

## 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.

- Our work at Castle Ring Wood progressed well over the last 2 task days due to high turn-outs of volunteers and dry weather. Our second extraction route has been put in place and we've finished coppicing around the stacking area. We even had an extra 'mini' task day where 4 volunteers dismantled a shed that has been donated to us and moved it to the woods. If anyone would like to help make a wooden base and re-assemble the shed please [contact us!](#)
- Our 2020 AGM took place online on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The committee now consists of Robert Todd, Annie England (Secretary), Guy Rollinson and Steve Pearson whom we thank for their support. Jamie Ritchie stood down after many years' sterling service and we are very grateful for all the work that he has put into the Group – thank you Jamie. We continually seek new committee members - you don't need to volunteer in the woods, just enthusiasm and a willingness to use your skills to help the Group. If this interests you, please [contact us](#) to arrange for an informal chat.



- [Small Woods](#) is running a FREE online workshop on the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) for Small Woodland Owners in England. It is running **TONIGHT**, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 5.30pm to 7pm and gives woodland owners 'the chance to help shape DEFRA's future grants policy and put small woods on the agenda'. To book, please email [stevewarwood@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:stevewarwood@smallwoods.org.uk)

- Shropshire Council is seeking a Project Officer to implement the Trees Outside Woods (TOW) Pilot Project in Shropshire. The project aims to establish several pilot studies and scoping exercises to investigate novel ways to reduce the costs of planting trees outside of woods and enhance the supply of locally produced, bio-secure tree planting stock. Shropshire Council is the lead authority for the 'Agroforestry and Orchards' pilot; other themes include 'Urban Tree Funding', 'Subsidised Tree Schemes', 'Community Tree nurseries' and 'Hedgerow Trees'. The Project Officer will engage with the farming and agricultural research sectors amongst others, scope the existing state of agroforestry and orchards in Shropshire and identify potential novel approaches to improve the situation. The officer will help develop and then implement the pilot project to test, monitor, evaluate and report on suitable approaches and also manage a grant funding programme to deliver the project. More information can be found at: <https://careers.shropshire.gov.uk/vacancy/trees-outside-woods-project-officer-432468.html>

- [TCV Scotland](#), the community volunteering charity, is running an online talk about Amphibian Identification, Ecology & Surveying Methods, hosted by [Froglife](#)'s Emily Millhouse, on **Wednesday 16th December at 6.00pm**. The course will run through the main identification features for our native amphibian species and how to survey for them. It will also touch upon some of the threats that native species face, including non-native species present in the UK and diseases to look out for. There will be a short Q&A session at the end. You can sign up using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-amphibian-identification-ecology-and-surveying-methods-tickets-131196525339>

- If you've ever paused to admire an unusual-looking tree, such as this one at Croft Castle, then you already understand the appeal and allure of an "odditree." This is a tree whose appearance "deviates from what is to be expected, often in response to external conditions." Odditrees exist everywhere in the world and are a constant source of delight, wonder, and amusement to a mindful passersby. In Austin, Texas, there is a society dedicated to the admiration of unusual trees. Called the [Odditree Society](#), it was founded in 2013 by artist and architect Ann Armstrong and urban forester Angela Hanson. Over the past few years, the pair has assembled a Field Guide that directs viewers to Austin's most peculiar trees in order to encourage more intimate engagement with trees.



- Now that the days are almost at their shortest, Forestry England have issued some FREE forest-themed colouring sheets to help pass the long winter evenings. Just click on <http://forestryeng.land/colouring-sheets> and it will download a pdf document you can print out. Here's a sneak peek at what you'll be colouring in...



- **Update** is now on its Christmas break and will return in the New Year. If there is anything that you would like to have included in future issues then please [get in touch](#). Until then, please have a wonderful festive season, stay safe and warm, and we will see you again in 2021.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Best wishes,

The Woodlander Team

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