



In the Newsletter this Month

How can woodland owners work with neighbours for the benefit of wildlife, particularly if we only own a small piece of land? In this newsletter, I have outlined what we have done to work with our own neighbouring landowners to try and make a bigger difference than would be possible working alone.

There is also an analysis of the Independent Forestry Panel report, published on 4th July, and its implications for small woodland owners, and forestry in England.

Woodland owners are also asked to take part in a woodland survey by the Sylva Foundation—please have a look, it will only take a few minutes of your time.

There is plenty of news this month too. All woodland owners are asked to be aware of a new disease affecting Ash trees, as well as remaining vigilant for signs of Phytophthora and Asian Longhorn Beetle.

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There is still just time to take part in the Big Butterfly Count which finishes on 5th August—just 15 minutes is needed of your time to count butterflies in your woods or gardens, and submit your records.

There are still lots of woodfairs happening during August—we'd love to hear from you if you have attended any of them. Do share your experiences as an exhibitor or attendee. There is also a special offer for SWOG members attending the Weald Woodfair—please e-mail tracy@woodlands.co.uk if you would like a voucher, with the names of all SWOG members attending.

If you have any events coming up in your woods, if you are running any courses in the Autumn, or if you have anything else you would like to share, *please keep the contributions coming!* The next edition of this newsletter will be produced at the end of September.

Sarah Walters (sarah@swog.org.uk)

Working together for wildlife—by Sarah



A lot of us own small woods, often part of a larger plot of woodland. It is sometimes difficult to know how best to manage the woodland, particularly if one of your main objectives is to improve the woodland as a habitat for wildlife, since our own actions need to be set in the context of the surrounding land.

A problem with focusing on our own piece of land, without considering the surrounding woodland, hedgerows, farmland, heath, moorland and other habitats is that we might try to do too much – try to do a little bit of everything in our woods, when in reality we need to see those woods in context. We may create rides, glades, coppice and other habitats, but if these habitats are already locally common, and high forest is locally rare, then we may improve the diversity of our woodland at the risk of reducing the resilience of the remain-

ing high forest habitat.

The initial advice given to us to fell some of our large trees and create space didn't really seem right – we DID need to restore an over-stood coppice which was of low value for wildlife, but there is already plenty of open space in the area. Likewise, we needed wildflower meadows in our new woodland, as there are precious few



wildflowers in the area, so we wanted to ensure management of the open space between the trees to achieve that. We have also restored an area of poor grassland in a clearing in our woods to better meadow, without disturbing the large trees which are characteristic of our own wood, one of the only pieces of ASNW in the area.

Connectivity is vital for many species, many of which do not migrate large distances to colonise new areas, or to find new habitat when an existing one is destroyed, intentionally or unintentionally. This underpins the principles of the Lawton Report which advocates a landscape-scale approach. For years we have been doing conservation by focusing on individual species or groups of organisms, concentrating on reserves. But this hasn't worked – we are still losing species, other species are still in decline, and even those protected areas are not always in good condition. So we need to think differently about wildlife conservation, seeing things at the landscape scale, rather than at the level of individual species, reserves or plots of land.

Doing this isn't easy, particularly if you are only one of the minor players in the system. There are often multiple different organisations and individuals owning land. Multiple NGO's may have different objectives for their land, as may the local Councils, Environment Agency, Canal and River Trust (British Waterways), and the Forestry Commission and Natural England. The latter offer grants to landowners, but don't always work together effectively to ensure that stewardship schemes mesh well with woodland grant schemes and vice versa.

So we found ourselves with our own wood: 11 acres of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW), a 9-acre field with a newly-created woodland, meadow and ponds – viewed as amateur tree-huggers, at least initially, by our neighbours. We are not part of a larger woodland, and our neighbours are multiple: a small snippet of ancient woodland and hedgerow and a field managed in stewardship by one farmer, a SSSI managed by the Wildlife Trust and County Council, together with a local fishing club, pieces of land owned by the District Council, the Abbey and the Canal and River Trust. A canal and river going through the whole area. Another wildlife reserve (a different Wildlife Trust) nearby. Multiple farmers with multiple different stewardship schemes and management techniques in between. The Environment Agency striving to improve river quality and



manage flooding on the extensive and frequently-flooded river valley. It is all very fragmented. So how could we manage our wood, so that it fits in well with the environment, and get conservation going along a corridor on a landscape scale? And

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>

is that our job anyway?

After years of talking to different agencies, we finally got together a meeting at the visitor centre in our local Country Park. It soon became clear just how much we could achieve by working together. There were a couple of immediate instances of benefit: the Canal and River Trust were developing an area immediately adjacent to that of the District Council – easy to make this into one, lovely, large area for wildlife and people to share. Likewise, the District Council were planning a riverside walk adjacent to where the Environment Agency were looking to remove a weir and improve fish migration. It also became clear that the area we could work on could be quite large – a corridor over 10 miles long.



There are lots of barriers: we need to identify landowners (not easy – we have to do this by word-of-mouth with farmers), not everybody will want to participate, there is actually no more money attached to the scheme (although this could change in future). But there are lots of opportunities: for example the higher level stewardship schemes could encourage farmers along a particular path that would improve resilience across the whole area. Likewise, tree-planting can be encouraged by several organisations and this will help with flood mitigation and riverside wildlife, particularly now regulations are easing on tree planting in flood plains and on removal of all trees overhanging rivers. We can also work together on removal of invasive non-native species, particularly mink, so that water voles can be encouraged back into the area. We can even share expertise, training and equipment.

