

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.

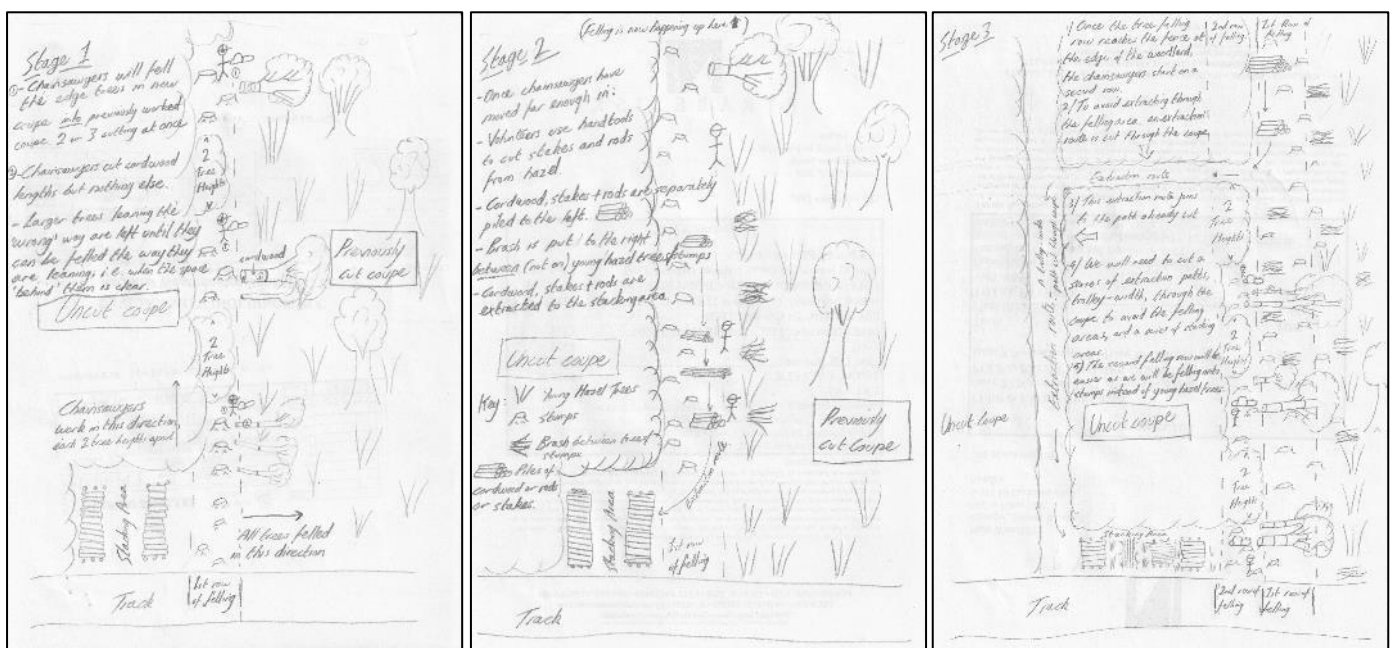


Here is our **Update** on the last fortnight.

- We are 10 years old! Our Memorandum and Articles were signed on 15th October 2010 and we were incorporated on 22nd October 2010. We would have liked to have a big party to celebrate, but there is a slight issue with that at the moment... However, over the next few weeks and months we will be doing some promotional work around our anniversary so watch this space! We need your help in running the Woodlanders and planning for our next decade, so if you are interested in getting involved 'behind the scenes' then please [contact us](#).

- In another record, 13 volunteers attended our task day on 11th October. This has beaten our previous record for the number of people at a task day

so thank you to everyone who came. We have started coppicing hazel at Castle Ring Wood, and continued thinning birch trees. We have cleared an area to store the cordwood and hazel coppice products that we will be cutting, and set up most of our storage racks. We've also planned our approach for cutting the coupe and how to extract the timber without the tree fellers, and those extracting, getting in each other's way. This has brought out the inner LS Lowry in the task day planner...



- Our 2-day [Hedgelaying](#) training course on 28th - 29th November 2020 has sold out! 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 if you are interested in us repeating it, please [contact us](#).
- We are waiting to hear more from [Llais y Goedwig](#) about their tree seed collection and growing scheme and how they can support community woodland groups in this. In the meantime, there is a lot of information on the Tree Council website that might be of interest to you: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season/growing-trees-from-seed/>
- In a departure from *Tree of the Fortnight* we have *Log Stack of the Fortnight!* Steve, Woodlander Trustee and Volunteer, has been busy in his garden, as he writes here...

Sometime ago I saw an article online about Holzhausen, a traditional freestanding log-stacking method popular in Bavaria and Scandinavia, where they sometimes build them to huge dimensions and hold competitions focusing on artistic designs. After letting my curiosity mature for a number of years, I have finally got round to constructing my own. I am pleased with the result to the extent that it will be a shame to break it up when it comes time to use the firewood!



I stuck to the most basic 'beehive' design using a mixture our own pine thinnings and hardwoods from the Woodlanders, all topped with a triple layer of bark. There has been a number downpours since completion and it appears that the stack sheds rain extremely well. Being free standing, the Holzhausen saves the effort of constructing a frame or other support required by a standard stack, though it probably takes a little more time to construct the stack itself.



The Holzhausen contains a surprising amount of wood; over 2 cords (approx. 7 cubic meters) in this example, which is almost 6 feet high and 8 in diameter. I did find that any smaller diameter presented problems as the curve of the outer wall was too abrupt to easily stack the wood. Another advantage is that once the outer walls are taking shape, the centre can be filled with any offcuts or hard to split pieces that do not fit easily in a standard stack. Apparently, the stack should act as a low-level oven with air flowing into the centre through gaps in the outer wall and rising through the centre of the stack, wicking away moisture. It is claimed this can lead to a faster curing rate and firewood thoroughly dried and seasoned in only ten months, though whether this applies in the Welsh climate remains to be seen!

If you like Steve's work, we recommend *Norwegian Wood* by Lars Mytting, available from your local independent bookshop (or library).

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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