

Small Woodland Owners' Group

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2013

**Burning secrets –
managing firewood**

**Getting advice from
the experts**

Woodfairs!

Discount for SWOG members





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Contact Us

We want to hear from you! Please send contributions for the October newsletter need to Judith before 26 September 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.

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

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Follow us on Twitter @_swog



Rich has just returned from Westonbirt, Judith is packing in readiness for Wild About Wood and we will both be at Bentley, along with our colleagues from Woodlands.co.uk. Woodfairs are a wonderful day out, so please drop by and say hello.



Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard, 14-15 September

The Wild About Wood festival runs at the Yorkshire Arboretum from 10am-5pm on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September 2013.

Visitors can take a free mini-tour of the arboretum, and for the more intrepid there's the opportunity to paddle a coracle on the arboretum's lake, unleash that inner Robin Hood on the have-a-go archery range, or get a bird's eye view of things and climb one of the arboretum's magnificent trees.

The Wye Valley Axemen will be marauding, giving displays of dazzling lumberjack skills. There will be a wide range of

traditional craft demonstrations, including pole lathe turning, heavy horse logging, willow weaving, blacksmithing, wood carving and charcoal burning. Stand well back as the chainsaw carvers create their masterpieces and the mobile sawmill powers up and creates a lot of noise and sawdust!

There will be daily birds of prey displays, live music throughout the weekend, and a delicious variety of locally sourced food and drink – everything from a delicious hog roast, to delectable cakes, to pizza cooked in a train (yes really!) It might be a little early for Christmas shopping, but there'll be something to tempt you among the dozens of arts and crafts stalls.

Admission prices: adults £8, children (3-16) £5, infants (under 3) free, family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £21, concessions (Senior citizens/NUS) £6. More information is at www.wildaboutwood.org



Bentley Woodfair, 20–22 September 2013, East Sussex

The annual Bentley Woodfair is an amazingly atmospheric and exciting family friendly event that brings together all aspects of the wood industry. Set in Bentley's extensive grounds and woodland, it runs over three days from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September, 9.30am-5pm.

It's a visual spectacle, with tree climbers, charcoal burners, dug out canoes, forestry demonstrations, basket making, tree-tents and even a steam traction engine. If your interest is in more traditional wood craft you'll find plenty of demonstrations, as well as tools for sale, garden furniture and information on woodland and wildlife management. With working horses, impressive woodland machinery, bats and birds

of prey, there will also be exhibitors of wooden toys, crafts and games. All of Bentley's usual attractions are also open, with the bird reserve, play area, willow tunnels, miniature steam train, motor museum and the house to explore. There's a huge amount to see and when you need to sit back and soak up the atmosphere, there's always the beer tent and a fantastic range of locally produced food available. A free shuttle bus will be running from Lewes train and bus stations and Ringmer. Visit the Bentley Woodfair website for more details.

SWOG members can use the discount voucher at the back of this newsletter to save money on entry to Bentley. It is also available on our website.

 **Confor**
Promoting forestry and wood

WOODLAND SHOW 12th - 13th SEPTEMBER 2013

LONGLEAT ESTATE

Confor Woodland Show, Longleat Estate, Wilts, 12–13 September 2013

The 2013 Confor Woodland Show is set to be the best yet. Over two days for the first time, a

record number of exhibitors have booked and a busy programme of events is almost complete.

‘I am looking forward to our best ever show’, said show chairman Nick Hoare. ‘We are privileged to have the beautiful Longleat Estate venue and the largest line-up of exhibitors and events – this really is a ‘must-see’ show.’

The Confor marquee will offer a warm welcome to all visitors to the show, including a busy programme of events over both days for your enjoyment and enlightenment, set against a backdrop of Grown in Britain.’

For more details, please visit the website, www.confor.org.uk

 **WOODWORKS!**
celebrating woodlands through crafts, skills and music

Forest of Marston Vale, Bedfordshire, 7 September 11am–6.30pm and 8 September 11am–5pm

The festival of trees, woodlands, crafts, countryside and music at the Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park, Marston Moretaine is now a fixture in Bedfordshire’s calendar of outdoor events. Don’t miss this end-of-summer festival of everything that’s great about our fantastic countryside.

