



# **Small Woodland Owners' Group**

**NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013**

**Log cabins for the birds**

**Learning to make a longbow**

**Our friends in the north:  
a Scottish woodland**

# Small Woodland Owners' Group



## In this issue

- News 3
- How to make a birdbox 6
- Our friends in the north:  
a Scottish woodland 8
- Learning to make a longbow 10
- Autumn courses 12
- Course Directory 13
- Woodlands blogs and TV 16

Woodlands and trees seem to be in the news more than ever recently – not least with the recent fears over St Jude's storm. We have news of several reports which between them address the issues of the sustainability of our woodlands and forests, and the attitudes of woodland owners and the wider public to the great outdoors. They all make interesting reading.

Our friends at Plumpton College are keen to offer guidance and advice to woodland owners, notably with advice on grants. There is a possibility that we may join forces to organise a day-long course and we would welcome members' suggestions for areas of discussion or instruction.

Finally, Sarah has been stretching her green woodworking skills to make a longbow – which is more tricky than it may appear. And Rich explains how to make a log cabin for the birds by building a birdbox from just one log.

We are always delighted to hear from SWOG members - please keep sending in your stories and comments rolling in.

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 November 2013

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### Website and forum

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*Grown in Britain is an initiative created by the 2012 Independent Panel on Forestry and intended to kick-start a sustainable future for Britain's woodlands and forest. It aims to*

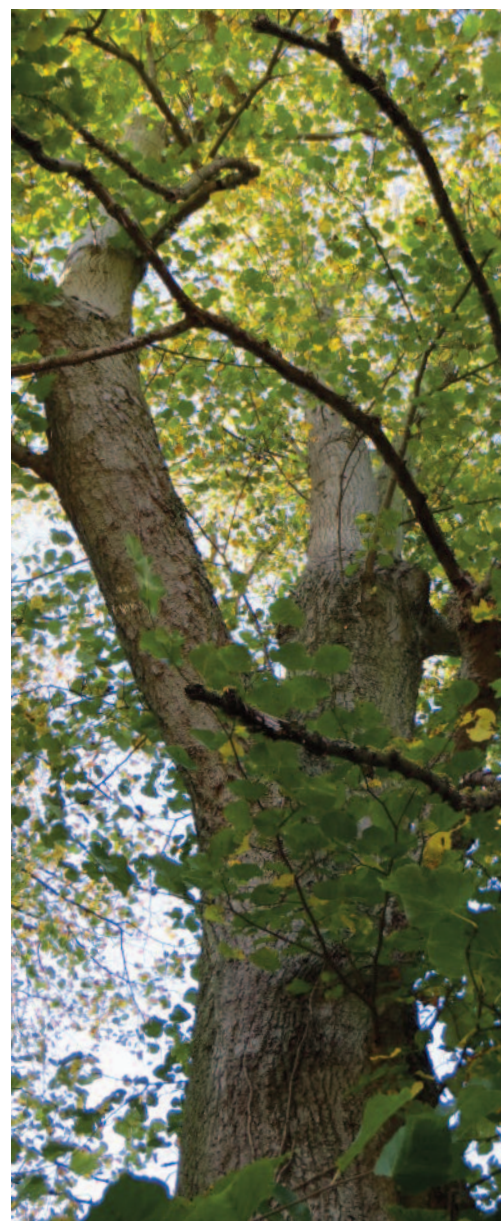
- Create a new and stronger market pull for the array of products derived from our woodlands and forests.
- Develop private sector funding that supports the planting and management of woodland and forests through funding from corporates as part of their corporate social responsibility

• Connect together and harness the positive energy and feelings towards our woodlands and forests that many in our society share to create a strong wood culture. A wood culture that captures personal health and fitness, well-being, community and encourages the use of more wood and forest product.

