



### In the Newsletter this Month

At last summer is with us. We would love to hear your reports of how you have been enjoying your woods in the summer sunshine, and receive any photos of your woods, your wildlife, and you.

The cold spring has certainly affected wildlife in our woods, with the bluebells still in flower late into May, as well as delayed emergence of many butterflies and wildflowers in our meadow. No cuckoos have arrived this year, but we have had a wonderful clutch of tawny owl chicks, pictured here snuggling in the daytime sunshine.

We have a great article this month, about the restoration of a dry-stone wall by George Lunt—I know my attempts at rebuilding would look nowhere near as good as his!

Tree diseases are something we don't really want to think about—but we do have to think about them, because they aren't going away, and if they arrive on your doorstep, you need to take action. We report on a tree diseases workshop that we attended this month in Shropshire.

There is a huge amount of news this month too—the Government departments have been busy publishing biodiversity indicators, new farm forestry scheme grants, and proposing, and then withdrawing, plans to trap and cull buzzards to protect pheasant shoots.

There are more SWOG meetings to come, and reports of great meetings that have taken place, and which members have attended. If you have attended one and would like to report, please do—the more the merrier!

Summertime courses are also in full swing, and there are more featured this month—I'm going on a few, and if you have attended any courses and would like to review them, we would love to hear from you. Personal recommendations are valuable when faced with a bewildering choice.

*Please keep the contributions coming! If you have any photos, please send them in to me.*

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### There's more to woods than trees...

*George Lunt writes about the restoration of a dry-stone wall in his woodland.*

My wife, Glenys, and I bought about 5.5 acres of woodland 4 years ago. The wood, named Bath Valley Wood by Woodlands.co.uk, forms part of very extensive old woodlands that cover the slopes of the Avon valley on the Wiltshire - Somerset border (actually the Somerset bit is technically Bath and North East Somerset, or BANES as it is known locally). The woods were part of a large old estate, centred on Warleigh Manor and our section is identified on





old maps as Home Coppice. There is indeed much evidence of old coppice within the wood with stands of hazel, sycamore and ash all of which show evidence of coppicing more than 60 years ago. The wood also has a number of outcrops of limestone (pictured on previous page) and there is much evidence of old quarrying in the wood. Old maps show quarry sites within the neighbouring woods and identify the site of a lime kiln. The eastern boundary of our wood is a long dry stone wall that borders a public footpath. The footpath is

part of the extensive network of footpaths in what is now designated as the Cotswold National Park and we are within the southernmost edge of the Park. The footpath was previously a major route for people from the village of Monkton Farleigh down to the river Avon where there was for many years a ferry crossing, giving the villagers access to the main road into the city of Bath. The footpath is marked on some maps as an optional extension to the long distance footpath The Macmillan Way and more recently has been marked as part of a new, 125 mile, long distance footpath, The Palladian Way, described as an architectural walking trail that links Stow House in Buckinghamshire with Prior Park in Bath via Blenheim Palace and Barsley Park in Oxfordshire.

When we acquired the wood the boundary wall was in a very sorry state (pictured above), in total it is some 350 yards long but there was little of it standing. Investigation revealed that in fact most of the stone was still there but was covered with moss, leaf mould, ferns, suckered trees and much of it had become embedded in the footpath itself. In the winter of 2010 Glenys and I made a start on rebuilding! We started at the lower edge of our wood and after about 3 weeks we had managed to rebuild a reasonable section of wall (pictured right). It was clear however that completing the entire run of wall was going to take a very long time indeed so we looked at alternatives. Paying a professional waller was out of the question; a good waller can build about a metre a day and charges upwards of £200 so 300yards/metre works out at an awful lot!



I noticed that the Cotswold National Park had made some grants available for rebuilding stone walls within the National Park and made enquiries. Certainly, I was told, the National Park has made grants but the scheme has ended and will probably not start again. However I was then advised that within the National Park several of the Park Wardens have formed volunteer walling groups and the Bath-based group was particularly keen on this activity. I'm very happy to say that the Bath group of Wardens has "adopted" our wall and 3 or 4 of them now turn up every Thursday morning and rebuilding of the wall is now well under way (pictured left). Glenys and I clear the fallen sections and remove rubbish, suckered trees etc so that the wallers can concentrate on the seriously skilful job

## Course Directory

### Institute of Chartered Foresters

Forthcoming events are on

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

### British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

A large range of courses for woodland owners

For *BTCV Short Courses*

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

For *BTCV long courses*

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

### Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)

To see upcoming courses for 2012 visit

<http://www2.cat.org.uk/shortcourses/>

### Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

To see courses for the coming year visit

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/events/courses.aspx>

### LILI Courses

For the full range of courses from the Low Impact Living Initiative, please see

<http://www.lowimpact.org/courses.htm>

### Wildlife Trusts

All 47 UK Wildlife Trusts run events of potential interest to woodland owners. For further details please see

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/whats-on>

of wall building. Their efforts are very much appreciated, not just by us but by the many walkers who use the foot-path. Nearly all comment on how nice it is to see the old wall undergoing such a transformation and all ask whether we are going to rebuild its entire length – yes, is the answer! It's clear that the stone used to build the wall is from the wood itself, much of the stone is dressed and one can imagine that in the heyday of Warleigh Manor there were many workers in Home Coppice engaged in quarrying the stone and building our wall.

As for the woods – we are slowly working out a development plan, concentrating on lightening the canopy, getting some light into the woods and identifying which trees to nurture and which to cull. When will the wall be finished? Watch this space!



### Heartwoods Tree Diseases Workshop—Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire, 24th May



Tree diseases are not something we want to think about too much as small woodland owners, but they are a serious threat to our woodlands, and something we felt we needed to know more about, particularly as we have a small number of larch trees in our own woods, as well as a lot of oak trees, both susceptible to *Photophthora ramorum* infection.

This workshop, organised by Heartwoods, was hosted by the National Trust at the Long Mynd in Shropshire, and it was an inspired choice, the venue for the morning sessions being the tea shop at Carding Mill Valley (pictured

left). We were welcomed by Peter Cardy and Sara Roberts, pictured below. An impressive programme had been put together, assembling experts from Forest Research, the Forestry Commission, the National Trust and FERA. You could not beat their experience or knowledge on this subject, either in the theoretical or practical context.

#### New Diseases and Climate Change – David Rose, Forest Research, Alice Holt

The workshop got off to a brilliant start with a fantastic run through the latest research on tree diseases and climate change from David Rose. As well as giving us an overview of the different tree diseases that are around, he gave us a brilliant insight into why some diseases have become a problem, and what we might expect in the future, using examples from the recent past.

A disease may become a threat because of several factors:

*Reduced host resistance* – the tree becomes more susceptible to disease due to stress, usually drought stress, but may be from co-infection, or insect infestation. A disease that was previously grumbling along in an area can take advantage of this and kill trees in an area in which it was previously non-fatal.

*Incoming diseases* – diseases are moved into this country, or into a new area, by wind, by sea, by human feet, or by



infected plant material coming in, often from the far East. Routes of infection are often unclear, and infection can come in on wooden packaging, as well as in more obvious plant material.

*Change in pathogen virulence* – by this, I mean that the plant pathogen (virus, bacterium, fungus) can change its behaviour and

suddenly become more aggressive. This may be as a result of a jump to a new host species, or it may be due to evolution of the pathogen. Sometimes a similar disease may be caused by a different pathogen altogether.

