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### In the Newsletter this Month

Oak trees have been under periodic threat from various type of oak decline over the past century. There are now three types of oak disease threatening the oak population: acute oak decline of a new type, not seen previously; chronic oak decline and sudden oak death. Of these, the former seems to pose the greater threat. The Forestry Commission has issued new guidelines for management, and this issue of the newsletter has an article about acute oak decline, as well as the other forms of oak disease.

Unfortunately diseases are not confined to oak: the fungus responsible for sudden oak death in the USA has cropped up in Japanese Larch in Wales and the South West. *Phytophthora ramorum* is a well known garden pest that has escaped from gardens to affect *Rhododendron* and via this, to affect larch trees, as well as cause sudden oak death in the USA, although thankfully the British oaks are proving more resistant.

Finally, we need to know what tree diseases and pests are of national importance, what to do if we suspect them in our own woods, and how to get help if we are unsure what is affecting our trees, and what to do about it.

Small wood owners have an important role to play in monitoring and reducing the spread of tree pests and diseases: First of all, we often visit our woods more often than large foresters, and know the individual trees and stands very well, so can pick up first signs of trouble early on. Thus we are in a valuable position from the point of view of surveillance.

But we also have a duty to try and prevent spread of diseases from our own wood to others, and so need to know a little about the topical issues, and what to do when we suspect a problem. We can also prevent spread of diseases by cleaning our boots before and entering our woodlands. Although tree diseases are not a happy subject, they are an important one, and hopefully this update will help us remain forewarned and forearmed.

Also in this edition are reports from SWOG meetings that have taken place in the last month, and notices for forthcoming meetings, events and courses, together with a small section on new Forestry Commission regional grants.

Sarah Walters (sarah@swog.org.uk)

### Diseases of Oak - Acute Oak Decline

*A new disease that threatens the health of oak trees in the UK has recently attracted a lot of press attention. Here is a brief update, and a guide for small woodland owners on where they can get more information.*

**Acute oak decline (AOD)** is a process that results in the rapid decline and death of our two oak species *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea* (Pedunculate and Sessile Oak). Episodes of AOD have been reported since the 1920's. These early episodes affected leaves, the current episode affects the stems, although episodes of foliage type AOD still occur episodically in Britain and periodically in France. Causes of earlier episodes were fungi (*Erysiphe arphitoides*) and caterpillar infestations (leaf roller moth, *Tortrix viridana*), but the most recent episode is thought to be related to bacterial infection.

Symptoms you need to look out for include "bleeding" lesions on the trunk of the oak. You will see splits between the bark plates, with a dark substance bleeding out of them. Splits are about 5-10cm (4 inches) long and may occur all around the tree and at any height, from 1 metre up into

the canopy. AOD is principally a problem in mature oaks with diameter at breast height (DBH) of 35-85 cm and age over 50 years. Under the bark, there may be cavities, and dark stripes in the inner bark, and calluses as the tree tries to heal the lesions. You may also see infestation by the wood-boring beetle (*Agrilus bigguttatus*), but this is not thought to be the cause – rather it is thought to be an opportunistic invader. The canopy dies back quickly and trees can die quite rapidly, sometimes in only 4-5 years from onset.

The bacterium thought to cause this outbreak is new, and has also been found in a similar outbreak in Spain. It is currently being researched and characterised. Other conditions can cause similar symptoms, particularly bleeding from lesions on the trunk of oak trees, so if you suspect AOD, you will need further advice.

Affected trees have been noted mainly in the Midlands, East Anglia and Wales, but there are cases in other parts of the UK including a few in the South and South East.

The first thing you should do if you suspect AOD in your woodland is report it to Forest Research, the research arm of the Forestry Commission. This will enable them to help you to determine the type of problem you have, and to take appropriate action to prevent its spread within your wood and also to other nearby woods. Give as much information as you can e.g. the grid reference of affected trees, an estimate of severity of infestation in the individual trees, and the proportion of trees affected. Take photographs if you can.

Management of AOD is currently pragmatic in the absence of a specific remedy. The first thing you need to do is isolate the oak trees – that is prevent access by people who might spread the condition to other trees. If a whole stand is affected, the whole area should be isolated if possible. If a few trees only are affected, they could be dealt with by felling, but this must be done properly, with appropriate disinfection of felling, pruning and chipping equipment.

Hygiene is also very important: All woodland owners are encouraged to clean their boots when entering and leaving woodlands. Boots should be scrubbed and rinsed on site before leaving affected woodland. The 'clean' soles can then be disinfested with Propellar or other suitable disinfectant.

Bark and sapwood should be removed before the use of any logs, and burned on site. Logs should not be left on the ground as deadwood habitat. Bark chippings should not be used as mulch, but left to decompose naturally, and bark chippers should be disinfested. Logs can be used once bark and sapwood has been removed on site.

If there is public access to your wood, you should consider placing a notice by affected trees to let the public know you are aware of the problem and also to give them advice on how to avoid spreading the disease—a suitable notice is available via the Forest Research web site on

## Other important diseases of oak

**Chronic oak decline** is thought to be related to a number of factors, including infestation of the roots by fungi, and possibly to factors relating to the soil including acidity and fertility levels. This causes decline over a longer period of time, with thinning of foliage and “stag-head” appearance with death of part of the canopy. Some trees can recover from it, and decline and death usually takes decades. Bleeding lesions may also occur on the trunk of affected trees.

