



*Wood Tour - April / May 2002*





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## Background

### **What is the Wood Tour?**

The Wood Tour is a wood turning (bodging) tour of the North East giving schools and community groups an opportunity to learn and participate in traditional woodland crafts. This is combined with classroom activities on aspects of wood and its uses.

In 2002, the Wood Tour was set up as a partnership project between the Forest Education Initiative (FEI), Rural Environmental Action Project (REAP), Forest Enterprise (FE), Buchan Countryside Group (BCG), Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service, Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service, Aberdeen Countryside Project, Glenlivet Ranger Service and Mr Kenny Grieve from Brotus Rural Crafts.

REAP, FE and BCG took the lead in organising the project while Kenny Grieve, bodger, was responsible for the delivery of the technical information whilst visiting schools and community groups. Practical assistance to Kenny and classroom based teaching was delivered by members of REAP, FEI, FE, BCG and volunteers.

### **Aims**

The aims of the project were:

1. To bring a traditional woodland craft to schools and community groups in the North East of Scotland, and encourage hands-on participation in a craft which helps promote sustainable management of woodlands;
2. To provide a practical opportunity for young school children, P6 upwards, to participate in simple technology;
3. To provide an opportunity for schools and community groups to learn more about wood and its uses;
4. To encourage a responsible approach to working with hand tools and equipment.

## History

In 2000 a pilot Wood Tour lasting 12 days took place and covered a large geographical area including schools in Fraserburgh, Deeside, Huntly and Moray. The tour also included a weekend on the Glen Tanar Estate with a Workers Education Association (WEA) and an open day in a local community woodland in Keith.

After evaluation, the tour was pronounced a success and it was decided that a similar project should be run in 2001 and that the Wood Tour should be extended to around 15 days in length. Although mainly based around primary schools in the Fraserburgh and Peterhead area, a secondary school in the area and a primary school in Inverurie were included in the tour. It was also decided to extend the Wood Tour to the weekends before, during and after the weeks in which the Wood Tour would be going to schools. After the 2001 Wood Tour evaluation, the changes were seen to be successful. This encouraged a further expansion to the project for 2002.



## Review and Evaluation

### **The Wood Tour**

In 2002 it was decided that the Wood Tour should be extended to 16 days in length. During the week the Wood Tour was based primarily around primary schools in Aberdeenshire and Moray.

The schools which were included in the Wood Tour were: Rothiemay Primary, Botrithnie Primary (Drummuir), Ellon Academy, Mintlaw Primary, Gordon Primary school and Strathdon Primary School. During the week a visit was also made to the Glenlivet Ranger Centre for a session with a group from the grampian 50+ Network. The Wood Tour also included three evening sessions - one at Rothiemay Primary, one for Drummuir 21 at Drummuir and one at Gordon Primary school.



The weekends around the Wood Tour were organised to encompass Treefest events. Kenny Greive was joined by Andrew Saunders who gave willow weaving displays and Bryce Reynard who gave birch bark weaving displays. During the weekend of the 20 and 21 April there was a Treefest wood craft event in the centre of Aberdeen on Saturday and at the SAC Craibstone, Bucksburn on the Sunday. The days also consisted of hands on sessions for people interested in trying their hand at wood turning, willow hurdle making and making birch bark products. On the weekend of 27 and 28 April the Wood Tour was at Woodfest, a Treefest weekend of wood craft and related activities at Haddo Country Park. On the 4 and 5 of May there was an event at the Braeoline Centre, Glen Tanar with demonstrations on the Saturday and opportunities for members of the public to participate on the Sunday. This weekend attracted a lot of media interest and was filmed for the BBC Scotland TV programme "Landward".

A timetable of the 2002 Wood Tour is included in Appendix 1.

### **Publicity**

After the event, the Wood Tour received a lot of publicity in the local press. Local newspapers were interested in what had been happening in their schools and the Wood Tour gave good visual images for the press to use.