*Inward movement of hosts* – by this I mean that trees are being brought in and planted in areas which they would not grow in before as a result of climate change. These incoming hosts can be susceptible to diseases that are not a problem in the native tree population, or bring diseases that don't kill them, but do kill other local trees. An example of this are trees imported from North America and the Far East for the timber business.

We then had some examples of how diseases can evolve, taking in red band needle blight (now called needle cast disease of pine), bleeding canker of horse chestnut, Ramorum blight of oak (formerly called "sudden oak death"), and acute and chronic oak decline.



Bleeding canker of horse chestnut is an example of a disease that was grumbling along at a low level of incidence until it suddenly started to take off, with an exponential rate of increase in new cases, now tapering off. Originally, it was caused by two species of *Phytophthora*, *citricola* and *cactorum*. However the epidemic was caused by a bacterium, *Pseudomonas*. It also occurs on lime, and there are variants that can affect cherry and lilac.

Red band needle blight is an example of a pathogen that is infecting new species, moving from Corsican pine to Scots pine.

Ramorum blight of oak is another example of a pathogen that can jump from species to species. Initially caused infection in a few *Rhododendrum ponticum* plants near nurseries, with a few cases in oak, horse chestnut and beech. Then in 2009, it suddenly changed and caused infection in Japanese larch – a very surprising move from a broadleaf to a conifer, although it does affect conifers in California (yew and redwood) but doesn't kill them.

Chronic oak decline is a different disease and an example of the multiple factors that can cause plant diseases. It has three stages.

1. Yellowing, reduced density in the crown and twig dieback.
2. Crown thinning more marked, death of branches, recovery growth and tarry spots on stem with galleries of oak jewel beetle below

Dieback of recovery growth, defoliation and death in 18 months to 2 years, with infestation with *Agrilus* beetle.



The Greenwood Centre offer a range of courses of interest to woodland owners

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

Phil Hopkinson of Malvern Coppicing offers practical coppicing courses

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

Yorwoods offer courses for woodland owners and managers in the Yorkshire area

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

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

offer a wide range of courses, some of which are of interest to woodland owners

<http://www.ieem.net/otherevents.asp>

Royal Forestry Society Divisional Events

The programmes for May 2012 can be seen at

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/event/2012/06/01/month/all/all/1>

Bat Conservation Trust

Run a number of training courses. The full brochure is available at

<http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/training.html>

There are special courses for arborists, on use of bat detectors and bat surveys

They all have different causes: Stage One is mainly caused by climate stress, particularly paired drought years. Stage Two is mainly due to infestation with *Tortrix moth*, *Agrilus* beetle and mildew. Recovery is possible from this. Stage Three may be due to *Phytophthora quercina* infestation of the root. Multiple factors result in the decline of the tree, and recovery is possible from initial stages.

Acute oak decline is thought to be due to a bacterial infection, after initial weakening by *Agrilus* beetle.

Other diseases were mentioned including Massarina canker of London Plane (*Splanchnonema platani*), fungal chestnut blight (all outbreaks in UK so far on trees imported for nut production), *Phytophthora lateralis* on Lawson's cypress, canker stain of London Plane (in France and moving north) and Chalara dieback of ash (moving this way from Slovenia).

What became clear is that it is key to

1. Prevent pathogen entry to the country
2. Early containment when new diseases emerge
3. Early action when a pathogen changes behaviour

Pathogens will evolve rapidly and change behaviour so vigilance is important.

#### Problems with disease control – Ian Wright, National Trust

Ian Wright from the National Trust then told us about the difficulties in controlling *Phytophthora* infestation in bilberry in Cornwall. Bilberry is a tree, albeit a very small one, and it is extremely hard to control on open heath terrain with open public access (and access for animals), as well as controlling disease while complying with wildlife and habitats regulations. *Phytophthora* is a genus with over 200 known species, and these will affect a wide variety of plants. Action has had to be around saving of rare plants in gardens, and removal of infected plants but this is not without cost and lays stands of trees open to windthrow.

#### Working with *Phytophthora* – Ewan Calcott, Forestry Commission (pictured below)

Ewan Calcott from the Forestry Commission in the Midlands/North West then discussed how the Forestry Commission has been working with *Phytophthora*. The main worry at present are stands of larch, but this can change rapidly with this disease. Aerial surveys are carried out by helicopter and it is clear that this is a disease that likes a humid climate, given its geographic location in the West, South West and Wales. Larch is a problem because it spreads very rapidly and produces a large number of spores (both zoospores, which are mobile and short-lived, and chlamydo-spores which may live for decades). It has resulted in the death and loss of 500 hectares of trees in Wales, and effectively the loss of a whole industry in the South Wales valleys. So it is very serious!



However larch is not the only tree species affected: it can affect *Rhododendron ponticum*, Laurel, bilberry, birch, beech, sweet chestnut, Douglas fir, Western hemlock, ash and oak.

So what can we do? Private woodland owners need to

#### **Ben Law**

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

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

#### **Brighton Permaculture Trust**

Run a number of courses of potential interest including courses on pruning old fruit trees, introduction to permaculture and building with straw bales.

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

#### **Bulworthy Project**

The Bulworthy project run courses including guided walks, as well as one day introductions to charcoal burning

See <http://www.bulworthyproject.org.uk/>

#### **Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre**

Run a wide range of courses on wildlife, livestock and lifestyle management. See their web site for more information.

<https://www.kingcombe.org/courses/intro.aspx>

#### **Plantlife**

A charity dedicated to wildflowers and wild plants, run a programme of educational activities

[http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things\\_to\\_do/activities/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/things_to_do/activities/)

1. Be vigilant and report problems rapidly – leaving it will result in more devastation
2. Mark trees for felling with paint, not by slashing the trunk as this can lead to infection

Biosecurity – wash vehicle tyres and shoes when moving from site to site.

#### Plant Health Regulations – Ewan Calcott, Forestry Commission

Ewan then talked about plant regulations and the two that relate to *P. ramorum* are the Plant Health (Forestry) order 2005 and the Plant Health (Forestry) (*P. ramorum*) order 2004.

If you feel like not getting involved, there is no option – plant diseases are so important that you have to take action and it is better to take action sooner rather than later. The Forestry Commission has the right to enter your land, with or without permission, to assess trees and can issue a statutory plant health notice, which they will follow up to ensure you have complied. This notice, however, is sensitive to the local environment, and will be specific in the actions that need to be taken (e.g. felling one species, disposal of timber, ring-barking and dealing with it at a later date if costs are too great, action on ground flora where required). There is a compliance date and an expiry date, usually after 3 years, during which you have to monitor for recurrence and clear re-growth. You have to comply, and if you don't they will come and take the required action and recover the cost as a civil debt. You have been warned! You will have to pay, one way or another, if your trees are affected.

That said, there is a lot of support for you to help you dispose of timber and foliage legally, and some grant finance which is currently diverted from other grant programmes, mainly for restocking, use of agents, clearance of Japanese Larch and Rhododendron clearance. This may change in 2014 as the current Rural Development Programme (RDPE) comes to an end.

#### Practical Session – Long Mynd – demonstrations by National Trust, Cannock Chase team, Alice Holt and others.



and scrubbing with a brush and hoof pick, and then spraying with Propellar disinfectant.

The messages I took from the day were



The final session of the day took place up on Long Mynd, where bilberry (affected bilberry bushes pictured left) has been affected by *Phytophthora*. We were blessed with glorious weather for our walk, and it really was worth it. We talked about how to recognise its signs, test for the presence of *Phytophthora* using a rapid diagnostic kit that costs £7, and finally, how to clean our shoes properly, by washing

**Staffordshire Wildlife Trust** – Forest Schools/Delivering the Curriculum Outdoors, a full range of courses for those working with children in their woods

<http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/files/documents/1258.pdf>

**The Sustainability Centre** offers lots of courses around the theme of sustainable living. Upcoming courses include Green Woodworking, Permaculture and Bushcraft.

