

Tayside Biodiversity Partnership



BIODIVERSITY

THE VARIETY OF LIFE

TAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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PRESS RELEASE

Europe's Green Roof Guru in Dundee

For Immediate publication

Baxter Park Visitor Centre reverberated to the sound of electric drills and screwdrivers at the weekend when participants from all over Scotland made their own section of green roof to take away.

An event unique to Scotland, the DIY Green Roof Workshop attracted people from all over Tayside, Edinburgh and Lanarkshire to learn from the 'master of green roofs', Dusty Gedge.

Dusty is President of the European Federation of Green Roofs Association and with John Little of the Green Roof Company, he chose Baxter Park for the official launch of the new e-book: "DIY Guide to Small-scale Green Roofs".

With the ever-rising number of e-mails from ordinary people wanting to add a green roof to their garage, shed or porch, he realized that a new book was needed. Dusty said "I have researched green roofs all over the world and campaigned for their wholesale adoption in major developments throughout the UK. It would be good for them to become a UK legal requirement – as they are in several countries already, including Germany and Switzerland."

He went on: "However, it's not just the huge corporations that can make a difference – most of us can include a bit of biodiversity on our homes and it doesn't stop with erecting a bird or bat box. The budding DIY-ers at the Baxter Park event included someone who wanted to disguise an oil tank in his garden and someone else who had started building a green roof but wanted technical advice."

Five years ago Dusty co-founded www.livingroofs.org, the first British independent green roof organization. He works closely with colleagues throughout Europe, Scandinavia, Canada and the USA regarding design and implementation of green roofs. His guidance on green roofs and green walls ("Building Greener") will be soon published by the Construction Information and Research Association: www.ciria.org.uk.

Dusty also wrote the booklet "Living Roofs" (which can be downloaded via www.livingroofs.org/livingpages/greenroofsdomestic.html),

Also present at the workshop was John Whittaker and colleague Richard from Hertalan, the key sponsors of the event. Travelling especially up from Nottingham and Cumbria, they gave an interesting technical presentation on the necessity for a good-quality rubber lining to ensure a 20+ year waterproofing life to the green roof. The Dundee Institute of Architects also sponsored the event, as did the Dundee City, Angus, and Perth & Kinross Councils.

One famous local green roof is the sedum roof on the Visitor Centre at Arbroath, which features in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan. Catherine Lloyd of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership - which hosted the Dundee event - said “green roofs have so many benefits, not just for wildlife, but in absorbing rainfall, keeping houses warm in the winter and cool in the summer. They can look neat and tidy (with sedum and low-growing, slow-growing plants; they can resemble rock gardens with gravel, rocks and pieces of wood; or they can be exuberant shows of wildflowers and grasses.”

The new e-book “Do it Yourself Green Roofs” can be ordered from www.livingroofs.org.

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

- **Dusty Gedge is an international green roof expert, founder of livingroofs.org (www.livingroofs.org) and was a star of Channel 4's 'Wild Thing I Love You'. John Little runs the Grass Roof Company - www.grassroofcompany.co.uk.**
- **The Arbroath Visitor Centre sedum roof is featured in the Urban Habitat Action Plan of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan.**



Feb 2009 141 – Green Roofers busy making a section to take away with them



Feb 2009 139 - DIY Green Roofers



Feb 2009 131 – from left: Outside Baxter Park Visitor Centre - Richard from Hertalan (key sponsors), Dusty Gedge (Living Roofs), John Little (Green Roof Company) and John Whittaker (Hertalan)

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