We came away from the meeting with a bunch of work to do, but lots of good feeling. We need to build on that now...and involve a wider group of people. It will be a long road, but we hope this will eventually produce a corridor that is much more resilient for wildlife, and connects with other initiatives in the Central Rivers area.

You don't have to work on a huge scale – just getting to know your local neighbours (be they woodland, farm owners, companies, Councils or NGO's) is really worthwhile. Then you can think about what best to do together – no point in creating coppice if you have nothing suitable in your holding, but your neighbours already have over-wooded coppice ripe for restoration. No point in creating ponds if your woodland isn't suitable, but a neighbouring piece of land is perfect for it. Likewise, no point your neighbour reluctantly undertaking coppicing if you are going to do this for production of wood. Working together can be beneficial, even if it isn't just for wildlife—sharing resources and helping each other out can help everybody to make the most of their woodland, whether you own it for production of wood, running courses, for the family and friends, for wildlife or as an investment for the future.

However, working together is *really* important for wildlife. Woodland owners are custodians of a dwindling resource, and we owe it to that resource to do our best for it while we it is in our charge. Whatever your objective for your woodland, I'd say getting to know your neighbours is a really good thing.

Getting in touch with woodland neighbours

For those of you who bought your woodland through Woodlands.co.uk, and would like to get to know your woodland neighbours, Tracy has a message.

“As some of you know, we are hoping to put more woodland owners in touch with their woodland neighbours. Being in contact with neighbouring owners has a number of potential advantages:

Sharing the joy of the woodland, wildlife etc

Sharing ideas and equipment for management.

The FC loves it and are more likely to have the time to help multiple owners at one time.

Increased security and communication.

New friendships!

You might like to set up a google group or your own website. You might also like to have a new and separate email

address which is the one you give to other owners. Please let me know, yes or no, if I may share your email address with the other owners in your woodland. It is obviously entirely up to you!

If you do wish to be in touch with your immediate woodland owners/ neighbours, please send me :

the name of the main woodland of which you own a part

The name of your woodland

The owners names (you)

and the email address you wish to share.

Or you could use the forum on the website to look for your woodland neighbours. Don't put your email address in the message, just ask people to PM (personal message you) if they wish to get in touch.

I will collate the information and send you your list of addresses during August"

Please send your information to tracy@woodlands.co.uk

Independent Forestry Panel Report



On 4th July, the Independent Forestry Panel published their final report into the future of forestry in England (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/reports/>). Although it was initiated in response to the public outcry at plans to sell off a large proportion of the public forest estate (PFE), it is of great interest to everybody who owns, manages, works in or enjoys woodland. So, from the perspective of somebody who owns and manages a woodland for wildlife, as well as somebody who loves trees and woodlands, and somebody who cares about the future of our precious woodlands and the ecosystems they support, what is good, and what is not so good about the report?

First of all, I would like to say that I think this is an excellent report. The Panel appear to have taken account of all the visits they made, people they talked to, and submissions they received. If implemented, there is no doubt that the state of our woodlands would improve enormously – safeguarding public forests for the nation, providing help and support to improve management of existing forests, providing support for planting of new woodlands where they can best be enjoyed by people, and make the greatest difference for nature, and supporting the wood industry as well as other enterprises based in and around woodlands.

Woodlands and forests provide so many benefits, and it is clear that people care about them. What this report makes clear is just how important these benefits are, how we have not recognised them in the past, and just how much it would cost to accrue these benefits in other ways, even were it possible to do this. Forests, and their benefits, have been significantly under-valued, and under-invested in, and yet provide an excellent return in terms of environmental and ecosystem benefits, leisure and tourism, physical and mental health, connection with nature, as well as the more obvious benefits of carbon dioxide reduction, and provision of wood as fuel and for construction.

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 September 2012 can be seen at

<http://www.rfs.org.uk/event/2012/09/01/month/all/all/1>

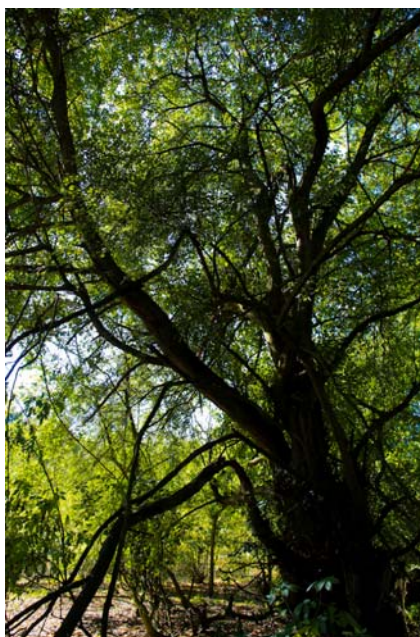
Bat Conservation Trust

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

This report envisages an expanded role of two divisions of the Forestry Commission – Forest Services, and a new body to replace Forest Enterprise. The new Forest Services would be tasked with providing advice proactively for all woodland owners on how their woods can be managed in light of their own objectives for the wood. Considering many woodlands are under-managed, or un-managed, this will be very helpful, particularly if the advice considers the contribution the woodland can make to the ecosystem as a whole, as well as support to help the owners achieve a good outcome – be it support for increased public access, visitor centres, small enterprises or small scale extraction of timber to local markets. At present, these are activities are frequently loss-making, or not supported by local planning authorities.



