



## In the Newsletter this Month

Our stubborn winter and freezing weather have put spring on hold, but take the opportunity to read the newsletter instead! Sarah has written about a day with the tree surgeons, and following on from that a day with a horse-logging team at the woods. There is also an article about green woodworking.

The Government have announced a new Chalara action plan this month, and this is discussed, along with other news for small woodland owners. We have SWOG meetings coming up in April and May. Please do support these meetings. They are a great way to meet other SWOG members, have fun, and learn something valuable too.

Likewise, there are a lot of other events coming up, including courses being run by SWOG members. Again, please support these if you can, and if you have been on any courses, we'd love to hear from you about how you got on, and what you thought of the course. We have listed the woodfairs for 2013 again, as well as highlighting some key blog posts from woodlands.co.uk.

Finally, there is a digest of the key posts of last month on the SWOG forum—please visit the forum and contribute, and do join the SWOG Twitter feed for up-to-the-minute news for small woodland owners (@\_swog for twitter users)

*If you have any stories from your woodland, please send them to us at [sarah@swog.org.uk](mailto:sarah@swog.org.uk) If you have any enquiries about SWOG please contact [Judith@swog.org.uk](mailto:Judith@swog.org.uk) and if you have anything for the web site, please contact [rich@swog.org.uk](mailto:rich@swog.org.uk)*

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## A Day with the Tree Surgeons

*Sarah reports on a day spent with the tree surgeons at Alvecote Wood and the benefits to be had from working with skilled professionals.*

We do a lot of the work at the woods ourselves, together with some fantastic volunteers, who give up their time and work hard to help us improve the woods for wildlife. We are generally quite capable, able to do our own coppicing including felling the trees, manage our own young trees, sort out our own paths and rides and glades, mow our own meadows, manage our own ponds, do our own dead-hedging – in short, we do a lot of it ourselves. We didn't buy the woods so we could bring in contractors and other people to do the work for us!

But sometimes, just sometimes, we need the help of professionals. This year, we were doing some thinning in the area of the woods we call the "plantation". It is so called because it is clear that at least some of the trees have been planted there. In particular the larch trees, which don't occur anywhere else on site, which are not native to the site or area, and which are now of an age and size where they need to be felled to allow other trees



to develop properly, to let in light to the forest floor, and to reduce the risk of importing *Phytophthora ramorum* infection into our oak woodlands.

We thinned out some other trees in preparation – some rather poorly-developed oak, willow and hawthorn trees now shaded by the canopy, some dead trees, a very badly formed ash, and some holly (to let in light). We were left with these enormous larch trees, over 40 feet high. We could fell them ourselves, but the problem with larch is that they have a long, straight trunk and then a very bushy canopy. Bringing this bushy canopy down without removing the branches first risked damaging the young trees in the area that were few in number and that we very much wished to leave undamaged to become the next generation in the woods. In an area dense with stems, this was a problem beyond our meagre skills.

So we got in the tree surgeons for a day. Now this costs money, but we felt it was worth it for a number of reasons. First, we got the larch felled without damaging the other trees. Second, the tree surgeons we use are also chainsaw and tree surgery instructors. This means we can get a top-up on our training, and we can do some of the work under their supervision (although we don't do tree climbing). We develop our skills, we help them out which helps to cut costs, everybody is happy. We can also get other jobs done while they are there, using their chipper to chip the brash and line the paths with chips, something that helps improve their condition and reduce the muddiness.

So it was that before 8am, we arrived with the three tree surgeons and their equipment to start a busy day. With a cold wind blowing, we needed to wrap up, and were thankful for our padded chainsaw trousers and gloves. We watched with great respect as these very skilled guys climbed our larch trees, took off the limbs with a small chainsaw and then came down, leaving a lovely straight trunk for felling.

The surgeons then guided Stephen to help him improve the precision with which he felled these very large trees, allowing him to make the cuts. They also watched my chainsaw technique as I tackled the very difficult task of cutting up a larch that was felled with branches on, as well as a very twisted ash tree, that had both fallen together. I tried not to feel the pressure, as I tried to assess the task, decide which ways the stresses in the wood were working, and make the cuts cleanly and correctly using good and safe technique. It isn't easy to work when you are being watched so closely, but I managed a good job, only getting the bar stuck once (and that wasn't predictable and the instructor confirmed that as I had tested the weight beforehand). I was complimented on safe handling of the saw, safe starting, using techniques such as leaving a leg on the branch in case it rolled towards me, and generally doing a good job.

We also had to fell a dead sycamore that was next to a path, and hence a risk that needed to be dealt with under our tree safety policy. We needed to do this without damaging some hazel saplings planted nearby. Again, it was a pleasure to watch the guys climbing and how they carefully removed weight to ensure the tree fell in the correct direction. We managed to bring the tree down precisely onto the path, and were left with the task of cutting it up and stacking it before it got too dark, as well as chipping the brash – we just got done in time.

We really valued our day with the experts. They are lovely guys, so skilled and so willing to teach us – just as we are hungry to learn. We were totally exhausted at the end of the day and are full of admiration for these skilled people, who will work just as hard the next day, and the next, and the next! Yes, money can be tight, but there is a lot to be gained from having the experts visit your woods, do some work, and help you learn.

With many thanks to Mike, Paul and John from Arborcare (<http://www.treesurgerytamworth.co.uk/index.html>) for their hard work, skills and patience during their day at the woods. There is also a fantastic blog post about a day with tree surgeons written by Angus on the woodland.co.uk web site at <http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/practical-guides/tree-surgery-with-lemur-tree-services/>

## Course Directory

### Institute of Chartered Foresters

Forthcoming events are on

<http://www.charteredforesters.org/>

### British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

A large range of courses for woodland owners

For *BTCV Short Courses*

<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level3/536/level>

For *BTCV long courses*

<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level3/561/level>

### Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)

To see upcoming courses for 2013 visit

<http://courses.cat.org.uk/>

### Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

To see courses for the coming year visit

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/events/courses.aspx>

### LILI Courses

For the full range of courses from the Low Impact Living Initiative, please see

<http://www.lowimpact.org/courses.htm>

### Wildlife Trusts

All 47 UK Wildlife Trusts run events of potential interest to woodland owners. For further details please see

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/whats-on>



## Horse Logging at Alvecote Wood



*Following on from our day with the tree surgeons, we then invited a horse-logging team into the woods to extract the timber for planking later in the year. After our feature on horse-logging last month, this is a practical account of our day with a horse-logging team.*

We had felled our larch trees with the tree surgeons, but then what? The problem is that we wanted to leave the logs in longer lengths (about 8ft), so they could be planked. A few could be shifted by hand, and we did move some by hand, particularly the dead trees. But most of the time we don't have enough strong volunteers to help and the majority of logs were too big and heavy to move by hand, volunteers or no.

In a normal year we would either drive the trailer in behind the car or quad, or use the tractor to get the logs out. But this hasn't been a normal year. The ground is very wet and gets chewed up very easily. We definitely didn't want to chew up the ground, particularly in the felling area, as this is the best patch of bluebells in the whole wood. Not to mention damaging the ground and affecting adjacent tree roots. We couldn't leave them on the ground either—the mobile sawmill can't get to that part of the wood, and the logs needed to be moved near to a level path.

