

## 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](mailto:woodland@tveg.org.uk), or get in touch via our social media accounts.

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

- We haven't been in the woods, due to the Wales firebreak lockdown, and are now in the England 4-week lockdown. As a cross-border organisation, with volunteers from both England and Wales, this is a little difficult to manage! Our main site, Castle Ring Wood, is in Wales, so we can resume task days with up to 15 people attending. However, volunteers attending from England is another matter...
- We are still seeking new committee members to keep us running smoothly. If this interests you, please [contact us](#) to arrange for an informal chat, prior to our AGM that is due to take place on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at 7.30pm**. Our AGM is usually a very social affair: we would normally gather in person and enjoy a guest speaker, or occasionally a film. However, given the current circumstances, we have decided to just hold the formal element of the AGM rather than trying to live-stream a speaker. We took this decision with a heavy heart and hopes that next year we will bounce back. Details of how to join the AGM will follow.
- We received the bad news that our application for funding to the Postcode Local Trust was unsuccessful. We had applied for £1,575 to buy a charcoal retort and ancillary equipment, plus being trained on how to use it. We will now look for alternative funding to get our charcoal project started. If you know of any suitable funding sources, or would like to help submit a new bid please [contact us](#).
- On a cheerier note, the autumn colours are proving to be very good this year. There's an excellent piece from the Forestry Commission on why leaves change colour in autumn at: <https://www.forestryengland.uk/blog/why-do-leaves-change-colour-autumn>
- We have now submitted a full funding bid to [Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales](#) for biodiversity survey training. If successful, current and new Woodlander volunteers will be trained to survey, identify and record plants, birds and moths, expanding our skills base and establishing if our woodland management activities are helping local wildlife.





- There has been some felling in Kinsley Wood, a 1950s Forestry Commission plantation on the English side of Knighton. Conifers - mostly Douglas Fir, some Larch – have been felled and row-thinned but the oaks have been left. We will wait and see if the felled area will be left to regenerate or replanted with either conifers or native broadleaf species.

### **Why I Volunteer...**

Brenda started volunteering with the Woodlanders after attending our *Introduction to Woodland Management* training course in January 2019.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to volunteer with groups working to manage woodlands and promote biodiversity. I volunteer with three different groups, one of which meets from October to March only.

I'm a member of the Small Woods Association because I value the work they do, sadly not because I own a small wood. I know that it's extremely unlikely that I will ever own even a share in a wood. I value trees and love being in woodlands. I'm fortunate enough to have several pieces of woodland immediately around me where I can walk most days. But being able to work in woodlands by volunteering means I can learn and practice some of the skills needed to benefit the balance of the woods.

Sometimes I get to visit woods that would otherwise not be accessible to me. I value the peace and quiet found in woodlands, so you can guess that I don't enjoy the sound of chainsaws, but I know they're a necessary part of the work.

Much of John Muir's writing means a great deal to me, but I feel this one is apt:

*'In to the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul'.*

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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