**Sudden oak death** is a disease caused by infestation with the fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*, and has been a cause of great concern in the USA, where large numbers of oaks have died. British oaks seem less susceptible to it, but other trees can also be affected including beech, rhododendron and has recently been noted in Japanese larch in the South West of England and Wales. This fungus has been well known as a garden pest, but is only now posing a threat to trees. Again, bleeding lesions can be seen on the trunk of affected trees, as well as fungal infestation of the foliage. Some diseases due to *Phytophthora ramorum* and related species are notifiable—please see the Forest Research web site for more details.

Small woodland owners who are concerned about AOD and other oak diseases should consult the Forestry Commission web site, and download the FC Practice Note on AOD referenced below. Please also report affected trees to the Tree Health Advisory Service (there may be a charge for this service) on 01420 23000 [ddas.ah@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ddas.ah@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

*We would like to thank Dr Sandra Denman and Dr*

*Joan Webber at Forest Research for their help with articles on tree diseases and diseases of oak.*



### For more information

See [www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/oakdecline](http://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/oakdecline)

The Forestry Commission Practice Note on Managing Acute Oak Decline – April 2010 is available on [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcpn015.pdf/\\$file/fcpn015.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcpn015.pdf/$file/fcpn015.pdf)

### Reference

Denman S, Webber J (2009) *Oak Declines: New definitions and new episodes in Britain* Quarterly Journal of Forestry (2009):285-290: A useful article about oak decline in general and acute oak decline in particular.

## Oak Timber Framing Course 25 - 29 October 2010

This five day course is organised by Woodnet and Plumpton College at Flimwell.

It is aimed at those interested in learning how to construct an oak framed building. This is a practical hands-on course with participants working together to construct and erect an 8ft by 10ft frame with a roof. You will learn the main skills required to lay out the frame, mark and cut the joints, construct the roof, make the pegs, and erect the frame. The course uses hand tools with demonstration of the use of power tools and is held in the workshop at Flimwell.

Your tutors Chris Nutley and Will English of 'Sussex Oak Framers' will guide you through the week, teaching you the practical skills and explaining the stages in planning and managing a timber frame project.

The next 5 day course runs from Monday 25 October until Friday 29 October 2010 at Plumpton College at Flimwell, Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell, East Sussex, TN5 7PR.

Course fee: £450

Venue: Woodland Enterprise Centre, Hastings Road, Flimwell, East Sussex, TN5 7PR

Map: [www.maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=TN5+7PR&t=m](http://www.maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=TN5+7PR&t=m)

To book a place or for further details please contact:

Tel: Plumpton College 01273 92052

Email: [pd@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:pd@plumpton.ac.uk) [www.woodnet.org.uk](http://www.woodnet.org.uk)

Web: <http://www.naturescraft.co.uk/courses/courses.htm>

## Phytophthora ramorum in Japanese Larch in South Wales and the South West

This is a summary of new guidance issued by the Forestry Commission. For full information please download the information leaflet from <http://www.swog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Phy-Ram-sector-briefing-June-2010.pdf>

*Phytophthora ramorum* is the fungus associated with Sudden Oak Death, but there has recently been an outbreak of infection in Japanese larch in Devon, Somerset and Cornwall and more recently in South Wales. *Rhododendron* is the host species, producing spores from the infection which can subsequently affect trees and plants in the immediate vicinity. Therefore control has up to now been focused on control of *Rhododendron* spp.

The new outbreak is potentially worrying because infected larch produces spores at 5 times the rate of *Rhododendron* spp and can be dispersed over longer distances, allowing for infection without proximity to *Rhododendron* to occur.

Symptoms in larch include wilted, withered shoot tips with blackened needles and premature needle shed. Trees with branch dieback may have numerous cankers on their branches and upper trunk that can bleed resin.

To control this outbreak, biosecurity measures are needed on infected sites which includes site quarantine and felling. As a small woodland owner it is important for you to remain vigilant for signs of this fungus in your larch trees:-

- Look on the Forestry Commission website [www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorum](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pramorum) for more information and familiarise yourself with the symptoms and other details.
- Maintain vigilance and regularly inspect your woods

particularly where larch and/or Rhododendron are present. Please note that we are primarily concerned with larch in forests and woodland in relation to this change in the disease dynamics.

- If you suspect your woodland may be infected or suspicious symptoms are present, you should report it to Forestry Commission Wales Grants & Regulations Office at Clawdd Newydd, Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 2NL Tel: 0300 068 0300, e-mail: [bwww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bwww.ts@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### Free *Phytophthora ramorum* Awareness Training

In order to raise awareness within the forestry sector, Forestry Commission Wales and FERA (Food and Environment Research Agency) are organising three training sessions to be held at:

St Asaph, Denbighshire Wednesday 7th July

Newtown, Powys Thursday 8th July

Garwnant, Merthyr Tydfil Friday 16th July

The sessions will be held in the morning and will last approximately 3 hours and may include a site visit. We would encourage all woodland managers to attend and help us to identify and control the spread of the disease which is now infecting a significant area of larch stands in south Wales.

