



Pulp Fiction

The Newsletter

Issue 1 - 3rd Quarter 2003

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MCW Logo under development

Local graphic art student Andrew Howard is giving generously of his time to develop a logo for Morvern Community Woodlands. The concept he has developed links the geographical Morvern with the symbol of the leaf, as pictured above. "I like it because it is simple and identifiable. The map of Morvern looks good as a leaf but you can still see it's Morvern", said Andrew about the logo. The design needs some touching up and members are invited to give feedback (Andrew's email is andrewjhoward_2@yahoo.co.uk).

Log buildings - John Hodgson

Many of you reading this will be aware of my passion for wood; especially wooden buildings, but most of all traditional wooden boats. A trip to Oslo last year turned out to be a complete mind blower on both counts. The city itself was impressive enough. Superb streets and architecture, wonderful squares with water features, trees and gardens, bronze

sculptures everywhere, fascinating waterfront with lots of interesting craft moored to the many jetties and piers. The waterside bars and restaurants served expensive, but faultless food and drink, but what I found so incredible – everything was spotlessly clean – hardly a piece of litter anywhere. All this made the excursion so enjoyable and well worth a return visit. However, the jewels in the crown were the museums.

Our first port of call, literally as we went by ferry, was the world famous Viking Ship Museum, *Vikingskipshuset*. This to me was not just a trip, but a lifelong dream come true, a pilgrimage – one of the Holy Grails for wooden boatbuilders, like myself. Well worth the journey alone, the thrill I got from encountering first hand and in the flesh, this collection of the most amazing craftsmanship and sheer beauty of ancient wood technology was the best in years.



Log house at Oslo Folk Museum (J.Hodgson)

Wonderful stuff indeed, but half a mile down the road was the Folk Museum. It sounded quite interesting, and so it was. A tea room, visitor shop, guide books, craft fair and traditional dancing in the stone-

paved town square with the ubiquitous pollarded trees round the perimeter. There are complete houses and shops rebuilt in their original setting and style. One of the most memorable was the Apothecary's garden and dispensary, with just about every conceivable herb, pill and potion on display, all in their traditional jars, bottles and containers on the original polished wood shelves and counters.



Oslo log house detail (J.Hodgson)

To cut a very long story short, there they were, round the corner, down the lane past the merchant houses into the open countryside area the most captivating, gorgeous, amazing, beautiful, fantastic (I could go on), log houses!!! These were the first of possibly a hundred rebuilt log dwellings and farm buildings, store houses and byres, etc set in a recreated country village environment as close as possible from their original location. Many of these buildings were well over 200 years old and still sound. We must have spent 3 or 4 hours wandering round this delightful collection of buildings – some were plain and simple, others were incredible works of art and all were made out of logs. What do we grow in Morvern?

LOGS

As I drive around Morvern now I see those vast plantations of spruce somewhat differently. I see sheds, outhouses, hen cabins, dog kennels, pony shelters, workshops and even dwellings growing out there, along with a host of other potential uses. It's up to us to make something of it. Recently an article in the P&J described a new workshop/garage that Dornoch F.E. had built using round sitka logs. It was inspired and organised by Angus Mackie, the ex-LA forester who wooed the lovely school teacher, Karen and went off to live in Edinburgh. Well, he's now in Dornoch F.E. office and receiving 3 or 4 enquiries per week about their new log building and thinking it may be worth building more. Yours truly has been in touch with Angus and is hoping to go there in the near future and see this exciting development at close quarter.



Construction of the log cabin (Dornoch Forest District, FC Scotland)

I highly recommend anyone with an interest in log buildings to visit the Folk Museum in Oslo. We went for the weekend, got a great deal with Ryanair (£29 return!) and stayed in the Oslo Youth Hostel. See me for more details if you are interested.

P.S. Not everything in Oslo was better than here in Morvern. The sense of humour was a bit lacking and the picture framing was abysmal!

