

Small Woodland Owners' Group

July 2016

SWOG meeting in Shropshire

Wilderness first aid course

Woodfest Wales 2016



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www.swog.org.uk



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The Major Oak, Sherwood Forest.

The striking pictures on the cover and above are courtesy of the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year competition— see page 4 for details.

It was great to meet so many owners at Woodfest Wales and we hope to see more of you over the summer at Westonbirt, APF and Bentley. We've also got a SWOG meeting to look forward to in Shropshire in August. Enjoy the summer and do get in touch with your woodland stories.

The Small Woodland Owner's Group has been formed to aid the enjoyment, diversity and conservation of British woodlands. The company Woodlands.co.uk sponsors the group,

so membership is completely free and events are free of charge unless otherwise stated. SWOG is open to anyone interested in the management or the enjoyment of woodland.

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SWOG website and forum

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SWOG COURSE LIST 2016



Courses are listed by location. You can search the lists by entering a key word.
Press CTRL F for CMD F (Mac users) and enter the search term.

SWOG Course Listings

Anyone who buys a wood from Woodlands.co.uk is given £300 towards a woodland course to help towards owners' enjoyment and knowledge. These courses can encompass anything from basket-weaving, green woodworking or pole lathe turning, to chainsaw tuition and woodland management. Buyers are asked to write a short resumé of their course, noting how effective they

found it, and whether they would recommend it to others.

We are gradually incorporating all these valuable comments into a database listing which can be searched by area or course topic. We hope it will be useful to anyone searching for help and guidance in choosing a woodland course. View it on the SWOG website here:

www.swog.org.uk/courses-4

Forthcoming meeting

SWOG meeting Shropshire 13 August

Gerrit Groenewold is the owner of 18 acres of glorious Shropshire countryside. His wood, at Lilleshall near Telford, is historically significant and includes extensive limestone works, as well as a lake and, among thousands of trees, a few mature elms. The land was owned by the Dukes of Sutherland in the 19th century, who mined the limestone, creating both open cast and underground mines and installed a small railway to transport the stone to the nearby canal.

Gerrit acquired the wood five years ago and has since spent a great deal of time (and money) on making safe the stonework in the tunnels and limestone kilns. The terrain is undulating / steep. The existing tracks are maintained and new tracks were built to manage the woodland.

He is very kindly opening the woodland to SWOG members on 13 August at 11am and will provide a guided tour. It is a great opportunity to hear about Gerrit's experiences in restoring various parts of the site, learn about



track building, community group involvement, woodland management plans and historical restoration works. He hopes to build connections between like-minded people in the area.

It's a beautiful part of the country and this unusual woodland is well worth a visit. We will confirm details nearer the time, but the Red House Inn pub is within walking distance or members are very welcome to bring packed lunches. If you would like to attend, please email judith@swog.org.uk.

RFS Excellence in Woodlands

Congratulations to all the winners in the five hotly contested categories in the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Excellence in Forestry Awards 2016. The awards were held across the north of England and the exceptional standard of entries proved a challenge for the judges. The Helmsley Estate, north Yorkshire won the RFS Duke of Cornwall award for Resilient Woodlands, Gold award, and the judges said, 'We were impressed by the intimate species mixtures, uneven-aged structures and low impact silviculture which spread economic risks, create diverse habitats and provide an attractive backdrop to recreational and educational activities on the estate'.

The Small and Farm Woodlands Award (Joint RFS/ RASE Award) Gold was won by Sawrey Ground Plantation, near Hawkshead, Cumbria, owned by Gary Primrose (pictured right) and

Derek Hook. Gary champions horse-logging to help him manage his woodland, 'For us a multipurpose woodland is not only a much more interesting and delightful place to visit or work in but at Sawrey Ground Plantation we have tried to show that it can be possible to increase biodiversity, enhance the local landscape, maintain public access and promote forest education, as well as having a productive wood that is able to meet its costs.' A full list of the winner is on the **RFS website**.



Grown in Britain – free licensing for small woodlands

Grown in Britain is a not-for-profit organisation that supports the UK's woods and forests, by building demand for home-grown products, developing supply chains to replace our hefty imports and building a wood culture in society.

The Grown in Britain licensing scheme has been designed to increase the visibility of home-grown timber by licensing our woodlands, branding the timber from these woodlands and the array of products that they produce.

