

# Small Woodland Owners' Group

[www.swog.org.uk](http://www.swog.org.uk)

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February 2010

## Woodfairs.co.uk

Looking for a woodfair in your area? Want to see lots of fascinating crafts and skilled craftsmen and women? Like to buy equipment or a woodland? Then visit our new website

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

and find just what you are looking for!

We would value your input and links for this website. Email Tracy if you know of other woodfairs in your area.



## Make money from your photos

Woodlands.co.uk are on the look out for photos of people involved in Family Forestry. This month we are looking for photos of people enjoying their **wood in the snow or looking for wind damage**. Send photos to [margaret@woodlands.co.uk](mailto:margaret@woodlands.co.uk). **£10 Amazon voucher for every photo used.**

## Wood Share

I get a lot of requests from people who would like to camp in woods in exchange for doing some work for the owners. If you think you might be interested in this kind of work exchange, let me know

[tracy@woodlands.co.uk](mailto:tracy@woodlands.co.uk)

## South East

**Laughton, East Sussex**  
with Julian Evans  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Light, structure and habitat. Email Tracy if you are interested in coming along

Spring walk, March  
West Sussex  
Tbc

Woodstoves- 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
"Using your wood to heat your home"  
Flimwell, E Sussex

## Rural Craft Training Kent

New course list available  
<http://www.swog.org.uk/events/rural-craft-training-with-alan-sage/>

**West Sussex Woodfuel workshop**  
24th February

<http://www.swog.org.uk/events/west-sussex-woodfuel-event>

## South West

Reintroducing coppice in Dartmoor

[http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/au\\_suscoppr0909](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/au_suscoppr0909)

**The Sustainability Centre, Hampshire**

<http://www.sustainability-centre.org/>

Wide variety of course including hedge laying and woodland management.

## SWOG Meeting

# Green Woodwork Taster day

Beamish Museum, County Durham  
27th March 2010

Maurice says: The plan is to have all the pole lathes running inside the Flint Mill, with the shavehorses outside under the tarp next to the fire and kettle. I will have plenty of green wood felled from this winter; it may be ash, oak or sycamore. I'll start the session attempting to inspire and promote positive uses of green wood and the range of things that can be made from it.



A wide range of interesting tools and devices will be available to try. There will be birch from last winter to make besom brooms and possibly Scandinavian style doormats. Very much an active taster session, but if people want to spend the day warming their backsides on the fire, observing what is going on and drinking copious amounts of tea then that is fine too!

The Flint Mill belongs to Beamish Museum, formally complete with water wheel, which used to provide the power to grind flint for the pottery industry and turn spade handles. Inside there is an earthen floor, with about 6 operational pole lathes and a Bowl Lathe, the atmosphere inside could be described as medieval with an overpowering peppery smell of cut birch. It's located in a beautiful place surrounded by woodlands next to a tributary of the River Team. There is car parking adjacent to the workshop for about 10 cars

Tea and coffee will be provided but packed lunches need to be supplied by the participants, it would be better to come prepared with these at the beginning of the day so we don't have cars coming and going.

The cost of this event is £100 divided by the number who attend. Max number 15 and 6 have already signed up. Email Tracy to book your place.

See more with links to Maurice's Woodstore on the website

<http://www.swog.org.uk/events/green-woodwork-taster-day-beamish-museum-27th-march/>

## Events North

SWOG meeting

27<sup>th</sup> March 2010

The Woodsmith's workshop  
Beamish Museum,  
Co Durham

<http://www.woodsmithstore.co.uk/shop>

## Biocensus

Training courses in bat and  
badger management

<http://www.biocensus.co.uk/training.asp>

## Woodlands.co.uk blogs

Woodland archaeology

Planting a tree

Medieval timberwork

December in Long Wood

Chickens in woodland

[www.woodlands.co.uk/blog](http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog)

## Scotland

Royal Highland Show

24- 27<sup>th</sup> June

We hope to be there! Hope  
you are too.