Please see full information on <http://www.swog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Invitation-training-1.pdf>

To book a place please e-mail

[alison.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alison.evans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## Tree Diseases and Small Woodland Owners

### What to do and where to get help

Oak decline and *Phytophthora ramorum* are just two of the diseases or pests causing current concern but there are a whole list of current problems on the Forest Research web site. Forest Research issues alerts and advisory notes for pests and diseases that are of current concern, together with advice on what to do if you suspect these pests or conditions are present in your wood.

At the time of writing, advisory notes were available on the following:-

Asian Longhorn Beetle  
Dutch Elm Disease  
Emerald Ash Borer  
Gypsy Moth  
Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner  
Oak Pinhole Borer  
Oak Processionary Moth  
Pine Tree Lappet Moth

### Problems on Plane Trees

#### Western Conifer Seed Bug

There are other diseases undergoing active research, including *Phytophthora* disease of alder (*P. alni*) and Sudden Oak Death (*P. ramorum*).

The Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service is a good starting point, as initial enquiries are usually free of charge. Charges are made for analysis, site visits and further identification of pathogens should they be necessary.

For further information see:-

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/ddas](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/ddas)

[www.forestry.gov.uk/phytophthora](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/phytophthora)

[www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)



## Coppicing Courses with Phil Hopkinson

*We can attest that the coppicing courses run by Phil Hopkinson of Malvern Coppicing at Ravenshill Wood are good fun and provide great practical experience. Phil Hopkinson writes about these courses.*

I have always had an interest in woodlands. I visited Ravenshill Woodland Reserve at Alfrick in Worcestershire during an open day in 2000 and then began helping on volunteer work parties. I now help Trevor the woodland owner with the management of the wood and have been running coppicing courses there for the last two seasons.

The Reserve is a 50 acre privately owned nature reserve which is part of Ravenshill Wood which extends to 200 acres and is adjacent to more extensive woodland. It has a patchwork of diverse habitats including many indicator species of ancient semi-natural woodland. It has both deciduous and various conifer species present.

The two day coppicing courses I run are an introduction to coppicing for people who have no experience of coppicing or for volunteers and others who are interested in traditional woodlands and their management and would like to gain more knowledge. They are ideal for woodland owners who have acquired woodland but have little practical knowledge of woodland management and coppicing. There is a maximum of 6 people on each course.

The training courses start with a walk through the woods looking at various compartments that have been coppiced over the last ten years and the benefits of coppicing and the differences between native deciduous woodland and conifer plantations. Planning the work area, looking at various devices and horses, building work breaks and coppice restoration are all covered on the course.

The second day starts with tree identification theory and practice with a very large selection of trees being present in the wood, including Alder, Ash, Birch, Beech, Cherry, Oak, Hornbeam, Willow, Larch, Corsican Pine, Norway Spruce. The understorey includes Field Maple, Hawthorn, Elder, Spindle, Hazel, Holly.



Working methods, practical coppicing, material selection, processing, and storage are usually covered on the second day. There is also often the option of a short talk or guided walk by Trevor, the woodland owner on the second day.

Good quality sharp tools will be provided. A certificate and full course notes along with a tree identification guide are included in the course fee.

We have the use of the classroom at Ravenshill for some of the training, the vast majority of the training is conducted outdoors coppicing and in my woodland workshop. There is a camp fire, and camp kitchen where hot and cold drinks and a mid-day meal are provided by two friends who usually come along and help with the cooking. A fire, cooking pots, frying pans and cooking utensils are provided. The only thing that participants need to bring is their food if they have any special dietary requirements.

The courses usually take place over a weekend.

They cost £110 for the two days including food. A £20 deposit is required.

Camping is available in the wood for course participants on two day courses at a cost of £6 per night per person. There are also some excellent hotels and B&B'S locally.

My gift vouchers are an ideal present for christmas, a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion and a way to give your friend or loved one the chance to spend time in the woodland and learn more about the traditional craft of coppicing.

For more information, please see <http://www.malverncoppicing.co.uk/COURSES.html>

### Find a course

#### Field Studies Council

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

#### The Wildlife Trusts

[http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=events&search\\_month=6&search\\_year=2010](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/index.php?section=events&search_month=6&search_year=2010)

#### Institute of Chartered Foresters

<http://www.charteredforesters.org/default.asp?page=33>

#### British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

For BTCV Short Courses

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

For BTCV long courses please see

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

#### Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)

To download the short course brochure visit [http://www2.cat.org.uk/shortcourses/CAT\\_Shortcourses\\_2010.pdf](http://www2.cat.org.uk/shortcourses/CAT_Shortcourses_2010.pdf)

#### Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

To download the short course brochure, please visit [http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/Programme\\_tcm9-245883.pdf](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/Programme_tcm9-245883.pdf)

#### Low Impact Living Initiative

A course on small woodland management

[http://www.lowimpact.org/course\\_outline\\_woodland\\_management.htm](http://www.lowimpact.org/course_outline_woodland_management.htm)

#### Malvern Coppicing

Practical coppicing courses from SWOG member Phil Hopkinson.

<http://www.malverncoppicing.co.uk/COURSES.html>

## SWOG meeting: Bat and Moth evening—13th June 2010

A big thanks to Rodney and Heather who hosted this very interesting and informative event at their wood near Northiam in East Sussex.