Small woodland registration

Woodlands with a compliant management plan and any necessary felling licenses, which are less than 20 hectares can get the Grown in Britain licence for free. (If your wood is over 20 hectares fees are only £1 per hectare, so size is no limit!) The process is very simple. Email enquiries@growninbritain.org to request the short application form, fill it in, provide your management plan reference and, if appropriate, any felling licence details and then, if it all checks out, you will receive your Grown in Britain licence.

Nominations open for Tree of the Year

The Woodland Trust is seeking nominations for the Tree of the Year, with the prospect of extra years of life for the most popular entries.

The competition, supported by the People's Postcode Lottery, is open to any living tree in the UK that has a story behind it. Following nominations, an independent panel of experts will draw up a shortlist of trees to go to a public vote. Trees of the Year will be named in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Thousands of people have voted over the past two years and we are hoping this will be the most successful year yet.

Any individual or organisation can nominate their favourite. The individual trees should have



Once registered, you can use the Grown in Britain label on your products, promote your supply chain integrity and the British origin of your product.

Register to demonstrate your support

Even if you're not felling and selling, Grown in Britain is still for you because it is the woodland that is assured, meaning that you can use the logo in association with your wood, on signs and paperwork, etc. You will become part of the growing family of woodland owners proud to show that they actively manage their woodlands in accordance with the Grown in Britain principles.

a story behind them – from longstanding legends through to memorials or personal connections. The winning tree will receive £1,000 worth of bespoke care which might include pruning, weeding, fencing or mulching – or events and educational materials. Any tree with over 1,000 votes will receive £500 worth of care.

Each country's individual Tree of the Year will go on to represent that nation in the European Tree of the Year competition, organised by the Environmental Partnership Association. Visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/treeoftheyear for more information about the competition and to submit your nomination by the deadline of 29 July 2016.

Forest Charter: a unique opportunity for small woodland owners

More than 50 organisations, co-ordinated by the Woodland Trust, are leading UK society in a call for a charter that will ensure that people and trees can stand stronger together in the future. This charter, strengthened by support from all corners of society, will provide guidelines and principles for policy, decision-makers, businesses, communities and individuals.



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People

SWOG is pleased to be supporting a consultation, hosted by Sylva Foundation, that will enable woodland owners and custodians across the UK to help define the 2017 Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

This consultation is the only activity specifically aimed at ensuring the views of woodland owners or custodians are reflected in

the charter.

More than two-thirds of woodlands are held in private hands, so it is vital that the voices of woodland owners and custodians, like yours, are captured. We would like to record your hopes and fears for the future to ensure that the charter speaks for you, and supports you in your vital role as custodian of the nation's woodland heritage.

Gabriel Hemery, the chief executive of Sylva has written more about it in a blog, **Woodland ownership in the 21st century**. He explains how important small woodland owners are in effecting woodland management to support wildlife and to produce more home-grown timber.

The survey really does take only five minutes! To take part, visit: sylva.org.uk/myforest/charter



New Managing Woodland course at the Woodcraft School

John Rhyder is no stranger to viewers of Woodlands TV – he has made several instructive videos on subjects such as bow-making, axe sharpening and making cordage from nettles, which can be seen [here](#).

Woodcraft School near Midhurst in West Sussex, was established in 2000 and John delivers courses and experiences in natural history and bushcraft, as well as offering advice specific to woodland owners. John has an impressive pedigree in all aspects of outdoor life and was chief instructor for Ray Mears from 1997–2000.

Prior to his teaching career, John worked in conservation management, traditional woodland skills and management practices. He holds formal teaching qualifications and has been instructing regularly since 1994. He has made a full time career in these subject since 1997.

A gifted naturalist and a certified wildlife tracker through Cybertracker conservation, he is a level 3 tracker and also holds a university certificate in Species Identification and Biological Recording.

Woodcraft School offers many courses which will interest small woodland owners, from managing veteran trees, to wildlife conservation and plant identification.

Managing Woodland NCFE IIQ Level 3 is a new four-day course offered in September. It costs £350, and aims to help owners manage woodland for conservation and recreation. Take a look at [the website](#) for a complete list.



How will the risk of future tree diseases affect the decision-making of woodland owners and managers?

Academics from a consortium of British universities are working with Forest Research to support woodland owners in managing pests and diseases. They aim to understand the economic consequences of different management options for future tree diseases and hope that their research will both inform policy makers and educate owners.