[http://www.sustainability-centre.org/courses\\_adult.php](http://www.sustainability-centre.org/courses_adult.php)

**Bishops Wood Centre** at Stourport on Severn, offer a wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners including bushcrafts, photography, pole lathe and other woodland crafts, as well as offering forest school leader training and CPD

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/education-and-learning/be-healthy/outdoor-education-centres/bishops-wood-centre/training-and-courses.aspx>

**British Dragonfly Society** run a programme of field visits and educational events.

<http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/diary-field-trips-and-other-bds-events>

1. Tree diseases are with us and changing all the time, in response to new pathogens and stresses on existing trees, as well as changing behaviour of existing pathogens
2. We all need to be vigilant and watch our own trees and contact Forest Research if we have any signs of problems
3. If we have a problem, we must take action quickly, even if it costs money, because it is likely to cost much more if we delay
4. We must comply with statutory plant health notices

We must be scrupulous about washing vehicle tyres and shoes, particularly when we visit other sites, and areas known to be affected. It is easy and quick to do, and can reduce spread.

If you would like to view the presentations from this workshop, and for lots more information and links please see <http://heartwoods.co.uk/?p=1305&preview=true>



Woodcraft School have published their timetable for woodcraft and bushcraft courses

<http://www.woodcraftschool.co.uk/woodcraft-courses.htm>

Acres Wild Woodland have 2012 timetable of woodland and woodcrafts courses available on

<http://www.acreswildwoodlands.co.uk/courses/index.shtml>

Willowcraft and Woodlands is a social enterprise doing woodcrafts and woodland management based in Worcestershire. They run a number of woodland management and woodcraft courses of potential interest to woodland owners including courses on Living Willow structures, coppice management and treebog construction.

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

John Waller, Underwoodsman has an extensive programme of courses available. Lots of green woodworking, coppice management, charcoal making, living willow and introductory blacksmithing. See [http://www.underwoodsmen.co.uk/html/at\\_a\\_glance.html](http://www.underwoodsmen.co.uk/html/at_a_glance.html)

Shift Bristol are running a year long practical sustainability course as well as a seasonal programme of workshops. See <http://www.shiftbristol.org.uk/index.html> for further details.

FloraLocale run a wide range of courses of interest to woodland owners [www.floralocale.org](http://www.floralocale.org)

## Book Review: The Living Landscape by Patrick Whitefield

*Book Review: The Living Landscape: How to Read and Understand It by Patrick Whitefield*

Published by Permanent Publications [www.permaculture.co.uk](http://www.permaculture.co.uk): ISBN 978 1 85623 043 8

Patrick Whitefield is a well known author and tutor in the field of permaculture, and this book is both something different and at the same time, the foundation upon which permaculture is based. It is really invaluable if you are seeking to learn about your woods, and their place within the landscape, as well as for those who wish to understand why landscapes look the way they do, and why certain things grow in certain places.

The book is about reading the landscape, because every landscape has a tale to tell. It is about learning to read your landscape as an integrated whole, rather than as a collection of habitats, so that you can understand why things are the way they are, and thus produce a management plan that is in sympathy with, rather than in conflict with, the environment.

Starting with geology, Patrick looks at the types of rocks, and how they form landscape features such as hills, valleys and escarpments. Then he examines soils – their structure and chemistry, their type and fertility levels, how to tell what sort of soil you have using both its physical properties and also indicator plants, and how to avoid getting caught out by a plant growing out of context, and there is a useful table at the end of this chapter to get you started.



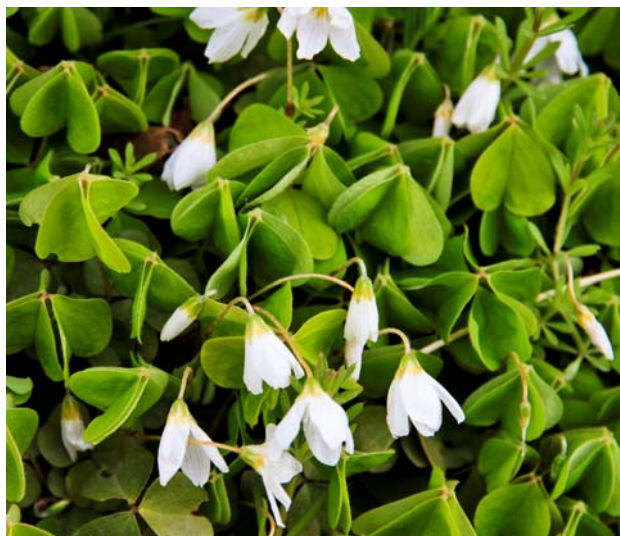
Then we move on to the climate, and in particular the microclimates that can form, even on a single site – something we have experienced for ourselves in our own wood, which has both sun pockets and frost hollows. An example shows how this can have a dramatic impact on the

growth of trees in a single site.

The history of the landscape is another very useful chapter and in particular the very close relationship between human activity and landscape, even from pre-historic times. What is clear is that many of the familiar “natural” landscapes are anything but. Heathland and moorland are semi-natural and depend on human activity, as does coppice woodland. This chapter is a gem, with many examples of maps that show the origins of the landscape in Roman and Anglo-Saxon societies. Then the medieval landscape, split into two types called “woodland” and “champion”, and how systems of strip-farming gave us the pattern of fields with ridges and furrows, and dog-leg boundaries that we often see today. We have all heard of the enclosures, but I was not aware that there were two phases of enclosure: consensual enclosure as a pragmatic response to the Black Death, and the later compulsory enclosures in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. These have different features in the landscape, and learning about the landscape surrounding your wood is a very good way to understand its origins. Patrick also deals with the differences between England and Scotland which have different landscapes with different social, as well as geological origins.

Next come two chapters on living things – wild animals and how to recognise their signs, and niches, or how plants and animals make a living. This is interesting stuff – I had never really thought of oak as a pioneer species, for example, but thinking of it in that way makes it easy to understand the problems we have with regeneration in our own woodland.

We then move on to succession: how the default status of land is woodland, and how natural succession delivers it through various phases from grassland to mature high forest. The next chapter looks at trees as individuals, before moving on to woodlands as a whole, and in particular, how to recognise which type of woodland you are in – for exam-



ple, how indicators of ancient woodland vary in different parts of the country. The chapter on How Woods Work is also a very useful read – the interplay between the soil, the aspect, the microclimate and chance occurrences such as mast years can all affect the appearance of a wood, as well as human activities including coppicing. It also deals with observing woods – how you can learn about your own wood by observing its shape, ground features, tree shapes and species of trees, shrubs and ground flora.

Moving on to grassland, Patrick then explains how grasslands work, and the different types of grasslands, their plants, and the impact of both natural factors and grazing by domestic and wild animals. Heaths and moors are then considered together, being features of lowland and highland landscapes respectively. These are semi-natural landscapes, dependent upon grazing, but also upon the climate

**Courses from The Mammal Society** – a wide variety of courses, at various venues and dates. 2012 dates now announced.

<http://tinyurl.com/69l76s7>

Courses in forthcoming months include mammal identification and radio tracking.

**Dorset Centre for Rural Skills**

Run a range of courses of interest to woodland owners including hurdlemaking and green woodworking.