*Gathering around the fire*

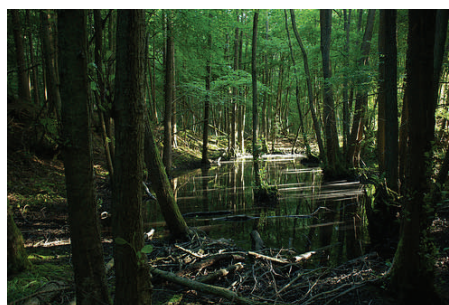
Dave, one of the National Trust's local Area Wardens, led a walk around the wood as dusk fell. There was a chance to see some of the badger sets and rabbit warrens. We learnt how to differentiate the more oval type excavation of the badger's set from that of a rounder rabbit entrance, however Dave explained that quite often they will share accommodation, with rabbits using disused branches of the main set. We found evidence of their latrines situated very sensibly a good discreet distance from the main sets.



*The entrance to a badger set*

We returned to the camp fire to enjoy some more of Heather's delicious home made soup and talk about a bat's favoured habitat. Bats can wriggle into the tightest of spots, if you can squeeze your little finger into a gap then a bat could crawl in too. This makes all the old cracked and gnarled standards with shattered limbs and woodpecker holes ideal habitat to attract bats. They also like to use hedgerows and trees as highways and rarely deviate from their course.

As it grew darker we turned on the 'bat detector' which can pick up the inaudible (to us) sound of the bat's echolocation system of navigation. However, it wasn't really ideal conditions, the temperature fell quite quickly which would have slowed down the insect activity in the newly cut cant and hence the bats failed to turn up on cue. A move down to the wood's entrance and some more sheltered conditions



*Dusk approaching in Longwood*

soon brought the bat detector to life!

Meanwhile Jim, a local and enthusiastic lepidopterist was setting up his equipment for catching and studying the local moth population, a bright lamp and funnel type arrangement leading to a holding area full of egg boxes was all that was needed!

It wasn't long before a few moths had been attracted by the light and come to roost. They find the nooks and crannies of the egg boxes ideal, some like the Clouded Border below were trapped in small specimen jars for identification before being released unharmed.

So a big thank you once again to Rodney and Heather for hosting the event, Tracy for organising it, Dave and Jim for imparting their knowledge and enthusiasm and everyone else who turned up to make the evening a success.

Further resources

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

<http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/index.html>

<http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/SMG/SMGhome.html>

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



*Clouded Border moth*

If anybody attended the Better Woodland for Wales event on 5th June 2010 we'd love to hear your report of the event! Please contact [sarah@swog.org.uk](mailto:sarah@swog.org.uk)

### Find a course (continued)

#### Small Woods Association

Run a wide range of woodland-related courses at their Greenwood Centre

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

#### Yorwoods

Run courses for foresters and woodland owners in the Yorkshire area

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

#### Ben Law

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

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

### Upcoming Courses

Native Hands are running some interesting workshops in the next few months:

July: Sunday 25th cordage and bark containers from willow

Sept: Friday 24th fire-making; foraging (food & medicine)

Oct: Sunday 17th basketry with hedgerow plants

More details here

<http://www.swog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/native-hands-2010-programme-1.pdf>

**Are you running an event or course at your wood? Please tell us about it and we can advertise it here**



## SWOG event – Using your wood to heat your home – 22<sup>nd</sup> May

This was a very successful and informative event held at Flimwell on 22nd May. There were three main speakers, Mike Pepler of [Ashden Awards](#), Matthew Woodcock from the [Forestry commission](#) and Nick Gibbs editor of [Living Woods](#) magazine.



*Dr Mike and pie chart*

Mike began by asking the question:

Is it green to burn wood?

The answer – Yes ... but?

Some nice pie charts showed us that nearly a third of our total energy consumption is used in the home, of that almost two thirds goes to heating our living space. So anything we can do to reduce our use in this area could potentially have a significant impact on our total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

He pointed out that although burning wood gives off carbon dioxide, growing it absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>, making wood, a 'low carbon' fuel. Things that could help reduce it's footprint further include:

Minimizing the use of chainsaws and mechanisation in harvesting wood

Reducing the transportation of your wood, by collecting locally and combining the journey with other errands.

Using an efficient wood burning stove, open fires may look nice, but are very inefficient and don't give a complete combustion.



*Wood cut and split for drying*

Insulating – true of all fuels, serious savings can be made by comprehensively insulating your home.

So yes, Mike concluded that in comparison to a lot of other fuels, burning wood is 'greener', but there are many things you can do to make it even more 'green'.

Mike finished by talking about the importance of reducing the moisture content of your wood to ensure that as little energy as possible is expended in boiling off the water content. He also gave some very handy advice on the logistics of cutting, seasoning and processing your wood.

In Summary:

- Fell in winter, extract in summer
- Split (and stripe) soon after felling
- Store off the ground, with good airflow and under cover

Next up was Matthew Woodcock from the Forestry Commission. He is their programmes manager and leads on wood fuel.



*Matthew Woodcock on wood fuel*

Matthew gave us a quick overview of the extent of woodland cover in the country, focusing on the south east where at 14% it represents an under developed resource. He illustrated the importance of managing these woodlands from a wildlife perspective by using the example of the small pearl-bordered fritillary. This butterfly has benefited in the last few years from targeted conservation projects involving sensitive woodland management to increase it's distribution.

Matthew went on to look at the pros and cons of using different types of woodfuel, pellets, chips or just plain old logs. Then examined the different systems employed to utilize them and the technological advances which are making these boiler systems and modern wood burning stoves an efficient and viable option.

