

CLAYFEST! CONFERENCE

the culture of earth building
8-13th June 2015
Errol, Perthshire, Scotland

Earth Building UK, our national charity to foster earth building is bringing its annual conference to AGM with a packed program of talks and activities.



Fri 12th June: EBUK AGM & Conference

cost £100

A wide range of speakers presenting talks on the culture of earth building, heritage and new build, from Scotland to China, the Netherlands, Iceland, Sweden, Malawi and the United States. For programme see the EBUK website.

Historic Scotland will launch the publication of The Earth Structures, Renders & Plasters Research Report and a new research project on clay mortars.

'Places of Habitation' art project, exhibitions, books and information. Lunch provided. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

Clayleidh: Optional evening meal and dance.

cost £15

Sat 13th June: Post Conference self-driven buildings tour

Free

Information and coordination for a tour of new and historic earth buildings.

Sat 13th June: Community Day 11am - 4pm

Free

A free public event - see the workshop results and meet the earth builders. Village tour, story telling, school project, Dr. Clay's house surgery, face painting, exhibition, information, tea & cake.

For information and booking see www.ebuk.uk.com





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WORKSHOPS

SYMPOSIUM & INSIGHT TOUR



A key part of **Clayfest** is spreading skills and knowledge of the diversity of ways you can build with earth. We are bringing clay experts from across the U.K. and around the world to lead four days of workshops and related events, giving a rare opportunity for people to experience the variety that earth offers.

There are **11 different workshops** on offer, ranging from introductory one-day courses for beginners to masterclasses for professionals, from short days indoors to four days of physical building outside. You can drop in for one day, hone your skills in one technique over the week, or do a different thing each day to experience the broader picture.

Courses will generally have about 8 participants, and they will be happening in the same location so that you can see what else is going on. There will be opportunities for presentations by participants during breaks or evenings.

If you have your own project in mind, bring a sample of your earth to test and discuss your plans with people who've done it before. When you book on a course you will be sent more information. CPD certificates will be given to attendees.

Lunch is provided and pre-booked camping is available on site to participants in the workshops, but not to people only coming for the Friday conference. Information on other places to stay will be posted on the EBUK website, along with travel and grant information.

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COB / MUDWALL

Cob is a popular method of building walls and structures using a mix of clay earth and straw, known as mudwall in Scotland. **Feile & Colin Butler**, experts in design and building with cob in Ireland, will lead a series of workshops, see www.mudandwood.com



Mon 8th June: Introduction to Cob

cost £100

This course is ideal for anyone who wants to learn about building with cob. How do you analyse your soil and turn it into a viable building material? Learn to mix and build with cob using traditional methods. Participants are welcome to bring along a small shopping bag-sized sample of their own sub-soil for analysis.

Tues 9th & Wed 10th June: Intermediate Cob Building

cost £200

Explore some contemporary innovations which can help speed up the cobbing process for large-scale builds. Learn about digger mixing, making and building with formwork and without. This course is only suitable for people with some experience or who have completed the introductory course.

Thurs 11th June: Advanced Cob Building

cost £100

Explore some contemporary innovations which can help speed up the cobbing process for large-scale builds. How do you accommodate openings? How do you support a roof? How will you fix frames? All of these details will be explored on the final day. Only suitable for people with cob experience.

Workshops will run from 9-5 with lunch provided and involve messy, physical work outdoors, and a lot of fun. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

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RAMMED EARTH

Rammed Earth is an ancient method of building by pounding earth into formwork, that is enjoying a modern revival in elegant structures and self-built homes.



Roland Keable, rammed earth expert and Unesco Professor, will lead these one-day workshops, see www.rammedearthconsulting.com

Mon 8th, Tues 9th & Wed 10th June: Rammed Earth Workshop cost £100

On this one-day course, you will learn the basics of rammed earth, soil selection and preparation, designing, assembling and using formwork, ramming the walls, different finishes and inclusions.

Each day the group will build a slightly different column, each with its own twist. How high will we get? It's up to you.