Public forests would be managed by a new Forest Enterprise, which will be overseen by Guardians, and in turn will be put in trust for the nation under a Charter. The new FE will still have the ability to buy and sell forestry land, but this will be a controlled process, rather than a short-term stop-gap to balance the books thanks to under-investment by the Government. A more strategic viewpoint on management, on forestry cycles, rather than Parliamentary cycles, is a great move – none of us own woodlands, but are simply their guardians, as they have outlived generations of humans.

Woodland creation should be targeted to areas of greatest benefit for the environment (to improve connectivity of habitats), and for people (nearer to where they live, rather than small, random, inaccessible farm woodlands).

Best of all, it is recommended that all children have woodland education sessions as part of their education, with the aim of connecting children to nature.

The main areas of concern that I have are around the protection afforded to Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and how the Guardians are appointed and operate.

I think this report has missed an opportunity to secure high-level protection for ASNW (and plantations on ancient sites, or PAWS). Although protection through the planning system is recommended, the report stops short of recommending that all ASNW gets *de facto* SSSI status. This is a shame. It leaves the door open to developments where the benefits outweigh the costs, a system which can be exploited by those with powerful interests and good lawyers, even when local planning authorities and local plans wish to retain ASNW. Thus further loss of this irreplaceable habitat, is not guaranteed.

The other area of concern I have relates to the Guardians of the public forest estate. They will have a powerful role, overseeing the work of FE, and in particular, acquisitions and sales of public woodland, and permissions for other organisations, including private enterprise and NGOs, to manage the woodland on behalf of the public. Who will be the Guardians? How will they be appointed or elected and how can we ensure that these same Guardians do not act in self-interest, particularly if they come from the same pri-

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/

vate and third-sector organisations that stand to benefit from purchases, sales, and management contracts? Parliament, and its Committees and Members, can come under huge pressure from those with vested interests. It will be important to see that this group are accountable, and that their interests and those of their work do not conflict.

What about small woodland owners?

Right through the report, there is explicit acknowledgement that a majority of woods are currently owned by private owners of small woodland plots. I hope that this report will result in real support for small woodland owners, including provision of advice, regardless of whether those owners are applying for woodland management grants or not. The type of support I would most like to see will come in the form of expertise, helping small woodland owners to fit in with the larger picture at landscape level. Public access will not be improved if there is no support for security, staffing, and most of all, paying public liability insurance, which can amount to many thousands of pounds a year if woodlands are accessible to the public and particularly children. Management will not be improved if there is no support for harvesting of wood and its extraction, and this requires development of new local markets. The principle of “wood first” in construction is advocated, but unless local wood is available at appropriate prices, there is a risk that this wood will be imported and an opportunity lost. Wildlife habitats will not improve if the wrong trees are planted in the wrong place, and a single system of management is enforced across all woodlands – some woods may be best left alone, others need a lot of work, and the advice given by FS needs to reflect that. Woodland owners will not work with schools if it costs them money to do so – the health and safety culture makes this difficult, even for those who are willing to encourage school visits. Woodland owners will not be able to improve the facilities offered at their woods, or undertake active management if there is no funding or planning support for improved access, or when planning authorities consistently refuse reasonable requests for tool sheds, shelters, visitor centres, eco-camping and temporary or low-impact accommodation for workers managing woodland sustainably. Better management of woodland can be achieved by many small woodland owners, but only if they receive support for their work—be it development of a small business based around the wood, or part-time management for wildlife, leisure and pleasure. More worryingly, the new FS and FE will not be able to undertake the role envisaged for them if funding and staff are cut and facilities withdrawn (which has already happened in some areas).

Most of all, nothing will happen if the Government does not commit to funding, and to making the recommendations of this report a reality, which may require legislation. We need to hold them to it. We need to make it happen.

Other Reactions to IFP Report

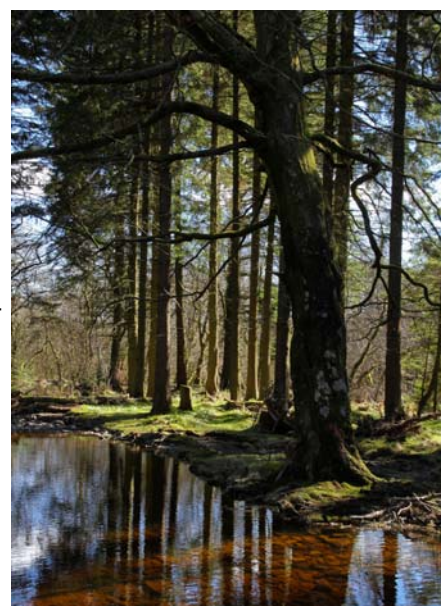
Report from first Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder meeting was held in London shortly after the IFP was released, attended by the Secretary of State for the Environment, and a report of that meeting can be seen here: an interesting analysis of what is likely to happen next, and which elements of the report are likely to be implemented- <http://saveourwoods.co.uk/articles/opinion/thoughts-after-the-forest-panel-stakeholder-meeting/>

Royal Forestry Society Response

“The Royal Forestry Society warmly welcomes the Final report of the Independent Panel on Forestry and congratulates the Panel on a thorough and comprehensive analysis of English forestry and for providing imaginative and practical recommendations for the future of the industry.

