



Small Woodland Owners' Group

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2013

Building rope bridges
in the woods

Photo library for
woodland enthusiasts

Treezilla – the monster
map of trees

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Coppice or topiary horse chestnut ball, Milton Keynes Parks Trust, photographed by Bernie Burnett.

Contact Us

We want to hear from you! Please send contributions for the September newsletter need to Judith before 26 August 2013. Everything is welcome – reviews, news from your woods, activities, courses, meetings and photos. We are particularly keen to hear about what you are doing in your woods and to include reviews of any equipment you have used.

As it's the summer holidays, we've included a few ideas for entertaining children, so let's hope the weather lets us all make the most of the great outdoors.

Treezilla is a recently launched project which aims log every one of the 3.8 billion trees in the British Isles. Why not join in and register some of your trees?

The Woodlands blog has had some especially interesting new additions this month, with subjects ranging from Spanish forestry to the benefits of controlled moorland fires.

The Small Woodland Owner's Group has been formed to aid the enjoyment, diversity and conservation of British woodland. The company Woodlands.co.uk sponsors the group, so membership is completely free and events are free of charge unless otherwise stated. SWOG is open to anyone interested in the management or the enjoyment of woodland.

Newsletter August 2013

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Website and forum

rich@swog.org.uk

Swog co-ordinator and newsletter editor

judith@swog.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @_swog



What's On

SWOG at Woodfairs

You will have noticed that there are a lot of wood fairs happening around the country at this time of year. These are a really great opportunity to get out and see what everyone is getting up to in the 'woody' world. Most of the fairs will have a nice balance of traditional crafts and demonstrations, together with the more up-to-date commercial and equipment exhibitors. They nearly all cater for families, with lots of exhibits and entertainment aimed at kids, from face painting to bushcraft.

Rich will be at Trefest, Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire on 24–26 August 2013. Judith will be representing SWOG at Wild About Wood on 14–15 September 2013 at the Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard. And both will be at Bentley Weald Woodfair between 20–22 September.

Do come along and say hello: it's a great opportunity to meet up and put faces to the members who contribute to the forum and website. If you have anything from your wood



you would like to display or any product you could sell, then please bring them along with you. (Please let either of us know what you will be bringing beforehand so we can try to arrange space on the stand!)

Meeting at Ravenshill Wood, in the Malvern Hills, 10 August 2013

Phil Hopkinson of Malvern Coppicing will host a SWOG meeting in his wood. Ravenshill Woodland Reserve is large enough to demonstrate the many opportunities available to woodland owners – from coppicing to building, camping, and positioning and monitoring nesting boxes.

There will be a tour of the wood looking at the new butterfly glade and discussing how to maximise biodiversity. Phil will also explain how to make improvements to woodland tracks on a very low budget. He will take visitors to the coppice coupes cut over the last 12 years and talk about how he decides what to cut and when. After comparing the habitat values of

conifer versus native woodland, there will be lunch in the woodland workshop cooked on an open fire (supplied free of charge.) After lunch there will be a demonstration of traditional woodland tools and a chance to make some kindling and have a go at peeling and cleaving.

Phil and his team are hugely knowledgeable and his meeting a few years ago was a sell-out success – details are here.

Meeting in Hartlip, north Kent, 17 August

There are still a few spaces available for the visit to Andy Brown's woodland and smallholding. Details are on the website.

Email judith@swog.org.uk to book places.



Treefest Westonbirt Arboretum, 24-26 August 2013

Why not spend the Bank Holiday weekend enjoying the glorious atmosphere at Treefest at Westonbirt Arboretum? As well as a host of tree-based activities, expert carvers, local music, great food, among the 100 or so exhibitors will be Woodlands.co.uk and Richard Hare of SWOG, so please come and say hello.

There are events and activities for the whole family at Treefest, from guided walks around the arboretum to falconry shows, storytelling and puppet shows. The Welsh Axemen

will be performing twice daily in the main arena, giving skilled chainsaw demonstrations, standing block races using razer sharp racing axes, and much more

Children of all ages can have a go at climbing a tree and – and then zoom down an exhilarating zip wire (extra charge for this).

You can see the sawmill being demonstrated in the Working Woodlands area throughout each of the Treefest days.

The Bartlett Tree Experts will demonstrate tree climbing and aerial rescue, as well as providing tree care advice.