<http://www.woodfairs.co.uk/scotland/>

More information needed!

Please email Tracy with  
events.

WoodlandsTV.co.uk

Grants for wood stoves

Making a trug

7 Knots you should know

Working horses

## Gloucester Wildlife Trust

### Hedgelaying Course

Lower Woods Nature Reserve, near Wickwar, South Gloucestershire  
Sunday 28 February 10am - 4pm, £25 per person

### Chairmaking Course

Sunday 18 April 10am - 4pm, £40 per person

### Bodging Courses

Friday 3 - Monday 6 September, times tbc, £60 per person

### Bodging Taster Day

Tuesday 7 September, £60 per person

### Coppicing and Shelter Building

Sunday 7 November 10am - 3pm, donations welcome

Enjoy a fun day out in Lower Woods learning about the traditional art of coppicing, the use of coppice products and help with the care of this 700 acre nature reserve. You can also have a go at building your own shelter. There will be baked potatoes in the bonfire to enjoy at lunchtime, but please bring drinks and other food. Suitable for adults and children over 8 (if accompanied by an adult). All tools, training and equipment provided. Call 01452 383333 to book your place now!

Frankie King  
Marketing Assistant  
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust  
Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Rd, Gloucester GL4 6SX

Direct Line: 01452 389969  
Main Switchboard: 01452 383333  
[www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk)

## Central

### Lincolnshire

Grants for trees and hedges  
<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?sectiontype=listmixed&catid=7741>

### Orchard Barn Suffolk

Are you interested in learning how to construct a C17th style roof the authentic way?

Using traditional hand tools, Rick Lewis will teach you how to process local oaks and convert them into roof rafters.

[http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk/Green%20Oak\\_Roof%20courses.htm](http://www.orchardbarn.org.uk/Green%20Oak_Roof%20courses.htm)

### Malvern Coppicing

Worcestershire

**For a list of new courses see the website:**

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

## East Anglia

Wood fuel fair

20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> March,

Rockingham forest, Stamford

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

## Wales

BWW meeting

**5<sup>th</sup> June near Llanddewi**

Come and find out about Better Woodland for Wales Scheme. More details to come. Email Tracy if you are interested.

**Woodland Skills Centre,**  
Wales

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

## Peoples Trust for Endangered Species

Take part in Great Nut Hunt and help save the endangered dormouse

Please join more than 3,000 people across the country who have already signed up to take part in the Golden Great Nut Hunt - a nationwide public survey to help save threatened hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) organised by wildlife charity the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and Natural England.

Throughout the winter months the conservation charity is calling on the public to search their local woodlands for tell-tale signs of gnawed hazel nuts, to help determine the distribution status of this rare mammal and the health of our woodlands and hedgerows. As an added incentive to encourage would-be 'nutters' to take part in the survey, PTES has hidden 21 specially-commissioned hazel nuts - 20 solid silver nuts and a single gold-plated nut - across counties in England and Wales to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP).

One of the 21 hall-marked hazel nuts was found just before Christmas in Warwickshire. But there are still 19 silver and one gold-plated nuts to find.!

Since the launch of the Golden Great Nut Hunt, several hundred people have sent in hazel nuts for identification by the Chief Nutter and dormouse expert Dr Pat Morris and so far records of 51 sites in 17 counties in England and Wales have been submitted. However we still don't have any nuts from several counties though so still need plenty more people to take part.

Once widespread in the UK, the dormouse is now an endangered species and vulnerable to extinction. Nationally they have disappeared from more than half of their historic range due to the loss and fragmentation of their habitat, particularly hedgerows, as well as their sensitivity to climate change. The best indicator of dormouse presence is opened hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nut shells on the woodland floor. Dormice open these nuts by making a neat round hole on one side, leaving characteristic toothmarks around the edge of the hole and providing a reliable method for identification.