The Treefest events at the weekends were advertised in advance and received coverage in the local papers. The Wood Tour also received publicity in the Green Diary.

Some of the press cuttings are included in Appendix 3.

## Finances

| <i>Income:</i>        |                  | <i>Expenditure:</i>       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| FEI grant             | £3,000.00        | Bodger (K.Grieve):        | £2,900.00        |
| Aberdeenshire Council | £200.00          | Willow work (A. Saunders) | £1,026.00        |
| Setpont               | £750.00          | Birch work                | £802.23          |
| Income from Wood fest | £860.00          | Materials                 | £120.00          |
| Treefest              | £600.00          | Woodfest                  | £1,234.00        |
| FEI funds             | £672.23          |                           |                  |
| <b>Total income</b>   | <b>£6,082.23</b> | <b>Total expenditure</b>  | <b>£6,082.23</b> |

Wood tour received in kind support from:

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Rural Environmental Action Projects | £500.00 |
| Aberdeen Countryside Project        | £500.00 |
| Buchan Countryside Group            | £650.00 |
| Forest Enterprise                   | £650.00 |

## Evaluation Procedure

A simple questionnaire comprising mainly of open ended qualitative questions was agreed by the Wood Tour organisers and sent to the venues and organisations who participated in the Wood Tour. Five questionnaires were returned from Wood Tour tutors and seven questionnaires were returned from schools and organisations who hosted an event.

## Evaluations

Copies of the returned questionnaires are included in Appendix 2.

From the questionnaires it was clear that the schools felt the Wood Tour was of benefit to their pupils and was very well received. The perceived benefits ranged from learning new and practical skills to encouraging responsibility for their own and others safety by learning to treat tools with respect. The majority of respondents would have preferred a two day session to get more involved in the project.

Of the schools surveyed, most felt that the information provided before, during and after the visit was fine. There was a request for more tree theory and one for background information on bodging. All the schools responded by saying they would be willing to pay towards the cost although this would depend on school funds at the time. The sums suggested ranged from £25 to £75. The preferred timing of the Wood Tour varied from spring to summer and early autumn.

There were no concerns regarding health and safety issues raised. One school enquired whether permission slips for parents before the visit could be included. The activities of the Wood Tour involve potentially dangerous equipment therefore any possible problems were identified and dealt with through a comprehensive tool talk and close supervision. The level of supervision was praised in a number of the responses.

The questionnaires received from the tutors showed that the most enjoyable aspect of the events was the friendly atmosphere and the wide range of activities on offer. The least enjoyable aspect was the miserable weather. Although little could be done about this, greater promotion and pre-publicity were seen as the most important elements for improving the events. In some cases the displays were distributed too far away from each other. The poor weather also tended to exacerbate this problem.



### **Developing the Wood Tour**

Although the schools involved expressed a willingness to contribute to the expense of the Wood Tour, it may prove difficult to sell the Wood Tour to schools who have not been involved in the Tour before.

Participants and tutors were asked how they would like to see the Wood Tour develop. The responses were varied. Some would like to see the tour added into their school grounds project while others would like something to tie in with craft and design. The idea that the project could be tied in with other environmental projects going on in the vicinity of the schools eg tree planting was raised.

The tutors suggested other ideas or possible workshops. These included willow baskets, living willow structures, bird and bat boxes, Christmas cards or decorations from items collected in the woods. This could also tie in with an event in early December so people can make Christmas decorations etc.

## Wood Tour 2003

The Wood Tour 2002 was seen as a great success by those involved in providing it. The changes introduced from last year and the addition of elements like the willow and birch bark weaving has enhanced the ability of the Wood Tour to deliver an exciting product. This diversification would be more sustainable and an element of flexibility would be added if a number of local tutors able to deliver the desired programmes could be identified. The exact format of any Wood Tour in 2003 is still to be decided however it is hoped that the Wood Tour could be expanded into the field of other woodland crafts.