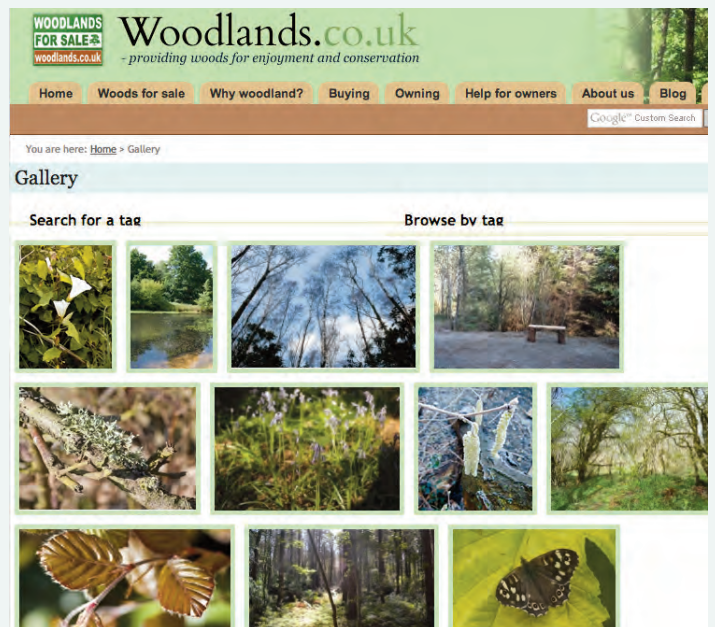
You can book tickets on the Treefest website. Entrance is £10 for adults for a single day; £24 for the weekend. Children and members of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum go free. Visitors holding weekend tickets can also camp at the nearby Holford Arms.

Woodlands.co.uk photo library

Woodland owners probably need no persuasion that their woods are places of great beauty and many of us spend a great deal of time photographing the changing seasons, woodland activities or simply making a record of the flora and fauna.

Woodlands.co.uk has created a free collection of photographs, which they hope will celebrate and promote the conservation and enjoyment of British woodlands. It is accessible by the public at this web address: www.woodlands.co.uk/gallery

An online resource of photographs taken by woodland enthusiasts and supporters, the library already has over 500 photographs and is continuing to grow. Clicking between images you can see a macro close-up of lichen, a sweeping panorama of the Lake District, a slow worm sliding along the woodland floor, a close-up of a dandelion, or a bumble bee pollinating a flower. It's a wonderfully diverse collection of photographs shared by talented and enthusiastic



amateur photographers.

Not only are the images free to download and use for non-commercial purposes, but SWOG members will shortly be able to contribute to it and showcase both their photographic skills and their woodlands.

This library will be a valuable and enjoyable resource. Please follow the link and enjoy the images for yourselves!



The National Forest Wood Fair in Leicestershire is a celebration of trees, woodlands, forestry, timber and fantastic woodcrafts. First held in 2005 this popular event attracts visitors from all over the country, and over 100 exhibitors and demonstrators.

Children will love the climbing wall, the birds of prey, paddling a coracle, eco art and ranger-led craft activities. There will be plenty for parents to try as well – whether it's pole lathe turning, willow weaving or pulling a draw knife on a shave horse (nothing to do with the four-legged variety!)

The sawdust will fly once the lumberjacks take the stage, and the chainsaw sculptors slice and tease magnificent shapes out of lumps of wood. See massive log chippers in action, and the wood mizer slice through planks of wood like butter. Don't forget the charity auction at the end of the day, when hand-crafted items from many of the stall holders are up for sale to the highest bidder.

With extended hours this year, there will be even more time to make the most of this brilliant day out in the stunning setting of Beacon Hill Country Park.

On the gate admission will cost £9 per adult, £6 concession, £25 family (two adults and three children). Buy in advance to save 20%: £7.20 adult, £4.80 concession, £20 family. For more information and to buy tickets visit www.nationalforestwoodfair.co.uk

UK bans import of sweet chestnut

Imports of sweet chestnut trees from areas that are affected by sweet chestnut blight will be banned, Owen Paterson, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced in July. A consultation showed overwhelming support for a ban on the import of sweet chestnut trees from areas where the blight is present. The ban will be implemented during this summer.

