

Woodlanders' **Update**

Hello, and welcome to Woodlanders' **Update**. This regular mini-newsletter is to keep volunteers, members and supporters of Knighton Community Woodlands Group up-to-date. It is also to let other, like-minded local groups know what is going on with us, as small voluntary organisations can often help each other. It is short and snappy, with fuller information on our [webpage](#), and via our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) posts.

We are pleased to receive feedback in response to **Update** and your thoughts and comments on anything else. Please email woodland@tveg.org.uk, or get in touch via our social media accounts.

Here is our **Update** on the last fortnight.

- We have continued to cut cordwood into logs at Castle Ring Wood and have started preparing for when the cutting season resumes in September / October. We are planning and marking our extraction routes before felling – a more sensible idea than our usual approach of felling and then working out the extraction routes! There is still plenty of cordwood to cut if you would like to help...

- Unfortunately, we had to cancel our bramble-cutting task day at Weir Cottage Wood when we didn't quite muster the volunteer numbers and lacked a First Aider. This task will be re-arranged so please watch this space. We previously missed a bramble cut due to snow in April (!) 2018 and the brambles swamped our saplings – the saplings will be replaced this coming winter.



- We've started a funding application to raise funds for a charcoal retort, a cleaner way of making charcoal than the traditional ring-kiln. If we are successful, we can make and sell charcoal which will help us to become more financially self-sufficient and cover costs such as insurance and tool repairs.

- Speaking of which, the woodland wildlife we try and protect doesn't seem very appreciative. A mouse ate part of the petrol tank on our chainsaw, giving us a large repair bill and, presumably, giving the mouse a stomach ache. The saw was stored on a split mat / tray, preventing a pollution incident and we are looking to mouse-proof our storage.



- *The Radnor*, a Ministry Area magazine, was so pleased with a series of articles about the Woodlanders that they have asked for more!
- Back in March we took the decision, ahead of lockdown, to postpone Day 3 of our Introduction to Woodland Management training course. Now that we can go to the woods again, we have rearranged a new date with the trainees. If you would be interested in us repeating our 3-day Introduction to Woodland Management training course please email woodland@tveg.org.uk
- The last, but not least, in our "Why I Volunteer" series is below - this time it is Colin's turn. If you'd like to feature in a future **Update** please get in touch. All of our volunteer profiles are available on our [website](#).



Veteran Field Maple in Knucklas Castle Wood

- *Tree of the Fortnight* is the Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) the only maple native to Britain. A deciduous tree that produces lovely yellow leaves in the autumn, it also makes a good hedging plant. The timber is the hardest of all European maples and, unlike most other hardwoods, the sapwood is most commonly used rather than its heartwood. Reaching 15–25m tall, with a trunk up to 1m in diameter, Field Maple has a finely fissured bark. The shoots are brown, with dark brown winter buds. The leaves are in opposite pairs, 5–16cm long including the stalk, and 5–10cm wide, with five blunt, rounded lobes and a smooth margin. The yellow-green flowers are 4-6cm high and produced in spring at the same time as the leaves open. Please nominate your favourite trees for *Tree of the Fortnight* via our email address.

Finally, please consider these points with which we would always welcome your help...

- We are very keen to hear from former volunteers. It may be that you were a regular, or came to just one of our task days to see what we do. We are trying to find out ways to help support volunteers, to understand why people volunteer and, perhaps more importantly, why they stop! Please contact us with anything you'd like to share – good or bad – about volunteering with us.
- Could you:
 - send us 250 words about yourself for our "Why I Volunteer" series?
 - suggest an article for our annual newsletter?
 - invite your friends to 'like' and 'follow' our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) profiles?

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

Don't want to receive Woodlanders' Update? Then please reply to this email from the address you'd like removed with "Unsubscribe" as the title. We won't take it personally! Thank you.

Why I Volunteer...

A founding member, Colin has probably attended more task days than anyone else.



Back in 2010, I met a group of local residents who, like me, were concerned about the number of woodlands falling into neglect, or that trees were treated just like a cash crop and whole swathes of them were clearfelled, devastating the habitats of the species that used to live there. As a result, Knighton Tree Allotments Trust (now known as Knighton Community Woodlands Group) was created and this was my opportunity to help bring some woodlands back into sustainable management whilst improving biodiversity. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the group grow in those ten years, have visited and worked in a variety of woodlands, attended various training courses, developed new skills, helped in the creation of woodland products and enjoyed meeting and working with the other volunteers and woodland owners.

For more years than I care to remember, I have always enjoyed being involved in practical conservation. Whilst in employment, the experience of working out in the fresh air and benefitting from the exercise was a happy escape from sitting by a computer screen in an office. Now retired, trying to keep fit and meeting others is even more essential and volunteering with KCWG helps towards meeting those needs. Most of us lead busy lives and it's nice to know that no regular commitment is required. You can do as much or as little as you like ... and the big bonus is on those cold, winter evenings as the fruits of all our labours repays our efforts. As the old saying goes, wood warms you three times - when you cut it, when you split it, and when you burn it and to that I would like to add the warm feeling you get when you know you've done something positive for nature.