



Annual Gathering 2013

4th-6th October

Alyth Halls, Perth & Kinross

Programme

The Gathering this year takes place to the South of the Cairngorms, amongst the fertile lands of the Mearns. This gives us the ideal venue to see how trees & woodlands are integrated into the landscapes and lives of Angus, Perthshire and Dundee.

Friday 4th - Buildings Tour

This is an optional extra for anyone who can join us during the day on Friday. Led by architect Robin Baker, we'll be looking at exciting and innovative use of timber in buildings in the area. This is a self-driven tour but there will be some spare places in cars for people to be picked up from Pitlochry train station – get in touch with the office if you would like to be picked up. Bring a packed lunch with you.

Time	Programme	Details
10.45-11.30	David Douglas Pavilion, Festival Theatre, Pitlochry	Meet from 10.30am at Pitlochry Festival Theatre carpark. The David Douglas Pavilion is one of the central features in the Explorers Garden at the Theatre. It was designed as a tribute to David Douglas, the world famous 19th century plant hunter from Perthshire, and to raise awareness on the use of sustainable homegrown timber. It was designed by Robin Baker Architect and built by Carpenter Oak & Woodland in 2003. There is a small charge for entering the Garden (we're currently negotiating a discount!)
12.00-13.00	Pinecone Viewpoint, Craigvinean forest, Dunkeld	The views from Pine Cone Point across the Tay to Dunkeld and to the mountains in the north are quite spectacular. The shelter was designed by Robin Baker and built by Toby Greene. Hand crafted benches offer a fantastic place to eat our packed lunches.
13.30-14.30	Loch of The Lowes – visitor centre, nr Dunkeld	Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre and Wildlife Reserve covers 98 hectares near Dunkeld. The star attraction is a pair of breeding ospreys who nest here over the summer. The extension was designed by Richard Shorter Architect, and the bothy designed and built by Charles Dobb.
15.00-15.30	Keillor Farm Cottages, Kettins, Blairgowrie	We'll visit the extension to the house of Fred Conacher and Matilda Scharsach, designed by Robin Baker and built in 2011.
16.00-17.00	Balgownie Mill, Eassie, 5 miles East of Meigle	We'll visit a new timber workshop and office space made by Chas Heath of Arbor-Antics. A traditional timber frame construction using Scottish Douglas Fir with some contemporary features.
17.30	Arrive at Alyth Halls	

Friday Evening

Time	Programme	Details
17.30-18.30	Registration at Alyth Halls	Tea and Coffee
18.45-19.00	Welcome & introduction to Gathering	RS Directors and Marian Bruce, from the Alyth Hill User Group
19.00	Dinner - at Alyth Halls	
20.00-20.30	Ice-breakers and introductions	
20.30-21.30	Soap box	Opportunities to share ideas, issues and projects
21.30 till close	Social time	A chance to meet new people and chat to old friends.

Saturday 5th

Time	Presentations	
9.00-9.30	Signing up for visits / workshops	If you can take people to field visits in your car please put your name on the car pool sheet.
9.40	Charlie Taylor, Tay Forest District Manager	A presentation on Forest Enterprise repositioning and the Tay Forest District strategic plan.
10.20	Les Tucker, Dundee-based willow specialist	Willow in folklore, forestry, and science – a brief introductory talk, supported by a display of plants and craftwork
10.40	Tea and coffee break	
Workshops		
11.00	Working with Willow	Practical session to learn the basics of weaving with willow, with Jane Wilkinson. Maximum 10 participants.
	Making the most of the Journal	A workshop for those interested in helping with future production of the Journal (e.g. book reviews editor), distribution to outlets and to discuss future content.
	Orchards	With Crispin Hayes.
	The Forest of Enchantment	<p>"Long ago before your time, before my time, there stood the first tree, The Tree of Life, its roots deep in the womb of Mother Earth & its branches touching the heavens..."</p> <p>Storyteller Claire Hewitt will take you on a journey into the mythological forest, to the Land of Story where we will share tales of remarkable trees we have encountered on our life's journey and celebrate these meetings in the form of a wee memorate and a Haiku.</p> <p>Claire Hewitt is a professional Storyteller based in Highland Perthshire. She has been commissioned by the Forestry Commission to create a Tree Resource called Tree Tales for FEI which she will bring along with her.</p>
12.30-13.45	Lunch provided at Alyth halls	

Site Visits

Leave Alyth Halls by 13.45	Bamff Estate and The Scottish Woodland Skills Centre	Bamff is a small estate on the edge of the Scottish Highlands in East Perthshire. It is managed for organic sheep farming, timber, native woodland, forest regeneration, affordable housing and renewable energy. Over the last three decades there has been an emphasis on ecological management which has been assisted by two families of beavers and a herd of wild boar. The Estate also hosts the Scottish Woodland Skills centre that offers a wide variety of practical courses throughout the year, from bee keeping to spoon carving.
Leave Alyth Halls at 13.45	Westfield Estate on Alyth Hill; Forest Enterprise and Alyth Hill Users Group (AHUG)	This new woodland is a clear example of the move to “reposition” the national forest closer to communities in order to deliver multiple benefits. The design of the new forest, success and achievements and community involvement will be explained by Robin Lofthouse (FES Beat Forester Fife, Angus and Lowland Perthshire). Marian Bruce (RS member and chair of Alyth Hill Users Group) will lead a tour through the community woodland; including orchard and bike trails. There will be options to admire the views from the top of Alyth Hill and/or descend into the beautiful woodlands in the Den o' Alyth.
Leave Alyth Halls at 13.45	Millennium woods, Kirriemuir with Fred Connacher (Angus Council Tree Officer) & Scotia Seeds, nr Brechin	<p>The Millennium woodlands will enable future generations, local people and visitors to enjoy a greatly enhanced natural environment. Part of the nationwide Millennium Forest for Scotland, this major project is Angus Council's largest and enduring celebration of the new millennium. This tour will take in the millennium woods at Kirriemuir with an opportunity to discuss how the Council engages communities in woodland policy and management.</p> <p>Established in 1995, Scotia seeds have 40 acres of wildflower crops and coppice woodland at Mavisbank, their farm in Angus. Their crops are grown from small collections made in the wild around Scotland and each can be traced back to its original site.</p>
18.30	Dinner at Alyth Halls	
20.00-23.00	Ceilidh – With Tunna	It might sound fishy, but dance the night away in our traditional fashion!

Sunday 6th

Time	Programme	Details
9.15am	Reforestation Scotland AGM	Annual General Meeting in Alyth Hall – all welcome.
10.00	Tea/coffee break	Sign up for, or suggest, workshops.
10.15-11.30	Workshops	
	Do you dream of a hut in the woods?	A participatory workshop about the work of the Thousand Huts Campaign.
	Deer management	Simon Pepper – getting deer under control; a discussion about policy.
	Woods for Health	Mike Strachan (Forestry Commission Scotland) will kick off this workshop with the history of Ninewells Hospital woodland in Dundee, an overview of the project research, health benefits, the work process, achievements to date and plans for the future. With this case study, the workshop will explore wider opportunities for woodlands to deliver significant health benefits.
	Other workshops	Arising from soap box, Saturday's visits and the AGM.
11.30	Feedback from workshops	
11.45	Tea/coffee break	
12.15	Plenary session on Rewilding	Is re-wilding essential to our health or is it a dream that is "dammed" by population pressure and disparate interests across which consensus will never be achieved? A discussion led by Louise Ramsay.
1.15	Lunch at Alyth Halls	
2.15	Close of Gathering	Please complete evaluation forms!