In recent years, pests and diseases from around the world have severely affected several tree species in Britain, and others are likely to arrive in coming years. Many woodland owners and managers have started to think about planning for longer-term resilience of woodlands to a range of possible threats. Such choices are the focus of the research project **FOREMOD** being carried out by a consortium of universities and Forest Research, funded by the UK government.

The researchers are seeking to understand the views of woodland managers and owners about different disease control methods, and about options for funding such controls. The information generated by this research will help woodland owners understand the economic consequences of different management options. It will also inform policy makers about how

different incentives would best encourage woodland owners to make the decisions that most reduce future tree disease risks.

Participating will not take long, will entail no long-term commitment and will be strictly confidential. They are asking you to take part in a 'choice experiment' to find out your preference between pairs of management options. The more people who take part, the stronger will be the evidence.

To take part in this survey simply visit tinyurl.com/forestmanagementsurvey. Please also get in touch if you would like to participate in the project in other ways, for instance by advising on what woodland management alternatives we should compare in our economic modelling. Contact Oleg Sheremet (ois2@st-andrews.ac.uk) for more information about the choice experiment or Morag Macpherson (mfm@cs.stir.ac.uk) about any other aspect of the project. If you would like to be informed of the results of the survey or have any questions about the survey, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. Your contact details will not be linked to your answers

*Chris Quine, Head of Centre for Ecosystems, Society and Biosecurity, Forest Research
John Healey, Professor of Forest Sciences, Bangor University*



*Rich Hare attended a first aid course run by Andy Sullivan of **ELST (Emergency Life Support Team)**. It was aimed at people who work in remote areas like woodlands or wilderness areas and who might suffer or be the first to encounter a person with serious injuries in need of life saving support.*

I last trained in first aid over 20 years ago, and although I remember bits and pieces of the training, I definitely needed a refresher course. Back then, when doing CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), we took pulses and did chest compressions whilst giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation: 20 compressions then two breaths. Or was it 15 compression and one breath? I can't remember! I do remember spending a lot of time with triangular bandages, trying to get them the right way round and neatly tucked in.

Things have changed considerably. Andy is very keen on stressing the need to use common sense. In a life-saving situation we don't need to bother with mouth to mouth breaths: chest compressions are what is important. You don't need a neatly folded and pinned triangular bandage to hold a patient's arm across their chest. If they have broken their arm, they will most likely be holding it in the most comfortable position anyway. It may just need supporting with a jacket or a scarf. In a training situation, this seems so simple!

So I was impressed by these new approaches and the fact that I learnt how to keep an airway open, give chest compressions and keep the patient alive until help came, with the minimum of fuss. There were no complicated instructions in handouts and manuals in the classroom, just easy to follow experiential learning out there in the woods.

Andy's courses are customised for their participants, so we looked at common scenarios for those people out in the woods, including chainsaw accidents, falls from trees, burns, fractures, and hypothermia. Other common situation you may come across anywhere, such as heart attacks, strokes, spinal injuries, seizure and shock were also covered.

Some of the techniques are so childishly simple that everyone should really know them and teach them to their family. After all, they are more likely to be close to you and of most use when needed.

To book on one of Andy's courses, contact him through the website, www.elst.co.uk where there is a complete list of course dates. All new owners who buy their woods through Woodlands.co.uk qualify for an introductory grant to spend on a woodland related course such as this. Andy will also be at the Bentley Woodfair on the SWOG stand 23–25 September – stop by and say hello.





APF Show 15-17 September 2016

APF celebrates its 21st birthday at the Ragley Estate, Alcester in Warwickshire in September. It not only showcases the very latest machines and technology being used in the industry, but also displays traditional woodland crafts and horse logging.

It is the leading exhibition for the forestry, woodland, arboriculture, wood fuel and utility sectors in the UK. Covering a large site, it is a great day out for anyone interested in woodlands and forestry, whether they are professionals or small-scale owners. While the average small woodland owner may not need a forester's forwarder for the bulk extraction of timber, the range of vehicles, from steam-driven saw mills to the latest arboricultural machinery,

is jaw-dropping. All the main manufacturers of woodland kit are on hand with advice and opportunities to try out (and buy!) chainsaws, protective gear, shredders, and all manner of timber-related kit.

There are pole-climbing and chainsaw-carving displays, as well as the chance to try out more traditional crafts.

Representatives from every area of the British forestry and timber sector will be present, from the Forestry Commission to SWOG.

The seminar programme features leading figures in the industry speaking on topical issues of the day including plant health, technology, safety and training, wood fuel and wood processing.