To take part in the Great Nut Hunt and receive your free survey pack, call 020 7498 4533 or visit [www.greatnuthunt.co.uk](http://www.greatnuthunt.co.uk). Survey packs contain more information about the silver and golden nut prizes, species information about the hazel dormouse, a recording form and guides on how to identify hazel trees and nibbled nuts.

For more information on this and grant information see our website:

<http://www.swog.org.uk/news/dormice-great-nut-hunt-update-and-competition>

Please remember to have the landowners' permission before conducting a survey on their land.

## Coppice Wood College

February is nearly here and its Hedgelaying time again and we are running our course as usual, details below:

**4 day Hedgelaying Course starting Monday 15th February cost £160**

Comprehensive course covering all aspects of hedgelaying and management using traditional hand tools. Contact [bslark@aol.com](mailto:bslark@aol.com) or go to

<http://www.coppicewoodcollege.co.uk/woodland-skills-short-courses.html>



## Hedgelaying by Bruce

Hedgelaying was the traditional way of managing hedges and was carried out on a rotation of about 8 to 20 years depending on the style of the hedge and owner's time and needs. Hedges were laid for 2 main reasons, stock proofing and firewood. If stock proofing was important then hedges were laid frequently, perhaps every 8 years. Hedges planted on banks as they were in many parts of Western Britain were harvested for fuel wood perhaps every 20 years.



In order to lay the hedge the tall stems are nicked or pleached, that is cut partially through and then laid over to form a stock proof barrier normally held in place using stakes. As the job is carried out in the winter months the cut stems sprout in the spring to provide good new growth. This growth will form the new rejuvenated hedge. Different hedgelaying styles developed regionally in response to farming needs, tall hedges with central stakes for cattle and lower wider box-shapes for sheep. Hedgelaying was part of the farming year timed to coincide with crop rotations or changes in field use.

The main tool used was the billhook, which has been in Britain since the Iron Age, and various local patterns were developed for hedgelaying. Originally apart from a mallet to drive stakes hedges used little else. The pleaching cuts were made with the straight part of the blade while the hooked portion was used for trimming away unwanted growth.



Laid hedgerows had a particular relationship to coppice woods. Hedgers used to buy stakes and 'ethers' (the hazel binders used in some cattle styles) from coppice merchants. The boundary hedges surrounding the coppices would also have been laid in the past. This would have kept wandering farm stock from grazing the valuable shoots and allowed light into the plots on the edge to promote the growing shoots.

Hedgelaying is very beneficial to the wildlife of hedgerows. As new growth is promoted from the base this remains thick and provides cover for small mammals and certain birds. Hunting barn owls regularly use hedges to find their rodent prey. As the hedge is grown on before laying the extra length allows flowers and fruit to develop bringing insects and providing autumn food for thrushes. The taller hedge plants also provide sites for nesting birds. Hedgerows are very important for bats and the nightly food forays frequently follow tall hedges.

We use the traditional tools and methods as described above in our own hedgelaying course where we restoring a neighbouring farms hedgerows in the traditional manner. See [www.coppicewoodcollege.co.uk](http://www.coppicewoodcollege.co.uk) for details.

Nick Barnes, Principal Instructor at Coppicewood College  
You can get in touch with Nick via the College by email [bslark@aol.com](mailto:bslark@aol.com) or by phone 01239 881394

For more on hedges look at <http://www.hedgeline.org.uk>

# Small Woodland Owners' Group

## I'm a Welsh Woodland owner (Get me out of here?)

By Shane Logan

### Part 2

In part 1 we looked at “why plan for managing a woodland”, in part 2 we now look at the process involved under the Better Woodland for Wales (BWW) grant scheme.

The first thing you need to do is get on the Commission's website and find their list of approved management planners such as myself. Initial contact with your planner is generally free up until the point you sign the contract to create the agreed plan.