We will demonstrate the soil science of earth building through a series of innovative demonstrations, seen for the first time in the UK and developed in France by CRAterre.

Participants are welcome to bring a sample of their own soil to test its suitability.

Workshops will run from 9-5 with lunch provided and involve messy, physical work outdoors, and a lot of fun. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

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CLAY PLASTER

Clay plasters are enjoying a revival, based on their widespread applications, green credentials and ease of use. Before we used anything else, people plastered with clay and the technique has grown to cover a wide range of materials and finishing techniques.



Global leaders, **Bill and Athena Steen** have decades of experience in teaching clay plastering techniques from their base in Arizona, see www.caneloproject.com The courses involve physical work outdoors, but under cover.

Mon 8th, Tues 9th & Wed 10th June: Clay Plastering Workshop cost £100

These one-day courses are suitable for people with all levels of experience, giving an introduction to those with no experience and more refined training to those with experience focusing on a particular area of interest. You can attend more than one day to increase your skills.

You will experience a range of tools, materials and techniques for producing simple and more decorative finishes and patterns. The course will include using dug earth to make plaster, and you are welcome to bring a sample of your own earth, as well as mass-produced modern clay plasters. You will be able to take samples away.

Thurs 11th June: Advanced Clay Plastering Workshop cost £100

This course is suitable for people who want to increase their skills in decorative patterns and finishes and who have previous experience or attended the earlier workshops.

Workshops will run from 9-5 with lunch provided and involve messy work outdoors, and a lot of fun. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

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INSIGHT MUDWALL

Mudwall is the Scottish term for walls built from a heavy mix of clay earth and straw, known as **cob** in England and America. This is the local tradition in the Carse of Gowrie, where many buildings have survived from the 18th and 19th centuries.



Becky Little is a mudmason with 25 years experience of repairing mud buildings in the Carse and across Scotland, www.facebook.com/Rebearth.org.uk **Tom Morton** is an Architect who has led the conservation of many Scottish clay projects including the Logie Schoolhouse, which won seven awards, www.arc-architects.com

Mon 8th & Tue 9th June: Insight into Mudwall Conservation cost £60

These one-day Insight tours will provide a masterclass into repairing and conserving mudwall buildings. It is suited for professionals, planning and warrant officials, contractors and homeowners.

The morning will include presentations giving an overview of the technical challenges facing buildings made from mud and comparing the buildings local to Errol, to those in other places. This will include the results of technical and academic research. The afternoon will give a tour of several local sites. Cottown Schoolhouse is a grade A listed building from 1745, which has been repeatedly flooded and repaired. The Flatfield Barn is a mudwall building currently undergoing complete repairs and the Horn Farmhouse is a 2-storey building where a collapsed section was recently repaired.

Insight into Mudwall will run from 10:30-4 with lunch and transport provided and involve no physical work. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

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MASS OVEN

Clay stoves are traditional in northern Europe providing heating, ovens and saunas. Today the traditional methods have been developed to provide a comfortable and sustainable heat source heat for modern and historic houses.



This course will be led by **Johannes Riesterer** an expert clay stove builder from Sweden, see svenskajordhus.se

Mon 8th - Wed 10th June: Clay Oven Workshop cost £240

This 3-day course will teach the technique of building thermal mass ovens to a Finnish design from clay and bricks. Clay ovens can range from 500kg to 20 tonnes and the group will build a small permanent stove in a house in the village. The work will be physical and messy, but mainly indoors.

Attendees will learn the key skills involving designing and finding the right place for a mass oven in a house, good combustion and the right construction for it, possibilities to combine it with other heating systems, how to build one and use appropriate finishes.

The course would suit people who are thinking about building their own stoves and there will be the opportunity to discuss the designs of your proposed stove. This is a hands-on workshop with time to talk about the magic of fire and the efficiency of a Finnish fireplace.

Workshops will run from 9-5 with lunch provided and involve messy, physical work outdoors, and a lot of fun. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

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CLAY & FIBRE

Clay is often combined with fibres to make structures, forms and sculptures. This workshop will explore the potential of different clay and fibre materials to create small and large objects and structures.