Environment Secretary Owen Patterson received the first report compiled by Dr Peter Bonfield, who chairs the initiative. *Grown in Britain – Creating a Sustainable Future for our Forests and Woodlands* is available for download.

It summarises the Grown in Britain action plan, the initiative's achievements during the six months since its launch, and offers suggestions for the future. The summary emphasises that it is for organisations and individuals to move forward to harness the energy and goodwill of many to create a sustainable future for our woodlands.

Many owners of small woods embrace the ambitions of the project and SWOG is pleased to offer its support.



### **National Coppice Federation Launch**

The National Coppice Federation was officially launched at St John's, Smith Square, London on 13 October.

The National Coppice Federation has grown out of the wish for regional coppice groups to unite under one banner. The aims are to:

- Bring together coppice groups and provided a unified voice for the industry
- Encourage and promote the highest standard of practice, and the quality of products within the coppice industry

- Promote coppicing as a form of woodland management that provides economic, ecological and culturally significant benefits.

Speaking, after the event, Professor Julian Evans, President of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, said:, 'For many years county and regional coppice groups have wanted to come together to raise the profile of their sector of rural industry. After decades of neglect, coppicing is experiencing a revival and proving a win:win:win for wildlife, woodland owners and the well-being of the countryside.'

## Connecting with nature

A recent study by the RSPB, in conjunction with the University of Essex and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, has found that just one in five children are 'connected to nature'.

The RSPB has completed a three-year project that has quantified the scale of British children's exposure to the natural world. The definition of being 'connected to nature', includes four descriptions of how children feel about nature:

- Empathy for creatures
- Having a sense of oneness with nature
- Having a sense of responsibility for the environment
- Enjoyment of nature.

Some 1,200 children were asked their feelings about nature by agreeing or disagreeing with 16 statements, such as 'Being outdoors makes me happy', 'My actions will make the natural world different', and 'I feel sad when wild animals are hurt'.

Only 21% of children had a connection that the RSPB considered to be realistic and achievable by all children.

There were interesting statistical differences between girls and boys, as well as wide variations across the country. The full study can be read here.

The implications of this report are worrying for the future. If only a fifth of the population cares about nature, how will our environment fare in the future? If children do not develop a love and respect for the world around them, are they likely to care any more when they are adults?

As a result of this report, the RSPB is one of a group of organisations who have collaborated to form the Wild Network, which aims to engage

children with nature. Andy Simpson, Chairman of the Wild Network said, 'This research shows the enormity of the problem we face. We have a responsibility to act to engage children with nature. The only way we can have any lasting impact is by working together – as individuals and as organisations – to reconnect young people with nature and the outdoors.'

The general concern about children spending too much time indoors, on consoles or computers, or without the freedom to roam that was enjoyed by previous generations is not new.



The Woodlands.co.uk blog on Nature deficit disorder is here. It explores similar themes to those of the RSPB report.

Woodland owners are in something of a privileged position, in that they are already committed to spending more time outdoors and they are likely to share their experiences with their children and friends. Convincing recalcitrant teenagers to venture outdoors is not always easy – and it's probably best not to tell them that it's good for them – but the rewards are huge. If you are short of ideas for activities, spend a few minutes on the Woodlands.co.uk blog and be inspired.



## A future with broadleaved trees

Royal Forestry Society (RFS) President Sir Jack Whitaker (right) has warmly welcomed a tripartite report, **A Future with Broadleaved Trees**, as a major step in ensuring a strong woodland heritage for the Britain and Ireland.

The report is the result of work by three agencies, Forest Research, Future Trees Trust, and Earth Trust who have produced a strategy to develop resilient broadleaved trees for woodlands in Britain and Ireland. Britain currently imports 95% of its hardwood timber because the quality and quantity of hardwood timber cannot compete with foreign imports. Improving the quality of homegrown timber will not only support our timber industry, but will also improve broadleaved trees' resilience to disease. There are three objectives

- Delivering improved broadleaved trees through research
- Raising awareness of the benefits of using improved broadleaved trees
- Establishing a policy framework that encourages the planting of improved broadleaved trees.