I have come across a few myths I would like to dispel about the FC/management planner role before we begin. The one I hear all the time is some sort of notion that the owner (you) loses control over the management of their own woodlands. This is not the case at all, these are your woodlands and it's your decisions you will convey to the planner, who will then give best advice on how to carry out these management objectives within the rules of BWW. The plan is a key element to the BWW Scheme, which in turn is designed to fulfil many of the requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) making it easier and cheaper if the owner decides to secure certification in the future. But make no mistake – you, the woodland owner, are in the driving seat, so whatever your personal interests are discuss these with the planner. I recently came across a gentleman who is a keen ornithologist and has insisted that all operations are carried out to encourage our feathered friends, well why not! The other question I am frequently asked is ‘do I have to use the management planner to carry out operations?’ The answer in short is no. Once the management plan is completed your relationship is a contractual one between you and the FC working to the agreed plan. It's up to you who you want to employ, do the work yourself or retain your planner's services.

### Parts of the process

**1. Initial Application:** Choose and appoint a management planner. Brief plan on general intentions and identify woodland boundaries on a map. At this point I would strongly advise securing your Customer Reference Number (CRN), if you have not got one. No CRN means no funding. The CRN allows checks to be carried out to ensure, amongst other things, that European money is not currently funding the area under consideration. If unsure I would encourage landowners to contact their local Agriculture or Tir Gofal Officers. Now submit the initial application.

**2. Foundation plan preparation:** The planner will speak to the owner about their objectives and request any information they have on the woodland. This is a simple document that outlines the key issues associated with the woodland and details the work required to complete the full management plan.

**3. Foundation plan approval:** Once the management plan is created the owner needs to study it carefully and decide whether they want to proceed with it. The owner is under no obligation to proceed and can decide not to continue. In this case FCW will pay the management planner a severance fee. If the owner decides to go ahead the planner will submit the Foundation plan to FCW for approval. Before proceeding further the planner needs to agree a contract with the owner, including some standard clauses in order to insure both parties know where they stand. This will

# Small Woodland Owners' Group

include how much a management plan will cost to prepare. This will help the owner determine whether the grant will cover the full cost.

**4. Management plan preparation:** The management plan is now prepared and will bring in, if necessary, specialist assessments. The plan will outline how the owner intends to manage for the woodland for the next 20 years and what grant they will receive for this over the next five years.

**5. Management plan approval:** The owner needs to read the completed plan and discuss with their planner BEFORE submission to FC Wales. This is very important as this plan when submitted and approved forms a contractual relationship with FCW. FCW then checks the plan and if content will issue a 'plan of Operations' contract. This contract will set out all the operations, grants and licences that have been approved for the following 5 year period to enable the owner to implement the management plan. At this point the owner can decide who will act as their agent/point of contact during the period and is under no obligation to the planner.

**6. Implementation:** The owner / agent implements the worked outlined in the management plan and can access the FCW website to record and monitor progress in implementing operations as well as claiming grants and obtain maps and other information.



So there you have it – BWW will provide towards the cost of a written management plan that will give your clear intentions on how you want to see your woods managed in a sustainable manner inline with UKWAS and in return you will be furnished with a range of grants tailored to your own objectives.

In our third and final 'sermon on the mount' I will take you through examples of the sort of work and situations you may come across and how to use the BWW grants to bring out the best in your woodlands. As my old Head Forester used to say 'there's currants for cakes and raisins for everything!' So hopefully I'll be able to make some sense of what the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) calculator can provide for you in our next instalment – stay tuned!

If you have any questions about the scheme please feel free to contact me at [x10shane@hotmail.com](mailto:x10shane@hotmail.com)

## SWOG meeting in Wales

Come and meet Shane and talk about how BWW management will work in your woodland. Share ideas with other owners and enjoy the Welsh countryside. Email Tracy if you would like to come along

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2010 near Llanddewi**



## Public Rights of Way (PROW) by Tracy Sutton

### Part 1

Walking is Britain's most popular outdoor recreation and it is popular with all ages. It is an excellent way to exercise for health, weight control, stress relief, to sharing experiences, to appreciate the local environment and to learn to understand how to look after it. Best of all it is a free activity and almost everyone can do it, at anywhere, anytime and at all levels – visiting new places and having new experiences. We cannot course ignore that walking is the most sustainable and free means of travel.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) give access to parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, community forests and the countryside; bringing in walkers brings in economic benefits to the area – ever stopped for a pint and a sarnie on a walk?

