



NETWORKING EVENT REPORT FEB 2017, KINDROGAN



SARA PINTADO
spintado@gmail.com
07454664551

EVENT BACKGROUND

WHAT?

The 2017 Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland (OWLSScotland) networking event was a three-day programme in which participants had the opportunity to increase their skills and knowledge of outdoor and woodland learning through presentations, networking opportunities and outdoor workshops.

WHEN?

The event took place over three days, from Friday 18th February in the evening until midday on Sunday 19th February. Participants stayed for the full three days with a few exceptions arriving on Saturday.

WHERE?

The event took place at Kindrogan Field Centre in Enochdhu, near Pitlochry. The venue has two buildings, Kindrogan House and the Steading, providing accommodation, catering, indoor classrooms and outdoor areas where the workshops were held. Presentations took place in the Brerechan Classroom, which is equipped with a smart screen. The surrounding area, including a Woodland, and a fire ring, provides the perfect location for outdoor workshops.



WHO?

Limited places were offered, in line with the maximum capacity of the venue. A total of 63 participants attended the event, including workshop leaders and organisers.

The target audience was members of the OWL Scotland cluster groups and professionals working in outdoor learning; participants included members of Argyll, Dumfries & Galloway, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Moray, North East, South Highland and Tayside OWL cluster groups, Forestry Commission Scotland, teachers, early years staff, private business and freelance consultants.

HOW?

Promotional material was created and the event was advertised on the OWL Scotland website, social media, existing networks, various bulletins and through the cluster group's chairs.

The event organiser liaised with the OWL Scotland coordinator to contact workshop leaders and presenters, and to create the booking and feedback form as well as the event programme. The contractor liaised with the workshop leaders.

The OWL coordinator, in association with the FCS HQ administration team, handled promotion and bookings. The OWL coordinator finalised bookings and room allocation and the event organiser contacted the workshop leaders and presenters to communicate with them about final details and request risk assessments.

In terms of catering, Kindrogan House supplied breakfast, a packed lunch and dinner for each day and set meal times were stuck to.

The event organiser was on hand during the weekend to solve any last minute issues, answer any questions workshop leaders, presenters or delegates may have and check the smooth running of the event.



DELEGATE FEEDBACK AND EVENT EVALUATION

Time was set aside at the end of the event for delegates to complete and return the evaluation form. Setting this time aside allowed 89% of forms to be completed and returned, this is 49 out of 56 forms handed out. Some delegates didn't stay until Sunday afternoon meaning 78% of the 63 delegates completed the evaluation form.

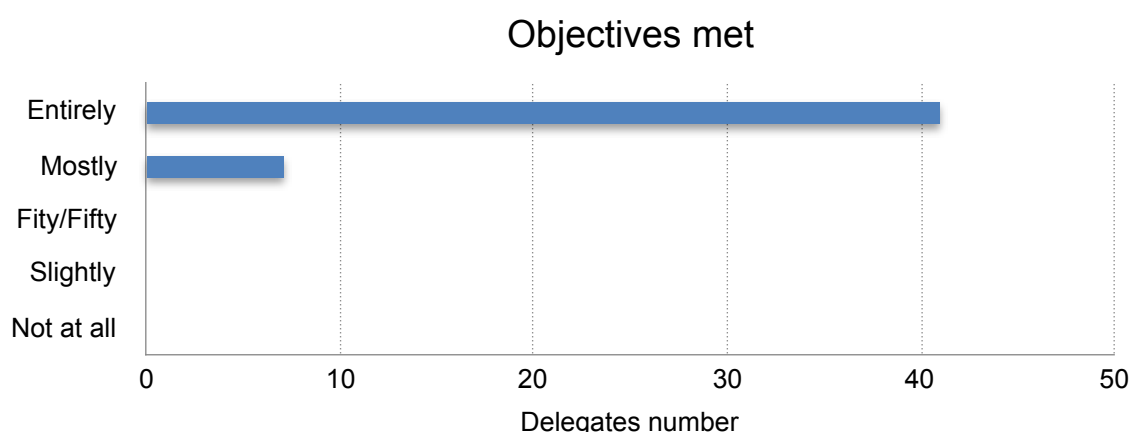
Overall, the general feedback of the event was very positive, with a total average score of 73% "Excellent", 26% "Good", 2% "Satisfactory" and no "poor" scores.

It should be noted when looking at the following results' breakdown that quantitative analysis is difficult with small numbers. Results can be skewed by a few individual responses. Additionally please note that percentages were calculated against the number of results per question and not the overall number of returned forms. This gives a more accurate picture and excludes those who have not answered questions due to not experiencing that part of the event.