“The RFS is delighted that the Panel proposes an expanded continuing role for the Public Forest Estate in trusteeship



for the nation, and a greatly enhanced role for Forest Services, formerly the Forest Authority arm of the Forestry Commission, as well as a substantial increase in the forest area in England from 10% to 15% by 2060.

“As an educational charity concerned with all levels of forestry learning the RFS is pleased with the recognition that education and training will need to be at the heart of the forest industry, not only for woodland professionals and owners but also to enhance the appreciation and enjoyment of our national woodlands by all.”

“The RFS looks forward to working with the forestry authorities in implementing the recommendations in the report.”

Upcoming Courses and Events

SWOG Meeting—The Bulworthy Project

Don't forget this meeting is coming up on 11th August! Pete and Anna at the Bulworthy project have kindly offered to host a meeting at their site in Devon on 11th August. To register an interest, please email 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

Pete and Anna
Bulworthy Project
www.bulworthyproject.org.uk

<http://www.swog.org.uk/swog-events/swog-meeting-at-the-bulworthy-project-in-devon/>



Useful online short course directory

There is a very useful short-course directory online at [Countryside-jobs.com](http://www.countryside-jobs.com). Divided into categories, this guide makes it easy to find courses of interest locally. Obviously the site also advertises jobs in the countryside industries, including forestry. For the Countryside Crafts section of the directory, see http://www.countryside-jobs.com/Training/short_craft.htm and for other countryside management courses, including woodland management, see http://www.countryside-jobs.com/Training/short_cons.htm

Introduction to Timber Measuring Course

Available from Heartwoods, in association with the Smallwoods Centre, 20/21st September 2012 at Harper Adams College, Shropshire. Two-day course, £60 for both days, or £30 per day. Covers basic timber measuring skills, as well as tariffing. If you are interested, please contact 01952 432769 or email info@heartwoods.co.uk.

Hedgelaying and Dry-Stone Walling

Two courses on offer from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Dry Stone Walling course runs on 15/16th September 2012 at Thorswood Nature Reserve, DE6 2BY. Suitable for beginners, the course costs £40. The second course, Hedgelaying, will run on 18th November at Tittesworth Reservoir, near Leek (ST13 8SN), price £40 for the day. To book either course, please contact Shelley Arnold at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on s.arnold@staffs-wildlife.org.uk

Courses at Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve

Staffordshire Wildlife

Trust – Forest Schools/Delivering the Curriculum Outdoors, a full range of courses for those working with children in their woods, plus other courses for 2012

<http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/page/training-courses>

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

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>

There are a number of interesting courses coming up at this reserve in Flintshire—including Moss and Fern Identification (8th August), Moth ID and Ecology Course (18th August), and a Traditional Skills Weekend (15/16th September). See the web site (<http://www.newwildlife.org.uk/>) for further details.

Assessing Trees for Bats

From the Species Recovery Trust, this course runs in Abinger, Surrey on 8th November. If you are interested, please see the web site at <http://www.speciesrecoverytrust.org.uk/Events.html>

Interested in sustainable building?

Pines Calyx run a number of courses around sustainable and low carbon building, including retro-fit to existing dwellings. See <http://courses.pinescalyx.co.uk/> - other practical eco courses are also on offer from their partner, Rippledawn, including clay plastering, straw bale building and wild writing <http://rippledawn.com/eco-courses-kent/>

Autumn Courses from Malvern Coppicing

Week in the woods. 10-14th September 2012

It is for anyone who has no experience of woodland management or for students who are interested in traditional woodlands and their management and are considering this as a potential career path, and would like to gain more practical experience.

It is an introduction to coppicing and all aspects of traditional woodland management. The courses are based around my woodland workshop where there is the opportunity to use my shaving horses and other equipment during the week.

The week in the woods will be used to select someone to become my Coppicing trainee during the next coppicing season.

2 day coppicing courses

15-16th September, A couple of places are still available.

20-21st October,

10-11 November

The two day coppicing courses I run are an introduction to coppicing. They are a mixture of theory sessions which include tree identification but mainly practical sessions.

The training courses start with a walk through the woods looking at various compartments that have been coppiced over the last twelve years, over-stood coppice, and some coniferous blocks. The benefits of coppicing, ring barking and the importance of glades and rides are shown. We look at the differences between native deciduous woodland and conifer habitats and learning tree ID.

Aspects covered on the course include planning the work area, looking at various devices, building work breaks and stacks.

One day coppicing course 5th September

The one day coppicing courses I run are an introduction to coppicing for woodland owners, volunteers and novices who have no experience of coppicing and are interested in traditional woodlands and their management and would like to gain more practical knowledge. There is a maximum of 6 people on each course.

For more information on my course, individual tuition and a full list of my courses visit www.malverncoppicing.co.uk

Summer meetings from RFS

Wednesday 15 August. Our Gloucestershire members have organised a day at Bigsweir Estate, St Briavels to look at Woodland Management in the Wye Valley AONB. Contact Anna Jones on 01452 413561; anna@anna-jones.co.uk. **Thursday 23 August.** As a new departure, Notts & Lincs members can enjoy an evening walk! They plan to meet at 6.30

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.underwoodsman.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

at the Massingberd Arms in South Ormsby before an hour and a half's walk through some of the South Ormsby Estate's fantastic woodland with one or two discussion stops on the way. By kind permission of Adrian Massingberd-Mundy. Ask local RFS secretary William Price if you would like to tag along wjep8@aol.com. (Non-members are welcome, but the RFS does hope you will join and not keep attending as a non-member!)