<http://www.dorsetruralskills.co.uk/courses.htm>

**Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses**

Include grassland management and drystone walling. Details on.

<http://www.cotswoldsaoanb.org.uk/?page=cotswolds-rural-skills>

**Acorn Ecology** in Exeter run a range of courses including a Phase 1 habitat survey course, and courses on surveying and handling bats, otters, water voles, dormice and other protected species. They also run online ecology courses.

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

**Forest Garden Showelstrode**

Practical woodland courses and yurt camping. Upcoming courses include green woodworking, hurdle-making, beekeeping for adults and children.

[www.forestgarden.info](http://www.forestgarden.info)





and in particular water, and on the effects of burning and fire.

We then move on to water in the landscape in all its forms, including springs, rivers, ponds and lakes and bogs, before turning to hedges and other boundaries. Hedges are very interesting and important indicators of the history of the landscape, and can tell us a lot about it with older hedges tending to be more diverse. The different styles of hedge-laying are also covered, as well as the history of dry-stone walling.

Finally we move onto roads and paths and their remnants in our landscape – the linear habitats often providing a refuge for wildlife as roads are moved and the old lanes become footpaths and by-ways.



This book is a *tour de force*, and I have found it to be a great resource in understanding our own woodlands, and designing our new woodland, meadows and ponds. It is, however, worth reading from cover to cover – we may be interested in our woods, but the countryside around them tell us a lot about our woods, which cannot be seen in isolation. If you can read the landscape, know what country you are in, understand the microclimates and soil, and the implications of what is growing in it, then you are likely to manage the woods sympathetically, and put the right tree in the right place, and predict what will work and what will not. It is also a great book to read if you like to visit other woodlands, or just enjoy the British countryside with a new level of understanding.

## Upcoming Courses and Events

### Courses in Ledmore and Migdale Wood

The Woodland Trust is running courses in Ledmore and Migdale Wood. These include Moth ID, Bushcraft and Photography. If you are interested, see the web site for further details on <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/our-woods/ledmore-migdale/Pages/events.aspx?wood=4862#.T6uY2FJr58E>

### The Whole of the Animal: Making Buckskin—and other woodcraft courses

The Woodcraft School in Midhurst, West Sussex is running a course in June based upon the making of buckskin, around the principle of leaving nothing of an animal to waste. Details of this course are on <http://www.woodcraftschool.co.uk/courses/primitive-technology/the-whole-of-the-animal.html>

They are also running a flint-knapping course in July <http://www.woodcraftschool.co.uk/courses/primitive-technology/flint-knapping.html> - please also check out the wide variety of bushcraft, woodcraft and natural history courses on offer – these include a wide variety of skills and a domestic chainsaw use course.



### Course Directory from the Countryside Jobs Service

The Countryside Jobs Service provide a very good course directory online. Courses are listed according to type (short courses, long courses, distance learning), and then by subject area. A very useful resource and a great place to find a course if you are looking for one. The directory is on [http://www.countryside-jobs.com/Training/short\\_courses.htm](http://www.countryside-jobs.com/Training/short_courses.htm)

### Online Ecology Training from Acorn Ecology

Acorn Ecology have launched two online courses – in Ecology and Habitat Management—that can be studied at your own pace in your own home—useful for those of us who want to train but have difficulty getting away to attend courses. Details are on their web site at <http://www.ecologytraining.co.uk/>

## Woodland Ways

Courses can be very expensive, but Woodland Ways are offering half-day courses at £20 per person in Bedford. <http://www.woodland-ways.co.uk/world-of-bushcraft.html>

## More photography workshops at Alvecote Wood

Introduction to Photography workshops are available at Alvecote Wood on 21st July and 7th October—come and learn more about your camera, improve your photography, capture the images you always wanted to, and get your camera off the auto setting! Only £20 per day.

The Macro photography workshop in July is now fully-booked, but there is another one on 1st September—learn about how to get close to nature and capture beautiful images of the detail in insects, flowers and the natural world. £20 for a one-day workshop.



## Free Woodland Management Event

BioRegional are organising a woodland management event with the Sylva Foundation and the Forestry Commission at the National Trust's Ashridge Estate on Tuesday 19th June. Entitled "Making the most of woodlands", this is a practical workshop on woodland management planning and stakeholder engagement which aims to help you identify and realise the opportunities which exist from managing your woodlands.

It will take place at The National Trust's Ashridge Estate on Tuesday 19th June 2012, 9.30am to 3pm, lunch included. If you would like to register for your free place at either one of these events, please do so by going to the web site at <https://www.eventelephant.com/makingthemostofyourwoodlandsashridge>

## Events and Courses at Denmark Farm

If you are in West Wales and would like some great courses, Denmark Farm conservation centre may be the place to go, and some of the events are free. Upcoming events include a "Make Nature Count" course (which is free), an introduction to outdoor digital photography, identification of flowering plants, and grass, sedges and rushes, and a free Big Butterfly Count event. Details of all their courses are on the web site at <http://www.denmarkfarm.org.uk/events/>

## Events from Sussex Wildlife Trust

### Sussex Wildlife Trust: An Evening with Nightjars and Bats

Come to Buchan Country Park near Crawley and discover the wonderful world of nightjars. As dusk falls, Mike Russell from Sussex Wildlife Trust and Robin Edwards, West Sussex County Council Countryside Manager, will help you to identify these elusive nocturnal birds. We will listen out for other birds as the sun sets, while we wait for the wonderful churring of the nightjar to begin. Discover the life history and folklore surrounding this mysterious summer migrant. Learn about their breeding cycle, preferred habitat, what they eat and where they disappear to in the wintertime. There will also be an opportunity to listen to bats using a bat detector. *The evening on June 12th begins at 19:30 and ends around 22:00. Booking is essential, for further information please email [swtbookings@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:swtbookings@sussexwt.org.uk) or phone 01273 497561. Cost for Sussex Wildlife Trust members is £9, non-members £12.*

### Wildflower Courses and Walks from Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust is running three field trips to some of the best wild flower sites in West Sussex, timed to see the displays at their very best. The courses are led by Simon Curson BSc, a trained ecologist with 10 years' experience in teaching about wildlife and leading guided walks. In addition to the field trip, Simon will give tips on ID skills and show his beautifully illustrated slides. The highlight of each day will be a visit to one of the wonderful wildlife havens in West Sussex: Sunday 10 June is the ancient village meadows of Heyshott Green, near Midhurst, Sunday 21st July is the coastal flowers of Pagham Harbour, and Saturday 18th August is the delicate downland flowers of the chalk grassland at Singleton, near Chichester. *Choose one, or attend all three days. The cost for each day course is £25 for Sussex Wildlife Trust members and £35 for non-members. Booking is essential, please email [swtbookings@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:swtbookings@sussexwt.org.uk), or phone 01273 497561.*

## Damsels and Dragons

Dragonflies are among the most ancient of living creatures and from fossil records we know that these amazing insects were flying some 300 million years ago; before even dinosaurs roamed the earth. For anyone who would like to know more about the damselflies and dragonflies found in the UK: Mike Russell from Sussex Wildlife Trust will share his knowledge and enthusiasm for these fascinating creatures at Woods Mill nature reserve at Henfield. For example, did you know that dragonflies have enormous bulging eyes, and stronger more purposeful flight than the more delicate damselfly?



