

## 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.

- Following the easing of the Wales firebreak lockdown, we have resumed work at Castle Ring Wood, putting into action the plan we developed of how to cut the next coupe more quickly than the last. So far, the plan seems to be working well and we have made progress in coppicing the hazel and thinning the birch trees. Our new post-driver has already proved its worth in setting up timber storage racks!
- Our AGM will take place on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 at 7.30pm**. We are still seeking new committee members to help make sure that all the wonderful things that the Woodlanders Group can be, and should be, come to fruition. You don't need to volunteer in the woods with us to become a committee member, we are just looking for enthusiasm and a willingness to use your skills to help the Group, working alongside fellow volunteers. If this interests you, please [contact us](#) to arrange for an informal chat. Details of how to join the AGM will be sent to all Members and volunteers.
- The Members of Knighton Community Woodlands Group have just voted in favour of adopting a new Constitution that better represents our organisation, replacing the one agreed when we were established 10 years ago. 83% of Members voted and all votes were in favour of the change, which will become official when accepted by Companies House. Membership of the Woodlanders is open to everyone and costs just £10 per year – for joining information please see our [webpage](#).
- Continuing our review of the last ten years, we intend to develop a 5-year strategy to guide our forward planning. The idea is to NOT draw up a 30-page document to ignore, but to have a very short, very live plan that we regularly check against and review. If you feel that this is something you can help us with, please [contact us](#).
- The first 14 sites have been announced for the National Forest – a connected network of forests which will span the length of Wales – and some Presteigne woodlands have been included. The first sites are all part of the Welsh Government estate, managed and maintained by Natural Resources Wales, and Nash Wood, plus other NRW sites in Presteigne have been selected. As well as improving existing woodlands to meet the National Forest standard, more trees will be planted by the Welsh Government in partnership with communities, farmers, foresters and public bodies. Providing spaces for leisure and nature, new managed woodlands created for the National Forest will also help to capture and store carbon – and the timber will provide a sustainable resource for construction.



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- After receiving the bad news that our funding application to the Postcode Local Trust for a charcoal retort was unsuccessful, we were glad to be approached by the administrator of an alternative funding source. We are now finding out if our idea fits their funding criteria, and will make a full application if invited to. However, we don't want to put all of our eggs in one basket, so if you know of any other suitable funding sources, or could help submit a new bid please [contact us](#).
- Following our article in the last **Update**, we contacted the Forestry Commission to find out more about the work being done in Kinsley Wood, on the hill above the English side of Knighton. Nicola Cowell, the Works Supervisor, kindly sent us this information:

"Harvesting work has been taking place in Kinsley Wood, a Forestry England owned woodland, and designated PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site.) This means there has been a history of woodland cover there but it has been replaced with exotic species. We are gradually putting the woodland back to more native species.



The harvesting work is taking place in the conifer and is mainly made up of thinnings, plus a 1ha clearfell of Western Hemlock (pictured). It is a challenging site having steep ground on both sides. There has been a mixture of harvester forwarder work, and chainsaw work on the very steep ground, with the trees winched up to a flat area for processing. There has also been a traction winch on site (pictured) which is designed to assist with machine traction by preventing wheel/track slippage and associated ground damage. There is 3,500 tonnes of timber due to come out of the woodland, of various qualities, which will go into construction, fencing, pallets, stakes and chip for bio-fuel - just to name a few."



- Bach Dingle is a delightful Restored Ancient Woodland between Knighton and Presteigne and covers 20 acres either side of a stream. The ownership of the woodland is currently shared by 22 individuals and the woodland is registered as a not for profit private company. They are slowly working to a management plan drawn up in 2015 with the aim of preserving and enhancing the woodland biodiversity. Two blocks of shares are currently available for sale at £5,000 each. If you think you might be interested please contact Ali Hatton - [alihat27@gmail.com](mailto:alihat27@gmail.com) - for more information and to be shown around. More information is attached to this newsletter.

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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