Achnaha Open Day – Jake Willis

The barbecue on the beach at Achnaha saw a good turnout, with John cooking the burgers and mackerel while the rest drank up Gordon's store of bramble wine. A steady wind kept the midges in their place but those that joined in the woodland games discovered where they were hiding. However, midge clouds just seemed to encourage kids and parents to run faster in the predator-prey game, which involved searching for food, shelter and water cards while the predators (Kay and Jake) gnashed their teeth and waved their arms ineffectually.



*Bowling round logs on the foreshore!
(J. Willis)*

Not content with rolling logs on the foreshore (see photo), Gordon led a group of us into the wood to demonstrate the manual and chemical-free way of killing Rhododendron. 'Rhodi ripping' involves working strategically towards the root system by first pulling at the branches, then using a sufficient number of people to pull the root out by finding its weak points. If

the root will not budge, brush can be piled on top to cut out light to the plant. Donald is keen for the group to develop a research project on the technique and Jake plans to investigate if the European-funded Woodlands Project work could use it.



Rhodi ripping demo (J. Willis)

Morvern Woodlands Project is go!

Jake Willis started on 19 May as Project Manager of the Morvern Woodlands Project, based at the Forestry office in Lochaline. The Woodlands Project is a £547,000 partnership of Morvern community groups, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Highland Council, Lochaber Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the European Union. The project is an opportunity for us to get involved in managing our woodlands, gaining more skills and having some fun. Work in the woodlands will get going in the late summer with rhododendron clearance, conifer felling, fencing, trail creation, management planning, and more.

As part of the bid, Morvern Community Woodlands has been awarded £19,809 to be used by December 2005. The fund will cover purchase of a Logosol chainsaw mill, a charcoal kiln, and works at Achnaha, including a car park, a 750 m trail, conifer felling, fencing, gates, and a shelter/barbecue area (that can be built using the felled conifers). The Logosol has now been purchased and delivered c/o John Hodgson. Next step is to assemble it!

Anyone who wants to know more about the Morvern Woodlands Project, contact Jake (jake.willis@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or 07909931352).



Morvern Woodlands Project
Part of the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative
www.sunartoakwoods.org.uk

A tree by any other name... - Jake Willis and Kees van der Meulen

Most of the common trees in Morvern are found throughout Europe. It is interesting

to look at the names that different cultures have assigned to these trees, if only to see the links and the contrasts in the Germanic, Latin and Celtic languages. For example, some tree names are clearly related across the languages, like Elm, Sycamore and Pine, while others, like Ash, Beech and Willow, are clearly split between Germanic and Latin. It is interesting that Dutch has two words for a wood, *bos* and *woud*, with one being Germanic and the other presumably Latin in origin. Oak is a strange one, with very different names in all languages except Dutch and English. Finally, it is interesting that Gaelic tree names show very little resemblance to other languages – all the more reason to safeguard the Celtic heritage.

Anyway, here's a list you can use on your next European trip:

English	Dutch	French	Spanish	Portuguese	Gaelic
Alder	Els	Aulne	Aliso	Amieiro	Feàrna
Ash	Es	Frêne	Fresno	Freixo	Uinnsinn
Beech	Beuk	Hêtre	Haya	Faia	Crann-fàibhile
Birch	Berk	Bouleau	Abedul	Bétula	Beithe
Elm	Iep, Olm	Orme	Olmo	Olmo	Leamhan
Hazel	Hazelaar	Noisetier	Avellano	Avelã	Calltunn
Holly	Hulst	Houx	Acebo	Azevinho	Cuilleamn
Oak	Eik	Chêne	Roble	Carvalho	Darach
Pine	Pijnboom	Pin	Pino	Pinho	Giuthas
Rowan	Lijsterbees	Sorbier	Serbal	?	Chaorainn
Sycamore	Esdoorn	Sycomore	Sicomoro	Sicômoro	Shice
Willow	Wilg	Saule	Sauce	Salgueiro	Seileach
Tree	Boom	Arbre	Arbol	Árvore	Craobh
Woodland	Bos, Woud	Bois	Bosque	Bosque	Coille

Community Woodland News

The Community Woodland Association was launched on 25 June in the Scottish Parliament. All Community Woodland Groups are welcome to join to voice their views. An added benefit will be access to a group insurance scheme. **Forestry Commission Scotland announces the**

opening of the new Scottish Forest Grants Scheme (SFGS)

on 16 June. Community groups can apply for up to £5000 per year (for up to 5 years) for 90% funding of feasibility assessments and/or training/on-going community involvement such as events, networking, facilitation and advice. The community must own a woodland, occupy

it as a tenant, or have a legal partnership agreement.