We had seen horse-logging at various forestry shows, and also on the TV, and we decided that this was the way to go. Working horses are far from obsolete. Their feet are kind to the ground. They tread a narrow path, dragging the log behind them on a narrow track. They can get into places that you can't take a tractor and have a much lower impact on the ground. If need be, they can step sideways (something a vehicle can't do). And they are very, very strong! The 8ft sections were something that a single working horse should be able to shift with ease, even though we struggled to roll them, let alone pick them up, even using log levers.

So it was that we contacted [James Griffiths Horse Logging](http://www.fcuk.com/index.php?option=com_sobi2&sobi2Task=sobi2Details&catid=16&sobi2Id=317&Itemid=170) at [http://www.fcuk.com/index.php?option=com\\_sobi2&sobi2Task=sobi2Details&catid=16&sobi2Id=317&Itemid=170](http://www.fcuk.com/index.php?option=com_sobi2&sobi2Task=sobi2Details&catid=16&sobi2Id=317&Itemid=170) and asked if he would bring his beautiful pair of working grey Shire horses to the woods. It was with great excitement that we arrived at the woods on Friday 15th March to see them in action.

And what an immense privilege it was to see Dillon and Prince. The work was easy enough for one horse, so it was lovely Dillon, a 17.2 hands grey Shire, who did the work, and Prince came along to stay with his friend and watch him work - and to help out if needed. They don't like to be separated, so he was very important to provide moral support.

These horses are so capable, so strong, and yet so very light on their feet. They made the huge logs that we struggled with look easy. And the damage to the ground was absolutely minimal - you would hardly know the horses had been there, except for a few leaves swept up here and there.

They worked fast - the whole job was done in about 3 hours - and that is faster than the tractor would have done it with lifting slings. In all about 30 large logs and a few smaller ones were moved, including some crab apple that was felled two years ago. They looked so right in the woodland setting. And they are versatile



horses too - James rides them (see video of the Midland Heavy Horse Show 2012 - at about 2.30 mins <http://mhha.org.uk/archives/339>) and also uses them to drive a drey.

I took loads of photos which are on our Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/alvecotewood/sets/72157633003882320/>).

As well as the photos, I shot some video, which you can see on YouTube. Dillon warmed up with a few lighter logs before getting stuck in to the larger stuff! <http://youtu.be/l85sHSiET-Y>

It was an amazing day, and we are definitely trying to work out how we can work with these horses again in the future. What was completely clear from our experience is that horses can do the work on sensitive ancient woodland sites such as ours not only better than machinery, but with lower impact and very much more pleasure to all involved. The few spectators who came along were very impressed, as were we.

Horses are not obsolete. They can do work, and do it very well. When the oil runs out, they may have to do it again, and we will all be grateful to those who keep these wonderful breeds going for the future. I know we are.



## Green Woodworking—a new hobby

It has been slow developing, but I'm now developing a real love for green woodworking, and in particular green wood turning using a pole lathe.

The first time I had a go was in November 2011, when Peter Wood from Greenwood Days (<http://www.greenwood-days.co.uk/>) came to the woods to give us an introduction. Then in 2012 I attended a stool-making course with Greenwood Days (reported in the July 2012 edition of this newsletter), and Peter very kindly built me a pole lathe (something I wasn't able to manage myself due to health problems). I also managed to get a shave-horse, and was now set up to do wood turning.

Of course that came at the wrong time of year – no new wood would be cut until the winter, so I had no green wood to play with. I did a little bit of turning with dry wood, but it wasn't really suitable. I turned a few mushrooms from stems we did cut during the summer, but I was waiting for the winter with great enthusiasm.

Our winter started late, thanks to deteriorating health, and a stay in hospital, but having now got stuck in to thinning we have some green wood to work with. So it was that my pole lathe and shave horse were moved into our new wood-drying shed, providing a great sheltered area to work in.

The pole lathe is adjustable in height, which means we can both use it, and also uses a bungee as this allows it to be moved around easily, and used both indoors and out (helpful when the weather turns really cold). The first task was to get some billets large enough to work with – not easy, as most of the stems we were felling were quite small, at least initially.

So it was that I started off turning mushrooms from complete poles of sycamore. In a

The Greenwood Centre offer a range of courses of interest to woodland owners

<http://smallwoods.org.uk/courses-events/courses-calendar/>

Phil Hopkinson of Malvern Coppicing offers practical coppicing courses

<http://www.malvernco-picing.co.uk/>

Yorwoods offer courses for woodland owners and managers in the Yorkshire area

<http://www.yorwoods.org.uk/training>

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

offer a wide range of courses, some of which are of interest to woodland owners

<http://www.ieem.net/therevents.asp>

Royal Forestry Society Divisional Events The programmes for April 2013 can be seen at

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/event/2013/04/01/month/all/all/1>

Bat Conservation Trust

Run a number of training courses. The full brochure is available at

<http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/training.html>



way this is harder than working with a nice straight billet split from a log, as you don't get a completely straight pole, so starting off on the lathe is quite jerky and difficult. However I managed to produce some workable mushrooms of different sizes, and tried out some hawthorn and holly as well. The hawthorn was surprisingly easy to work, considering how it is often very twisted, and also a very hard wood when it is dry. But the holly was very hard to work – very dense, very wet, and in the end the mushrooms split too easily after working, early on in the drying process. I will probably leave the remaining holly poles to dry a bit before working them.



I then managed to split some oak and ash logs and started working them. Bearing in mind my entire pole lathe experience to date has been one not-altogether-great garden dibber, three stool legs (they were better) and a few mushrooms, this was a bit daunting. I'd never really used the spindle gouge or skew chisel in anger, never turned a bead, could only work handles and knobs in one direction. In short, I was a complete beginner with a good set of tools and a lot of enthusiasm.

But I tried to apply what I had learned to date. Although I have a side-axe, I find it much easier to use my little Gransfors hatchet to axe off the corners of the split logs. It is light enough for me to use, and although it isn't a side axe, I find it works more like a knife, and it suits me. I can certainly get the crude billets reasonably round and straight, whereas the heavier side axe is harder to use and I get fatigued more quickly.

I then used the draw-knife to shave the pieces into smoother, rounder, straighter billets. I love shaving, and could honestly get carried away and shave too much before it ever gets to the lathe. It is just a peaceful and therapeutic activity, sitting in the woods, listening to the woodpeckers drumming, sipping coffee and enjoying the winter sunshine.

Then the big test – the lathe. It took a while to remember all the things you need to do.



Getting it centred, oiling the spindles, getting it set up so that the gearing is correct, how many turns of the cord to use—lots to think about. But in the end, I managed to get started.

The roughing gouge is easy, and I wasn't scared of using it, so I managed to get a round piece of wood quite quickly. But then I had to move on to other tools, and just had to make mistakes until I got the hang of turning beads using the skew chisel, turning spindles using the spindle gouge, and smoothing it all off using the flat chisel. Stephen also had some tools he has used

### Ben Law

Runs a wide range of woodland management and woodcraft courses in Sussex

<http://www.ben-law.co.uk/education.html>

### Brighton Permaculture Trust

Run a number of courses of potential interest including courses on pruning old fruit trees, introduction to permaculture and building with straw bales.

<http://www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk/>

### Bulworthy Project

The Bulworthy project run courses including guided walks, as well as one day introductions to charcoal burning

See <http://www.bulworthyproject.org.uk/>

### Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre

Run a wide range of courses on wildlife, livestock and lifestyle management. <https://www.kingcombe.org/courses/intro.aspx>

### Plantlife

A charity dedicated to wildflowers and wild plants, run a programme of educational activities

[http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things\\_to\\_do/activities/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things_to_do/activities/)

on a powered lathe, and I had a go with these – various scrapers and a gouge with a different diameter.