The origins of the PROW networks are from people travelling from A to B where permissive access was granted by landowners; the biggest change to the network is the shift toward use for recreation and protection of PROW by legislation. The countryside is now a multi user area and careful consideration needs to be given for all who have the right to be there.

### Who can use a Public Right of Way?

A PROW allows permitted use of a route depending on its status:

- Footpaths can only be used on foot
- Bridleways can also be used with a horse or bicycle
- Byways are open to all traffic and permitted to be used by vehicles with a motor engine that are registered, taxed and MOT'ed
- Restricted byways are open to vehicles pushed, pulled, or pedalled by humans or animals

The landowner is the only person that can agree to a member of public wishing to use an unauthorised means of travel on a route e.g. a landowner can consent to allowing permissive access to horse riders and/or cyclists on a footpath.

Pushchairs, mobility scooters and dogs can use footpaths where reasonable but there is no expectation that the way will be suitable. Dogs may have to be lifted over stiles, surfaces may not be good for mobility scooters/pushchairs and legitimate (to be discussed later) safety and stock barriers may prevent the passage of pushchairs and mobility scooters.

As a user of a PROW you have a responsibility to travel as to not to cause danger to other users, damage to property (includes the surface of a PROW), not to cause a nuisance and to keep to the PROW.

### So how can you find out about where Public Rights of Way exist?

The local Highway Authority is responsible for the Definitive Map and Statements; these are legally conclusive records of the PROW. You may find you local Council has online access to view a representation of the local PROW but these will not be legally conclusive. Here's a link to **Worcestershire's** for an example <http://qis.worcestershire.gov.uk/website/Leisure/viewer.htm> Ordnance survey maps also represent the network but are not legally conclusive. You can view Definitive Map and Statements at request to your local Authority.

**Part 2: Landowner and council responsibilities. (coming soon)**



# Small Woodland Owners' Group

## Trees for Health

Trees for Health runs activities for the local community including tree planting, seed collecting, tree nursery work, wild food & tree medicines and green woodworking in appropriate seasons. Our work aims to promote trees and woodland as sources of food, herbs, fuel and wood products as well as places for renewal.

### Sat 6 February

Nut tree planting with Transition Town Totnes, Bridgetown, Totnes.  
10.30am-4 pm

### Sun 14 February

Valentine's Day nut tree planting & nursery work, Sharpham Estate, near Totnes.  
10.30am –4pm

### Wed 17 February

Crafts from the Woods - try out pole lathes & make twiggy coat hooks, dibbers, spatulas & gypsy flowers. Combe Royal, Kingsbridge  
10am –4pm. Cost for materials adults £3, children £1.

Liz Turner

Trees for Health

01803 867018

[info@treesforhealth.org](mailto:info@treesforhealth.org)



## Training in woodland management and crafts

Courses at Flimwell on the Kent/East Sussex border



Plumpton College at Flimwell, in partnership with Woodnet, runs a broad range of one day courses designed for woodland managers and those wanting to learn woodland crafts.

**Subjects include:** Introduction to woodland management, Practical woodland management using hand tools, Generating income from coppice, Introduction to chainsaw use and maintenance, First aid for woodland managers, Introduction to tree climbing and Woodland archaeology.

**Craft courses include:** making hazel hurdles, chestnut gate hurdles, introduction to green woodwork, Sussex trugs, and willow structures.

New courses are being developed and ideas for new topics are welcome.

Most of our courses attract funding from LandSkills South East. If you spend over 50% of your time in woodland management, forestry, farming, or production horticulture in the South East you may be eligible for subsidised course fees. With the subsidy, many courses cost just £24.

See [www.woodnet.org.uk](http://www.woodnet.org.uk) for course information and dates.