ConFor Conference: The Future of Forestry in England

Following on from the IFP Report, this conference will give you the opportunity to challenge the panel members, and shape how the Government responds to the report. 25th October 2012—details on <http://www.confor.org.uk/NewsAndEvents/Events.aspx?pid=25&id=1112>

Chainsaw courses and woodland management in Cumbria

Courses from Cumbria Woodlands for all levels of chainsaw experience, as well as woodland management. The brochure is on the SWOG website at <http://www.swog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/cumbria-woodlands-course-programme-2010.pdf>

Bee Workshops

Britig Strawbridge is running further bee awareness courses—learn all about our native bees, and how to help these beautiful and endangered creatures. The next course is in Cornwall on 25th August 2012 - <http://beestrawbridge.blogspot.co.uk/p/workshops.html>

Photography Workshops

Sarah still has a few places remaining on her photography workshops. Introduction to Photography is on 7th October and Macro and Insect Photography on 1st September at Alvecote Wood in North Warwickshire. Costs £20 per person for the day-long course, and participants will also be able to view her photography exhibition (see below). Contact sarah@pragmasis.com for more details.

Photography Exhibition



An outdoor photography exhibition will be held at Alvecote Wood from August Bank Holiday until December, featuring images of the woodland and its insects and plants, set in the natural woodland setting. Entry is free, and the pictures can be viewed when the woods are open on August 26/27th, September 23rd, October 28th and November 25th. Woods are also open on Wednesdays until mid-September. Please contact sarah@pragmasis.com, or see www.alvecotewood.co.uk for more information.

News for small woodland owners

British Woodlands 2012 survey—Please Take Part!

This month a national survey has been launched to ask the views of woodland owners and managers about the challenges and opportunities facing British Woodlands.

The survey builds on work that has been carried out by Cambridge University's Department of Land Economy on five occasions over the last 50 years.

Who should take the Survey?

We are interested in the views of a wide range of people who are responsible for the stewardship and upkeep of woodlands owned by councils, charities, companies, communities and private individuals.

We would be grateful if you as a woodland owner or manager could take the survey. Ad-

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 hurdle-making and green woodworking.

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

Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses

Include grassland management and drystone walling. Details on.

<http://www.cotswoldsraonh.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

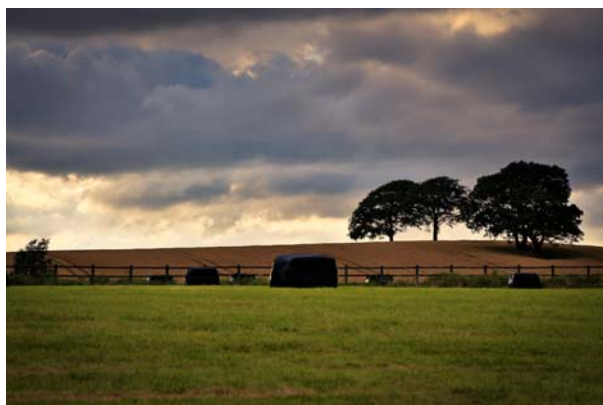
Forest Garden Show-elstrode

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

www.forestgarden.info

ditionally as a member of the woodland community we would greatly appreciate it if you could notify any of your woodland owning or managing colleagues about the survey.

The survey should take about 20-30 minutes to complete. All data will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Results will be presented in an amalgamated version only.



Click here to take part in the British Woodlands 2012 survey: <http://bit.ly/BritishWoodlands2012>

The Results

The results will provide a wealth of information that will help inform policy and decision makers of how we can best support the woodland and forestry community.

Conference

People who take the survey will be invited to a woodland conference at Oxford University to be held in December 2012 at which the results of the survey will be discussed.

Thank you for your support

Contact:

If you have any queries, please contact the Project Co-ordinator of British Woodlands 2012, Dr Gill Petrokofsky: gill@sylva.org.uk

British forestry scientists discover fourth genetic lineage of *Phytophthora ramorum*

British forestry scientists have identified a fourth genetically distinct lineage of the *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*) pathogen which is causing devastating tree diseases in the UK and the USA. It is not clear where this new lineage has originated, but it represents a new threat. For more information see the press release on

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/A1BByUNID/2E952AFA5FA9DFD880257A3700691B30>



Badger cull to go ahead in England

A High Court ruling that the proposed badger cull is legal means that it is likely to go ahead in England this Autumn. You may be approached for permission to access your land if your woods are in one of the test areas. Some Wildlife Trusts are pioneering vaccination of badgers as a potential alternative—if you do not support culling, or would prefer this alternative, it may be worth discussing this option with

your local Wildlife Trust. http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/12/badger-cull-legal-high-court?CMP=tw_t_gu

Oak processionary moth found in South London

Oak processionary moth caterpillars (OPM), which are a hazard to tree, human and

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.asp>

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

animal health, have been found in Bromley in south-east London.

The location in the West Wickham area of Bromley is about 9 miles (15km) from the nearest known infestations in the established West London OPM outbreak. This has prompted the Forestry Commission to believe that it could be a new outbreak rather than an extension of the existing one.