Speaking at the CLA Game Fair at Ragley Hall, Mr Paterson said, 'I'm taking action to protect our sweet chestnut trees by bringing in rules to ban the import of trees from areas in Europe where they have sweet chestnut blight ahead of the planting season. Tree health is one of my top priorities and I'm determined to act swiftly to protect our woodland and the thriving economy that relies on it.'

Mr Paterson announced the launch of a six-week consultation on banning the import of sweet chestnut at the Chelsea Flower Show in May. At the same time, Defra wrote to the

European Commission to ask them to take urgent action to ensure that only chestnut trees from disease-free areas can enter the UK.

The ban follows a recommendation made by the independent Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Taskforce set up as a result of the discovery of *Chalara fraxinea* in the UK last year. Chaired by Professor Chris Gilligan of Cambridge University, this group of expert scientists assesses the current and possible future threats to tree health. Recommendations include developing a plant health risk register and implementing procedures to predict, monitor, and control pests and diseases.

Sweet chestnut blight was one of the diseases considered in the initial risk register at the beginning of July. The disease is present in areas of southern Europe where it has caused loss of trees. Sweet chestnut trees are widespread on the lighter soils in southern Britain, where it has been an important coppice species. For more information, visit the Forestry Commission website: www.forestry.gov.uk

Acute oak decline

In more depressing news about tree disease, acute oak decline has prompted the government to fund a £1.1million research project which will aim to understand the distribution and severity of the disease.

Acute oak decline (AOD) affects several thousand oak trees across East Anglia, the Midlands and southeast England and was first observed in the 1980s. It is characterized by dark resin-like fluid which can be seen oozing from small cracks in the bark, rapid decline of the tree and tree mortality. Trees can die within four or five years of symptoms first becoming visible. There is no cure as yet, so diseased trees must be left to die naturally.

The new project will be led by the Forestry Research Agency. Scientists are examining various factors, including the appearance of a new bacteria in the affected oak trees, and the link between occurrences of the native buprestid or oak jewel beetle (*Agrius biguttatus*) with the lesions. Research will try to determine the relationship between the beetle and the bacteria, and whether the beetle is essential to the development of AOD, or merely coincidental. The beetle might be implicated in the spread of the bacteria.

Managing oak decline

It is essential to correctly determine the cause of any symptoms of ill health in oak trees. A number of pests and pathogens can cause stem bleeding, and the best way to confirm the present of AOD is to have the bark analysed. Woodland owners and managers should be vigilant with regard to the health of their oak trees and record suspected incidences by taking close-up photographs and recording the number and severity of the bleeding patches. Report a suspected case to the Tree Health Advisory Service.

Prevent the spread

- Avoid contact with trees showing symptoms such as stem bleeding or dead or dying branches.
- Do not touch the bleeding areas on tree stems
- If you have been walking or cycling in an area where there are diseased trees, clean your shoes and bike wheels before visiting unaffected areas.
- Do not remove dead wood, branches or infected bark from the infected area.

For full advice, please see the Forestry Commission website pages on AOD: www.forestry.gov.uk/acuteoakdecline

RFS Award winners

Stephen Briggs and Sarah Walters went to Wythenshaw Park, Manchester on 3 July to collect their Royal Forestry Society Excellence in Forestry Award for Small Woodlands for all their work in Alvecote Wood.

Steven and Sarah can be seen in the front row on the left of the picture, with the other winners. Congratulations again!



OPAL tree health meeting, Buckinghamshire, 29 August 2013

The RFS is holding free events in August for members and non-members to learn how to take part in the national OPAL Tree Health Survey, which has been set up to involve members of the public as well as woodland owners in helping to track diseases such as ash dieback. No experience or special equipment is needed.

The next meeting is at Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Ashley Green, Two Dells Lane, Bucks, HP5 3RB and Hockeridge Wood, Thursday 29th August, 10am-1pm.

It includes an introduction to the survey, followed by a visit to Hockeridge Wood to complete the survey with expert guidance. Please email RFS@rfs.org.uk or call 01295 678588 if you would like to attend. Entry is free. www.opalexplornature.org

Cumbria Forestry Festival

The first ever Cumbria Forestry Festival took place on Sunday 21 July, and proved to be a huge success for Cumbria Woodlands. Over 2,500 people flocked to the Showfield at Hutton-in-the-Forest Estate, Penrith to enjoy the warm weather, great food and the best of Cumbria's forestry sector. It was the first time Cumbria Woodlands had run such an event, and following the rave reviews they are now hoping to make it an annual event for Cumbria.