*Continued on next page*

### Upcoming Courses and Events (continued)

#### Controlling Invasive Rhododendron

A one day workshop is being organised by Sussex Biodiversity Partnership for landowners in the Crawley and Horsham areas, aimed at providing practical solutions to the eradication of the invasive shrub *Rhododendron ponticum*

Date Monday 26 July 2010, at 09.30 at Tilgate Park, Crawley

Attendance is free and lunch will be provided, but space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Laurie Jackson on 01273 497551 or e-mail [lauriejackson@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:lauriejackson@sussexwt.org.uk) before 9 July

**Native Hands** are running some interesting workshops in the next few months:

July: Sunday 25th cordage and bark containers from willow

Sept: Friday 24th fire-making; foraging (food & medicine)

Oct: Sunday 17th basketry with hedgerow plants

More details here

<http://www.swog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/native-hands-2010-programme-1.pdf>

#### Monkton Wyld Court

<http://www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk/> - run a series of workshops and courses, including hedgelaying, moth nights, and wild food in autumn.

<http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/> - run courses with a particular focus on food and the environment and the permaculture system.

## Using wood to heat your home—continued

He was particularly keen on trying to turn around our historical attitude of relying on fossil fuels in favour of a more continental approach. Matthew cited examples of Austria and Finland where their wood



*Nick Gibbs on his personal journey with wood stoves*

burning infrastructure is way in advance of ours. Due mainly to the fact that these countries have by neces-

sity had to provide cheap, sustainable and reliable systems of using wood in a much harsher climate, without relying on the oil and gas reserves the UK has 'enjoyed'.

Finally, Nick Gibbs from Living Woods magazine gave a very entertaining personal account of the evolution of his stove use.

Nick guided us through the highs and lows of his stove use over the years and concluded with the following advice. They can be dusty, they need a lot of care, it's easy to buy them too big and you must match your stove to your materials.

Other welcome contributions were received from the kindly folk at [Anglia Fireplaces & Design Ltd](http://www.fireplaces.co.uk/index.php) (<http://www.fireplaces.co.uk/index.php>), Laurie Buckingham, inventor and manufacturer of the much acclaimed [Buckingham Woodstation](http://www.jocemetal.co.uk/page2.htm) (<http://www.jocemetal.co.uk/page2.htm>), and [Euroheat](http://euroheat.co.uk/) (<http://euroheat.co.uk/>) suppliers of wood burning stoves and boilers.

Other resources:

[FC SE page on wood fuel](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7d6fn7). (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7d6fn7>)  
[Biomass energy centre](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7d6fn7) (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7d6fn7>)  
[Woodheat solutions](http://www.woodheatsolutions.eu/) (<http://www.woodheatsolutions.eu/>)

## Volunteers needed for PTES Hedgerows for Dormice Project and Hedgerow Survey Workshops

**PTES Hedgerows for Dormice Project** need to hear from existing and potential new volunteer surveyors. In particular, new surveyors are needed in Kent, Cumbria and parts of the Chilterns (Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire) If you would like to get involved with new surveying hedgerows please get in touch and tell us if you are:

- a new volunteer and would like to survey hedgerows;
- an existing volunteer and would like to be issued with new hedgerows to survey;
- an existing volunteer and plan to survey hedges sent last year
- an existing volunteer and plan NOT to survey hedges allocated to you in 2009-please let us know so they can be reallocated to other volunteers

### Free Hedgerow Survey Workshops 2010

We will be undertaking Hedgerow Survey Workshops in Kent, Cumbria and parts of the Chilterns (Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedford-

shire, Hertfordshire): Workshops are planned at:-

Buckinghamshire Hedge Survey Workshop 5th July Radnage Parish Hall, Radnage, High Wycombe,

Kent (2) Hedge Survey Workshop 19th July Tyland Barn (Kent Wildlife Trust Offices), Near Maidstone

Berkshire Hedge Survey Workshop TBC

Hertfordshire Hedge Survey Workshop TBC

Kent (3) Hedge Survey Workshop TBC

Places are restricted to 30 per workshop and are principally for hedgerow survey volunteers-a commitment to survey at least a few hedges is appreciated.

For further information on either becoming a volunteer surveyor, or the workshops, please see <http://www.ptes.org/> and contact [jim@ptes.org](mailto:jim@ptes.org) or phone 0207 498 4533

### Upcoming Courses and Events (continued)

#### Sussex and Surrey Coppice Group Hands On Day – 3rd July

This year's Sussex & Surrey Coppice Group Hands On Day will be on July 3rd in Fernhurst. It is not restricted to coppice workers, like-minded friends and family are most welcome. You do not need to live in Surrey or Sussex either!

Please book by Sunday Evening 20th June at [jadeswood@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jadeswood@tiscali.co.uk). If there are specific questions or requests feel free to call me (John) on 07743 16 44 22.

#### Coed Lleol Events

Coed Lleol run a number of events of potential interest to woodland owners, including courses on green woodworking, woodland management and charcoal-making. Details on [http://www.coedlleol.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=16&lang=en](http://www.coedlleol.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=48&Itemid=16&lang=en)

#### Advance Notice: APF Show at Cannock Chase

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

Confor will be holding this biennial show at Cannock Chase 23-25th September. This large arboricultural and forestry meeting will have demonstrations and competitions including the Husqvarna World Pole-Climbing Championships and the European Chainsaw Carving Championships, a very large trade exhibition with 250 exhibitors, sales stands and lots of advice.