Mike will tell you all about the biology and habitats of the spectacular species of dragonflies and damselflies found around the UK and in Sussex. You will learn ID tips, gory details of their voracious feeding habits and, given good weather, enjoy spotting a variety of these iridescent jewels found on the nature reserve. *Join Mike on 16<sup>th</sup> June at Woods Mill, Henfield, from 10:00 until 16:00. Cost for Sussex Wildlife Trust members is £25, non-members £35. Booking is essential, for further information please email [swtbookings@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:swtbookings@sussexwt.org.uk) or phone 01273 497561.*

## Sussex Festival of Nature, Stanmer Park near Brighton – 24th June

Sussex Wildlife Trust will have a strong presence at this year's Sussex Festival of Nature, with a marquee devoted to all things wild. Why not enjoy a fantastic free family day out from 10:00 - 17:00 on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June and visit our 'Gardening for Wildlife' interactive zone with bug hunting, pond dipping, quizzes, games and lots more. Meet the Sussex Wildlife Trust marine team on their 'Tour de Fish' as they complete their 26 mile cycle into Stanmer Park from Littlehampton to raise support for marine conservation. There will be plenty of marine activities too.

The whole festival is a chance to find out about your local wildlife, enjoying hands-on activities, sample the huge variety of great tasting local produce, drink some local beer, enjoy local entertainment....and that is just the start! The event is free and there is no need to book, for more information please visit: [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk) and click the 'What's On' tab, then 'Events'.

*If you are a SWOG member and would like to feature your courses in the Newsletter, please let us know!*

## Log Piles in Bird Nesting Season



*Peter Samuel wrote to us about this important topic*

I have a log store at the back of my garage. Today I noticed that a couple of logs had fallen out. I went to replace them and further logs fell out (about six). Imagine my dismay when amongst the logs was a nest with four eggs in, a wren's. Fortunately the nest and eggs were intact and I have replaced them in the log pile. It remains to be seen if they survive.

Hence this observation not to disturb outside log stores during the nesting season.

*Good point, Peter—please be careful when moving things around during the bird nesting season. Some birds, particularly robins and wrens, will nest in the most unusual places. A wren was nesting*

*under the tarpaulin in our own field latrine until it tore in recent high winds. If in doubt, don't move your logs until the birds have fledged. It isn't just birds either—small mammals may also nest in unusual places, including behind the radiator grille on our tractor!*

## News for small woodland owners

### Lack of access to outdoors and wild spaces make development of allergy more likely in urban dwellers

A study from Finland has found significant differences in the microbial population of the skin, and the development of inflammatory and immune responses between children growing up in urban and rural areas. Another study has shown that levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, measured in urban dwellers are higher among those without access to green spaces. More evidence that access to green spaces is good for you.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17952320>

### Changes to woodland creation grants from FC

There have been changes to the Woodland Creation Grants from the Forestry Commission, which will provide additional assistance for those planting productive woodland, either broadleaved or conifer.

There will also be additional contributions for water, public access, biodiversity and PAWS restoration. For more information, please see <http://www.confor.org.uk/NewsAndEvents/News.aspx?pid=23&id=1158> and [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/EmailAlert-120404.pdf/\\$FILE/EmailAlert-120404.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/EmailAlert-120404.pdf/$FILE/EmailAlert-120404.pdf)



The Field Studies Council run a wide range of courses for individuals, families and professionals at their centres around the UK. Courses of interest to woodland owners include tree identification, woodland management and woodland ecology, and wildlife surveying and recording techniques. See their web site for details of all courses

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

#### AJS Crafts

Offer a wide range of courses covering many different woodland-related crafts. Upcoming are courses on spoon making, charcoal burning, willow basketry and sweet chestnut gates and hurdles.

<http://www.ajscrafts.co.uk/courses/CourseList.aspx>

DWWP offer a range of woodland activity and traditional woodcraft courses in Yorkshire

<http://www.dwwp.co.uk/Woodland%20Skills.aspx>

#### 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. See web site for more details.

<http://www.coastalsurvival.com/>

Permaculture Courses from Patrick Whitefield, including how to read the landscape

[http://www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk/reading\\_the\\_landscape\\_info.htm](http://www.patrickwhitefield.co.uk/reading_the_landscape_info.htm)



### Petition to save ancient and veteran trees in Wales

Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust in Wales) have launched a petition to ensure that the new single environmental body for Wales place adequate protection on ancient and veteran trees. For more information, please see <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/campaigning/our-campaigns/Pages/saveourtrees.aspx#.T6p1v1Jr58F>

### Parts of England no longer in drought

Parts of England are now no longer in drought due to record rainfall in April – but groundwater levels are still exceptionally low in some areas, and drought could return rapidly with a spell of dry weather. For the latest bulletin from the Environment Agency see [http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/45\\_Drought\\_management\\_briefing\\_11\\_May\\_12\\_final.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/45_Drought_management_briefing_11_May_12_final.pdf)

### Video about the threat to ancient woodlands from HS2

A great video from the Woodland Trust about HS2 and the threat to ancient woodlands <http://wtcampaigns.wordpress.com/2012/05/05/high-speed-2-we-need-answers/#comment-2351>

### Transport Secretary proposes “moving ancient woodlands”

Transport Secretary suggests preserving ancient woodland in the way of HS2 by “moving it to adjacent sites”. Conservation organisations have responded angrily to

this proposal, saying it demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the nature of ancient woodland. For more information, please see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-17867138>

### Tree-felling farmers face fines if they don't check the rules on deforestation

The Forestry Commission remind farmers that they must check the regulations on deforestation and tree-felling before clearing trees on their land, or they may face prosecution and fines. See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/news/16B9B2D53F1E72CDF802579F80048EC81>

### Alert over moth pest in the South

People are warned not to touch the oak processionary moth caterpillars that are now emerging as they can cause severe irritation. Inhaling the hairs can also cause breathing difficulties. For more information, please see <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/fa97f2ec59ab86108025751b004c36d8/44dc690e117108f6802579f00050f824!OpenDocument>

### Independent Forestry Panel Third Newsletter

The IFP has produced its third newsletter, which is available online. The final report due on 5<sup>th</sup> July. – Download the newsletter from <http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/2012/newsletter-3-published/>

### New Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme launched

Round 2 of the FFIS has some changes when compared to Round 1. The closing date for applications is 17<sup>th</sup> July. Forestry is one of the areas covered in this scheme. Maximum grant is £25k per business. It covers items such as forwarders, chippers, saw benches, firewood splitters, harvesters and kindling machines. You need to show you will have a market for the products. <http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/farm-and-forestry-improvement-scheme> - more info on the web site.

### BTO Release Android app to allow users to upload bird sightings

The free app can be downloaded from [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=bto.org.monitoring.birdtrack&dm\\_i=IG4.S1JL.39HI7B.2CLQO.1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=bto.org.monitoring.birdtrack&dm_i=IG4.S1JL.39HI7B.2CLQO.1) An iOS version is coming later this year.

### New Plantlife campaign for protection of road verges

Premature mowing and spraying of road verges leads to reduction in diversity, but these areas could function as a huge nature reserve if native flowers were left to flourish. Some councils have a very good policy, others mow too hard and too early. You can highlight both good and bad practice via their campaign page on <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/roadverges/>



### New free bird ID training application from Norway

This is a great application, freely available online, and in English, that allows you to learn the sights and sounds of birds, mammal tracks, and mammals interactively, with quizzes and a certificated test with a limited edition t-shirt for those who pass. Have a

**Moelyci Environmental Training Centre** offer a wide variety of courses of interest to woodland owners, including courses on Phase 1 habitat surveys, national vegetation classification and wildlife surveys. <http://www.moelyci.org> for further information.