The whole event was free to the public with funding from the Rural Development Programme for England. Those attending enjoyed a wide variety of exhibitors from the forestry sector, including the ever-popular annual UK Loggers Competition, horserlogging, greenwood crafts and firewood production.

The aim of the festival was to bring the county's forestry sector together in a celebration, and to raise awareness of a variety of equipment, techniques, innovation and networks, while educating the general public about the sustainability of locally produced timber products, woodfuel, woodland

management and the benefits of well managed woodlands.

Feedback received from those who attended has surpassed all expectations, and suggests that such an event was long overdue for the area. Cumbria Woodlands are looking forward to taking the success of the show and making it even bigger and better for next year ... watch this space! This event was supported by Lowther Estate, Sheffield's and Co Ltd and A.W. Jenkinsons Forestry Group. For further information please visit Cumbria Woodlands' website – www.cumbriawoodlands.co.uk



Treezilla

The monster map of trees



Treezilla is a simple but ambitious project to map all the trees in Great Britain. The project hopes that citizen scientists – everyone from school children to tree lovers of all ages – will get involved, measure a tree and log it on the Treezilla database, eventually forming a ‘monster map of trees’.

Run by the Open Science Laboratory at the Open University, in partnership with Forest Research and Treeconomics, the initial focus of the project is to examine the ‘ecosystem services’ provided by trees. Jonathan Silvertown, Professor of Ecology at The Open University, said: ‘We know there are 3.8 billion trees in forests and woodlands and another 123 million elsewhere in the countryside, but no overall estimate exists of the number of urban trees, or trees on private estates. Treezilla will help us to get a more accurate picture of this important resource.’

Benefit calculations

Once details of a tree have been entered, Treezilla calculates an estimate of the monetary

value of the ecosystem services that the tree provides. These include capturing carbon dioxide, reducing flood risk, reducing energy use by buildings and improving air quality in cities. These values differ according to location, size and species, and a richly populated database would give a much more accurate picture of the total benefits from trees.

Imagine a tree in your neighbourhood: it is not just an inert object, it is a living plant taking in carbon dioxide from the air and giving out the oxygen we need to survive. It also removes various pollutants from the atmosphere, such as PM10 particulates, sulphur dioxide, ozone and nitrogen dioxide. Trees help cool buildings in hot summer weather with their shady foliage, and in winter they diffuse moisture loss and reduce windspeeds, so diminishing heat loss from buildings. During heavy rainfall, trees hold moisture on their leaves and branches that is evaporated back into the atmosphere, and this has a significant effect in reducing the peak flow of rainwater. As a result urban drainage systems are less likely to be overloaded by heavy rain.



Measuring the redwood required three helpers and two tape measures. The circumference of the trunk was 4.2 metres. Treezilla estimates that over its life, the tree has stored 1,545kg of CO₂.

Although not an ecosystem service, the amenity value of trees can also be high: areas with trees, for example, tend to have higher property values than those without, even within the same types of housing.

Upload a tree

In the interests of SWOG, I registered on the site and enlisted the help of my own teenaged citizen scientists. We decided to start big. We have plenty of native broadleaf species around our village, but we are lucky enough to have four Redwoods (or *Wellingtonia*) nearby. At approximately 30 metres high, they are local giants, but in the world of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (their species) they are just babies. The seeds were imported in the late 19th century from California and have thrived in south Northamptonshire. It was a three-person job to measure the tree's girth, which was a mighty 4.2 metres. The height of the trees is only an estimate, but we are confident that 30 metres is a reasonable guess.

The Treezilla system currently only allows for the addition of individual trees, but as the project develops, we are promised a system to add whole woodlands in one entry. The 'polygon feature' is the closest means so far. It shows areas that have been mapped as some kind of woodland using Ordnance Survey data, but species are as yet unknown – and this is where we come in!

Users enter the location of the tree species of a tree, its girth, its height and age (if known), as well as its condition. Treezilla gives clear instructions for measuring the girth of a tree. Uploading the information is easy and can be done on a computer or via a dedicated app for both iPhone or Android.