We are delighted to be attending for the first time and hope to see many of you there. The Ragley Estate is located just south of Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire.

Tickets are £20 on the gate. Advance tickets are discounted to £18 and groups of ten or more pay £16 each. They are available via the **APF website here**.





It was great to see so many friendly faces at Woodfest Wales at the end of June. Once again it was a great weekend for visitors to watch axe competitions, pole-climbing and wonderful displays of chainsaw carving. Huge log piles were put to good use as part of a BMX skills competition and many traditional practitioners demonstrated their crafts: horse logging, greenwood working and willow weaving.

*SWOG and Woodlands.co.uk shared their stand with Jon Burke, a forestry student from Bangor University, who kept up a steady stream of chat about a fanning co-operative while using a draw knife to turn an ash log into a beautiful swing seat. Jo Cooper from the **Forest School Wales** helped children to cook marshmallows, and we shared our **Trecharter stories** (and new T-shirts) with our colleagues from the Welsh Community Woodland group, **Llais y Goedwig**.*



Woodlands blogs and TV

Click on the titles to be taken to the full blogs or videos on the Woodlands.co.uk website.

TV

How to fell a windblown tree

Andrew Mead, forestry expert, instructor and assessor, shows us how to make safe a windblown tree using a chainsaw and hand winch. This is a potentially hazardous scenario and Andy talks us through the various cuts needed to ensure the tree moves in a controlled way – to avoid danger and to release the tree without damage to its fibres.



Billet Wood bluebells

A rather lovely video of bluebells in Billet Wood.

Making a bench with a fallen tree

This is a labour of love: craftsman Tristan Safitch eschews the chainsaw in favour of handtools to carve a mossy seat from a fallen tree.

Woodlands blogs

Is visiting a woodland mainly about getting away from the crowd?

Do we visit woods to be sociable or to get away from it all? It's all down to personal preference.

How could the Good Judgement Project help with managing woodlands?

The 'Good Judgement Project' group led by Philip Tetlock at the University of Pennsylvania has been finding out scientifically how we can make more accurate predictions. Their findings – assessing similar situations, applying perspective, using objective comparators – can be applied to woodland management and help us to make more accurate predictions for the future of our woods.

New Welsh grant – Glastir Small Grants Scheme to open

The Small Grants Scheme offers grants of up to £5,000 per customer for capital works which reduce carbon emissions, improve water quality, reduce flood risks and increase Wales' native biodiversity.

Electric bumblebees

It is well known that pollinators are attracted to brightly coloured flowers. New research at the University of Bristol suggests that bumblebees can detect flowers on the basis of their electric charge. Drs Dominic Clarke and Heather Whitney have shown that bumblebees can detect the (static) electric field around a flower.



Woodlands.co.uk and SWOG will be at Woodfest Wales, Westonbirt, APF and Bentley. This list is not exhaustive, so please send us details of your event.

Royal Welsh Show

18–21 July 2016 Builth Wells, Powys
www.rwas.wales/royal-welsh-show

New Forest and Hampshire Show

26–28 July 2016 Brockenhurst, Hampshire
www.newforestshow.co.uk

The Game Fair

29–31 July 2016 Ragley Estate, Warwickshire
www.thegamefair.org

South Downs Show and Hampshire Woodfair

20–21 August 2016
Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Hampshire
www.southdownsshow.co.uk

Treefest at Westonbirt Arboretum

27–29 August 2016 Tetbury, Gloucestershire
www.forestry.gov.uk

Stock Gaylard Oak Fair

27–28 August 2016
Sturminster Newton, Dorset
www.stockgaylard.com

Wychwood Forest Fair

4 September 2016 Charlbury, Oxfordshire
www.wychwoodproject.org

APF Exhibition

15–17 September 2016
Ragley Estate, Warwickshire
www.apfexhibition.co.uk

Bentley Weald Woodfair

23–25 September 2016 Lewes, East Sussex
www.bentley.org.uk/events

Surrey Hills Wood Fair

1–2 October 2016 Birtley Estate, Bramley
www.surreyhills.org

Peebles Wood Market

22–23 October 2016 Tweed Green &
Community Hall, Peebles, Scottish Borders
www.forest-festival.com/wood-market

Grown in Britain Week

10–16 October 2016 Various locations
www.growninbritain.org

Royal Forestry Society Conference

1 November 2016 Making Woodlands Pay
www.rfs.org.uk/events