Adults: £7.50; concessions and children 10-16: £4. Children under 10 free. More details here: marstonvale.org/woodworks/





The Chilterns CONSERVATION BOARD

Chilterns Countryside and Food Festival, Ashridge Estate, Berkhamsted. 15 September 2013

Come along to the annual festival to celebrate

the different crafts, food, industries and wildlife associated with the Chilterns countryside. Enjoy a day of mouth-watering local produce stalls, craft displays, forestry demonstrations and children’s activities in the meadow behind the Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre near Berkhamsted.

The Chilterns Countryside and Food Festival is open from 10am–4pm, admission is £4 for adults, with children under 16 free (must be accompanied by an adult).

Cranborne Chase Woodfair, Breamore House, Fordingbridge, Hants 5–6 October 2013

‘We’ve got everything from bronze-age woodworking, to falconry and furniture makers, timber frames to wood turning. Whether it’s the old world of wood you hanker after, or the potential of bio fuels as a means of tackling climate change, the Cranborne Chase Woodfair will show why wood is as relevant today as it’s always been,’ says organiser, David Blake.

The event will also be a celebration of some of the region’s most famous and traditional industries, together with lots of locally sourced and produced food and drink. Artisans will show off their work, and there will be a number of cultural events scheduled, from theatre to storytelling for family entertainment. The aim is to promote a broad range of woodland industry while highlighting local produce and sustainable practices.

David went on to explain, ‘We want to make this, the fourth Cranborne Chase Woodfair, even more inclusive and provide even more opportunities for people of all ages and



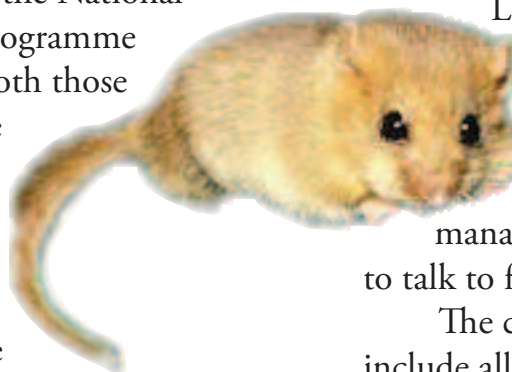
backgrounds to get stuck in and have a go.’

‘We believe that the Woodfair should have a purity of purpose that is undiluted by an overly commercial event. So while you will not find a fun-fair, you will have a lot of fun climbing trees, watching the displays and taking part in the theatre shows. You will discover a treasure-trove of local products, from food and furniture, to toys and games.’

Ticket prices: adults: £10. Children: £2. Family: £22 (2+3) 20% discount for advance bookings. Take a look at the Cranborne Chase website for more details.

Dormouse Conference, Reading University 9 November 2013

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is hosting a conference for volunteers and monitors involved in the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP). Intended for both those who are new to dormouse monitoring, and others who have been studying them for some time, the conference aims to provide support and share ideas. It will also provide encouragement for monitors who might like to establish a local or county dormouse group and will help volunteers at all sites with the promotion of practical



woodland management.

The day will start with a talk by renowned dormouse expert Dr. Pat Morris on how the NDMP started and will be followed by lively presentations from dormouse monitors from Lincolnshire, Kent, Cheshire, Wales and Suffolk, sharing experiences on how volunteers can be encouraged, enthused and managed to help with box checking and woodland management. There will be plenty of time to talk to fellow monitors throughout the day.

The cost is £38 per person, which will include all refreshments and lunch. There is ample free parking available and good public transport links to get to the venue.

For more details see the website <http://ptes.org/?page=489>

Lyme Disease - catch it early

The Royal Forestry Society (RFS) is urging anyone bitten by ticks to be aware of symptoms which could indicate that they have picked up Lyme disease.

RFS Development Director Simon Lloyd says: 'The risks of catching Lyme Disease remain very small, but people should be aware of symptoms in much the same way that most people know about the dangers of leptospirosis or Weil's disease from river waters. It should not deter people from enjoying the countryside and nature, but being aware may prevent later illnesses developing.'