It's a wonderful project and a good way to for children (and the rest of us) to learn to identify different species. Any tree throughout the country is fair game for registration, so grab a couple of tape measures and join in!

www.treezilla.org



Building rope bridges in the woods

Lily Horseman, Woodlands.co.uk agent in Cumbria, is also a forest school practitioner. She works with groups of children, encouraging them to enjoy playing outdoors and to connect with the natural environment. Lily's website, kindlingplayandtraining.co.uk explains more about what she does. She has been kind enough to share a few of her ideas here, all of which are great fun for children playing in the woods.

Building rope bridges among the trees is a fantastic activity for children's motor development, encouraging social skills and confidence. It is also loads of fun and enables them to construct an instant adventure playground.

What you'll need

1. Trees: tie ropes from trees that are solid and secure. Give them a good look over, lean against them and look up, noticing if they move too much when you put weight against them. Check there are no dead branches in the crown of the tree that could show a weakness or cause problems. Choose trees that are a good size – not so massive that all your rope gets used up tying on to them, but big enough.

2. Protection: if you are going to leave the ropes up and the tree are smooth-skinned like beech or young ash trees, then put something like carpet or thick fabric under the ropes to protect the bark.

3. Rope: I use 10mm (or thicker) polypropylene rope – the cheapish blue stuff. Climbing rope can be too stretchy unless you use static



climbing rope. For length, use two pieces each about 10 metres long – but this is a matter of personal preference and you might prefer a few more lengths.

Knots

Both adults and children are fascinated by the different knots you can use. Choosing the right knot is a skill in itself.

Some people learn to tie knots by watching, some people learn by listening, some just have to have a bit of string and be shown. That's the way different people learn and it doesn't mean one way is better.

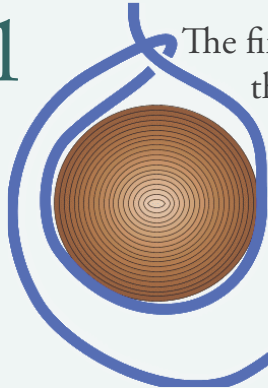
Once the children are interested in the idea, I encourage them to be fully involved in tying the bridges, taking over completely after the first couple of times with my help. The older children tend to make them more challenging, going up slopes or with non-parallel lines. *(Have fun, but do this at your own risk!)*



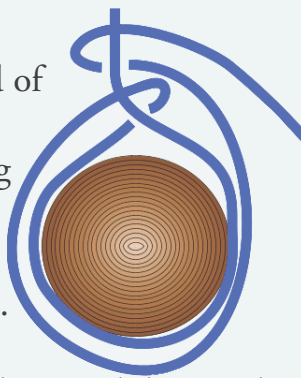
Children in Lily's forest school pull hard on the polypropylene rope to fix the first part of the rope bridge to a tree.

Tying the knots

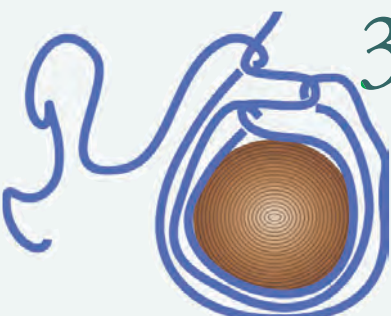
1 The first end is wrapped around the tree three or four times. Tie with a couple of half hitches. The turns around the tree take the pressure off the knot.



2 Wrap the second end of the rope around another tree, leaving a long long tail. Go around the tree once and pull it tight, yelling, 'Heave, heave, etc'. I love getting the children involved at this stage. It takes much longer this way, but is so much more fun and they definitely use the bridges more if they have built them.



3 The working end of the rope then goes over the top of the standing end and back round the tree in the opposite direction.



4 This end of the rope is tied to another tree. The zig zagging of each turn, once pulled really tight, shortens the rope.

5 With the end of the rope, wrap it round and round in a twizzly timber hitch. This stops it over-tightening and is why you need to make sure you have a long long tail on your rope. If you haven't got a long end on the rope then a couple of half hitches works well, but can get a bit fiddly to untie



A timber hitch

6 Repeat with the second rope, about a child's height above the first rope. They don't need to be far off the ground to be challenging, and the wobbliness adds to the fun.