### **Potential Partners**

Aberdeen Council Ranger Service  
Aberdeen Countryside Project  
Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service  
Aberdeenshire Council Education Department  
Buchan Countryside Group  
Forest Education Initiative  
Rural Environmental Action Project  
Scottish Natural heritage

*Report by REAP 2002*

## Appendices

Appendix 1 Timetable

Appendix 2 Evaluation Forms

Appendix 3 Sample of Press Cuttings

## Appendix 1

WOOD TOUR 20 April - 5 May 2002

| Dates                | Venue and times  | FEI sponsored Tutors  | Main Contact                                    |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| Sat 20               | Academy Shopping Centre, Schoolhill (Aberdeen Art Gallery)<br>10.00 - 4.00 p.m.<br>SET UP BETWEEN 8.00 - 8.30  | Kenny Grieve (KG)<br>Andrew Saunders (AS)<br>Bryce Reynard (BR)<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Jackie  | Ian Talboys                                     |
| Sun 21               | SAC Craibstone, Bucksburn<br>10.00 - 4.00pm<br>SET up 9.00 am  | KG, AS, BR<br><br>Wood tour helpers   | Ian Whitehead                                   |
| Mon 22<br>& Tues 23  | Rothiemay Primary, Rothiemay<br>Children: 13 P6/7<br>Breaks 10.30 - 11.00/ Lunch 12.30 - 1.30 finish 3.10 p.m.<br>Make simple xylophone and wind chimes<br>Evening Session Mon 4.00 – 6.00 for parents | KG<br><br><b>Wood tour helpers</b><br>Gillian ( Mon & Tues)<br>Jackie ( Mon & part Tues)        | Head teacher<br>Mrs Irvine                      |
| Wed 24               | Botrithnie primary, Drummuir<br>Children 7 P6/7<br><b>Make wind chimes</b><br><br><b>Evening session 6.00 – 9.00 for Drummuir 21</b>   | KG<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Gillian AM<br>Jackie PM  | Head Teacher<br>Ms Findlay<br>Tel 01542 810207  |
| Thurs 25<br>Fri 26   | Ellon Academy at Haddo Country Park, NR Tarves<br>16 Pupils -new group possibly on Fri<br><br>Make a xylophone for 5 year olds   | KG<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Pam, Jackie<br><b>Fri:</b> Pam, Kath,<br>Jackie, Gillian (from 1.30) | Pam Taiteson<br>Aberdeenshire Council<br>Ranger |
| Sat 27 &<br>Sun 28   | WOODFEST at Haddo Country Park<br>10.00pm - 4.00<br><b>set up Sat 8.00 - 9.00 am</b>   | KG, AS, BR<br>Other helpers<br>Kath, Gillian, Pam<br>Jackie, Rod                                | Pam Taiteson<br>Aberdeenshire Council<br>Ranger |
| Mon 29               | Mintlaw Primary School<br>14 P7 am. 14 P7 pm   | KG<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Kath   |   |
| Tues 30<br>Wed 1 May | Gordon Primary School approx. P7 children<br>16 children AM/ 16 Children P.m. new class on WED<br>Lessons required for half the class remaining<br>Evening session wed til 6.00 pm for staff           | KG<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Gillian - Tue<br>Kath and Jackie                                     | Head teacher<br>Ms Hyslop                       |
| Thurs 2              | Strathdon Primary<br>Children 9 P6/7   | KG<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Jackie?  | Head Teacher<br>Lillian Fields                  |
| Fri 3                | Glenlivet Ranger Centre, Tomintouil - 50 plus group<br>11 - 12 people per 2 hours session<br>10.30 - 12.30 & 1.00 - 3.00   | KG<br>Wood tour helpers<br>Gillian, Rod   | Gillian and Rod                                 |
| Sat 4 &<br>Sun 5     | Braeoline Centre, Glen Tanar, NR Aboyne<br>10.00 - 4.00pm  | KG, AS, BR  | Eric Baird                                      |