## Forthcoming SWOG Events

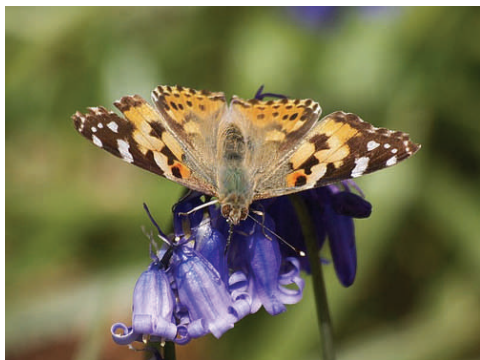
**Woodland Management and tree ID, Malvern,  
11th July 2010**



Phil from [Malvern coppicing](#) will lead a day in the woodland in Worcs. A walk and chat about woodland management, rides and tree ID. Many members have been on Phil's courses and thoroughly enjoyed them!

Ravenshill wood is a 100 acre woodland and is a mixture of Ancient semi natural woodland with a number of compartments of conifers such as Larch, Corsican Pine, Norway Spruce and more. It has a variety of habitats. Approximately 50% of the wood is a privately owned Nature Reserve. The meeting will start at 10am. In the morning we will tour the wood and look at the work that has taken place in the past. Lunch will be cooked on a camp fire by Rae and Linda for which there is a voluntary £5 donation. If you prefer you can bring along a packed lunch. After lunch, local naturalist, Dr Simon Roberts who is the local butterfly recorder and leader of the Malvern Hills Pied Flycatcher project will be leading a session on tree ID. The meeting will probably finish between 3.30pm and 4pm. Strong footwear is required as the wood is often muddy, even in the summer.

Email [tracy@woodlands.co.uk](mailto:tracy@woodlands.co.uk) if you would like to come along



**Registering your woodland. 4th September,  
Flimwell, East Sussex**

This workshop will guide you through the land

registration process. This is an essential prerequisite if you want to claim a woodland grant. The Land Registry want all land registered by 2012. By the end of the session we aim that you will have the forms completed. The event will also provide an overview of the available woodland grants available.

Contact Steve Wheatley to book: Telephone 01580 879958  
or Email [swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org)



10:00 to 13:00  
Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell, TN5 7PR

**SWOG Meeting in Hampshire - Saturday 16 October**

Topics will include:

- Coppicing neglected hazel
- Thinning trees to help them grow
- How to develop a glade

Each topic will be interactive, very practical but safe, with participants themselves deciding what to cut/remove. Later in the day participants will return to see the impact of their decisions, as trees will be cut down during the day itself, as a discussion point and for learning.

Further information will follow.

There are photos of Julian's wood on [www.patulabooks.co.uk](http://www.patulabooks.co.uk) so do visit.

**From Woodland to Workshop – 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>  
September 2010**

For more information visit [www.woodlandheritage.org.uk](http://www.woodlandheritage.org.uk) or you can download the course information direct from <http://www.woodlandheritage.org/images/stories/wh/downloads/W2W COURSE 4 PAGER.pdf>

**Final months of funding for foresters in the South East - Lantra**

The land-based sector skills council, Lantra, has reminded foresters in the South East to make the most of their opportunities for training and skills development before the £2.1 million pot of money expires in March 2011.

LandSkills South East is part of the Rural Development Programme for England. It has provided a wide variety of courses including chainsaw training, courses on resource efficiency, wood fuel opportunities for charcoal and bio-mass, sustainable forestry practices, conservation management, effective marketing, and tree and woodland eco-systems.

For more information, contact LandSkills South East: 0845 278 8800; [LandSkillsSE@lantra.co.uk](mailto:LandSkillsSE@lantra.co.uk) or visit [www.lantra.co.uk/LandSkills](http://www.lantra.co.uk/LandSkills).

**Biodiversity 2010 Events**

<http://www.biodiversityislife.net/?q=whats-on> – Biodiversity 2010 runs many events all over the country as well as supporting volunteer action and surveys. Look at the web site to see how you can get involved.

**Royal Forestry Society Divisional Events**

RFS Divisional Events for July are listed on

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/event/2010/07/01/month/all/all/1>



## Forthcoming Events (continued)



*Cooking 'damper' on green hazel sticks*  
**Introduction to Bushcraft day 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

Andy Noble of [Natures Craft](http://www.naturescraft.co.uk) is running an introduction to bushcraft day at Lords Wood near Alton in Hampshire later this year. This is being offered to SWOG members at a considerable discount, (£20 instead of £70) to cover their costs. Numbers will be limited to 10 so book early to avoid disappointment.

Run by Andy Noble, of [Natures Craft](http://www.naturescraft.co.uk) (<http://www.naturescraft.co.uk>) you will spend the day based in a woodland bushcraft camp where you will be shown and practice the following bushcraft skills:

Making fire in a variety of methods

Shelter construction

Cordage production

Plant, Fungi and Tree identification and their Bushcraft uses

The Natures Craft team will also be at hand to answer any other bushcraft related questions and will have a multitude of craft items on display to further demonstrate the potentials of this craft and hopefully provide some inspirational insights into the joys of working with natural materials.