OBJECTIVES, ADMINISTRATION AND VENUE

Firstly, the delegates were asked if the event met its objectives. The objectives of the event were:

- By the end of the event the event participants will have had the opportunity to increase their skills and knowledge of outdoor and woodland learning through presentations and workshops.
- By the end of the event the participants will have had the opportunity to network with others from the wider Outdoor and Woodland learning community.

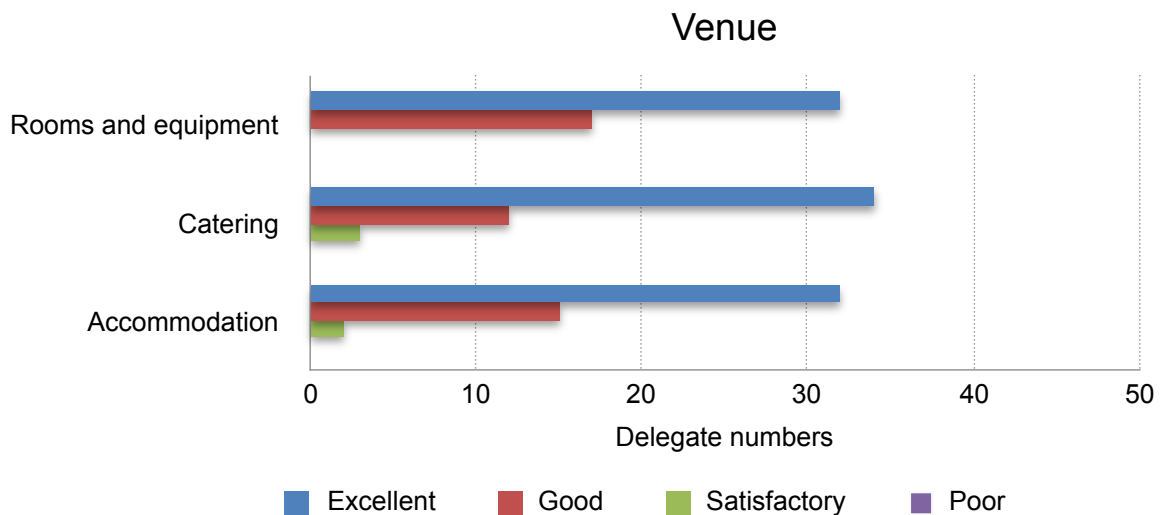


100% of delegates that answered this question think the objectives of the event were met. 48 participants answered, with 41 participants voting 'entirely', that is a 85%, and the remaining 7 voting 'mostly'.

Participants were then asked to score 7 questions about the Administration and the Venue. These were grouped under two headings:

- Administration
 - Booking arrangements
 - Information sent out in advance
 - Value for money
 - Organisation of the day
- Venue
 - Rooms and Equipment
 - Catering
 - Accommodation

The graphs below show the response to these questions in more detail.

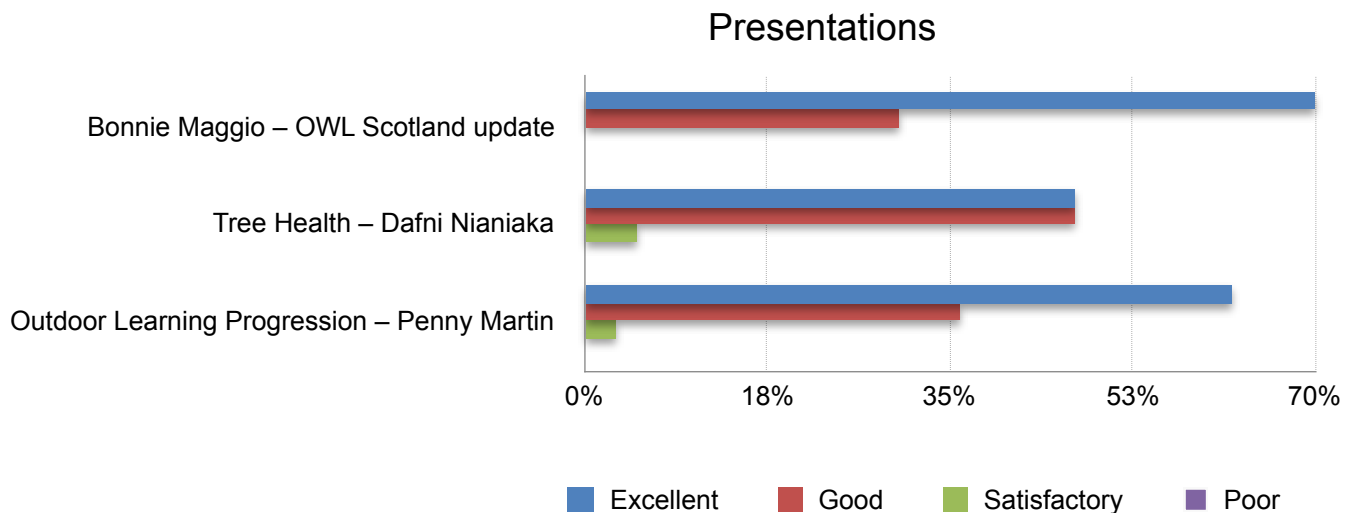


All the Administration aspects scored at least 77% for “excellent”. 91% of participants think the event is an excellent value for money and only a 1% scored the administration of the event as “Satisfactory”.

