

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 few weeks.

- We have almost completed cutting cordwood into logs at Castle Ring Wood. This is very pleasing as it means we have almost caught up on the task days we missed due to lockdown. We've had a lot of help from a number of new volunteers and particular thanks are due to Roy who, at 86, is our oldest volunteer, and a champion log-stacker. He has been largely responsible for stacking around 25 cubic metres of wood. There is still plenty of cordwood to cut at Weir Cottage Wood if you would like to help!



- We have now had our bramble-cutting task day at Weir Cottage Wood and are ready this coming winter to replace the saplings that the brambles had swamped and smothered.



- Another of our wonderful volunteers, Dai, has solved our chainsaw-eating mouse problem. He has used his extensive engineering skills to re-purpose some old school lockers from e-bay. The tall lockers have been cut in half and turned on their sides to create a wonderful set of fully enclosed, lockable metal shelves. Our new storage even came with a painted message on top: "The Woodlanders: no mices in crises". Thanks are due to Dai, and to Colin who re-organised our shed with the new units.

- We've submitted a funding application to the Postcode Local Trust for a charcoal retort, a cleaner way of making charcoal than the traditional ring-kiln, and ancillary equipment. We will find out if we are successful in early November.



- We are pleased to have been publicised in the current edition of *MidBorder News*. You can find us on p13 (lucky for some) https://issuu.com/midbordernews/docs/midbordernews_august_2020

- If you would be interested in us repeating our 3-day Introduction to Woodland Management training course please email woodland@tveg.org.uk
- *Tree of the Fortnight* is hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*. The name derives from the hardness of the wood, "horn" meaning "hard" - it has the hardest wood of any tree in Europe - and the Old English "beam", meaning "tree" (cognate with German "baum"). Traditional uses of the timber were chopping blocks, piano hammers, wood screws, coach wheels and mill cogs. Native to the south of the UK, it coppices and pollards well, so can make up a large component of woodlands in that area. It has been widely planted throughout the country, but is not very common around here. However, some nice examples can be found in Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Clunton Coppice reserve. Hornbeam leaves become golden yellow to orange in autumn and most stay on through the winter, providing shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife. After pollination, the female catkin flowers develop into papery, green winged fruits, known as samaras. Please nominate your *Tree of the Fortnight* via our email address.



Left: Hornbeams at Clunton Coppice. *Right:* Old Hornbeam coppice at the Woodland Trust's Dering Wood, Kent.

Below: Winged fruit of the hornbeam - samaras (photo from <https://www.exetertrees.uk/>)



We are about to enter our busiest time of the year – autumn and winter is when most of our work is done – so watch this space for what we achieve this season.

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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