

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 started the felling season at Castle Ring Wood, with some thinning of birch trees during our task day on 27th September. "Thinning" means reducing in number, just as you would a row of carrots. A group of 9 volunteers gathered, as we are permitted to under Welsh Covid 19 restrictions, in the glorious sunshine. As well as the thinning, we started preparing our stacking areas to receive cut timber and moved our stuff out of areas of the wood that we have finished working in – generally having a tidy-up. We can thin birch in September, rather than waiting until October, as we generally do not want those birch trees to re-grow, but instead let the sunlight to the other species - primarily hazel, but also others including oak, rowan, willow and beech - so that the wood becomes less dominated by birch. We will start to also coppice hazel on our task day on 1st October.
- It is now, unbelievably, a year since the *Out of the Wood* exhibition at the Bleddfa Centre. Charlie, a Woodlander volunteer, organised the exhibition, giving each of the 12 sculptors a piece of 4-foot birch cordwood to do with as they pleased. As you can see, the results were varied and wonderful!



- We have set a date for our 2-day [Hedgelaying](#) training course: Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November 2020. 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. The course costs £150 and we have only 4 places to offer, due to the "Rule of 6" applying to our English venue. If you are interested in attending please [contact us](#).
- [Caring for God's Acre](#) are offering **FREE 1-day training courses on Fungi Identification** during October. These are friendly and informal sessions with local expert Rob Rowe, suitable for beginners as well as those wishing to improve their identification skills. The sessions are entirely outdoors and will be socially-distanced with a full risk assessment and Covid protocol in place. Places are limited and must be booked by contacting George at george@cfga.org.uk. The dates and venues are:
 - Thursday 15th October – Clunbury, Shropshire 10:30 – 1pm
 - Tuesday 20th October – Sarn, Powys 10:30 – 1pm
 - Thursday 22nd October – Llanmeriwig, Powys 10:00 – 12 noon.
 - Thursday 22nd October – Llanllwchaiarn, Powys 1.30 – 3.30pm
- TCV, in partnership with *Froglife*, are hosting a **FREE online training course, Introduction to Reptile Identification & Surveying**, via Zoom on the 22nd October at 6.30pm – 8pm. The talk is suitable for all audiences and will cover common and widespread UK reptiles with an overview of their identification, and where and how to look for them. Numbers are limit to 100. To book please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-reptile-identification-and-surveying-tickets-122579896771>
- *Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) for Powys & Brecon Beacons National Park* are offering **FREE Leaf Miners training** via Zoom on Saturday 3rd October 10.30am to 12.30pm. They'll focus on the Lepidoptera species causing mines with Breconshire vice county moth recorder Norman Lowe of Brecknock Moth Group. To attend you must book on with ben@bis.org.uk or 07479 279830.
- The Woodlanders would welcome any assistance with woodland reptile, moth or fungi surveys, identification and recording as part of our work. Please [get in touch](#) if you can help us. 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 or sales would be most welcome! More details [on our website](#).
- We would like to repeat our 3-day [Introduction to Woodland Management](#) training course. Day 1 is usually a classroom-based introduction to woodland management and how we can grow products whilst protecting and enhancing biodiversity; given Covid 19 restrictions, we are thinking of delivering Day 1 via video-conference and [would welcome your views on this](#). Days 2 & 3 are woodland-based practical training in traditional skills, such as coppicing and cutting logs. If you are interested please [contact us](#).
- *Tree of the Fortnight* is not appearing this week due to all this training news! Please nominate your next *Tree of the Fortnight* via our email address.

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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