Slowly and surely, I started to produce stuff that wasn't too bad. Lots and lots of cord-pulls, some toilet roll and kitchen roll holders, a couple of rolling pins, a few garden dibbers, and a honey-dipper. I tried turning round knobs at the end of things – first at one end, and then at the other end of the piece. I learned to turn things in both directions, so I didn't get lazy and one-handed. It was so exciting to start off with enthusiasm and no skill and very gradually start to gain control over what was happening with the wood.



One thing I really loved was putting the billet onto the lathe and then looking at the wood and deciding what the wood wanted to be made into, rather than starting with a pre-conceived idea of what I would make from it.

Now we have finished thinning, I have a window of a few weeks in which to turn the larger logs I have into stool legs so they can dry out, and be mounted into a stool, bench or table top made from seasoned wood (of which we have plenty). I am enjoying trying out different types of green wood – ash is lovely, but holly needs a bit more work, oak can be a bit flaky, and I've got some sycamore, hawthorn and some larch to try.

I find I can lose track of time with my wood turning. I get up to the woods mid-morning, and forget to eat or drink, even though I have sandwiches and a flask. I can spend all day there, and get home with something to show for it. Something that feels special, because it is part of the woods, was made in the woods, and has a part of my heart and soul and toil in it.

There is so much more to learn. I would love to make lovely handles for tools, for example. I really want to learn how to make a bowl-turning pole lathe and turn bowls from green wood. One day I want to make another shave horse from our own wood. I am SO pleased I took the plunge, went on a course, learned how to do it, and then persisted. I have made lots of mistakes. The stuff I make is far from perfect. But every little bit of wood is an exercise in which I can learn and gain skills. And if it goes really wrong, the shavings can be used in the Kelly-kettle and the rest dried out and used as kindling – so nothing is wasted.

## Government Announce *Chalara* Action Plan—March 2013

The Government announced their *Chalara* action plan on 26th March 2013. This is a result of consultations on how best to manage *Chalara* dieback of ash trees since it first became established in the UK in 2012. The document is available online, and can be downloaded from <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13936-chalara-management-plan-201303.pdf>

There are four main objectives

1. Reduce rate of spread
2. Develop resistance in the ash population
3. Encourage citizen, landowner and industry engagement in surveillance, monitoring and action in tackling the problem
4. Build resilience in woodland and associated industries

The plan deals only with ash in woodland setting – future stakeholder consultation will deal with single ash trees and trees in urban settings.

Reducing rate of spread

The strategy is based upon a modelling exercise that looked at the likelihood of spread from the near Continent,

and the likely spread and impact within the UK (undertaken by the University of Cambridge).

The model incorporates the best knowledge from Europe relating to spread, as well as various UK datasets. The results are expressed as a hazard value, which takes into account the likelihood of infection and the potential impact that infection would have. Interventions will then be targeted at areas with a low current infection rate, but a high hazard value, to maximise the reduction in spread. This essentially forms a buffer zone to the west of the current areas of widespread infection in the South and East of the UK.

The priority areas are shown in the map on the right.

The Government thinks that there is value in removing all recently-planted ash (within the last five years) and replacing with other species to help reduce the spread of disease.

First of all, the Government will support removal and replanting of infected ash trees in the higher priority areas. This approach is collaborative, and voluntary, although in some cases, a high risk infected site may be required to remove the ash trees. This is intended to provide a buffer. Young ash trees are more susceptible to the fungus than older trees, so removing them as a potential source of infection should slow the westward spread of the disease.

The Government *will therefore provide grant aid to landowners* to fund the removal and disposal of recently-planted infected ash trees in higher priority areas. This is intended to help slow the spread of *Chalara* from those areas in the East of England, where it is well-established in the wider environment, to the west of the country. They also plan to provide grant funding throughout England to support replanting of sites of recently-planted infected ash trees with other species. Much of this replanting will be completed by the end of the winter of 2013-14. Most of the grant aid will be delivered via the English Woodland Grant Schemes, but the Government are also looking at delivery via the Stewardship Schemes, where planting of trees was part of the stewardship programme. Guidance on best practice for removal, replanting and sourcing with other species will be issued by the end of April 2013.

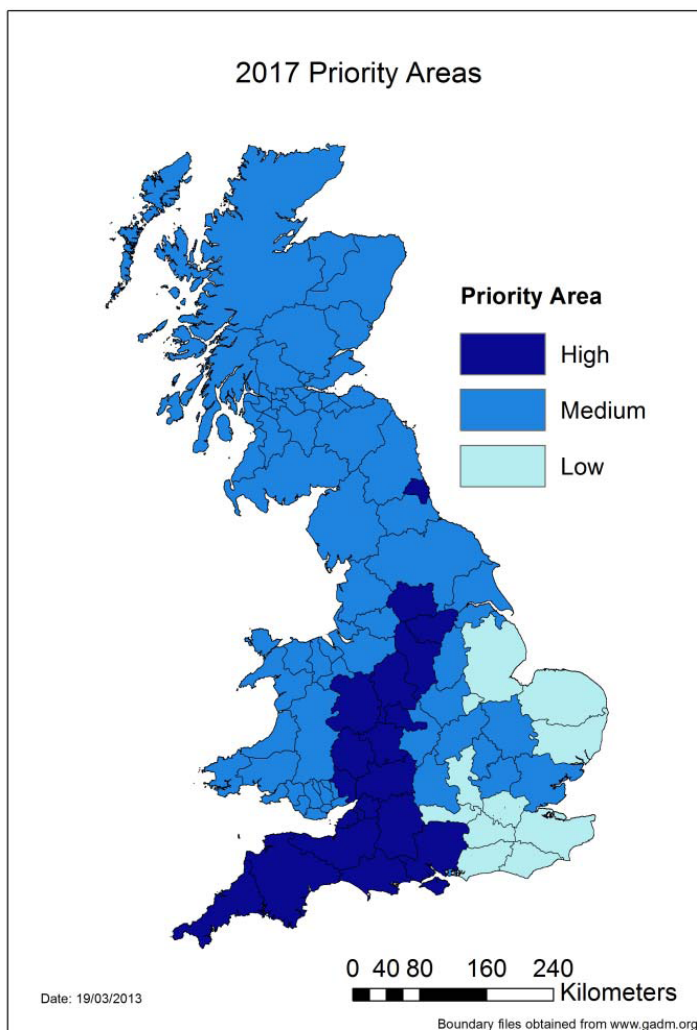
They do not recommend the felling of mature ash trees and support their retention on sites until they would naturally be harvested to avoid flooding the market with ash and realise their potential. Mature ash trees take longer to succumb to the fungus, so unless they are dangerous, they can be left to realise their potential value as a timber crop.

The ban on movement of ash within the UK will be lifted to permit trees from non-infected areas to be moved.

There will be a surveillance and forward tracing exercise which will try to locate recently-planted ash trees from potentially infected sources. *This will be concentrated in the high priority areas marked on the map.* This should be completed by the end of July 2013. They are also looking at research into use of pollen filters to detect infected spores and therefore the risk of infection spread.

Landowners are asked to maintain vigilance and report any infections via the web site using high quality digital photographs <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/treedisease.nsf/TreeDiseaseReportWeb>

They will also be working with landowners to set up research into the best way to manage leaf litter on infected sites as although there is evidence that infected leaf litter can aid spread, less is known about how this can be managed to reduce the risk of transmission.





