

JULIUS BRUMMELMAN

FILM MAKER AND WOODLAND CONSERVATIONIST, SLIEVE AUGHTY MOUNTAINS, CO. GALWAY

STAND



THE STORY

Meet Julius. He's a 28-year old whose zeal for the natural world and woodland conservation initiated his

"project that got a little out of hand!"

That project is the construction of a medieval roundhouse using local material and long-held knowledge.

Julius studied Forest and Nature Conservation at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and, along with his cousin Dylan van Leeuwen, has a very particular hobby – bushcrafting. They host a survival skills YouTube channel and have over 200k followers.

Two years ago they set out to build a small shelter dwelling and the result is nothing short

of spectacular. Using material procured from surrounding woodlands, the energy of their hands, some horses and a few friends, they've built a hugely impressive (and historically accurate) medieval roundhouse. The reeds for the thatched roof were cut and bundled by hand at the nearby pond and attached using over 2,000 hand-whittled wooden pegs and scraw (rooty topsoil sods) collected from the bog.

The construction of the roundhouse is just the start of this story. Julius plans to live in the roundhouse for 60 days, just like our ancestors would have done, with no modern conveniences such as electricity, internet, smartphone or grocery shops. He will harvest everything he needs from what is around him. Julius is keen to explain that his project isn't purely just for the kick of the

adventure, but

"a creative response to connect people with nature and to inspire conservation for tomorrow's world".

THE WHY

"I grew up in the Netherlands, in a unique and beautiful forest that I am very grateful for. The realisation that there was no real wilderness left was an immediate driver to start thinking about what I could do to conserve our native woodlands."

THE HOPE

"We have proven we can adapt and make change happen very quickly and that gives me hope for society, but even if that doesn't happen life will always evolve and that's magic."

THE CHALLENGE

"Some people look at the government for change but I really believe change starts with ourselves. We need to look at what we consume and the impact that has on nature. Animal products have a huge impact on land use for grazing and for growing."

THE RECOMMENDATION

TV SERIES – *David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet*.

To find out more about the project follow Julius and his cousin on YouTube: SmoothGefixt

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All around us there are signs of increased awareness and inspiring new initiatives.

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A STORIES OF
CHANGE
PRODUCTION

Photo by Jacqui Devenney Reed