Sir Jack said, 'A consistent approach to how we develop robust and resilient woodlands is vital. As important are the measures included



within the report to ensure that the industry as a whole is kept updated on improvements, that the information is easily accessible to growers and that those planting new trees are sufficiently incentivised to use improved species'.

Forest Research's Chief Executive, Dr James Pendlebury stressed the need for prompt action: 'Just as animals and crops have always been bred to enhance desirable traits, the same thing can be done with trees. But it takes a lot longer to achieve results so we need to act now if we want to secure the future of our broadleaf tree populations'.

To read the report, [click here](#).

## British Woodlands Survey 2012

Many SWOG members may have contributed to the British Woodlands 2012 survey, a collaborative initiative between the Sylva Foundation and the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. The full report now has been published.

The aim was to gain insights into:

- the extent to which woodland owners felt they understood the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM)
- the activities that woodland owners carry out that could be categorised as SFM

- the identification of barriers to SFM as perceived by woodland owners.

An advisory group was established to help shape the survey and promote it to the sector. The online survey, involving 76 questions, attracted 2,600 responses, representing more than 7% of the woodland area in Britain outside of Forestry Commission ownership.

Part-funded and published by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), it is available for free download on their website. It makes fascinating reading and can be downloaded from the RICS website [here](#).

# How to make a birdbox from a log



*Rich Hare makes the perfect log cabin from just one log – for the birds. There's nothing more satisfying than making something for the wood from the wood. Anything from a teaspoon to a log cabin can be fashioned from the materials you find growing or lying around. It keeps 21st century plastic clutter out of sight and means everything is low impact and will eventually return to where it came from.*

*You will need a log, a froe, a beetle (mallet), a saw, a drill and a few nails. I prefer the lost head type which can be punched in to become 'invisible', so you'll need a punch if you want to hide them.*

**1.** Your log will need to be clean and straight with no knots, and angled to allow the water to run off. I suppose you could use any wood which splits easily, but if you've got chestnut or oak, it will obviously last longer than birch or willow. The chestnut I'm using here is almost a year old and seems to be at its optimum for splitting.



**2.** Use the froe to cleave off the sides first. I find with chestnut that one swift hit with the beetle is usually enough. Sometimes you may find a hidden knot. If you don't get a clean split, throw it on the log pile

and get another. Out of 10 logs I tried to split, five came out pretty well.

**3.** Take the middle section out and cut a couple of inches off the end – this will be the floor. The larger bit is for the log pile!



**4.** Partially assemble it and work out where you want the entrance hole. An inch (25mm) is the right size for tits, or you could saw the top half of the front wall off and leave it open which is recommended for robins. Alternatively, just leave a small front at the bottom and cover the rest with wire gauze and use the box as a feeder.



**5.** A handy hint for drilling the hole is to have a piece of wood on the other side to go into. This stops you from smashing out the back and making a mess of the interior decor! The piece of wood you discarded from the middle would be perfect for this.



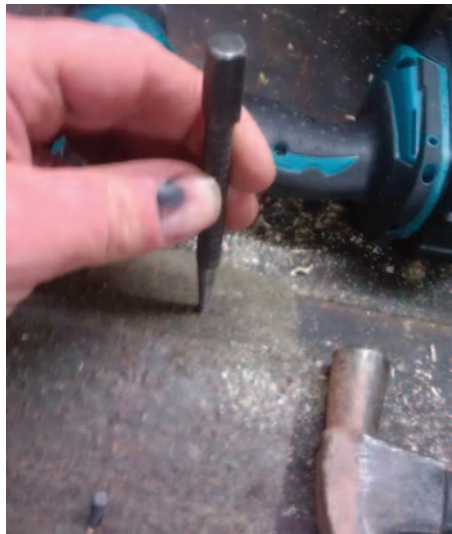


## How to make a birdbox from a log

6. Before you nail it all back together just drill some pilot holes (about 25% less in diameter than the nail itself), which should stop any splits occurring. Also, make a mark directly opposite the entrance hole on the back wall and drill a clearance hole for a screw. You should then be able to access the screw through the entrance hole to fix the box to a suitable tree or post. Put the screw in NOW – it is much easier than when you have put the lid on!