FERA is also conducting research and trials into fungicides that might be used to treat Chalara infections. The most promising compounds from initial trawls of chemical companies are now being readied for laboratory and field trials. <http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/pestsDiseases/chalaraInfo.cfm>

#### Developing resistance

There will be a great deal of research activity. First of all, genomic markers of resistance will be sought in Danish ash trees – these markers can then be used to help breed more resistant stock. There will also be an extensive search for resistant UK ash trees including the planting of thousands of trees in the affected areas of East Anglia, which can then be assessed for resistance. The research is mainly to be carried out in areas of high incidence of the disease.



#### Public Engagement and Citizen Science

The Government are looking at the best way to ensure that everybody is involved in seeking out and reporting affected trees.

These include:

- A DEFRA-funded feasibility study that is already providing evidence to accelerate the development of ObservaTREE, a tree health early warning system using volunteer groups. (to be implemented by the Woodland Trust).
- The development of a proposal for an interactive web-based mapping application which will allow the public to explore maps showing the distribution of our woodland areas and native ash population against the extent of known disease.
- The OPAL Tree Health Survey that will provide the public in England, Wales and Scotland with the opportunity to monitor for Chalara.
- FERA is leading the creation of a bio-security-themed show garden at the centenary RHS Chelsea Flower that will highlight the issue of tree health.
- A web-based recording form for volunteer naturalists developed by JNCC and CEH to assist in monitoring the biodiversity impacts of Chalara.

Notably, the AshTag app, which was very popular and helpful in the initial phases of the outbreak has not been mentioned in this report at all.

#### Replacement of Trees

*If your recently-planted trees develop ash dieback, you need to notify the FC.* Existing grant-holders will then develop a remediation plan with the FC that may be eligible for funding by an alteration of the scheme. If ash is only a small percentage of the scheme, or replanting is not practicable, then replanting will not be required, or funded.

The FC is also looking at ways to apply amendments to EWGS agreements for recently-planted sites to permit removal of young ash and replacement by other species, and guidance and systems for grant-holders are likely to be in place by the end of April 2013.

Research is being commissioned to look at the wider impact on the environment, including the potential impact on species that depend on ash.

The plan will be reviewed and updated in March 2014.

**Editor's Note:** *Our own woodland will be affected by this, as we are in a high priority area (Warwickshire) and planted a new woodland in 2010 (pictured above) that includes about 11% ash trees among a mixed broadleaved woodland. We await to hear from the FC whether we will be required or advised to remove the (so-far unaffected) ash trees and re-plant, or whether 12% is a sufficiently low proportion that they can be left un-replaced, and whether we will get funding for the removal and replacement.*



## News for small woodland owners

### DEFRA publish Ecosystem Markets Task Force Report

*REALISING NATURE'S VALUE: ECOSYSTEM MARKETS TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT, MARCH 2013*

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013, the Ecosystem Markets Task Force published its Final Report.

The report states the business case for why nature matters. It makes practical recommendations for both Government and business where interventions would assist in the creation and development of new markets, enhancing opportunities for growth that also benefit the environment.

The report affirms that business is often unaware of its true reliance on nature, and that a new approach is needed to maximise opportunities and manage future risks.

The Report highlights 5 'headline' or priority recommendations, as follows:

- Biodiversity Offsetting: securing net gain for nature from planning and development
- Closing the loop: anaerobic digestion and bioenergy on farms
- Local woodfuel supply chains: active sustainable management supporting local economies
- Nature-based certification and labelling: connecting consumers with nature
- Water cycle catchment management: integrating nature into water, waste water and flood management.

For each recommendation the Report highlights the size of the opportunity, both in terms of its economic value and its potential benefits to nature. This report is of interest to small woodland owners, because funding for biodiversity offsetting is likely to increase in the future, either as part of green initiatives by companies, or as a means of mitigation for damage done in developments. This can include funding for new woodlands. There is also an active strand looking at how local woodfuel markets can be developed. To see the whole report, please go to

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/ecosystem-markets/files/Ecosystem-Markets-Task-Force-Final-Report.pdf>

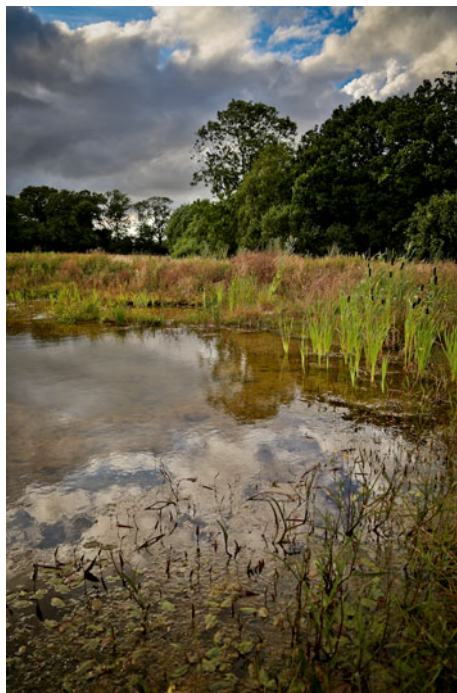
### Chalara cases rise in Scotland and new first cases seen in Wales

49 cases of ash dieback have now been confirmed in Scotland. The report in the Scotsman warns against felling of mature ash trees, particularly by gangs offering to fell them for large sums of money

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/ash-dieback-cases-rise-again-in-scotland-1-2822202>

In Wales, new cases have been found for the first time in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. The Forestry Commission in Wales are visiting all recent plantings of Ash in an effort to try and remove infected saplings and prevent spread

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/web-allbysubject/736401CD16F7576E80257B1A004E9D63>



**Staffordshire Wildlife Trust** – Forest Schools/Delivering the Curriculum Outdoors, a full range of courses for those working with children in their woods, plus other courses for 2013

<http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/page/training-courses>

**The Sustainability Centre** offers lots of courses around the theme of sustainable living. Upcoming courses include Green Woodworking, Permaculture and Bushcraft.

[http://www.sustainability-centre.org/courses\\_adult.php](http://www.sustainability-centre.org/courses_adult.php)

**Bishops Wood Centre** at Stourport on Severn, offer a wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners including bushcrafts, photography, pole lathe and other woodland crafts, as well as offering forest school leader training and CPD

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/bishops-wood-centre.aspx>

**British Dragonfly Society** run a programme of field visits and educational events.

<http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/diary-field-trips-and-other-bds-events>

### Ash dieback genetic code revealed

The genetic code behind ash dieback has now been unravelled, and should provide the basis for future research into means of control, as well as into methods to mitigate its effect. The research has identified genes for toxins produced by the fungus, and was carried out by The Sainsbury Laboratory and the John Innes Centre in Norwich. The genetic code is being made available under an open source agreement to facilitate research into this disease.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21433466>

### Deer cull needed to protect woodlands

A cull of at least 50% of some species of deer is needed because they lack natural predators, numbers are growing, and they threaten the health and diversity of woodlands and forests. That is the claim of a study in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. A cull of this size would be sufficient to keep the population stable, and is needed because deer lack natural predators—humans are the only remaining natural predator in the British Isles. This has provoked strong reaction from wildlife groups.