Lyme disease in the UK is spread by sheep, deer, or woodland tick carrying the *Borrelia* bacteria. It is also present in Europe and North America. Not all ticks carry the bacteria, but



first signs of infection are usually a persistent rash. Summer is a peak time for infection. While numbers are low in the UK, reported cases are increasing.

According to Public Health England, 'Since the introduction of enhanced surveillance in 1997, over 6,900 cases have been reported. Mean annual incidence rates for laboratory-confirmed cases have risen from 0.38 per 100,000 total population for the period 1997-2000, to 0.64 in 2002, and to 1.64 cases per 100,000 total population in 2010.'

They also say: 'Nearly half of all cases have dates of specimen collection in July, August and

September. Most of these probably acquired infection in late spring and early summer, allowing for the time period between being bitten, developing symptoms, and developing levels of antibodies high enough to give positive results in laboratory tests.'

Areas at risk

Areas of the UK known to have infected ticks include the New Forest, Exmoor, other woodland and heathland habitat in southern England, the South Downs, Thetford Forest, North York moors, the Lake District and the Scottish Highlands.

Symptoms

Lyme Disease can easily be treated with antibiotics. If left untreated, symptoms can include joint aches, extreme fatigue, flu symptoms and can become progressively more serious leading to viral-like meningitis, facial palsy, other nerve damage or arthritis.

This month's 2013 International Conference on Lyme Borreliosis and Other Tick-Borne Diseases revealed cases of Lyme disease in the USA may be 10 times higher than previously thought.

For more details on Lyme disease, its symptoms and precautions see the RFS factsheet on Lymes disease, or go to www.rfs.org.uk and follow the Get involved and Information for Visitors links. There is also more information on the [Woodlands.co.uk](http://www.woodlands.co.uk) blog here <http://www.woodlands.co.uk/>

Introduction to Woodland Management Courses with Cumbria Woodlands

Cumbria Woodlands are running several day-courses throughout the autumn at a variety of venues. Intended for novice woodland owners looking to manage their woodlands, it will cover the basic principles of woodland management. This will include a look at some simple silvicultural management systems, felling & re-stocking, species choice, growing trees for timber and woodfuel and woodland biodiversity basics, as well as the principles of a management plan.

To be eligible, you must own a woodland or be involved in forestry or farming, and the cost is £57 for the day. To book, please contact Sarah Rose (sarah@cumbriawoodlands.co.uk) There are full details on the Courses and Events page of the website, www.cumbriawoodlands.co.uk/



Woodland advice from the experts

Many new woodland owners appreciate the support and advice from forestry and woodland professionals. But what exactly can the teams who work for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty offer?

Sean Harrison, the Woodland Advisor for the Surrey Hills explains how he and his colleagues can help woodland owners.

The Surrey Hills is one of the most wooded AONB, with almost 40% woodland cover; the county as a whole has approximately 22.5%, making Surrey the most wooded county in England. My main aims are to find areas of ancient woodland and, where there is currently no management being undertaken, offer free management and grant advice, as well as offering to act as an agent, if required, where contractors are concerned.

Shaped by topography, soils, and changing patterns of land use and settlement, the woodlands of the Surrey Hills AONB are diverse, with characteristic types including shaws, old coppices, wooded gills, parkland trees, small carrs and conifer plantations.

Woodlands in the Surrey Hills often preserve archaeological features, such as burial mounds, remains of ridge and furrow, and kiln sites, that would otherwise be lost under cultivation or development. Many of our woodlands have been managed for centuries and often have distinctive boundaries such as earth banks with laid trees. Ancient woodland, covering nearly 12% of the AONB, is particularly rich in historic features and is of great value for its wildlife, with the yew and box woodlands on the North Downs of international importance.

Over the last 100 years many woodlands saw their management decline to the point where little or nothing was done. Traditional

woodland management ceased as it was regarded as unprofitable; there was a lack of demand for woodland products and woodlands become fragmented. Over time as trees grow close together, they become tall and thin, more likely to blow over in a storm, and less sunlight reached the forest floor so fewer plants and shrubs could grow and thrive.