**Monkton Wyld Court** in Dorset offer a wide range of courses in sustainable living. See <http://www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk/> for more information.

**BTCV London** are running courses on woodland management and coppicing.

<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level4/19/level>

They also run a wide range of other courses on wildlife and conservation including practical and certificated training.

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

<http://www.woodlandskills.com/#/courses/4530829941>

**Abbots Living Wood** offers a range of green woodworking courses

[http://www.livingwood.co.uk/2011\\_course\\_dates.html](http://www.livingwood.co.uk/2011_course_dates.html)

**First Responder Course** from 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 too.

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

go. I spent a while looking at the easier levels and the national level test (Level 3) as well as the Western Palearctic test (levels 4 to 6). Some are easier than others, and my seabird ID is dodgy thanks to living in the middle of the country, as far as is possible to get from the sea. Nevertheless, some useful practice, and nice to know I'm sound on woodland birds. If you want to learn more about the birds in your woods, and around the UK, then this is a great package to try. I particularly like the way it has photos of birds that are unclear, or partially obscured or from awkward angles—I find birds rarely pose just to enable you to identify them! Go to <http://www.birdid.no/index.php> for more information.



### **Badger cull in England delayed pending judicial review**

The badger cull in England has been temporarily delayed pending a judicial review sought by conservation organisations. However DEFRA are still planning to go ahead with the cull on the original schedule, starting in 2012/13 <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5jAsu5tiOaU0zOcj24IDtYJTbW9QQ?docId=N0129141337100497800A>

### **Environmental Indicators Framework for Scotland published**

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/2012/05/environmental-indicators-framework-for-scotland/>

### **Forest School offering training in multiple venues across UK**

If you would like to train as a Forest School leader, training courses are now available across the whole of the UK and you should find one near you on the Forest Schools web site.

[http://www.forestschoools.com/book-a-forest-schools-training-course-sort.php?sortcourse\\_type=Level+3&go=Submit](http://www.forestschoools.com/book-a-forest-schools-training-course-sort.php?sortcourse_type=Level+3&go=Submit)



### **Two films from ICF about how to minimise risk of spreading *phytophthora* pathogens.**

This is really useful, particularly given the rapid evolution and spread of tree diseases. Have a look at how you can protect your own woodland, and others, using these great free videos. See <http://www.charteredforesters.org/default.asp?page=32&uid=973&p=0#u973>

### **Brilliant guide to British Bees from the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS)**

Identification of bees is really important, particularly because so many species are declining or endangered as a result of a number of environmental pressures. If you are stuck, have a look at this very clear online guide— <http://www.bwars.com/index.php?q=content/bees-britain>

### **Forestry Memories**

Forestry Memories is a wonderful project to archive historic forestry-related material in Scotland, including an excellent image bank. If you would like to relive, or live for the first time, how forestry used to be practiced, then this is a great place to start. Images of horse-logging and the women of the Timber Corps in World War 2 are all up there. It makes me realise just how easy we have it in the 21st Century. See <http://forestry-memories.org.uk/>

### **DEFRA publishes biodiversity indicators for England and the rest of the UK.**

The official list of biodiversity indicators to support the Biodiversity strategy have been reduced from 26 to 24, and

progress towards the goals on these indicators have now been published for the first time. Although some progress has been made on some goals, it is sad that other key indicators are showing no change or a deterioration, including the condition of SSSI's, and populations of woodland birds in England. There are indicators for the rest of the UK too, available on the web site.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2012/05/29/publication-of-biodiversity-indicators/>



### New Lyme Disease research web site

A new web site has been launched by a new community group engaged on research into tick-borne infections, and policy issues in the UK and Ireland.

<http://lymeresearchuk.org/>

### Buzzard cull U-turn by Government

Plans to capture buzzards and kill buzzards and destroy their nests as

part of a research programme to protect young pheasants reared for release for game shooting have been abandoned after a public outcry – but there is still going to be research on the effects of buzzards on young game birds <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18262300>

### Hedgerow ID guide on Flickr

This is a really useful hedgerow ID toolkit with a Warwickshire bias. Nevertheless, it will be useful over much of the country. There are guides to hedgerow types, hedgerow identification in winter and summer, and by the fruits of the trees. And it's free! See [http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157629792452647/?dm\\_i=3WO.RDGB.3FUSSR.27PKB.1](http://www.flickr.com/photos/63075200@N07/collections/72157629792452647/?dm_i=3WO.RDGB.3FUSSR.27PKB.1)

### New FC Guidance on Management of Deadwood

Deadwood is a vital component of a properly functioning forest ecosystem. It plays an important role in sustaining biodiversity and in delivering ecosystem services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling. In the UK up to a fifth of woodland species depend on dead or dying trees for all or part of their life cycle and many of these species are rare or threatened. This Practice Guide has been written for the owners and managers of forests and woodlands who want to increase the value of their woodlands for biodiversity. It provides advice and practical guidance on managing deadwood to support sustainable forest management and the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines on Forests and Biodiversity.



See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/news1/C137AC398D121ECC80257A0E0039C8D3>—or download PDF from <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/searchpub/?SearchView&Query=%28FCPG020%29&SearchOrder=4&SearchMax=0&SearchWV=TRUE&SearchThesaurus=TRUE>

### Greenwood Centre

The Greenwood Centre offers a wide range of woodland management and wood craft courses the whole year round. Based in Shropshire.

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

### Black Country Living Landscape –

courses including wild-flower plug planting and rustic fence-building [http://www.bcll.org.uk/whats\\_happening/events.html](http://www.bcll.org.uk/whats_happening/events.html)

### The Bulworthy Project

These SWOG members offer a range of courses to suit your own needs on the subject of charcoal burning.

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

### Greenwood Days

Offer courses to public and corporate groups on green woodworking and a wide range of creative arts in Leicestershire

<http://www.greenwood-days.co.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. Bushcraft courses and Family Holidays. [www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk](http://www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk) or 01745710626

### Mark Fisher Art

Woodland-based art days for all abilities

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

## Reports from recent SWOG Meetings

*Rich writes about the meeting in Hendall wood in April 2012*

The SWOG meeting at Hendall last month was well attended and despite the appalling weather which was around us at the time, we somehow managed to stay reasonably dry! A well positioned tarp and make shift Tea room proved to be in exactly the right place at the right time when the heavens opened to a torrential hail storm.

The day started with a demonstration of the 'Iron Horse'. This is the method of extraction which Iain Turner, woodland manager to the Fern's section of Hendall wood favours. It is a caterpillar tracked vehicle which despite it's size, leaves very little disturbance to the ground and so is ideal for the narrow, undulating and tightly turning tracks of this woodland.

Duncan then demonstrated his brush cutter, for ride and glade maintenance this is a real help as it will chew brambles and thick brush with ease.

It wasn't just SWOG members that came along, a cheeky Roe Deer was checking us out and finding out what all the fuss was about! As was the resident owl!

Duncan then took us to the site of an old iron bloomery. Nothing of the bloomery remains apart from copious amounts of slag covering the ground. This area would once have been an important part of the high weald iron industry, these furnaces would have been fuelled with charcoal made from the hornbeam which would once have been the predominant species of the woodland. It was only later during the 1800's that the chestnut would have been planted to supply poles and fencing to the local farmers and hop growing industry in East Sussex and Kent.



