Partnership
Donald	McPhillimy	Reforestation Scotland
Christine	Meadows	Vert Woods Community Woodland
Henrik	Micski	Sleat Community Trust
Claire	Millar	Garvagh Development Trust
Michael	Milne	Friends of Pleasance Country Park
Star	Molteno	Pathways Consultancy
Lesley	Morrison	Tweeddale Community Woodfuel
Sue	Mullinger	Durham County Council

Kristie	Naimo	Achieving Results in Communities (ARC)
Pam	Noble	Community Woodlands Association
James	Ogilvie	Forestry Commission Scotland
Diane	Oliver	Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise
Jim	O'Shaughnessy	Bristol Wood Bank and Forest of Avon Products
Kath	Pasteur	Achieving Results in Communities (ARC)
Stephen	Porch	East Kilbride Community Trust
Nasim	Qureshi	Inspired Neighbourhoods CIC
Katie	Rees	KindleWoods CIC
Jane	Rigby	Dyfi Woodlands
Neil	Ritch	Big Lottery Fund
Jane	Rosegrant	Borders Forest Trust
Ian	Ross	Community Woodlands Association
Simon	Ryan	Maker Woodlands CIC
Ewan	Sandison	Eshiels Woodland Group
Sammy	Saunders	Beechbrae
Lorna	Schofield	Knoydart Forest Trust
Ashley	Sellwood	Plunkett Foundation
Tim	Selman	Wyre Community Land Trust
Gary	Servant	Arkaig Community Forest
Colin	Shearer	Churches Conservation Trust
Susan	Shearer	Windsor Neighbourhood Plan
David	Smith	Evanton Wood Community Company
Craig	Stebbing	Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Ninian	Stuart	Reforestation Scotland
Richard	Tallents	Wyre Community Land Trust
Sarah	Taylor	Plunkett Foundation
George	Thomson	Volunteer Development Scotland
Neil	Valentine	Aigas Community Forest
Mark	Walton	Shared Assets
Jasmine	Ward	Bangor University
Nigel	Webster	Hill Holt Wood
Ross	Weddle	Immanent Associates
Maria	Wilding	Llais y Goedwig
Zena	Wilmot	Dyfi Woodlands
Tracy	Wilmot	East Kilbride Community Trust
Ben	Wilson	Hill Holt Wood
Joe	Wilton	Peebles Community Trust
Jenny	Wong	Wild Resources Ltd