Attendees will also be supplied with a voucher which will entitle the holder to a 15% discount on a future Natures Craft weekend long course.

Participants will need to supply a packed lunch, but there will be teas/coffee and squash available to help yourself to.

The course is run from a expedition style camp, and as such offers a very basic setup, with merely a trench latrine for toilet facilities. This enables us to leave a very minimal trace impact in our woods which follows our ethos of "leaving only footprints".

The event will go ahead in all but the most extreme weather conditions, so please dress accordingly. Please email [rich@swog.org.uk](mailto:rich@swog.org.uk) to book a place on a first come first served basis.

## Festival of the Tree at Westonbirt Arboretum

From Monday 23 – Monday 30 August Westonbirt Arboretum will welcome 12 of the UK's most talented sculptors to the Sculptree woodcarving event at its annual Festival of the Tree.

Around 24 tonnes of sustainably felled wood from the Westonbirt estate will be transformed and auctioned on Bank Holiday Monday in support of Tree Aid, the UK's only forestry-based development charity. Proceeds will be split between Tree Aid, the sculptor and Westonbirt Arboretum.

### How does Sculptree support Tree Aid?

Transforming lives with trees is at the heart of Tree Aid's work with rural communities in Africa. During almost two decades, Sculptree has raised over £200,000 for vital projects.

Training in forestry and agriculture has helped communities increase harvests. Villagers have improved their landscapes by planting millions of trees, and have been empowered with the skills to care and protect them.

Using money raised from the Sculptree auctions, villagers have set up enterprises using tree products and are now able to pay for education and

healthcare.

Communities are learning from each other's successes and challenges. Migration to the towns is slowing down and villagers are experiencing the fruits of their hard work as they see their lives changing, their children going to school and their environment regenerating.

### Making a difference

Simon Toomer, Director of Westonbirt Arboretum explains why Sculptree is so important to Westonbirt:

"The Festival of the Tree at Westonbirt has always been the event that allows us to most clearly demonstrate the important links between trees and people.

"Sculptree provides a focal point for the Festival of the Tree, with visitors able to watch the giant wood sculptures being created from trees felled during management work in the arboretum.

"Increasingly the Festival of the Tree has taken more of a focus to helping visitors understand the reliance Human Beings have on trees, exploring

### New web site for Forest Research

The URL for Forest Research (the research arm of the Forestry Commission) has changed to <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestresearch>

There is a new listing of key links and URL's on the site at

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/urls>

The latest edition of the FR Newsletter can be downloaded at

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FR\\_News\\_Jun10.pdf/\\$FILE/FR\\_News\\_Jun10.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FR_News_Jun10.pdf/$FILE/FR_News_Jun10.pdf)

### Items of Interest from the Royal Forestry Society

#### Tree terms

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/about/tree-terms> - try online, or buy booklet for £3 from RFS at

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/store/tree-terms>

### Forestry Statistics 2009

Forestry Facts and Figures is a summary of key statistics relating to forestry in the UK.

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcs209.pdf/\\$FILE/fcs209.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcs209.pdf/$FILE/fcs209.pdf)

A full version is also available with greater detail

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ForestryStatistics2009.pdf/\\$FILE/ForestryStatistics2009.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ForestryStatistics2009.pdf/$FILE/ForestryStatistics2009.pdf)

### Bringing Common Sense to Tree Management – National Tree Safety Group

A consultation document is available relating to tree management and public safety for UK woodland owners and managers. It can be viewed and responses made via

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/NTSGDraftGuidanceDoc.pdf/\\$FILE/NTSGDraftGuidanceDoc.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/NTSGDraftGuidanceDoc.pdf/$FILE/NTSGDraftGuidanceDoc.pdf)

## Festival of the Tree at Westonbirt Arboretum (continued)



*Mandy Schmidt - chainsaw sculptress*

biodiversity and threats to our forests, such as climate change. But of course the event is still really good fun with an amazing array of stalls, exhibitions, master classes and hands-on activities to inform and entertain anyone with a love of trees and the great outdoors.

“Westonbirt Arboretum and The Forestry Commission are very proud to work in partnership with Tree Aid. The charity’s work in Africa and their involvement in the event help us all to understand the wider

significance of trees in meeting fundamental needs for so much of the World’s population.

“This in turn helps us to make the link between the beautiful trees seen in the arboretum and their wild counterparts in the forests around the world. It also gives us the opportunity to support their important work in protecting trees and the people who rely on them.”

### 2010 Sculptree designs

This year’s Sculptree masterpieces will cover an array of themes, from fantasy through to the natural world. The sculptors have each given a short description of their visions and the design sketches are available to see on [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt).

Returning to the event in 2010 is Stroud based sculptor Dan Hunt, whose stag beetle creation ‘Massive Attack’ broke auction records in 2009 and sold for £6,200.

Dan’s design for this year is titled Karma Chameleon. He describes the giant chameleon climbing the world’s tallest building to catch a fighter plane as “representative of the battle raging between man and nature”.

If you would like to participate in the auction you can:

1. Register interest at [westonbirt.events@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:westonbirt.events@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)
2. Register at the festival at the Forestry Commission’s information marquee.
3. Just bid at the auction by raising your hand and we’ll take your details after.