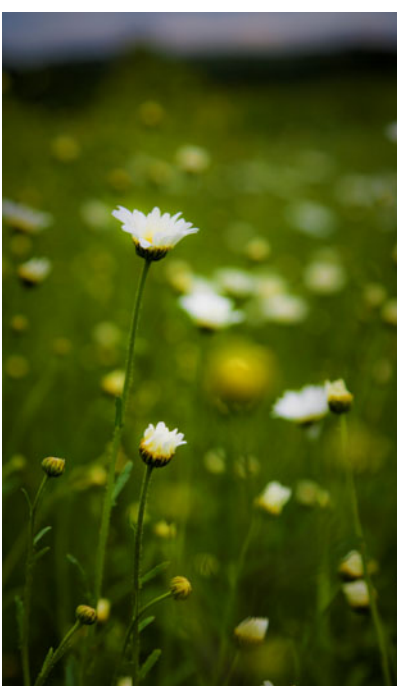
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21688447>



### Unexplained dog deaths in the New Forest

The Forestry Commission has had reports of dogs falling ill and dying from an unexplained course in the Ogdens area of the New Forest. If your dog has had any symptoms or illness, they want to hear from you.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest>



### National Trust Scotland turns rhododendron into charcoal

Following on from our previous articles and comments about Rhododendron, a permaculture approach is also being taken by National Trust Scotland, who are turning invasive rhododendron into a sustainable source of green fuel.

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/problem-shrub-rhododendron-to-be-turned-into-green-fuel-1-2671206>

### Plantlife Wildflowers Count 2013

Can you help survey wildflowers in your area? If you are able to spend time walking a 1km transect and recording key wildflowers along the route, then this will help build up a picture of the wildflower populations in the UK. See the Plantlife web site for more details.

[http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things\\_to\\_do/wildflowers\\_count/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things_to_do/wildflowers_count/)

### Woodcraft School

have published their timetable for woodcraft and bushcraft courses

<http://www.woodcraftschool.co.uk/woodcraft-courses.htm>

Acres Wild Woodland have 2013 timetable of woodland and woodcrafts courses available on

<http://www.acreswildwoodlands.co.uk/courses/index.shtml>

Willowcraft and Woodlands is a social enterprise doing woodcrafts and woodland management based in Worcestershire. They run a number of woodland management and woodcraft courses of potential interest to woodland owners including courses on Living Willow structures, coppice management and treebog construction.

<http://www.willowcraftandwoodlands.co.uk/>

John Waller, Underwoodsman has an extensive programme of courses available. Lots of green woodworking, coppice management, charcoal making, living willow and introductory blacksmithing. See

[http://www.underwoodsman.co.uk/html/at\\_a\\_glance.html](http://www.underwoodsman.co.uk/html/at_a_glance.html)

FloraLocale run a wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners [www.floralocale.org](http://www.floralocale.org)



## Training Resources from Biodiversity International

A free training guide on forest genetic resources to help familiarise people working with woodlands and forests on the best way to conserve and enhance genetic resources.

[http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/fgrr\\_training\\_guide/homepage.html](http://www.biodiversityinternational.org/fgrr_training_guide/homepage.html)

## Latest Forestry Commission Publications



A range of new publications available from the Forestry Commission, most of which can be downloaded for free.

These include research notes on

Asian Longhorn Beetle

Chalara Dieback of Ash

Managing Public Safety at Harvesting Sites

The UK Forestry Standard Checklist

Biosecurity Guidance

See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-4VXJ5B>

## How to Apply for a Woodfuel WIG

NGage Solutions have posted a series of very useful videos designed to guide you through the process of applying for a Woodfuel WIG. Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants (Woodfuel WIG) can vastly improve the conditions and profitability of a woodland, but only if owners and agents know how to make the most of the grant scheme.

The Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant is administered by Ngage Solutions on behalf of the Forestry Commission in three particular regions of the UK: Cumbria, the South West region and the South East. There are funds available for building roads and other infrastructure, as well as for getting professional help to bring neglected woods back into management. If you are thinking this grant could help you, then a new series of videos developed by Woodfuel WIG Project Manager, Mike Furness could get you started.

The videos explain everything you need to know about Woodfuel WIG, with helpful information on the eligibility criteria, filling out an application form, getting planning permission, and claiming the grant. Mike speaks knowledgeably about the scheme, having helped guide many landowners through the process, and he is just a phone call away from helping you to maximise your woodland's potential.

Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants support the sustainable production of woodfuel and other timber products and can cover 60% of the total cost of any approved work. This could be measuring and marking timber for felling or creating new access routes in order to extract hard-to-reach timber.

£6.3 million of enquires have been received for the grant, with an average grant size of £36,000. The scheme is now into its final year; meaning time is running out to make an application. Applications must be received by October 2013.

Email [mike.furness@ngagesolutions.co.uk](mailto:mike.furness@ngagesolutions.co.uk) for further information.

[The videos can be viewed here http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTthqkSyquRpheifVH9WVWzU1I3TKhdB-](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTthqkSyquRpheifVH9WVWzU1I3TKhdB-)

## Grown in Britain

Supported by the Sylva Foundation, among others, the Grown in Britain movement seeks to increase market pull, and thus to make it easier for woodland owners to take local products to market, improve the management of their woodland, and make their woodlands pay. See <http://www.sylva.org.uk/blog/sylva-supports-grown-in-britain/>

**Courses from The Mammal Society** – a wide variety of courses, at various venues and dates. 2013 dates now announced.

<http://www.mammal.org.uk/training>

**Dorset Centre for Rural Skills**

Run a range of courses of interest to woodland owners including hurdle-making and green woodworking.

<http://www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk/courses.htm>

**Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses**

Include grassland management and drystone walling. Details on.

<http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/?page=cotswolds-rural-skills>

**Acorn Ecology** in Exeter run a range of courses including a Phase 1 habitat survey course, and courses on surveying and handling protected species. They also run online ecology courses.

[www.acornecology.co.uk](http://www.acornecology.co.uk)

**Forest Garden Shovelstrode**

Practical woodland courses and yurt camping. Upcoming courses include green woodworking, hurdle-making, beekeeping for adults and children.

[www.forestgarden.info](http://www.forestgarden.info)



## Forthcoming SWOG Events

### SWOG Meeting with Kent Wildlife Trust—28th April

An exclusive meeting for SWOG members 28 April 2013 Tyland Barn, Maidstone. Following the successful workshop in October, Kent Wildlife are hosting another exclusively for SWOG members.

A full-day workshop, it will focus on

- How to 'read' your woodland - how to interpret the history of the wood, learn about earlier plantings and read the landscape to understand why things are as they are now
- Identifying and monitoring wildflowers and undergrowth, and the importance of insects to woodlands.
- How to encourage wildlife in our woodlands

There will be a visit to a local wood in the afternoon.

Booking is essential. If you would like to attend this course, please email Judith@swog.org.uk, with Kent Wildlife as the subject line.



### SWOG Meeting 11 May, Pluckley, Kent

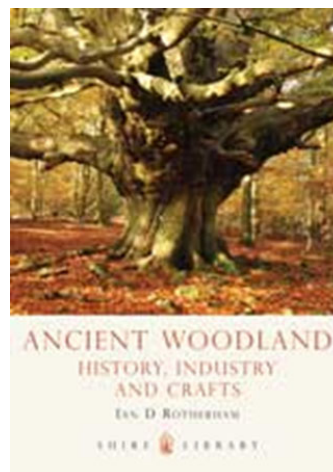
This meeting will feature a demonstration of Micro Arb Truc 4x4 motorised barrow - a great device for extracting timber from woodlands. A tour of the extensive semi-ancient woodland is also promised.