More recently, however, woodland produce has experienced a revival, as a source of alternative heating and for use in traditional woodland crafts. Owners who work their woods can expect a modest income from their woodland, and gain satisfaction from supporting the rural economy and enhancing and preserving wildlife.

Managing a neglected wood is a balancing act. Habitats have become established in the shady areas and it is important to preserve them to encourage species-rich and diverse woodland.

Practical help and advice

I can offer guidance about encouraging diversity in woodland, advice about obtaining grants and recommend contractors. Another part of my role is to link adjoining woodland and grassland habitats with hedgerows and trees. This brings together neighbours and encourages them to look at their woodland in landscape terms. Working together can bring mutual financial benefits from grant schemes and income from the sale of larger parcels of timber.

So if you own a wood in Surrey, please get in touch. I am keen to make contact with as many woodland owners as possible to offer advice, to make them aware of funding opportunities, as well as the potential value of the produce within their woodlands.

See the Surrey Hills website www.surreyhills.org, or email Sean directly sean.harrison@surreycc.gov.uk.

The burning secrets of firewood management

Rich offers some timely advice about seasoning and storing your logs for the winter.

If you've had your wood for more than a few years, you will probably have made some decisions about how you are going to manage it. Whether you are coppicing, thinning, ride-clearing or just taking down the occasional dangerous roadside tree, you will more than likely find you have generated more firewood than you know what to do with.

It makes sense, environmentally and economically to start by heating your own home.

Seasoning and stacking

The most important thing to consider is making sure you season your wood sufficiently. Well seasoned wood should burn easily and be considerably lighter in weight than green wood. It may also have started splitting, with the bark peeling off. If you invest in a moisture metre you will get a more accurate idea, and you should be aiming to get the moisture content down below 25%.

There are a lot of myths and sayings about what makes the best firewood. Some people

become quite opinionated and insist on only burning oak, ash, hornbeam or hawthorn. All of these are excellent, but the best firewood you can get is the one you have in sufficient quantities to heat your home. Most hard woods have roughly the same calorific value, but differ mainly in burning characteristics. So if you've got loads of birch or willow, you can still do the job, but you may have to cut more and make sure your infrastructure can cope with this extra volume. You'll also get more exercise moving it and stoking the fire!

With this in mind, it is also important to know how much wood you will need for the winter, leaving a margin for error as a contingency in case the weather is severe. This will become obvious after a few years, but you will need to have a storage area which is covered to keep the rain off, but open to the sides to allow the air to circulate and take away the moisture from the wood as it seasons. It also helps if it is conveniently close to where you are going to burn it! If you can keep two or even three years worth of wood in this sort of environment, then you could put it into your store 'green'. Make sure you have a good

rotation system so you that the oldest seasoned wood is used first while the newer green wood is drying out. You might be lucky and already have sufficient space under the eaves of your house, or you could construct an open-sided, slatted bespoke store, with separate bays to help with this rotation. If you use this method then just tumble the wood in rather than stack it neatly, as you the air needs to circulate around all of the wood.

If you don't have the storage space close to where you are going to burn it, then you will need to stack the green



wood somewhere to season it before processing and moving it to its final resting place. Make sure it's off the ground – birch willow, even hornbeam – will rot quickly if in contact with the ground. Stack it on 'bearers' in a ride or open space where it is not going to be engulfed with undergrowth. If you leave it in a freshly cut coppice cant, the new growth will quickly grow around your stacks and inhibit the drying process, probably causing it to rot.

The logistics of logs

Processing your cordwood into useable logs is the next step. The size of your log will depend on the size of your fireplace or stove. The huge inglenook fireplaces built in pre-industrial times were designed to burn 4 ft cordwood, less work for the woodman. Today, most people's fireplace will comfortably take an 8 or 9 inch log. If it is over 3 or 4 inches in diameter then this will also probably have to be split. If the wood is relatively knot-free and splits easily, you could use wedges to do this before you cross-cut it. This works well because you can construct a cross-cutting station from poles and cross-cut a large amount of ready split firewood in one go.

You can also buy a ready made device such as Laurie Buckingham's 'Woodstation'. This has a few refinements such as baskets on the ends to stop the wood flying out, a brake to stop the round wood from spinning as the saw bites, and a hinge which means the cut load can be tipped straight into a trailer.