Infested oak trees in an area with public access were reported to the Forestry Commission on Wednesday 4 July by Bromley Borough Council. The Council immediately established an exclusion zone to protect the public and pet animals from the caterpillars' toxic hairs, and called in pest control operators to remove the caterpillars and their silken webbing nests. Other oak trees in the area are being surveyed.

Sightings of caterpillars or nests can be reported to the Forestry Commission's Forest Research agency on 01420 22255; email: christine.tilbury@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; to Bromley Council's tree team on 0208 313 4471; or to Croydon Council's contact centre on 0208 726 6000

People who are having oak trees pruned or felled in affected areas must contact the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service beforehand on plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or 0131 314 6414 for advice about safe removal of the material. The Plant Health Service can also supply details of suitably qualified pest control operators who can remove infestations.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/AllByUNID/0D3812027E406B6280257A390058DF14>

Look out for Asian Longhorn Beetle – warning from FERA

This is the time of year when the exotic Asian longhorn beetle is most likely to emerge from trees and shrubs, and the public are being urged to look out for it.

The insects' larvae (grubs) cause serious damage to trees, and can kill them, by boring tunnels in the trunks and branches as they eat their way through the wood, before emerging as mature beetles. Not native to the UK, Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) and its larvae pose a serious threat to a wide range of broadleaved trees and shrubs such as maple, sycamore, elm, horse chestnut, willow, poplar, birch and some fruit trees

The UK's first outbreak of breeding ALB was found earlier this year in the Paddock Wood area of Kent. As tree felling work to eradicate this outbreak is nearing completion, The Food & Environment Research Agency (Fera) and the Forestry Commission are asking the public to look out for these distinctive beetles during the emergence season, both in the Kent area and across the UK, to help prevent any outbreaks in the future. Leaflets are being distributed in the Paddock Wood and East Peckham area up to 2km (1.25 miles) from where the original outbreak was found. These include a picture of the beetle and details of what to do if one is spotted. The beetles are large (about 20 - 40mm / 0.75 - 1.5 inches long) and black with variable white markings. Their antennae are particularly distinctive, being very long (about twice as long as the body) with black and pale blue or white bands.

Horticultural and forestry authorities are also keen for anyone receiving trees and plants from China and Korea, or goods in wooden boxes and crates from those countries, to be extra vigilant for signs of the distinctive beetles emerging from the plants or boxes, and to report them immediately.

Anyone who suspects they have seen an Asian longhorn beetle, or evidence of its presence, must contact the Fera Plant Health Helpline by either telephoning 0300 1000325, emailing planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk or via the new reporting app on Fera's website at <http://albwatch.fera.defra.gov.uk>.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/AllByUNID/DBF28E04AB49081280257A3F004C8CD6>

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.living-wood.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](http://www.elst.co.uk)

One year of Woodland Carbon Code

The Woodland Carbon Code, a voluntary UK standard which ensures that 'carbon forestry' projects really do deliver the carbon benefits they claim, passed its first anniversary on 27th July, having chalked up an impressive number of achievements.

Opportunities to undertake carbon-storing tree-planting projects are being sought by increasing numbers of people and organisations to help tackle climate change. Certification under the Code ensures that projects meet stringent national requirements for sustainable woodland management and carbon accounting.

Achievements during the Code's first year of operation include:

- 63 projects were registered under the Code, and the amount of carbon dioxide predicted to be removed from the atmosphere has passed 1 million tonnes;
- 17 projects have been independently validated, meaning that the carbon sequestration claims and other aspects of the project have been checked and confirmed by auditors;
- the total area of new woodland created is more than 2800 hectares (7000 acres);
- code-certified woodlands have been planted in all three countries of Great Britain. Two have been verified in England, 14 in Scotland and 1 in Wales

A scheme to allow groups of woodland projects to come together for certification is being piloted to make the process more cost effective for smaller projects. Five pilot groups have confirmed their participation in the pilot, which will run until early 2013.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/AllByUNID/615A688035171CA880257A480049FFBE>

Increased output of timber from UK forests forecast

Two reports published by the Forestry Commission reveal that the United Kingdom's private-sector forests have an opportunity to increase softwood timber production over the next 25 years.

This is because extensive planting of new conifer forests between 1960 and 1990 has created a peak in the potential amount of timber available for market as the trees reach maturity.

The reports, the '25-Year Forecast of Softwood Availability' for the UK and the '25-Year Forecast of Standing Coniferous Volume and Increment' for Great Britain are two in a series of National Forest Inventory reports. They reveal that most conifer trees growing in the UK's forests today are between 21 and 60 years old and approaching the age of commercial harvesting over the next 25 years.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/AllByUNID/76B5891B179E825380257A48003CB836>

Consultation on new sustainable development indicators (DEFRA)

Consultation start: 24 July 2012

Consultation end: 15 October 2012

A new set of Sustainable Development Indicators are proposed for consultation, which are intended to provide an overview of the UK's progress towards a more sustainable



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

The Bulworth 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 or 01745710626

Mark Fisher Art

Woodland-based art days for all abilities

www.markfisherart.co.uk

economy, society, and environment.

The indicators are intended to provide an overview of national progress on key issues that are important economically, socially and environmentally in the long term. They are intended to complement the National Wellbeing Measures published by the Office for National Statistics.