A half hitch

Abbotts Living Wood

A range of green woodworking courses.
www.living-wood.co.uk

Acorn Ecology in Exeter

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

Acres Wild Woodland

2013 timetable of woodland and woodcrafts courses available. www.acreswildwoodlands.co.uk

AJS Crafts

A wide range of courses covering many different crafts, such as spoon-making, charcoal-burning, willow basketry and sweet chestnut gates and hurdles.
www.ajscrafts.co.uk

Bat Conservation Trust

The full brochure of courses is available at
www.bats.org.uk



Bishops Wood Centre, Stourport-on-Severn

A wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners, including bushcrafts, photography, pole lathe and other woodland crafts, as well as forest school leader training and CPD.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Brighton Permaculture Trust

Courses include pruning old fruit trees, introduction to permaculture and building with straw bales.
www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk

British Dragonfly Society

The society runs a programme of field visits and educational events.
www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

A large range of courses for woodland owners.
www.tcv.org.uk

Bulworthy Project

A multitude of courses, including guided walks, as well as one-day introductions to charcoal burning.
www.bulworthyproject.org.uk/

Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)

To see upcoming courses for 2013 visit.
www.cat.org.uk

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.
www.coastalsurvival.com

Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses

Grassland management and drystone walling.
www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Dorset Centre for Rural Skills

Courses include hurdlemaking and green woodworking.
www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk/courses.htm

DWWP

A range of woodland activity and traditional woodcraft courses in Yorkshire. www.dwwp.co.uk

Mark Fisher Art

Woodland-based art days for all abilities.
www.markfisherart.co.uk

FloraLocale

A wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners.
www.floralocale.org

Forest Garden Shovelstrode

Practical woodland courses and yurt camping.
 Upcoming courses include green wood-working, hurdle-making, beekeeping for adults and children.
www.floralocale.org

The Field Studies Council

Courses of interest to woodland owners include tree identification, woodland management and woodland ecology; and wildlife surveying and recording techniques. www.field-studies-council.org

First Responder Course

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. Based in Kent/Sussex. www.elst.co.uk

Greenwood Centre

Run by Smallwoods, the Greenwood Centre offers a wide range of woodland management and woodcraft courses the whole year round. Based in Shropshire.
www.greenwoodcentre.org.uk

Greenwood Days

Offers courses to public and corporate groups on green woodworking and a wide range of creative arts in Leicestershire. www.greenwood-days.co.uk

Institute of Chartered Foresters

Forthcoming events are on
www.charteredforesters.org

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

A wide range of courses, some of which are of interest to woodland owners. www.ieem.net

Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre

Courses on wildlife, livestock and lifestyle management.
www.kingcombe.org

Ben Law

Runs a wide range of woodland management and woodcraft courses in Sussex. www.ben-law.co.uk

Low Impact Living Initiative (LILI) Courses

For the full range of courses from the Low Impact Living Initiative, please see www.lowimpact.org

**Malvern Coppicing**

Phil Hopkinson offers practical coppicing courses
www.malverncoppicing.co.uk

The Mammal Society

A wide variety of courses, at various venues and dates.
 2013 dates now announced.
www.mammal.org.uk

Moelyci Environmental Training Centre

Welsh environmental centre that offers a wide variety of courses, including Phase 1 habitat surveys, national vegetation classification and wildlife surveys.
www.moelyci.org

Monkton Wyld Court in Dorset

Courses in sustainable living.
www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk

Plantlife

Wildflowers and wild plants, as well as a programme of educational activities www.plantlife.org.uk

Royal Forestry Society Divisional Events

The programmes for 2013 can be seen at www.rfs.org.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

To see courses for the coming year, visit www.rspb.org.uk

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

An experienced provider of training in practical conservation and environmental education, plus other courses for 2013

www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/page/training-courses

The Sustainability Centre

Lots of courses around the theme of sustainable living, including green woodworking, permaculture and bushcraft. www.sustainability-centre.org

John Waller, Underwoodsman

An extensive programme of courses available: green woodworking, coppice management, charcoal making, living willow and introductory blacksmithing.

www.underwoodsman.co.uk/

Patrick Whitefield Associates

Permaculture courses, including how to read the landscape. www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk

Wildlife Trusts

All 47 UK Wildlife Trusts run events of potential interest to woodland owners. For further details please see www.wildlifetrusts.org/whats-on

Willowcraft and Woodlands

A social enterprise doing woodcrafts and woodland management based in Worcestershire. They run a number of courses of potential interest, including living willow structures, coppice management and treebog construction. www.willowcraftandwoodlands.co.uk/

Woodcraft School

Timetable for woodcraft and bushcraft courses www.woodcraftschool.co.uk/

Woodlandskills.com

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

Yorwoods

Courses for woodland owners and managers in the Yorkshire area www.yorwoods.org.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 chain-saw, hedge-laying. Denbighshire <http://www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk>





Woodlands.co.uk and SWOG will be exhibiting at Wild About Wood, Treefest and Bentley, so please stop by and say hello.