If the cordwood is difficult to split, then I find it best to cut it into 'rounds' of the length you need for your log then and then to split it with a maul or a hammer and wedge. Attaching an old tyre to your chopping block will make the whole process easier as you can fill it with rounds then split each log to the required size without having to keep bending down to replace it. If you've any amount to wood to split, your back will be glad of this refinement.

Keeping the number of operations to a



Woodstation

minimum is the secret to managing your firewood. If you are managing part of your woodland just for firewood, you could grow your coppice to the size you need, say 3 or 4 inch diameter. This then cuts out the need to split it. Round wood will take a bit longer to season properly, but if you're in no hurry, just leave the cordwood propped up somewhere or stacked where the air can get at it.

Getting it cut, processed, moved and seasoned close to the point where you are going to burn it is best and can save having to restack it. I tend to look

at it as an exercise – even a therapy. It's hard work, but reassuring to look back at your efforts and know you've solved one of life's fundamental problems, that of keeping warm during the long winter ahead.



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 woodland crafts and management, timber-frame building, wood-carving, Pole-lathe and shave-horse, charcoal, home chain-saw, hedge-laying. Denbighshire <http://www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk>

Woodfairs

Wychwood Forest Fair

1 September 2013 Witney
www.wychwoodproject.org

Woodworks! Marston Vale, Bedfordshire

7–8 September 2013
<http://marstonvale.org/woodwork>

Lincolnshire Firewood Fair

8 September 2013, Revesby,
www.lincolnshirefirewoodfair.co.uk

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 2013 (See back page for discounted entry voucher)
www.bentley.org.uk/events

European Woodworking Show

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

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.)

The effects of drought go on – and on

Chris remembers the drought of 1976 and discusses the long-term implications on forestry and woodlands.

Ecosystem Services

Lewis discusses the inter-connectedness of ecosystems and the unintended consequences that can result from human interference.

Royal Forestry Society finds Furniture collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum

The V&A has recently opened a gallery dedicated to furniture. Angus joined a visit by the RFS and was impressed by what he learned.

Caledonian Forests

Chris writes about the unique ecosystem of the Caledonian Forest, now a protected conservation area.

Making willow chairs at Wilderness Wood

Angus visits a course for making willow chairs in East Sussex.



Haymaking at Alvecote Wood

Sarah and Stephen have not been idle since winning their RFS award. This summer, for the first time, they embarked on hay-making.

‘We have been trying to get wildflower meadows established in the clearing at Alvecote Wood, as well as in three large meadows that will remain wildflower meadows when Betty’s Wood has grown up around them. It is not as easy as you might think. It isn’t just a question of chucking down a bit of seed and ending up with a beautiful wildflower meadow. The problem is with the soil fertility. The clearing at Alvecote Wood was for years used for animal grazing, and is highly fertile.

Visit Sarah’s blog, alvecotewood.wordpress.com to read more about how they went about it and to view a video of their work.

Small Woodland Owners' Group

www.swog.org.uk

woodlands.co.uk

Dear Woodland Owners,

SWOG Members' voucher for Bentley Woodfair

On behalf of the Small Woodland Owners' Group and the Bentley Woodfair organisers, we would like to offer you a discount entry voucher for the Bentley Weald Woodfair, 20–22 September 2013. See www.bentley.org.uk/woodfair for more details.

Woodlands.co.uk has sponsored SWOG's tent, and we would like to fill it with exciting things! Do you have anything you have made that you would like to sell or show, such as charcoal, small furniture, kids' toys, or honey, for example? Have you made some wild food that we could let others try? Get in touch with Rich (rich@swog.org.uk) if you can help or if you would like to help in the tent for an hour or two.

Whether you can help or just want to come along and enjoy the woodfair, it would be great to see you!

Please present this letter at the gate when you arrive to receive your discount

Ticket type	Normal price	SWOG discount price
Adult	£14	£12
Seniors	£12	£10
Children (3–15, under 3 free)	£10	£8
Family (2 adults, 3 children)	£36	£32