Sustainable Development Indicators and have been widely used outside of Government by academics, non-Governmental Organisations and businesses. This consultation will give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the choice and coverage of a new set.

You can also read about the proposals at: <http://sd.defra.gov.uk/new-sd-indicators/>.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/07/24/sus-dev-indicators/>

FC Alert after second case of Chalara dieback of Ash

Professionals in the plant nursery and tree-care sectors are being urged to check on the health of recently planted ash trees, and notify any symptoms of Chalara dieback of ash, a destructive disease only recently found in Britain for the first time.

The appeal follows the second discovery in England this year of ash dieback disease caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* (*C. fraxinea*), which has the potential to kill millions of ash trees if it spreads into the natural environment. It has already caused widespread losses of ash trees in continental Europe, including the deaths of an estimated 60 to 90 per cent of Denmark's ash trees.

The disease was discovered in June in young ash trees recently planted at a Leicestershire car park. This followed an interception in February by the Food & Environment Research Agency (Fera) of diseased ash plants in a shipment from a supplier in the Netherlands to a nursery in Buckinghamshire.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/WebNewsReleases/49016E712AD3BDBE80257A3D0034D8D6>

Network Rail criticised for wide scale felling of trees during bird nesting season

Network Rail are facing investigation for felling trees during bird nesting season, after complaints in London and other areas of the country. Pruning and felling is required for safety, but many feel this has gone well beyond these requirements, and have criticised felling during the bird nesting season.

<http://saveourwoods.co.uk/articles/urban-forestry/network-rail-is-starving-the-urban-and-peri-urban-landscapes-of-the-uk-of-biodiversity/> and <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/9390434/Network-Rail-facing-investigation-for-chopping-down-trees-during-bird-nesting-season.html>



Big Butterfly Count – still open until 5th August

Final chance to count butterflies in your garden or wood, and submit your counts to the Big Butterfly Count—just 15 minutes of your time, and submit your sightings online.

<http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

National Swift Inventory – submit sightings of swifts or swift nests

Swifts have had a difficult time in recent years, and particularly this year because of the bad weather affecting the insects upon which they feed. The RSPB are keen to record all sightings of swifts or their nests. If you have

seen swifts, then please record when and where on the web site.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/things/todo/surveys/swifts/index.aspx>

Wildlife organisations call for UK ban on neonicotinoids due to damage to bees

Following new research, showing that bees affected by these pesticides generate fewer Queens, several UK organisations including Buglife, The Soil Association and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust have called for a ban on these



pesticides in the UK. Other European countries have already banned them. See the press release at <http://www.buglife.org.uk/conservation/campaigns/Pesticides+Poisoning+Our+Bees.htm> and the new report on <http://www.buglife.org.uk/Resources/Buglife/Documents/PDF/REVISED%20Buglife%20Neonicotinoid%20Report.pdf>

Natural England launches planning and licensing advice service

This is a new pre-application service for those looking at development in sensitive areas, including AONB and SSSI. It also provides a new pre-submission screening service for those seeking licenses to disturb certain types of protected wildlife, including bats. For more details, see the Natural England website.

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2012/190712a.aspx

Online system for reporting deer collisions

Deer Aware have launched a new online system for reporting deer collisions, or dead deer seen at the roadside. If you have any deer in your woodland, this may be of interest for you. They are seeking details of all deer, native or introduced, in partnership with the Highways Agency and other wildlife and conservation groups, in order to build up a picture of the impact of traffic collisions on deer, and of deer on road safety.

<http://www.deeraware.com/index.php/research/incident-report/form/2-incident-report>



There are more ancient woodlands in Wales than previously thought

A nationwide survey of Wales's ancient woodlands has identified thousands of hectares of these "living monuments" that lay previously undiscovered.

Environment Minister John Griffiths launched the revised Ancient Woodland Inventory yesterday (Thursday, July 12), which showed that Wales now has 95,000 hectares of ancient woodland – an increase of more than 50% since the last record made eight years ago.

The huge leap in the amount of this precious and irreplaceable resource from the previous estimate of 62,000ha is due to the use of more accurate, digital maps and more precise methods which enabled new areas to be identified.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/WebNewsReleases/306CF7D25DB84C9080257A38004EE0EF>

Online publications from Woodland Trust

Woodland Conservation News from Spring 2012 looks at how the Woodland Trust are managing open space in their woodlands, and may provide useful ideas for small woodland owners among their case studies. See <http://www.scribd.com/doc/95282959/Wood-Wise-Spring-2012>. This site also has other potentially useful publications from the Woodland Trust including a publication about open space in new woodland design.

Weald Woodfair Offer for SWOG Members

There is a special offer for SWOG members attending the Weald Woodfair in September, providing a discount on entry. Please e-mail tracy@swog.org.uk if you would like a voucher, with the names of all SWOG members attending.

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>



Woodfairs in 2012

Woodfairs are underway, so here are the dates for your diaries. More information is available on woodfairs.co.uk

Woodfairs in Scotland

Peebles Wood Market

21st and 22nd October 2012

Tweed Valley

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

www.peebleswoodmarket.co.uk/

Woodfairs in Wales

Dates for 2012 yet to be confirmed, please check 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

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://](http://www.lincolnshirefirewoodfair.co.uk/)

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

Derbyshire County Council Woodland Festival

22nd and 23rd September 2012

Elvaston Castle Country Park, Borrowash Road, Elvaston, Derby. DE72 3EP

10am - 5pm

08 456 058 058

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

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



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.