For more details, please see the SWOG website and email Judith (Judith@swog.org.uk) if you would like to attend

### Readers' Offer

Shire Books have recently published *Ancient Woodland – History, Industry and Crafts* by Ian Rotherham. A review will be posted on the website shortly, but in the meantime, Shire have extended a special offer to SWOG members, who can obtain 20% of any of their titles until the end of April. Visit their website, <http://www.shirebooks.co.uk/>, order your books and enter SWOG as the discount code on checkout.

Shire publish an extensive list of illustrated niche titles on subjects ranging from art and antiques, via canal history, military memorabilia, country folklore and railways, to woodlands, charcoal burning and hedgelaying.



### The Field Studies Council

Courses of interest to woodland owners include tree identification, woodland management and woodland ecology, and wildlife surveying and recording techniques. See their web site for details of all courses

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/>

### AJS Crafts

Offer a wide range of courses covering many different woodland-related crafts. Upcoming are courses on spoon making, charcoal burning, willow basketry and sweet chestnut gates and hurdles.

<http://www.ajscrafts.co.uk/courses/CourseList.aspx>

DWWP offer a range of woodland activity and traditional woodcraft courses in Yorkshire

<http://www.dwwp.co.uk/Woodland%20Skills.aspx>

### Coastal Survival and Bushcraft Courses

Available from the Coastal Survival School in North West Wales. Courses include 1-day, 2-day and 5-day survival skills courses for individuals and families. See web site for more details.

<http://www.coastalsurvival.com/>

Permaculture Courses from Patrick Whitefield, including how to read the landscape

<http://www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk/diary.htm>

## Forthcoming Events

### Arboricultural Association ARB Show 2013

To be held at the Bathurst Estate on 14-15 June. There will be lots of competitions, trade stands to visit and visitor camping is available

<http://www.trees.org.uk/training-events/The-ARB-Show>

### Forest Research Forthcoming Events

There are a number of interesting events coming up including

[Tree diseases - biology, spread, future prospects and implications for the woodland manager—](#)

Herefordshire, 24th April

[Adaptive forest management for the conservation of Scotland's epiphytes—](#)  
Edinburgh, 26th April

[Landbridge: a knowledge exchange network for the rural professions—](#)Edinburgh,  
17th May. Further details on

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-85LA28>

### RFS Whole Society Meeting 2013

The Royal Forestry Society whole society meeting runs from Monday 13- Friday 17th May, and is based at the Manor Hotel, Yeovil. It is hosted by the Somerset and Dorset Division. The programme reads:

Day 1: Forest of Neroche and Butterfly Conservation

Day 2: Forde Abbey Woodlands and Gardens, AGM and Annual Dinner

Day 3: Wareham Forest and Moors Valley Park

Day 4: EU WAVE Project, Taunton Vale (trees for flood control) **to be confirmed**

Day 5: Stourhead (Western) and Stourhead Gardens tour led by the Head Gardener

Closing date for bookings is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact Dawn or Karen at RFS HQ on 01295 678588 or e-mail [rfshq@rfs.org.uk](mailto:rfshq@rfs.org.uk).

### Harcourt Arboretum Timber Framing Course

Held at the University of Oxford, this course is split into three sections. You will help the arboretum to build a timber shelter, and in turn will learn all the skills needed to build your own timber framed building.

Part One: 6-10th and 13-17th May

Part Two: 20-24th May

Part Three: 29-30th June

Price £375 per person. Please see the web site on <http://www.harcourt-arboretum.ox.ac.uk/events/exciting-timber-frame-building-course> for more details.



Moelyci Environmental Training Centre offer a wide variety of courses of interest to woodland owners, including courses on Phase 1 habitat surveys, national vegetation classification and wildlife surveys.

<http://www.moelyci.org> for further information.

Monkton Wyld Court in Dorset offer a wide range of courses in sustainable living. See <http://www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk/> for more information.

BTCV London are running courses on woodland management and coppicing.

<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level4/19/level>

They also run a wide range of other courses on wildlife and conservation including practical and certificated training.

**Woodlandskills.com**  
Based in Sussex, they offer a variety of courses in the field of woodland living, survival and traditional wood crafts.

<http://www.woodlandskills.com/#/courses/4530829941>

**First Responder Course** from Emergency Life Support Team—as reviewed by Tracy and Mike. Learn first aid in the outdoor environment and get HSE accreditation as a First Aider too.

<http://www.elst.co.uk>

## Forthcoming Courses

### Badger Courses

#### An Introduction to Badger Ecology and Management

Biocensus are running this course on 8th April 2013. Details on

<http://www.biocensus.co.uk/Upload/docs/BiocensusTrainingTimetable2013.pdf>

#### Two Badger Courses from Ecology Training

Badger Ecology and Surveying, and Badgers and Development on 24th and 25th April 2013. Details from [http://www.ecologytraining.co.uk/page/badger\\_courses](http://www.ecologytraining.co.uk/page/badger_courses)

### RFS Courses for 2013

There is now a PDF brochure online at the RFS web site

[http://www.rfs.org.uk/files/Course\\_Guide\\_2013\\_170113.pdf](http://www.rfs.org.uk/files/Course_Guide_2013_170113.pdf)



### Courses from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

A great range of courses coming up from this Wildlife Trust including

Spring Wildlife Walks—6th, 13th and 16th April

Know your Water Voles—13th, 14th and 20th April

Woodland Flowers—14th and 28th April

Red Kites—19th April

Bluebell Walks—20th, 23rd, 28th April

Farming with Wildlife in Mind—27th April

Introduction to Woodland Wildflowers—28th April

See the web site for further details [http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/NewsAndEvents/events\\_calendar](http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/NewsAndEvents/events_calendar)

### Courses from the Species Recovery Trust

The Species Recovery Trust runs a wide range of courses in the field of wildlife identification and

surveying covering birds, flowers, grasses, woodland plants, lichens, bumblebees, British trees, Phase one habitat surveys, bryophytes and bats. Full details on <http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk/Training%20Courses%202013.html>

### Learning to Manage Volunteers

If you manage volunteers at your woodland, then this event in London on 21st May 2013 may be of interest.

<http://www.talkaction.org/training/VolunteerManagementTrainingLondon/>

### Courses at Orchard Barn 2013

**Professional Training Courses** - intermediate to advanced level courses delivered by our experienced master craftsmen, providing IHBC accreditation and available to contribute towards your Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

**Hobby Training Courses** - beginner to intermediate level courses aimed for those with a general and/or home interest and taught by our own tutors who come with several years restoration and conservation experience on the OBe project

Email [sarah@orchardbarn.org.uk](mailto:sarah@orchardbarn.org.uk) about hobby and professional courses

**Community Workshops** - introductory level practical sessions suitable for learning the basics and for those wanting to contribute to a local community project with an emphasis on group participation and fun. Email [wendy@orchardbarn.org.uk](mailto:wendy@orchardbarn.org.uk) about these FREE community courses and see full list on the next page.

### Greenwood Centre

The Greenwood Centre offers a wide range of woodland management and wood craft courses the whole year round. Based in Shropshire.

<http://www.greenwoodcentre.org.uk/index.htm>

### The Bulworthy Project

These SWOG members offer a range of courses to suit your own needs on the subject of charcoal burning.