Stock Gaylard Oak Fair

24 August 2013

www.wychwoodproject.org

Treefest at Westonbirt Arboretum

24–26 August 2013

www.forestry.gov.uk

Pink Tree Woodfair

25 August 2013

Delamore Estate, Cornwood, Ivybridge, Devon

www.pinktreewoodfair.co.uk

National Forest Woodfair

26 August 2013 Beacon Hill Country Park,
Leicestershire, www.nationalforest.org

Wychwood Forest Fair

1 September 2013 Witney

www.wychwoodproject.org

CONFOR Wood Show

12–13 September 2013 Longleat

www.southwestwoodlandshow.org.uk

Wild About Wood

14–15 September 2013 The Yorkshire

Arboretum, Kew and Castle Howard,
www.wildaboutwood.org/

Chilterns AONB Countryside and Food Festival

15 September 2013 Ashridge Estate,

www.chilternsaonb.org/

Bentley Weald Woodfair

20–22 September

www.bentley.org.uk/events

European Woodworking Show

21–22 September 2013 Cressing Temple Barns,
Essex, www.europeanwoodworkingshow.eu

Wodworks! Marston Vale, Bedfordshire

7–8 September 2013

www.marstonvale.org/woodwork

Lincolnshire Firewood Fair

8 September 2013, Revesby,

www.lincolnshirefirewoodfair.co.uk

Cranborne Chase Woodfair

5–6 October 2013 Fordingbridge

www.woodfair.org.uk

Surrey Hills Woodfair 2013

5–6 October 2013 Birtley House, Bramley

www.surreyhills.org

New blogs from Woodlands

(Click on the blog title to link to the website.)

Spanish forestry and woodland management in Spain

Angus discusses Spanish forestry, in a country where nearly 80% is privately owned, and the remaining 20% is usually owned by local communities.

The Old Ways – a book about footpaths and ancient tracks

Angus reviews *The Old Ways*, Robert MacFarlane's book which explores the ancient tracks and paths that are often hidden within the landscape.

Moorland fires and grouse

Lewis discusses the ecological effects of rotational burning in moorland to maintain the patchwork of habitats favoured by grouse.

Oak Frame Buildings – made in Wales

Angus learns about the advantages of oak-framed buildings: oak looks and feels good, and makes for a much less heavy and more flexible building.

Woodlands TV

There are four new videos on Woodlands TV this month, all fascinating and full of useful information.

A Bodger at Work

Colin Wells, the Amberley Bodger, demonstrates how to use a traditional pole lathe to create garden dibbers, chair legs, spindles and spurtles (for stirring your porridge) using green wood in his workshop at the Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre. He also muses on the origin of the word 'bodger' – High Wycombe residents should try not to be offended!

Making Fence Posts

The Wood Team at Wilderness Woods show how to make fence posts from coppiced sweet chestnut. They explain the advantages of using sweet chestnut and explain how it is coppiced.

Fire by Friction in the woodlands

A crucial survival skill: how to start a fire when you don't have fire to start with. Dave Pentland shows how it's done with a hand spindle and describes the best tinder material to use.

Herbs for Health

Join Herbalist Julia Behrens for a tour of her wild herb garden and living medicine cabinet. Julia explains the medicinal properties of many everyday plants and herbs such as sage, nettle, ground ivy, dandelions and rosemary, and shows how to use them to cure illness and promote good-health.

SWOG Forum

Members share their knowledge via the SWOG forum, chatting about tools and kit, protective gear, planning rules for building woodland huts, conservation of animals and plant life (and often, deterrence of pesky critters, too), coppicing, timber removal, shelter building, security – the list is endless. To take a look, visit www.swog.org.uk/forum/

This month, members have discussed public liability woodland insurance – is it worth it?

Woodland sheds continue to be a hot topic, with some images of what may be the ultimate in secure, wheeled woodland containers from Meadowcopse.

Pete and Anna, aka the Bulworthy Project were interviewed for local TV and appeared in their local paper – as they said, a veritable media frenzy! You can read about their sustainable lifestyle here: www.thisisdevon.co.uk