7. Punch the nails in to hide them if you are using lost head nails. (Punch the nails, not your thumb as I appear to have done!)



8. For the lid, you could just use a section of a log from one that went wrong. However, although I'm sure the birds wouldn't mind, I prefer to use a slightly more refined version. I like to have a flat sawn finish for the underside as this will create a good seal against the walls and I cleave the top. You could screw the lid on from the top, but I like to fix it from the underside with a couple of suitably sized screws drilled in at an angle. This gives it a nice riven texture and means as you haven't exposed any of the end grain, the water will run off it better and not penetrate the wood. A small detail, but I'm sure generations of blue tits to come will be grateful!

This is a great project for children (under supervision of course) or those new to working with wood. There are few tools required and it teaches you quite a few of the basic skills and a lot about how wood behaves.

So why buy any birdboxes for your wood in future? You've everything you need already and not a sign of any nasty chemically treated softwood or ply!





# Our friends in the north: a Scottish woodland

*Cameron Clark, who has only recently discovered SWOG, emailed to ask about meetings in the north of England. While we work on that, we have persuaded him to send in some pictures of his woodland and the work that he and his family have done.*

Binn Wood, near Kinross in Scotland is 55 acres (many of them quite steep acres) of mixed planting, about a third birch, a third sycamore and the rest Sitka spruce. We think that most of the wood was clear felled in the 1980s and then replanted. Originally, the wood was part of the Blairadam estate, and was probably planted as a feature for the local gentry to enjoy. This in part explains some of the tracks which have quite large turning circles, presumably for coach and horses. There are other narrow tracks to viewpoints. There are a few feature trees left such as oak and sweet chestnut.

## **Why buy a wood?**

We are amateurs. We bought the wood on a bit of a whim, but my wife Judy had always aspired to have a bit of woodland, and I was very interested in stalking deer. Quite attracted by the tax advantages, I knew that the woodland



*Big Mill planking system in operation, with Cameron at the saw.*

would never fall in value and would probably increase. Family and friends think that we are crazy, but we are both pretty much retired and I do not aspire to watch daytime TV! So our lives revolve around the family, our garden and woodland activities in the main. I do enjoy working outside as I have spent most of my working life in an office.

When Judy saw me with my father's old chainsaw, she insisted that I go and get myself trained. I did a basic four-day course at Elmwood College in Cupar, and then went back to do the tree climbing course a few months later. I actually did this before we bought the wood, as we have a one-acre garden with 100 or so trees which needed attention, having been neglected for about 50 years. I also had some limited prior experience with tractors as my father farmed for a few years back in the 1960s.

I have an old International 434 2WD tractor, with forestry winch, log splitter and circular saw running off the PTO, as well as a few chain saws. We sell a bit of firewood, as well as processing for ourselves.

*Judy behind the tractor (a 1970 International 434) with the Posch 700mm circular saw.*





I have a Logosol chainsaw mill system for making planks, so that we get some longer term value from trees felled in our garden. I have gradually worked up the techniques and have recently planked some 3ft diameter beech.

In our woodland, we shoot the odd pheasant and between four and eight roe deer in a year, all of which we 'process' ourselves. I now have a Deer Stalking Certificate DSC1, but have been shooting in the wood for a few years.