We then crossed the Ghyll into the northern spur of the wood which Penny and I have been managing for the last few years. Deer surround us here on the edge of Ashdown Forest in near plague proportions. Temporary tenax deer fencing is really only a deterrent as if they are determined and hungry enough, they will eventually force their way in, either under or over. I have been getting more proactive in my defences each year. It's quite depressing to have all your lovely new coppice regrowth turned into a shrubbery. Instead of burning the brash for this cant, I piled it all up on the outside of the Tenax netting. This seems to have worked quite well, as they can not get under the netting, nor get close enough to jump it. I've also made some rudimentary defences

over the tops of the gates which helps deter them from jumping them.

I didn't quite get the chestnut bridge finished on time, but we only lost three members to the trolls which have taken up residence beneath it! An 8 foot castellated cleft chestnut fence keeps deer out of Penny's rose garden!

I've also been going to some effort managing some of the chestnut regrowth in this cant. Selecting the stronger straighter poles and brashing off the side branches. I'm thinking it would be good plan to cut these on a shorter 4





or 5 year rotation and use them for walking sticks or yurt and tipi poles. It's got to be easier than lugging around 8 foot gate posts! I've also been layering over any lateral shoots to try and raise the density a bit.

Thanks to everyone who came along and made the meeting a success, and especially to Sheila who couldn't make it around the wood, but was honorary tea lady and spoon carving exhibitor.

There are lot more pictures on the web site, so please have a look at <http://www.swog.org.uk/articles/swog-meeting-at-hendall/>

*And Dan writes about the meeting in Ferriby Wood, Yorkshire...*

On a beautifully hot and sunny May day, Mike welcomed a group of existing and potential woodland owners to Ferriby Wood, in the Yorkshire Wolds. The purpose of the gathering was to share experiences of woodland ownership. Folks met at his clearing where a fire was burning and the kettle was on. After a cup of tea and an introductory chat, we set off on a guided tour.

Mike showed us how he has been managing his woodland in the five years since he bought it, looking first at a small section of coppiced ash. He explained that he has been selling the poles to his local allotment association for use as bean poles, the ash he had coppiced will regrow to produce more bean poles in the coming years. Some poles had been left uncut to grow on and form standard trees. One area was left untouched and we could all see how densely the ash was growing before his work had begun.



The majority of Mike's woodland was planted about 20 years ago with beech and also a small number of oak and cherry. The long term plan for the woodland involves encouraging the oak to develop, so some clearing has taken place to allow more light in.



Growing in a wide strip along the northeastern boundary are some very large beech trees beneath which we found many deer beds, but the most puzzling thing we saw were quite literally hundreds of snails ascending one particular beech tree: Can anyone think of any reason this is happening?

Back at the campfire Mike rustled up another round of teas (whilst we all put forward our thoughts on the question of climbing snails), Mike impressed all his guests with a demonstration in the use of his chainsaw logging device to conclude a most enjoyable gathering.

Thanks to Mike for his hospitality, laying on teas and bacon butties. Ferriby is a lovely woodland to visit and it was great to meet all those who attended.

For more photos, please see the blogs at [woodlands.co.uk](http://www.woodlands.co.uk)—<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/a-swog-visit-to-ferriby-wood/>

## Forthcoming SWOG Events

### Note from Tracy

If you do book a place, please actually turn up! We have rather a large number of 'no shows' at meetings which is very disheartening for those running them and means that others might have been able to go in your place.

### SWOG Meeting Rainham, Kent, 17th June 2012

We're really sorry, but this one has been cancelled. Andy has his hands full hand-rearing an orphaned alpaca. We hope to rearrange this when things settle down a bit.

### SWOG Meeting at the Bulworthy Project—Date TBC probably August 11th

Pete and Anna at the Bulworthy project have kindly offered to host a meeting at their site in Devon. Full details to follow, but it is likely to be in August possibly the 11th, to register an interest, please email [tracy@woodlands.co.uk](mailto:tracy@woodlands.co.uk)



This would be a great meeting to attend if you're interested in Charcoal making, check out their website for more details of the project [www.bulworthyproject.org.uk](http://www.bulworthyproject.org.uk)

## New Look Forum now online..

On 29th May 2012, a new look forum was launched, with lots of new features. Posts on the old forum are being imported into the appropriate area of the new forum, so we won't lose any of the valuable information that they contain. However you will now be able to post pictures onto the forum, or link to photos on photo-sharing sites such as Flickr and Photobucket.

Rich, who runs our web site says "Anyone who is already a registered user should be able to reset their password. Just log in as

normal and follow the instructions carefully, you will need to remember which email address you registered with originally. We are all looking forward to using this new board, but please read the 'Announcements' and Rules and Etiquette section before putting up any posts. Also please leave your thoughts on the 'Feedback and suggestions' section."

The newly-organised forum should make it much easier to follow what is going on, promote events in your woods, look for advice on specific topics and help members get in touch with each other. Please do have a look. If you haven't registered yet, then give it a try!

Small Woodland Owners' Group

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User Control Panel | a new message | View your posts

FAQ | Members | Logout [Rich]

It is currently Tue, 29 May 2012, 18:49  
[Moderator Control Panel]

Last visit was: Tue, 29 May 2012, 18:07

View unanswered posts | View unread posts | View new posts | View active topics

Mark forums read

	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
Announcements - PLEASE READ before posting	1	1	by Rich G Tue, 29 May 2012, 17:48
Rules and Etiquette - PLEASE READ before posting	1	1	by Rich G Tue, 29 May 2012, 17:44
Guidelines for Newcomers and Technophobes	0	0	No posts
Feedback and suggestions	0	0	No posts

## Woodfairs in 2012

Woodfairs are underway, so here are the dates for your diaries. More information is available on [woodfairs.co.uk](http://woodfairs.co.uk)

### Woodfairs in Scotland

**Royal Highland Show**  
Edinburgh  
21st - 24th June 2012  
<http://www.royalhighlandshow.org/visitors/tickets>

**Peebles Wood Market**  
21st and 22nd October 2012  
Tweed Valley  
<http://www.peebleswoodmarket.co.uk/>

### Woodfairs in Wales

Dates for 2012 yet to be confirmed, please check [woodfairs.co.uk](http://woodfairs.co.uk) for more information.

### Woodfairs in England

**Live crafts and festival of woods**  
Nr Reading, Berkshire  
Variety of dates through the year.  
[http://www.livecraftslimited.co.uk/live\\_crafts.html](http://www.livecraftslimited.co.uk/live_crafts.html)

**Blackdown Hills Woodfair**  
7th July 2012  
Park Farm near Wellington  
<http://www.woodbiz.co.uk/freepage.asp?ID=9>

**Great Yorkshire show**  
Harrogate  
10th - 12th July 2012  
<http://www.greatyorkshireshow.com/html/home/>

**The Arb and Forestry Event**  
13- 14th July 2012  
Shipbourne, Kent  
<http://www.frjonesandson.co.uk/show/>

**South Downs Woodfair**  
21st and 22nd July 2012  
Queen Elizabeth Country park, South Downs National Park  
<http://www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk/woodfair.html>

**New Forest and Hampshire County Show**  
Brockenhurst, Hampshire



24th - 26th July 2012  
<http://www.newforestshow.co.uk/index.htm>

**National Forest Woodfair**  
26 and 27 August 2012  
Beacon Hill Country Park,  
Leicestershire  
<http://www.leics.gov.uk/woodfair>

**Stock Gaylard Estate Oak Fair**  
Near Sturminster Newton, Dorset  
Saturday 25th August 2012  
<http://www.stockgaylard.com/oak-fair/oak-fair-at-stock-gaylard.html>

**Festival of the Tree, Westonbirt**  
Treefest  
25th - 27th August 2012  
Venue - Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury Gloucestershire, GL8 8QS  
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt>

