

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.

- Not only have we completed cutting cordwood into logs at Castle Ring Wood, we have also finished cutting logs at Weir Cottage Wood! Due to a brilliant effort by volunteers at our task day on 13th September all the cordwood at Weir Cottage Wood was cut into logs, stacked and covered in just one day. We have now caught up on all the task days we missed due to lockdown.



- One issue with socially distanced working is the "middle dip" appearing in a log stack. We'd normally have 2 volunteers stacking from one end. With a volunteer working at each end of the stack you can get a middle dip – leading to some Heath Robinson style roofing!
- We now have a window of opportunity to plan and prepare for the autumn/winter felling and planting season that begins in October. We are trying to be more systematic in our hazel coppicing in order to speed up the process.
- We finally managed to deliver Day 3 of the Introduction to Woodland Management training course that was delayed by coronavirus. This course is for those who would like to know more about the management of small woodlands and using traditional methods to grow woodland products, such as firewood. Day 1 is a classroom-based introduction to woodland management and how we can grow products whilst protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Day 2 & 3 are woodland-based practical training in traditional management skills, such as coppicing and cutting logs. If you would be interested in us repeating the course please email woodland@tveg.org.uk



Images from our last Introduction to Woodland Management training course.

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- We are hoping to run our hedgelaying training course again this autumn. Our course introduces you to this traditional skill and how to safely use the hand-tools necessary for the job. You then get to practise your skills on a section of hedge. If you are interested in attending please email woodland@tveg.org.uk



Left to right: "Before" and "after" images of the hedge; adding binders to the top of the hedge; a stem cut for pleaching.

- The Redlake Valley Community Benefit Society is looking for a volunteer Secretary to work with its board of directors to help run the organisation. If you do not know them, the RVCBS manages some of the quillets in Brineddin Wood in the Redlake Valley. Anyone who is interested should get in touch with their Chairman, Mark Limbrick, on 01547 530002 or redlakevalley@gmail.com
- We are also seeking a range of volunteers to help run our organisation and to help in the woods – Anyone with skills in fundraising, bid writing, marketing, sales and species identification would be most welcome! More details can be found at <http://tveg.org.uk/wordpress/what-we-do/woodland-project> or contact Gary Cowell on 01547 520374 or woodland@tveg.org.uk

- *Tree of the Fortnight* is the Wayfaring Tree, *Viburnum lantana*, so named because it grows on or close to paths. An older name for the plant is hoarwithy, "Hoar" meaning grey-haired with age – as in hoar frost - and referring to the hairs under the leaves. "Withy" is another name for willow and means a pliant stem. This native species is more of a bush than a tree, but it may reach 6m and does its best to appear tree-like. The large, oval, slightly wrinkly-looking leaves have round-toothed edges and are placed opposite each other along the twig. The small white flowers (6mm) grow in dense, rounded clusters (called umbels) of 10cm diameter. These become oval fruit, poisonous to humans, turning from green to bright red before ripening to black. In September 1991, the well-preserved body of a hunter was found who had died in the Austrian Alps around 4,000–3,500 BC. His quiver contained arrows made from the stems of the wayfaring tree. Please nominate your *Tree of the Fortnight* via our email address.



Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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