To book a place on any course call 01273 892052 or email [pd@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:pd@plumpton.ac.uk)

# Small Woodland Owners' Group

## Medway Valley Orchard Project – by Mark

We at MVOP are leading a North, West and Mid Kent orchards related project in the boroughs of Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Canterbury, Sevenoaks, Swale and Maidstone. The aim is to submit a funding application (HLF likely) to fund a community orchards project. Allied to this is an on-line questionnaire to gain local knowledge from local parishes and groups.

N.B. it is targeted to the above areas, others won't qualify so we'd like to avoid disheartened groups/parishes replying but not in the area!

Kent's Countryside Partnerships are exploring ways to help restore traditional orchards and create new community fruit-growing open spaces in Kent.



We need your help to;

- Build up local knowledge of existing traditional orchards and community fruit growing open spaces.
- Locate potential new sites for fruit growing community open spaces (publicly owned or privately owned land where the landowner is supportive).
- Let us know the skills and knowledge you could share with the project.
- Let us know how you would like to be involved in the project

The questionnaire will take a couple of minutes of your time and is available from the following link.  
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/af3/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=gqTSxkgVuCT>

Orchards are a special, secret landscape – a treasury of genetic diversity and a repository of culture. They are a wonderful way for communities to share the land and a positive gift to future generations. Once every village had its own orchards, but 60 % of traditional ones have been lost since the 1950's. The Orchards for Everyone project will provide opportunities for you to explore, learn about and enjoy the rich wildlife, open space and heritage of our traditional orchards and readdress the decline.

The project will focus on the two main fruit belts from Faversham in the North Kent across Mid Kent to West Kent at Sevenoaks on the Greensand Ridge with a focus on publicly accessible sites (private or publicly owned).

Thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated - the information that you provide will be used to develop an orchards funding bid to help us deliver the Orchards for Everyone Project. Please could we have your replies by the 26th February 2010.

The available in alternative formats, please survey is contact Caroline Drewett on [caroline.drewett@kent.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.drewett@kent.gov.uk) or 01622 683695.



## News from the woods

Sarah has had some tree surgeons in to make some oak trees safe that were overhanging paths. You can read about it on their blog:

<http://docsquid.blogspot.com/>



Kevin has also started a blog to keep a diary of his new woodland, and has written an interesting little article on red squirrels in Scotland.

[http://fraochwood.org/blog/?page\\_id=358](http://fraochwood.org/blog/?page_id=358)

David has a robin eating out of his hand!

<http://scragcopse.blogspot.com/2010/01/i-always-seem-to-start-post-with-brief.html>

John's saw fell in the stream!

*"I felled 4 large spruce yesterday morning, I had to winch them over as they were leaning backwards over a small stream. They all fell where they were supposed to, only problem was on the last I did not bang the wedge in hard enough and the tree sat back and pinched the saw. I soon pulled it over with the winch but my saw fell back into the stream!"*

## Plant thugs?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/gardening/article-1086797/Thuggish-nettles-brambles-make-common-countryside-plants-wild-flowers-driven-out.html>

**Richard comments:** Nettles tend to prefer soil that is richer in nutrients, particularly phosphate. Such conditions are created by human activity, including spreading fertilisers, dumping rubbish or even simply human habitation itself and in fact archaeologists have located ancient sites by noticing patches of them. Other reports speak of a general increase of soil fertility and are related to the above, but also things like disturbing the ground or even spreading crushed concrete (reducing the acidity of certain soils). All these things may upset what we regard as the norm, but then to be honest the "natural environment" we see is largely a creation of humans over thousands of years.

Anything you want to add? Visit the forum to comment:

<http://www.swog.org.uk/forum/topic.php?id=515>

### facebook

[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=61487332523](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=61487332523)

The Small Woodland Owners Group (SWOG) is on facebook. You can also become a SWOG blog fan and receive feed from the site when new articles go up.

## Dates coming up

**Coppice conference in West Sussex**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October**