<http://www.bulworthyproject.org.uk/>

### Greenwood Days

Offer courses to public and corporate groups on green woodworking and a wide range of creative arts in Leicestershire

<http://www.greenwood-days.co.uk/>

### Woodland Skills Centre

Courses in coppice and greenwood crafts—Woodland management, basket-making, Chair-making, timber-frame building, Wood carving, coracles, oak swill baskets, Make and use pole-lathe and shave-horse, Charcoal, home chainsaw, hedge-laying. Bush-craft courses and Family Holidays.

[www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk](http://www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk) or 01745710626

### Mark Fisher Art

Woodland-based art days for all abilities

[www.markfisherart.co.uk](http://www.markfisherart.co.uk)

### Abbots Living Wood

offers a range of green woodworking courses

[http://www.living-wood.co.uk/green\\_wood\\_work\\_courses.html](http://www.living-wood.co.uk/green_wood_work_courses.html)



Course Title	Duration	Teacher(s)	Times	Date(s)	Cost
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP <b>Basic wood-working skills</b> - how to construct black-boards and a display boards for use at	2 x 1day	Tom Castell	10-4.30	13 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> April	FREE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP - let's learn together <b>how to build a Bicycle-</b>	1-day	Jay Pettitt	10-4.30	11 <sup>th</sup> May	FREE
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING in partnership with Essex County Council - <b>Care and Repair for your Traditional Building</b> - hands-on, talks, demonstrations	3-day	Rick Lewis, Rory Summerling, Mike McCommell	10-4.30	13-15 <sup>th</sup> May	£290 inc CPD certification from IHBC
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP <b>Working with the wood</b> - Coppiced materials have a character of their own. Develop new skills and your eye for what the wood suggests to design and construct seating. Help make some benches and a chair or two for our indoor teaching area	4 x 1 day	Helena Woodbridge	10-4.30	1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> June and 6 <sup>th</sup> July	FREE
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING in partnership with Essex County Council - <b>An Introduction to Timber Frame repairs</b> - the tradi-	1-day	Rick Lewis	10.30-4	4 <sup>th</sup> June	£95 inc CPD certification from IHBC
HOBBY COURSE <b>Timber Framing</b> for Beginners and Improvers	2-days	Rick Lewis	10-4.30	10-11 <sup>th</sup> June	£90
HOBBY COURSE <b>Traditional Carpentry</b> for Beginners and Improvers learn how to make 17th century style barn doors from air-dried, local oak planks	3-days	Rick Lewis	10-4.30	17-19 <sup>th</sup> June	£135
HOBBY COURSE <b>An Introduction to Natural Building</b> - including how to use lime mortar and flints in walling/paving	1 day	Sarah Partridge	10-4.30	27 <sup>th</sup> July	£59
HOBBY COURSE <b>Permaculture Design in Action</b> - learn how to design with nature to make life sustainable	1 day	Peta Jane Gulliver	10-4.30	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	£45
HOBBY COURSE <b>Making and using cob</b>	1 day	Sarah Partridge	10-4.30	10 <sup>th</sup> August	£59
HOBBY COURSE <b>Clay render, paving and sculpting with cob</b>	1 day	Sarah Partridge	10-4.30	24 <sup>th</sup> August	£59
HOBBY COURSE <b>Greenwood roofs</b> - making hand cleft oak shingles and sweet chestnut battens	1 day	Sarah Partridge	10-4.30	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	£59
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING in partnership with Essex County Council - <b>Care and Repair for your Traditional Building</b> - learn from experts hands-on, talks, demonstrations	3-day	Rick Lewis, Rory Summerling, Mike McCommell	10-4.30	23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	£290 inc CPD certification from IHBC
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING in partnership with Essex County Council - <b>An Introduction to Timber Frame repairs</b> - the tradi-	1 day	Rick Lewis	10-4.30	1 <sup>st</sup> October	£95 inc CPD certification from IHBC

## Woodfairs in 2013

*It's that time of year again! The season of woodfairs is fast approaching. These are the fairs of which we have been notified so far. We hope to be able to update this listing throughout the year so you are kept informed of events near you. If you know of any events NOT on this list, then please let us know! sa-rah@swog.org.uk*

### Celebration of Trees and the Countryside

Capel Manor Gardens, 19-20<sup>th</sup> April 2013

<http://www.celebrationoftrees.co.uk/>

### Weird and Wonderful Wood

Unique art and craft fair with wood at its core

18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013, Haughley Park, Wetherden, Nr Stowmarket

<http://www.weirdandwonderfulwood.co.uk/>

### Devon County Show

16-18<sup>th</sup> May 2013

<http://www.devoncountyshow.co.uk/>

### Borders Festival of the Horse 2013

17-27<sup>th</sup> May 2013

<http://www.bordersfestivalhorse.org/> (see also article about horse-logging in this newsletter)

### The Bushcraft Show 2013

Elvaston Castle and Country Park, Derbyshire  
25-27<sup>th</sup> May

<http://www.thebushcraftshow.co.uk/>

### Blackdown Hills Woodfair

6<sup>th</sup> July 2013

<http://www.woodbiz.co.uk/freepage.asp?ID=9>

### South Downs Woodfair

Horndean, Hampshire, 13-14<sup>th</sup> July 2013

[http://www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk/south\\_downs\\_wood\\_fair.html](http://www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk/south_downs_wood_fair.html)

### New Forest and Hampshire Show

30<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013

<http://www.newforestshow.co.uk/website/>

### National Forest Woodfair

26<sup>th</sup> August 2013



<http://www.nationalforest.org/visit/woodfair/>

### Stock Gaylard Oak Fair

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August

<http://www.stockgaylard.com/oak-fair/oak-fair-at-stock-gaylard.html>

### Treefest at Westonbirt Arboretum

24 - 26 August 2013

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-8fpnpt>

### Woodworks

Marston Vale, Beds, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013

<http://marstonvale.org/woodworks/>

### Lincolnshire Firewood Fair

Revesby, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013

<http://www.lincolnshirefirewoodfair.co.uk/>

### Wychwood Forest Fair

Foxburrow Wood, Witney, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013

<http://www.wychwoodproject.org/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Wychwood/Events/Forest+Fair/>

### CONFOR Wood Show

Longleat, 12/13<sup>th</sup> September 2013

<http://www.southwestwoodlandshow.org.uk/>

### Wild About Wood

The Yorkshire Arboretum, Kew and Castle Howard  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013

<http://www.wildaboutwood.org/>

### Chilterns AONB Countryside and Food Festival

Ashridge Estate, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013

<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/calendar/27/835-Chilterns-Countryside-and-Food-Festival-2013---Ashridge-Estate.html>

### Bentley Weald Woodfair

20-22<sup>nd</sup> September

*Web site details to follow*

### European Woodworking Show

Cressing Temple Barns, Essex, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013

<http://www.europeanwoodworkingshow.eu/>

### Cranborne Chase Woodfair

Fordingbridge, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013

<http://www.woodfair.org.uk/>

### Surrey Hills Woodfair 2013

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October 2013

<http://www.visitsurrey.com/events/surrey-hills-wood-fair-2013-p840761>

### SCOTLAND

### Royal Highland Show 2013

20-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013

<http://royalhighlandshow.org/visitors/tickets/>

### Tweed Valley Forest Festival

19-27<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with Peebles Wood Market on 20-21<sup>st</sup> October

<http://www.forest-festival.com/content/peebles-wood-market-and-tweed-green-experience>

### WALES

### Woodfest Wales

Kimmel Estate, St George, 31<sup>st</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013

<http://www.woodfestwales.co.uk/>



## SWOG Forum Notices

### Help needed for TV series

Television production company, Plum Pictures, are producing a brand new, prime-time series for Channel 4 about micro designs, and looking for projects to be involved. The six-part series, presented by George Clarke (Restoration Man, Build A New Life In The Country), will showcase some of the most innovative and stunning small-scale projects happening around the UK, where a small space is being transformed into something amazing, cool, quirky or beautiful. For example: houseboats, shipping containers, beach huts, sheds, garden rooms, tree houses etc.