### Felling routine

Trees are felled and then hauled out by the Igland 3201 forestry winch (70m of cable runs off the tractor PTO). Smaller trees can be pulled intact (after snedding), but larger trees need to be cut into 5–6m lengths. These are then hauled down to wherever the logs are to be split and are then cut into 1m lengths (the splitter will handle up to 1.1m length logs). The logs are split and stacked. I make 2m high criss cross end stacks, typically with about 5m between the end stacks, and then the space in between is filled up with split logs. I try to keep the stack covered either with an old roofing sheet or plastic, but this often blows off.

We are about to do some replanting in the clear areas to regain tree cover to control the bracken. And we do it all ourselves, with help from daughter Elspeth and son-in-law Jonathan.



*Above: Pro system, with an MS 650 doing the cutting, on a beech trunk.*

*Below: Cameron's son-in-law Jonathan, with the Posch 20T log splitter, which runs off the tractor PTO.*





# Learning to make a longbow

*Harnessing her inner Robin Hood, Sarah Walters attends a longbow-making course at Greenwood Days, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch ([www.greenwood-days.co.uk](http://www.greenwood-days.co.uk)).*

We began by selecting an ash stave to work into a longbow. Most longbows are made from laminates, which combine wood with very good compression, stretching and core strength properties, something that only occurs naturally in yew. Since yew is hard to come by, ash is a reasonable compromise. We were looking for nice straight grain, and absence of flaws in key parts of the bow, particularly in the bow arms. I was drawn to a piece of wood that had some character as well: in retrospect, this turned out to be a mixed blessing.

## Measure twice, cut once

We were given a good pattern as to how to mark out our longbows for working, and the old adage ‘measure twice and cut once’ seemed to be very wise. In fact we all measured a great deal more than twice, in order to get the rough shape of the sides of the bow, handles and front.

Longbow-making is one of those areas where power tools are not likely to speed the process very much. We started off gently removing wood with axe, followed by draw-knife and spokeshave. The key is not to remove too much too soon, so care and precision can only be achieved by use of these hand tools.

We spent most of the first day shaping the bow and I found it to be quite hard work. This was not helped by the ‘character’ inherent in my wood. There was a knot where I wanted to put a nock for the string, as well as another flaw in the wood in the area marked out for a handle, and this made working quite hard. It also turned out to be quite a tough piece of wood in general. Character is all very well, but it really is better to go for bland, particularly for your first longbow!



On the second day we worked the belly of the bow, and shaped the sides. This involved shaping the handle, and profiling the sides to the required shape, as well as chamfering off the edges to make it smooth. We also had to create the nocks for the bowstring using a knife and files.

Once this was done, we learned how to make a bowstring. We had to make the rope and learn how to splice and ‘serve’ the string using a special tool to wind a thread round the area of the string where the arrow will be nocked.

## Tillering the bow

The final day was taken up by tillering the bow. This is the process whereby the bow is trained to bend in an even way throughout its length. To aid this, small amounts of wood are shaved off the bow to ensure the arms of the bow bend evenly along their whole length, and the bow is made to the correct heft for the strength of the user. This is quite a scary process – all your good



## Learning to make a longbow



(c) Alvecote Wood

*Longbows after two days work.*

work can be undone in a moment if too much wood is taken off, or an unnoticed flaw in the wood gives way. It is done by stringing the bow, then attaching a hook and pulley to the string and gently pulling on it, to train the arms of the bow, note where they need attention, and try to draw the bow to full length. Corrections are made gently with a spokeshave and cabinet scraper.

My natural caution had led me to produce a bow that was much too hefty, and I had to remove a lot of wood to make it usable by a short 50kg woman. I also found a flaw in one of the arms of the bow and decided not to make the arms draw symmetrically, but leave the flawed area rather inflexible, in case it should break. Yet again, my mistake for choosing wood with 'character'!

So while the others finished off their bows,

and went off into the woods to shoot some arrows, I was left scraping and shaving. It was not until the last few minutes that I achieved full draw on my bow, and that was at a draw weight of 44lbs – still rather hefty for me. I was not able to finish it off to a fine finish, or finish the ends of the bow above the nocks.