Greenridge Wood – Part Deux. ~ by Graham H

Graham updates us on the news from his woods in this wonderful personal account of his struggles with the excessive rain and “mosquitoes the size of Westland helicopters”.

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

Nature Reserves and Wildlife Trusts. ~ by Lewis

An interesting history of the Wildlife Trusts, 100 years after their foundation. Perhaps there are some good bankers after all!

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/flora-and-fauna/nature-reserves-and-wildlife-trusts/>

A woodland birthday ~ by Lindsey

Would your kids fancy something different for their birthday, rather than a corporate party? This is a lovely account, with pictures, of a woodland birthday.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/a-woodland-birthday/>

Bees – and the weather. ~ by Chris

It has not been a good year for bees. Chris explains why, in this great blog post. Important stuff—the apple harvest is forecast to be at least 50% down this year thanks to the adverse effects of weather on pollinators.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-economics/bees-and-the-weather/>

Search and Rescue – woodland searches, dogs and toys ~ by Angus

Organised search and rescue using dogs—something we think of in mountain areas, but not necessarily in lowland areas. But this blog tells us about David and how he trains his dogs to perform search and rescue in Hampshire.

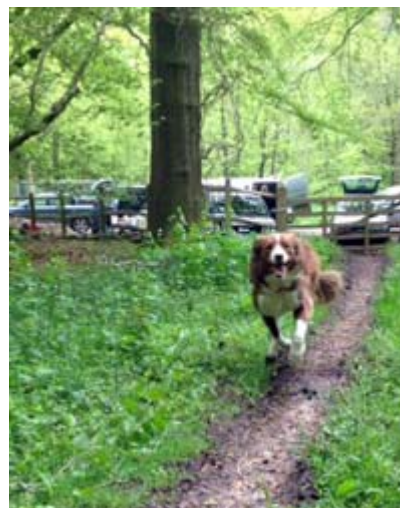
<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/search-and-rescue-woodland-searches-dogs-and-toys/>

Small Woodlands in the SW recognised in Royal Forestry Society's annual awards ~ by Patricia

Last month we mentioned the small woodland winners in this year's RFS annual awards. This year, candidates came from the South West, and the blog post tells us all about the winners, together with photos of them receiving their awards.

<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/blog/woodland-activities/small-woodlands-in-the-sw-recognised-in-royal-forestry-societys-annual-awards/>

No new videos on woodlands.tv this month, but please visit <http://www.woodlands.co.uk/tv/> and look at the wonderful selection of videos there covering every subject of interest to woodland owners.



Reports needed!

We would love to hear about your woods and what you are doing in them. Please consider writing a little bit for the newsletter—it doesn't have to be a long article. Have you enjoyed summer in the woods with your children or grandchildren? Have you welcomed any visitors to your wood? Have you been completing any projects of work in your wood? What about woodfairs or other events—if you have been, we would love to hear what you think. We'd also love to hear about any courses you have been to. Most of all, we would love some photos of your woods, their wildlife, and any activities you are doing there. Please send any contributions to sarah@swog.org.uk



Newsletter - August 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

Contact us:-

Web site:

rich@swog.org.uk

Newsletter editor

sarah@swog.org.uk

All other enquiries

tracy@woodlands.co.uk

www.swog.org.uk

Small Woodland Owners' Group Forum

On the SWOG Forum

Myriad is looking for woodlands within 30 miles of Doncaster for a group of field archers. Can you help?

Katherineklinger is looking for up to five families to rent their 20 acre woodland on the Surrey/Hampshire border. If you are interested, have a look at the forum.

Ben1 is looking for a wood to rent in the Somerset area for a week in September, to camp, do some bushcraft and make things. Can you help?

We welcomed a number of new members this month, including **dredger99**, **Deer Man** and **Terry**. **Van77** also rejoined us, having been a member a few years ago—he is still looking for somebody to share ownership of a wood, so please have a look and see if you can help.

Oldclaypaws put a great video up on the forum of wild honeybees swarming at his wood <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG7jm0-fjoU>

Keithwilliams posted a photo of an ash

tree, and is looking for any suggestions as to what might be wrong with it. Can you help?

Pedrx was looking for advice for a specific type of tree: Evergreen, low wide habit, fast growing, ornamental—can you help?

Oldclaypaws also thanked members for their advice and updated us on his progress in pulling up brambles in his woodland, revealing strangled regenerating hazel. Hard work, but worth it!

Jennysmate is looking to contact owners of other lots in the same wood, formerly known as Cobhambury wood. Do you own one of the neighbouring plots? If you do, please join the forum and contact **Jennysmate**.

Oldclaypaws has posted a really lovely article about researching this history of his wood. There are some great photos of old maps, and the history of the woodland going back to the 18th Century. Please do read this, and be inspired!

Next Newsletter: October 2012

Sarah says: I am taking a break for a month while everything is quiet, and we are looking to enjoy summer in our woods. Having edited the newsletter every month for quite a while, I need one month off, so the deadline for the next newsletter will be *Monday 24th September 2012*. If you have any contributions, please let me know.

If you have any URGENT news to share with members, then please put it on the SWOG forum, or share with Rich so he can put it on the SWOG web site.

Have a lovely Summer break everybody—see you again in October!