For more information visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt) or [www.sculptree.org.uk/](http://www.sculptree.org.uk/) or <http://www.woodfairs.co.uk/south-west/#FestivalTree>

The Festival of the Tree is open from 9am-5pm. From 23 to 26 August, admissions are adults £8, concessions £7 and children go free (18 years and under). From Friday 27 August to bank holiday Monday, adult admission is £10, concessions £9 and children go free.

Westonbirt Arboretum is three miles south west of Tetbury on the A433 (Tetbury to Bath Road). It is 10 miles north east of Junction 18 of the M4, and south-east of junction 13 of the M5.

## Making a Ladderback Chair

### Making a Ladderback Chair - Log to Chair courses

27th July to 1st August and 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August £350 per course

The course will be run over 6 days, during which you will learn how to turn a log into a chair using traditional green wood working tools and techniques! We will be making a 3 slat ladder back side chair with a woven seat. You will be introduced to a wide variety of skills and green woodworking techniques:

For more information and course details please see

[www.greenwoodcreations.co.uk](http://www.greenwoodcreations.co.uk) If you are interested, please contact Richard directly on 07717667649 or Email him on [info@greenwoodcreations.co.uk](mailto:info@greenwoodcreations.co.uk)

## Newsletter - July 2010

### About SWOG

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

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

Please do join with us and share your wealth of knowledge and experience with others, as well as your joys and moans. We have members from all over the country. We are also on facebook if you like to communicate that way! See

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

Contact us:-

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#### Newsletter editor

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#### All other enquiries

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

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

## What have we been doing this month?

Steve Rollnick contributed more advice to new woodland owners, following last month's article: I'd say first of all decide how many lives you think you might have, if its only one, then go for your dreams right now, and be gentle with your wood at the same time.

The toilet we put up straight away (4 ft above ground, with a view to die for), the water butt, the large iron fire bowl, a watering can for showers, & mice proof boxes were invaluable. Then we got exercise - sawing and storing fire wood, and I am sorry we never did more of that.

Most other decisions were taken only after sitting quietly for a while, and we regret none of them. The zip wire was not too expensive, but the angle was tricky to get right (a tree surgeon friend did it for us); we paid a woodland friend to mill some larch and made an eccentric shelter using heavy duty tarpaulin for waterproofing and then put a wood-fired stove in it.

Now we are bringing light into selected parts, digging a pond, and enjoying the easy pack-up-and-go feeling for independent camping for days on end. If I lived twice I would do nothing for a few years, and watch how the wood changes.

Henrietta raised an interesting question: I wonder how many of us have changed the perspective of our plans for the woods since we acquired them, I know

I have. After my initial wandering about the wood in a slightly dazed condition, not believing that this lovely wood actually belonged to me, I started to make plans, in what might be considered practical and a slightly commercial manner, (somewhat due to reading up on forestry and arranging two meetings with a representative from the Forestry Commission) I started cutting out dead wood and slashing at Bracken like a woman demented. It would be true to say that the dead wood has proved very beneficial for keeping us warm and cooking our food, via the woodstove and ancient Rayburn.

At the back of my mind I was always wary of doing something I could not undue later, and abstained from cutting down all the smaller Birch trees that I was advised to do. They die off bit by bit anyway and give us brilliant fire wood. I'm sure I should be doing more to "organise the woodland", but it doesn't feel right to disturb the wildlife and insects that live there. I spend a lot of my time sitting and listening to the birds and trying to spot them, or wandering around with the camera looking for insects and butterflies.

I would love to know how other people have managed, whether you have stuck with your initial plans or have changed them altogether.

*If you'd like to reflect on this then please visit the forum and contribute!*

## Grant News

### Woodland Creation Grants – Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> September

The Forestry Commission has Woodland Creation Grants available for establishment of new woodlands against national and regional priorities such as biodiversity, public access and restoration of industrial land. Application deadline is 30th September 2010.

The grant has 3 elements:

- Woodland Creation Grant – up to £1800 per hectare towards the basic establishment cost.
- Additional contributions – an extra contribution of up to £2000 per hectare where applications meet regional priorities
- Farm Woodland Payment – annual payments of up to £300 per hectare per year to compensate for income forgone when creating woodland on agricultural land.

Success of applications will be dictated by a regional scoring system, with the highest scoring applications receiving funding. More details are available on

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/inf6-6dcegu>

### Woodland Improvement Grants West Midlands – 80% for Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Site status is non-statutory, recognizing as it does, a tier below SSSI status in terms of wildlife value of a site at county level. If you own a LWS woodland, and have a Woodland Management Plan in place, then funding is available for woods in Herefordshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Solihull. The site must be at least 20% wooded, and the work must improve the quality of the woodland, while retaining or enhancing its conservation value.

The grant is paid at 80% of agreed EWGS standard costs: this is a higher rate than the usual 50% for woodlands without public access.

For further information please see:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-wm-lws-wig-guidance.pdf/\\$FILE/eng-wm-lws-wig-guidance.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-wm-lws-wig-guidance.pdf/$FILE/eng-wm-lws-wig-guidance.pdf)

### Potential grant funding in NE Hampshire

Grants are available for a variety of rural projects in North East Hampshire.

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

### Grants for mammal conservation from PTES

Mammal conservation projects may be eligible for grants from PTES.

<http://www.ptes.org/index.php?cat=89>