On the plus side, the bow will settle to a lower draw weight after use. I was able to finish it off at home, and plan to add a leather handle. I have now got some arrows, and will have a go just as soon as we get a bit of good weather.

I learned lots of skills on this course, although I'm not sure I would be confident to have a go on my own yet. I would definitely recommend making your own longbow if you are at all interested in woodworking, archery, or both. I know mine isn't technically the best bow in the world. But it is mine. I know all the quirks of the wood. I will feel much more pride in shooting this bow than one that I have bought. That alone made the course worthwhile.



*A fellow student with a completed longbow.*



## Autumn courses



### Plumpton College

#### Plumpton College Courses

Plumpton College has an extensive range of training courses for woodland owners throughout November. These range from forestry qualifications to guidance on applying for felling licenses, via tree identification and

wood fuel production. Woodland owners may be eligible for a considerable discount on the course fee if they qualify for an Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) grant.

If you are interested in any of the courses listed, contact the Training Development Advisor [cathy.cordery@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:cathy.cordery@plumpton.ac.uk) who will be able to provide more information.

Cathy would be delighted to help woodland owners assess their training needs and assess their eligibility for grants. Please email her.

The list of courses is available here: [www.foodfarmingforestry.co.uk](http://www.foodfarmingforestry.co.uk)

### Courses at the Sustainability Centre, Petersfield, Hants

#### Sustainable Woodland Management – Level 3 accredited

11th\_15th November 2013

Tutor: Ben Law

£495.00

#### Festive Winter Willow Weaving

26th November 2013

Tutor: Louise Arthur

£25.00

For more details see the website or email [courses@sustainability-centre.org](mailto:courses@sustainability-centre.org)



### Draft Deregulation Bill – SWOG's views sought!

A policy analyst working for the House of Lords has contacted Rich to seek the views of woodland owners regarding the provisions of the Draft Deregulation Bill which amend and reform Rights of Way Legislation. This is a wide-ranging bill, but the sections of particular interest to woodland owners are Clauses 12–18 and Schedule 6. The Draft Deregulation Bill can

be found here, along with details of the Parliamentary Committee that he works for.

He is keen to learn about the views of small woodland owners regarding right of way provision and is interested in understanding how the draft provisions may impact on the management of woodlands. If you have any views on this subject, please email them to Rich ([rich@swog.org.uk](mailto:rich@swog.org.uk)) who will forward them to the researchers.



**Abbotts Living Wood**

A range of green woodworking courses.  
[www.living-wood.co.uk](http://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](http://www.acornecology.co.uk)

**Acres Wild Woodland**

2013 timetable of woodland and woodcrafts courses available. [www.acreswildwoodlands.co.uk](http://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](http://www.ajscrafts.co.uk)

**Bat Conservation Trust**

The full brochure of courses is available at  
[www.bats.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.brightonpermaculture.org.uk)

**British Dragonfly Society**

The society runs a programme of field visits and educational events.  
[www.british-dragonflies.org.uk](http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk)

**British Trust for Conservation Volunteers**

A large range of courses for woodland owners.  
[www.tcv.org.uk](http://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/](http://www.bulworthyproject.org.uk/)

**Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)**

To see upcoming courses for 2013 visit.  
[www.cat.org.uk](http://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](http://www.coastalsurvival.com)

**Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses**

Grassland management and drystone walling.  
[www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk)

**Dorset Centre for Rural Skills**

Courses include hurdlemaking and green woodworking.  
[www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk/courses.htm](http://www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk/courses.htm)

**DWWP**

A range of woodland activity and traditional woodcraft courses in Yorkshire. [www.dwwp.co.uk](http://www.dwwp.co.uk)

**Mark Fisher Art**

Woodland-based art days for all abilities.  
[www.markfisherart.co.uk](http://www.markfisherart.co.uk)

