

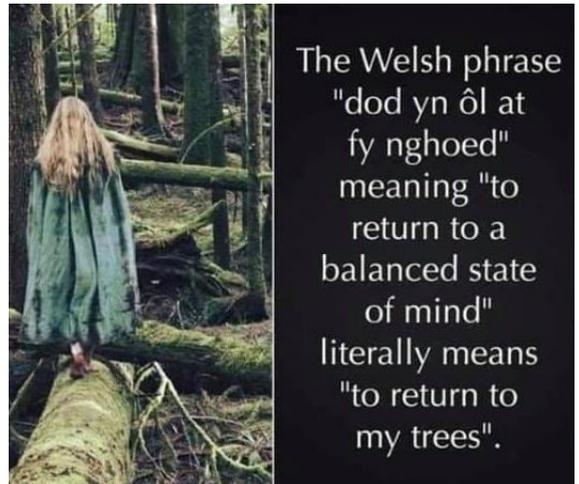
Woodlanders' Update

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.

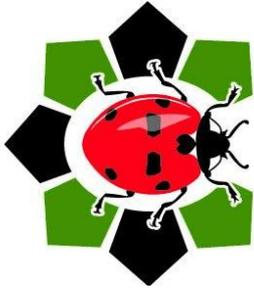
Here is our **Update** on the last fortnight.

- We are once more in lockdown ... not quite how we were expecting to be celebrating our 10th anniversary but nothing about 2020 is as expected! We will miss 3 task days and, hopefully, resume woodland work on Thursday 12th November 2020 when we will continue coppicing hazel and thinning birch. We will 'return to our trees' soon and catch up quickly on where we would have been.
- Our AGM has been announced for **Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.30pm**. It will be, of course, a virtual meeting conducted online. We are seeking new committee members to keep us running smoothly, so if this interests you please [contact us](#) to arrange for an informal chat. KCWG Members will receive a link to the AGM via email and, as our AGM is open to the public, we will put how to attend on our website (technological abilities allowing...). Also, as part of our 10-year review, and following our name change earlier in the year, KCWG members are to be asked to approve an update to our constitution. They will be contacted shortly.
- We asked a new volunteer what they thought of their first task day and the response was "Last Sunday? Great fun, good team - look forward to next time." We are always keen to hear from new, veteran or former volunteers about their experience of volunteering with us. It may be that you were / are 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.



- While under lockdown, you might like to learn a bit more about wildlife. TCV and Froglife have a FREE online training course: **Introduction to Reptile Identification & Surveying, Friday 6th November at 6:30pm to 8pm**. The talk will cover common and widespread UK reptiles with an overview of their identification, and where and how to look for them. To book a place go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-reptile-identification-and-surveying-tickets-126784958223> If you have any queries please email t.burden@tcv.ork.uk. If you attend the course, and would like to practice using the skills learnt in local woodlands, please [contact us](#).

- [Biodiversity Information Service \(BIS\) for Powys & Brecon Beacons National Park](#) have put 2 online training videos onto their new *YouTube* channel: you can learn about [Plant Galls](#) and [Wildlife Recording](#).



- Related to the Wildlife Recording training session, if you are a regular wildlife spotter during your daily exercise then [Biodiversity Information Service \(BIS\)](#) is keen for you to let them know what you have seen. The primary purpose of the *BIS* Wildlife Recording Database is to make it easier for wildlife sightings to be collated, checked by experts and made available to those that need them for their research or decision making. Your data can make a real contribution to science and conservation. You can submit your sightings using the [LERC Wales App](#) or online using [BIS WiReD](#) and they'll go straight to *BIS* and be usable immediately.

Alternatively, *BIS* can send you a spreadsheet which you can submit to them.

- *KCWG* is submitting a funding bid to [Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales](#) for biodiversity survey training. Our project outline got through the first stage and we have been invited to put in a full application. If successful, current and new Woodlander volunteers will be trained to survey, identify and record plants, birds and moths. This will allow us to expand our skills base, establish if our woodland management activities are helping local wildlife, and contribute to the valuable work of *BIS*.

- To make our wood racks easier to set up we have invested in a new tool – a post driver. This will be safer and quicker than using a sledge hammer, and is for two volunteers to operate together - those using it will have to wear face coverings. We can now use heavier posts, giving greater strength to the rack ends and reducing movement.



- We have heard more from [Llais y Goedwig](#) about their tree seed collection and growing scheme. As a group, we need more hand-holding than is currently available to take part in this trial, especially if we intend to sell seed to registered traders to raise funds. Therefore, we will take part next year when training will hopefully be available. This is frustrating but typical of these Covid-restrained conditions! In the meantime, there is a lot of information on the Tree Council website: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season/growing-trees-from-seed/>

- Finally, in this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, Castle Ring Wood has been providing a lot of fungi-based distractions from our work. This photo was taken at our last task day. If you can identify them, you've just got yourself the (unpaid) job of being our fungi surveyor...



Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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