**Woodworks**  
1st and 2nd September 2012  
Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park  
Marston Mortaine  
Bedfordshire  
MK43 0PR  
<http://www.marstonvale.org/woodworks/>



**Lincolnshire Firewood fair and auction**  
Revesby Estate, Lincolnshire  
2nd September 2012  
<http://www.lincolnshirefirewoodfair.co.uk/>

**Wychwood Forest Fair**  
Sunday 2nd September 2012  
<http://www.wychwoodproject.org/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Wychwood/Events/Forest+Fair/>

**APF 2012**  
Ragley Estate, Alcester, Warwickshire  
13th - 15th Sept 2012  
<http://www.apfexhibition.co.uk/>

**Wild about Wood**  
15th and 16th September 2012

Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, Kew  
<http://www.wildaboutwood.org/>

#### **Bentley Weald Woodfair**

21st - 23rd September 2012  
 Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum, Halland, near  
 Lewes, East Sussex  
 BN8 5AF  
<http://www.bentley.org.uk/#/woodfair/4525168793>

#### **European Woodworking Show**

Saturday 22 September 10am-5pm  
 Sunday 23 September 10am-4pm  
 at Cressing Temple Barns, Nr Braintree, Essex  
[www.europeanwoodworkingshow.eu](http://www.europeanwoodworkingshow.eu)

#### **Derbyshire County Council Woodland Festival**

22nd and 23rd September 2012  
 Elvaston Castle Country Park, Borrowash Road, El-  
 vaston, Derby. DE72 3EP  
 10am - 5pm  
 08 456 058 058  
[countrysideservice@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideservice@derbyshire.gov.uk)

#### **Ickworth House Suffolk, woodfair**

6th and 7th October 2012  
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ickworth>

#### **Surrey Hills woodfair**

6th and 7th October  
 Birtley House, Bramley, Guildford, GU5 0LB



## On the blogs at woodlands.co.uk and woodlandsTV

*These are the latest blogs from Woodlands.co.uk and videos on woodlandsTV. Please have a look and comment upon them, as they make very interesting reading.*

#### **Containers in woodlands: forest stores and shelters ~ by Angus**

Need somewhere to store your stuff securely at the woods? A shipping container might be the answer. Angus writes about how these can be sited, disguised and used as a basis for a temporary shelter.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/containers-in-woodlands-forest-stores-and-shelters/>

#### **The NHM Bluebell Survey – update ~ by Chris**

The Natural History Museum has been running a blue-



bell survey for a number of years. Find out more about the survey, and about how you can tell the difference between native bluebells, Spanish bluebells and hybrids...

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/flora-and-fauna/the-nhm-bluebell-survey-update/>

#### **Greenridge – my wood. ~ by Graham H**

Graham writes a lovely article about how his dream of owning a woodland in Northumberland became a reality. This is a great story, well worth a read.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/greenridge-my-wood/>

#### **Trees of Britain and Ireland – a celebration of trees. ~ by Lewis**

This book was reviewed in a previous edition of this



newsletter, and now Lewis reviews it on the blog. I think we have come to pretty much the same conclusion—it is a great book.

<http://>

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/a-swog-visit-to-ferriby-wood/>

### Supercharging your Fire-Pit

*There are no new videos on woodlands.co.uk this month, but Mike Pepler has posted a great video on his blog about a simple technique for improving air flow to your fire pit*

<http://peplers.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/super-charged-fire-pit-video.html>



[www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/reviews-puzzles/trees-of-britain-and-ireland-a-celebration-of-trees/](http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/reviews-puzzles/trees-of-britain-and-ireland-a-celebration-of-trees/)

### French Forestry ~ by Angus

Vive la difference! Or maybe not... Angus writes a really interesting article about how the French do their forestry. Not only is there a lot more of it, but ownership is different (more is privately-owned), and more is deciduous. A really interesting blog post, well worth a read.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/french-forestry/>

### A 'SWOG' visit to Ferriby Wood ~ by Dan

Dan writes about the SWOG visit to Ferriby Wood (also covered on page 17 of this newsletter).

## Contributions Welcome!

We very much value your contributions to the SWOG Newsletter—please keep them coming!

We would love to have more of your photos, book reviews, equipment reviews, tales of days spent in your woodlands, reviews of courses or meetings you have attended, and creative writing too.

Do you run events in your own woods? Tell us about them, and we can mention them in the SWOG Newsletter. Have you attended any courses or events recently? Please report your experiences to us as we would love to have information about the wide range of courses and events that go on all the time.

Do you have any suggestions? It is your newsletter, so please tell us what you would like to see.

Please send contributions to [sarah@swog.org.uk](mailto:sarah@swog.org.uk). Thank you.



## On the SWOG Forum

Newsletter - June  
2012

### 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)

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*Please bear with me if I've missed anything—we've just changed over to the new forum, and posts are being imported and shuffled around as I write. These are the highlights from the past month..*

**Greyman** posted a link to another web site about Lyme Disease, now we are in tick bite season—<http://www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk/>

**Actias4** changed his name, after a bit of discussion. He is a breeder of silk moths and is looking for woods in the South East where he can cut rhododendron for feeding the caterpillars. Can you help?

**Naturalworks**, a collective of sustainable builders, foresters and land managers, introduced themselves. They specialise in roundwood timber construction. If you are interested, catch up with them on the forum.

**The Bulworthy Project** introduced a new web site promoting local Devon charcoal. [www.devoncharcoal.co.uk](http://www.devoncharcoal.co.uk). **Markeig31** recommends them!

**Heartwood** is offering timber extraction services in Kent. It seems lots of members are looking for services like this, particularly the low-impact services he is offering, so if you are interested, have a look at the forum and get in touch.

**Woodman** is looking for woodland to manage for sustainable shooting, and is prepared to contribute in exchange for this. If you are interested, please contact him via the forum.

**Max.lawless** is starting a course in forestry and arboriculture in Derby and looking for unpaid work in the area. Can you help?

**Nomadcelt** is also offering shooting services, this time in Hampshire. Interested? See the forum.

**We have a new For Sale/Swap/Share/ GiveAway board**, and **Emma S** is looking for woodchip for her farm. Rich posted a caution about ensuring the chip comes from non-infected sources. Can you help?

**Docsquid** has a couple of canon-fit SLR lenses for sale (*that's me, Sarah, the editor of this newsletter!*)

**TobyAllen** posted about a new web site for sale of parcels of timber, and machinery. Called logshed.co.uk, it might prove useful for small woodland owners looking to buy or market small quantities of timber.

**Hobby** told us about his new Husky346xp chainsaw which has transformed the way he sees hornbeam. "I can now look on at the hornbeam as just another source of fire wood instead of a chain eating,back breaking,time eating foe. Walking through the woods, the sighs of relief from the Birch, Aspen and Ash are deafening !!"

**Rich** mentioned that Mike Pepler has posted a write-up of his Logosol mill on his blog <http://peplers.blogspot.co.uk/2012/04/trying-out-logosol-big-mill-timberjig.html>

Richard King mentioned that Rutlands have a Jubilee tool sale with 14% off everything. Editor's note: *I'd better not tell Stephen about this one...!* <https://www.rutlands.co.uk/>

*If you are new to the forum, please read the announcements at the top, information about forum etiquette and a very good guide on how to use the forum for newcomers and technophobes. If you are having trouble registering for the forum, please bear with Rich and the other moderators. Lots of spam-bots try to register, and so applications have to be manually approved at the moment.*