67% of attendants rated the venue as “Excellent”, 30% as “Good” and only a 3%, as “Satisfactory”. One person rated the Accommodation as Satisfactory because of Paint smell.

PRESENTATION FEEDBACK

There were three presentations on Saturday afternoon. Ewan Purser from Forestry Commission Scotland sent his apologies and his colleague Dafni Nianiaka delivered his presentation.



The presentations were rated “Excellent” or “Good” by 98% of the delegates. 70% of delegates considered the OWL Scotland update to be “Excellent”. The Tree Health presentation was rated “Excellent” by a 47% and “Good” by another 47%, with only 2 delegates considering it “Satisfactory”. The Outdoor Learning Progression presentation received also of 98% of positive feedback, 62% considered it “Excellent” and 36% “Good”.

On Saturday evening Penny Martin lead a Fire and Tools Guidance review for all delegates interested in contributing, which had a very high turnout and good reviews:

“Guidance workshop with Penny re evaluation of practise was really useful”



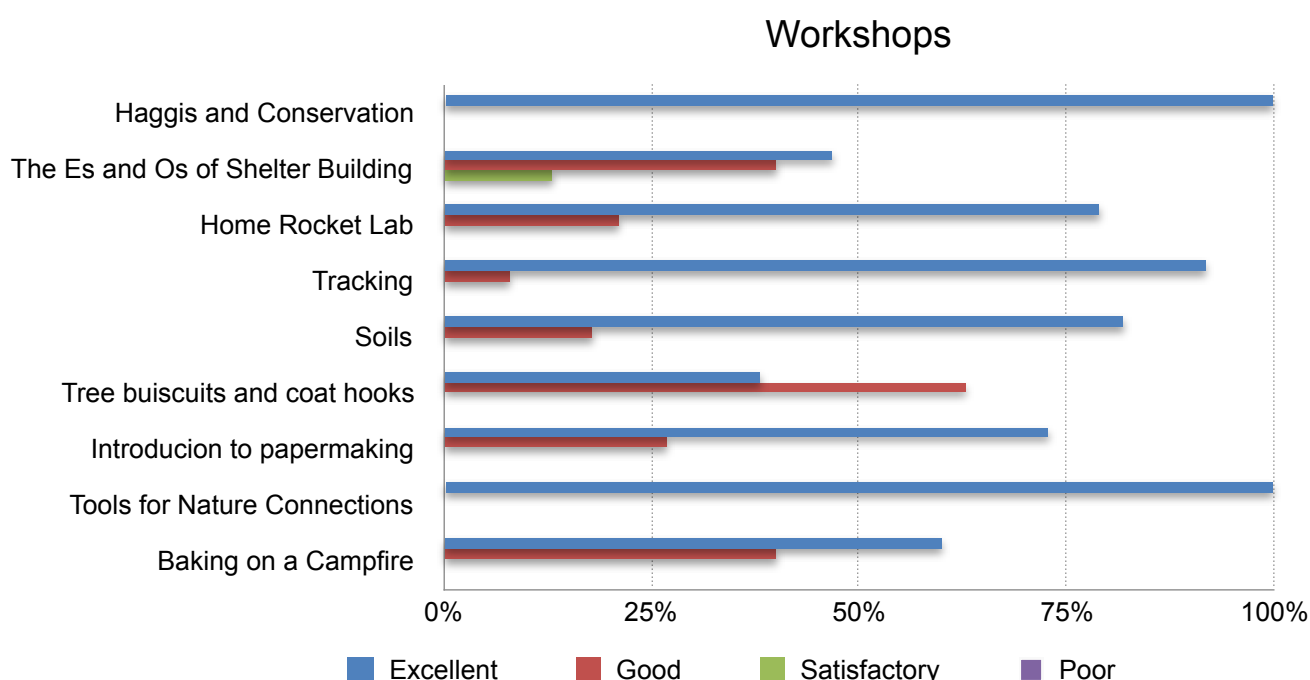
“Looking at the fire and tools guidance was good as it made us review our own practice”

“Appreciated opportunity for discussion together on tools/fire use”

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

The feedback received on the workshops offered was generally very positive, with a 99% of participants rating them “Excellent” or “Good”. None of the workshops received a “poor” rate.