We are looking to film these transformations of unusual small spaces into dens, living spaces, offices, studios or retreats, from start to finish, and as such are currently looking for suitable projects starting over the next few weeks (ideally mid-May) that would be completed by the end of the summer. We are also going to showcase completed projects from which we can gain tips for George's own project. Therefore we are also interested to hear about any fantastic projects you/your network have completed.

If you or anyone you know is about to embark on such a project, please get in touch:

Katy Wingrove | Assistant Producer | Plum Pictures

Direct line: 0207 184 5769

[katywingrove@plumpictures.co.uk](mailto:katywingrove@plumpictures.co.uk)

[www.plumpictures.co.uk](http://www.plumpictures.co.uk)

### Bulworthy Project Courses (details on SWOG Forum)

We're running **charcoal** courses regularly from now until October. One-day courses and 24 hour courses with overnight stay are available. See the forum for more details. There are other courses running in 2013 too:- On the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, we have Sharif Adams coming to our woodland to teach **spooncarving**.

On the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June we have a weekend of **charcoal making and blacksmithing**. Learn to make charcoal on the Saturday. Use charcoal to do blacksmithing on the Sunday.

On the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July we have a 2 day course in **green woodworking**, taught by Peter Lanyon. He's a brilliant green woodworker and you will learn to make a small table or a stool over the course to take home with you. On the 14<sup>th</sup> September Matthew Yung will teach **Bowmaking**.

All courses take place in the working woodland where we live, Tea and coffee is provided throughout all of our courses and lunch provided using locally produced and foraged food where possible.

More details on our website: <http://www.bulworthyproject.org.uk/courses.html> or see the thread on the forum.



## New blogs and videos from woodlands.co.uk

*These are the latest blogs from Woodlands.co.uk and videos on woodlandsTV. Please have a look and comment upon them, as they make very interesting reading.*

### **Biofuel from willow. ~ by Chris**

Willow grows quickly, on land that is not suitable for agriculture, and can be a great source of biofuel. Read about the benefits of growing willow on this blog post.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-economics/biofuel-from-willow/>

### **Very large trees ..... ~ by Lewis**

A blog about the Archangel project in the USA, which seeks to preserve the very best trees by cloning them. The project aims to preserve ancient DNA from very large trees, as well as to assist with carbon capture via their rapid growth. Read more on the blog.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-economics/very-large-trees/>

### **Birds in woodlands ~ by David Emley**

Do you enjoy watching birds? How much do you know about the birds in your woodland? Which types of woodland attract which types of species? Find out much more here.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/birds-in-woodlands/>

### **Dry Stone Walling, on a National Trust Working Holiday ~ by Chris Colley**

Chris tells us all about learning how to do dry-stone walling as part of a working holiday, and thus fulfil a long-held desire to be able to construct these structures seen throughout the British countryside. This course took place in Bews-y-Coed in Snowdonia.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/dry-stone-walling-on-a-national-trust-working-holiday/>

### **Tree surgery with Lemur Tree Services ~ by Angus**

Following on from the account in this newsletter, there is more about working with tree surgeons in this blog post by Angus. There are some great videos embedded



in this post as well— including a demonstration of a wood chipper

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/practical-guides/tree-surgery-with-lemur-tree-services/>

### **Installing a woodburning stove for logs ~ by Angus**

Something every wood owner needs in their home, this blog tells the story of how Angus selected his wood burning stove, and how it was installed at his home.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-economics/installing-a-woodburning-stove-for-logs/>

### **Loading timber onto a train ~ by WoodlandsTV**

A video showing timber loading onto a train .

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/tv/2013/03/loading-timber-onto-a-train/>



## On the SWOG Forum

### Newsletter - April 2013

#### About SWOG

The Small Woodland Owner's group has been formed to aid the enjoyment, diversity and conservation of British Woodland. As Woodlands.co.uk is sponsoring the group there will be no annual fee for members, and events are free of charge unless otherwise stated.

Anyone can join in, (you do not need to own a woodland) just send Judith your details (name, address, email) to be put on the list. We will not pass your information to anyone else.

Please do join with us and share your wealth of knowledge and experience with others, as well as your joys and moans. We have members from all over the country. We are also on Facebook if you like to communicate that way! See [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=61487332523](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=61487332523)

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**Biomike** is looking for a woodland to rent for rugged outdoor fitness classes in the Berkshire, Essex, Surrey, Hertfordshire, West Kent or Sussex area. Can you help?

**Andrew Groves** is also looking to rent a woodland in West Sussex for woodcarving workshops. Look at the forum if you can help.

We welcomed **PostmanPete** to the forum this month. He is looking to buy woodland in Buckinghamshire.

We have been very busy despite the winter weather. **Docsquid** has been thinning, **Andy and Heather** have been making paths through bramble and birch scrub so they can get around in their wood. **The Barrowers** and **Rich** have both had trouble with deer and have been trying to repair the damage. **Rich** has also been cutting a stand of chestnut as coppice. **The Bulworthy Project** have been busy processing wood and making charcoal for sale in the summer (*Editor's note: If we get any summer!*)

**Daveth** asked about wild bees and how to encourage bees into the woods, particularly since he had a colony that did not survive the winter. Can you help with any ideas?

**Alex** posted about problems with badgers and his livestock—others report difficulty in excluding badgers from their woods too. If you can help with a method to separate badgers from livestock, it might be worth taking a look at the forum.

**Splodger** asked about which smartphone he should get for use at the woods. The general guidance was to check whether you have a signal before deciding on a phone. Useful links to the O2 coverage checker were given.

**The Barrowers** posted a really fascinating link about ancient tree bridges in India—whereby trees have grown as living bridges, some over 500 years old. Really worth looking at!

**SitkaSpruce** asked what to wear at the woods in the ongoing freezing weather. Army combats are predictably popular, but there are other solutions. **Rod Taylor** likes wearing a boiler suit over his clothes, and finds that this doesn't deter wildlife. **Binz** recommends good socks as essential for keeping warm—1000 Mile come recommended. **Docsquid** recommends old ski trousers and jackets as they are warm and padded, waterproof and breathable, and designed for activity. Can you make any suggestions, particularly for keeping the legs warm?

**The Barrowers** posted an article about the use of chipped brush and its role in the forest ecosystem. How do you use your brush?

*Please visit the forum and have a look at the discussions!*

## Next Newsletter: May 2013

*Contributions for the May Newsletter need to be with me by 25th April 2013. Everything is welcome: reviews, news from your woods, activities, courses, meetings, photos. We are particularly keen to hear about what you are doing in your woods, and also to have reviews of equipment that you have used. We would also love any photos you can send of your woods, and what you are doing there. Likewise, if you have attended a course, it would be great to read about your experiences. Please send articles to [sarah@swog.org.uk](mailto:sarah@swog.org.uk)*