### **FloraLocale**

A wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners.  
[www.floralocale.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.greenwood-days.co.uk)

### **Institute of Chartered Foresters**

Forthcoming events are on  
[www.charteredforesters.org](http://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](http://www.ieem.net)

### **Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre**

Courses on wildlife, livestock and lifestyle management.  
[www.kingcombe.org](http://www.kingcombe.org)

### **Ben Law**

Runs a wide range of woodland management and woodcraft courses in Sussex. [www.ben-law.co.uk](http://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](http://www.lowimpact.org)



### **Malvern Coppicing**

Phil Hopkinson offers practical coppicing courses  
[www.malverncoppicing.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.moelyci.org)

### **Monkton Wyld Court in Dorset**

Courses in sustainable living.  
[www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk](http://www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk)

### **Plantlife**

Wildflowers and wild plants, as well as a programme of educational activities [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)

### **Royal Forestry Society Divisional Events**

The programmes for 2013 can be seen at [www.rfs.org.uk](http://www.rfs.org.uk)



### Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

To see courses for the coming year, visit  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.underwoodsman.co.uk/)

### Patrick Whitefield Associates

Permaculture courses, including how to read the landscape. [www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk](http://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](http://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/](http://www.willowcraftandwoodlands.co.uk/)

### Woodcraft School

Timetable for woodcraft and bushcraft courses  
[www.woodcraftschool.co.uk/](http://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](http://www.woodlandskills.com)

### Yorwoods

Courses for woodland owners and managers in the Yorkshire area [www.yorwoods.org.uk](http://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>





## New blogs from Woodlands.co.uk

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

### Exotic trees

Lewis ponders the origin of many non-native tree species.

### Chopping for chopsticks

Angus explains how the unending demand for chopsticks is contributing to deforestation in the Far East.

### Puzzlewood

An enchanted woodland in the Forest of Dean.

## *The Vigilant: the restoration of a Thames Sailing Barge*

How the woodland community (notably Woodlands.co.uk) are helping in the restoration of a magnificent Victorian barge.

### Floral visitors

Do bees prefer some plants over others?

### Autumnal colours and leaves of gold

There's real gold in them there leaves – if you know where to look.

## Woodlands TV

Follow the links on the titles to see the latest videos. or visit [www.woodlands.co.uk/tv](http://www.woodlands.co.uk/tv)

### Honey in the Hive

The Wiston House beehives are filling up with Springtime honey. Beekeeper Alec Harden visits one busy and productive colony to show how the bees produce and store honey.

### Chainsaw Carving

Anne Watson, David Lucas and Patrick Brown demonstrate and discuss their passion for chainsaw carving at 'Treefest' at Westonbirt Arboretum.

### Extracting Honey

Beekeeper Alec Harden and Assistant Beekeeper and Gardener Des Chatfield of Wiston House show how to extract ripened honey from the beehive.

### Steam Saw

Peter Brown takes his agricultural saw – driven by steam engine – a showman's living van and water bowser to work at Westonbirt's 'Treefest',

picking up water from brooks and streams as they go. Here he tells us how the business has run in his family for generations. The 1920 steam saw cuts timber via a system of levers and pulley wheels, all powered by the 1897 engine.



### Container in the Woodlands

Looking for shelter in your woodland? Paul Beadle explains how a recycled shipping container can be the answer.

### Seed Bank

At the Millennium Seed Bank's Great Seed Swap at the National Trust's Wakehurst Place, we learn from the experts about the importance of saving and sowing our own open-pollinated seeds.

### Collecting tools

Jane Rees, an avid collector of traditional tools, shows us her impressive hoard displayed on her stand at 'Treefest'. Jane tells us about those tools specific to woodlands, including a vast number of saw sets. Sharing the personal stories behind her collection, Jane shows us her writings on the subject and expertly explains the specific uses of a range of tools.