The Haggis and Conservation workshop on Saturday morning had to be cancelled and delegates were allocated into the workshops they had selected for the afternoon. On Saturday afternoon both the initial morning and afternoon groups shared the workshop session.



1. Haggis and Conservation - 100% of participants rated the workshop as Excellent
2. The Es and Os of Shelter Building - 47% of participants rated the workshop as Excellent, 40% as Good and 13% as “Satisfactory” This is the only workshop that received a Satisfactory rate.

“We discussed how outdoor learning can connect to all Es and Os. This will be a great workshop to do in my setting to help all staff/parents to understand how effective learning is and how easy it can be.”

3. Home Rocket Lab - 79% of participants rated the workshops Excellent and 21% as Good

“Rocket workshop very applicable to my setting”

4. Tracking - 92% of participants rated the workshop as Excellent.

“Tracking activities will be useful”

5. Soils - 82% of participants rated the workshop as Excellent.

“The soil workshop was full of things I’ll be able to use with my group”

6. Tree biscuits and coat hooks - Kim Craigie sent her apologies and Ross Preston stepped in to deliver a workshop on “Introduction to tools and wood owl making” instead. This last minute change might explain the lower rates of this workshop compared with the total average. 38% of participants rated it as “Excellent” and 62% as “Good”. Nobody rated it lower than “Good”.

7. Introduction to paper making - 73% of participants rated the workshop as “Excellent”.

“✓✓✓✓✓ Fantastic”

8. Tools for Nature Connections - 100% of participants rated the workshop as “Excellent”.

“more of Dan, tracking and nature connections”

9. Baking on a Campfire - 60% of participants rated the workshop as “Excellent” and 40% as “Good”.



WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS GAINED FROM THE EVENT?

Participants were asked what they had gained by attending the event. All delegates answered this question, common themes were:

- Gained new skills and ideas
- Networking, making new contacts, meeting like minded people and gaining experience from them.
- Felt inspired and reconnected with core values, improved confidence and enthusiasm.
- Gained insight of what colleagues are doing and learn more about the wider OWL community and opportunities.

What participants find most useful is the workshops and the networking aspect of the event.

Some of the comments:

“Inspiring workshops, new tips for activities and training courses. Feel part of a network of folk across Scotland. This event is always a real highlight of the year, an invaluable learning and networking opportunity and I leave feeling refreshed and reinvigorated about “our” work and its wider purpose.”

“Always, always come away with new tricks no matter how long we’ve been doing it”

“Feeling my Health & Well Being topped up - I am Bumming! Lovely to hear all the speakers and really enjoyed the workshops. Have come away with lots of ideas”

“This is a really valuable event.”

“Reinvigorated!”

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Only 60% of the delegates answered this questions, with many comments thanking for the event organisation and formula and asking “more of the same”. Some of the suggestions were:

- Signage or map of venue sent in advance or provided on site with info on workshops location.
- More free day time to explore the area and chat with others.
- Spread out the presentations of Saturday afternoon or give them in the morning.

Delegates also suggested workshop sessions for future events:

Foraging / herbal medicines / natural creams / natural paint pigments and dying / mindfulness / bird language / ID / exploring the landscape, geology / wider ecology / outdoor learning for special needs / more tracking, nature connection / making simple useful items using tools / spoon making / culinary workshops / felting and knitting / circus skills / photography to connect with nature / more curriculum linked workshops

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Based on the evaluation of the feedback forms and the observations of the contractor during the event, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Keep the option in the booking form of sharing the contact details of attendants prior to the event, this proved useful for allowing travel arrangements, networking and for workshop leaders to allow follow up.
- Keep the option to select what days the delegate attends the event, this facilitates accommodation bookings.
- Spread out the presentations or program them at an earlier time.
- Provide a map of the venue or signing to facilitate identification of the workshop meeting points.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to all involved in the organisation and administration of the 2017 Outdoor and Learning Woodland Scotland event. In particular a big thanks to,

- Staff at Kindrogan House for venue hire, catering and support before and during the event.
- The workshop leaders and presenters for providing interesting and engaging sessions.
- All of the participants for bringing and sharing their experience and skills.

USEFUL WEB LINKS

www.owlscotland.org

www.field-studies-council.org/

www.facebook.com/foresteducationinitiative

www.twitter.com/FCSeD

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Bonnie Maggio

Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland Coordinator - Forestry Commission Scotland

Silvan House 231

Corstorphine Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7AT

T: 0300 067 6386