Jem and Jools Cox are thatchers and artists from southwest Scotland, who have worked with traditional natural materials from many years. **Paul Higginson** is a Fife-based Architect who helped design and build the mudwall and wood Letham Park shelter. **Phil Matheson** is a mud mason of 15 years experience.

Mon 8th, Tues 9th, Wed 10th & Thurs 11th June: Fibre Workshop cost £100

These one-day workshops will create a series of objects and structures outdoors, or under shelter, depending on weather conditions. People are welcome to participate for just a day or for all four to immerse in the potential of clay and fibre.

The workshop is suited to people of all abilities and you are welcome to bring your own materials and ideas. A range of materials, including local reeds and clay, natural fabrics and fibres will be provided and create a series of experimental constructions.

The workshops will be structured, but have freedom to creatively explore the potential of the materials in groups or individuals. If you have a particular proposal please contact us in advance to discuss.

Workshops will run from 9-5, with lunch provided and involve messy, physical work outdoors, and a lot of fun. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to attendees.

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TURF BUILDING

Building walls and roofs with **turf** was common up until the 20th century and Britain still has a few rare surviving buildings and many archaeological sites.



Iceland is the stronghold of turf building traditions in northwest Europe and has been the basis for a skills revival in Scotland. This workshop will be led by three people who have practical and professional experience of building with turf in Scotland and who have trained in turf building in Iceland. **Brian Wilkinson** is an expert on Scotland's turf heritage, while **Joel Franklyn** and **Mark Thacker** are experienced masons who use turf in their work in northwest Scotland.

Mon 8th, Tues 9th, Wed 10th June: Turf Construction cost £100

These one-day workshops will give an introduction to **traditional turf** wall building, providing an understanding of how the material was used to create buildings and the skills, tools and materials employed. The course is suitable for people with no practical experience of building, as well as builders seeking new skills.

The day will include a presentation of turf heritage in Scotland within the context of a northwest European tradition. The group will dig different shaped turves from a local field using traditional tools. They will then build two kinds of wall, first alternating courses of turf and stone and then one of interlocking layers of turf.

Workshops will run from 9-5, with lunch provided and involve messy, physical work outdoors, and a lot of fun. Camping is available to workshop participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be given to all attendees.

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TURF SYMPOSIUM

Turf is an area of increasing interest to architects, builders, cultural historians and archaeologists, as well as those involved in new sustainable building projects.



Thursday 11th June: Turf Symposium

cost £75

This one-day symposium explores a diversity of interests with diverse presentations covering: archaeology, conservation, reconstruction and new turf building including:

- **David Strachan**, Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, **Pictish longhouse of Glenshee**
- **Thor Hjaltalin**, Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland, **Maintaining Iceland's Turf Heritage**
- **Susan Bain**, National Trust for Scotland, **Conserving the turf-roofed cleits on St Kilda**
- **Daniel Postma** University of Groningen **Turf house reconstruction in the Netherlands**
- **Tanja Romankiewicz**, Edinburgh University, **Turf: Sustainable past? Sustainable future?**
- **Sam Harrison**, Open Ground, **AnAirigh - New turf sheiling project in the Highlands**
- **Tom Morton**, EBUK, **Developments in European earth skills training**

Presentations are invited from people involved in this field who would like to share and discuss their work, summaries should be sent to tom@ebuk.uk.com. The day will conclude with a discussion about future directions, how a network of interest can be fostered to develop knowledge sharing, skills training and future projects. There will also be an opportunity to visit the turf archaeological site in Glenshee, guided by David Strachan.

The symposium will run from 9.30 - 5.00, with lunch provided. Attendees can see the results of the preceding 3 days of turf building workshops and receive copies of Historic Scotland's Turf Technical Advice Note and Soft Capping Research Report. Camping is available to participants but must be booked in advance. CPD certificates will be issued to all attendees.

For information and booking see www.ebuk.uk.com