De tha dol?

Morvern & Sunart:

Aug 1 – Salen Woodschool launch, 6 pm
Aug 24 - Achnaha workday, all volunteers welcome, 1 pm at Achnaha lower side.
Aug 9 - Sunart Agricultural Show
Sept 2 – Morvern Woodlands Project Community Consultation, Community Hall, 7.30 pm. Further map viewing 3-4 Sep, Scout Hall.
Sept 12 – Morvern Community Woodlands Inaugural AGM, Community Hall, 7.30pm. All members invited!

The wider world:

Aug 9 – RS members visit to Borders Woodschool (30 places)
Aug 23 – Bonawe Furnace 150 years celebration, Glen Nant
Aug 28-29 – Borders Forest Trust conference “Restoring Borders Woodlands”. Speakers and fieldtrips.
Oct 3-5 – Reforesting Scotland Annual Gathering, Nr Banchory (£45/£35), “People, Woodlands and the Local Economy”. Workshops & field visits: the inspirational Birse Trust (water-powered mills etc.), Glen Tanar pinewoods, Dinnet nature reserve, plus a Ceilidh. If many are interested, we could share the bus.
Autumn & winter - Comunn Birlinn larch skiff-building weekends, Kerrera

Courses at Argyll Green Woodworkers Association:

2-3 Aug - Basket making (£55)
12-14 Sept - Coracle making (£130)
11-13 Sep - Woodland lichens (£45)
20 Sept - Woodland fungi (£10)
26-28 Sep - free form furniture (£110)
Sept (ring for date) - Timber frame construction (£150)
9-11 Oct - Woodland mosses (£45)

ring for date - Chainsaw course (£400)
25-26 Oct - Hedgerow baskets (£55)
27-28 Nov - Square baskets (£55)

For more information, contact:
Gordon Gray Stephens, Old Poltalloch,
Kilmartin, Argyll PA31 8RQ
01852 500366 whnw@snw.btinternet.com

Courses at Oatridge College, Broxburn:

6 Sep – Beginners tree identification
13 Sep – Creating and designing a wildlife garden
27-28 Sep – Growing and weaving willow structures
11-12 Oct – Practising and caring for woodlands (Silviculture)

For more information, call 01506864807.

Courses with SW Forest:

2 Oct – Marketing your own woodland products (£35)

For more information, contact:
swforest@gov.co.uk or 01409221896

Morvern Community Woodlands members (total 30)

Mary Barnes
Michele Barr (Acting committee member)
Jim Bolton (Acting treasurer)
Catherine Cameron
Rob Capell
Allan Davidson
John Fisher
Gordon French (Acting committee member)
Steve Hardy
Ken Henesy (Acting committee member)
John Hodgson (Acting chairman)
Jenni Hodgson
Andrew Howard
Sarah Howard
Donald Kennedy (Acting committee member)
Marjory Lindsay

Peter Lindsay
Mhairi Lindsay
Jack Liversedge
Maxwell McLeod
Andrew Raven
Mike Robertson
Kirsten Robertson
Alistair Scoular
Davie Shaw
Lesley Smart
R Smart
Kees van der Meulen
Jake Willis (Acting secretary)

Ann Winning

Next Quarter

The next edition of Pulp Fiction will be out at the end of October. Please send in any contributions of news, articles, ideas, and pictures to Jake (unless someone has kindly volunteered to take over the newsletter by then, he writes hopefully). Comments on the layout and the content are welcome.