

# Knighton Community Woodlands Group

# Update

## Welcome to the latest Woodlanders' Update.

There has been a lot happening since our last edition so we have many things to report on! We have good news on task days, training and funding which means we have a fun and busy time ahead of us.

We also have news of wider woodland and wildlife initiatives and issues that we hope you will find interesting. As always, please send us your thoughts, news and comments – our contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Best wishes

## The Woodlanders Team

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### We are back in the woods!

The easing of Covid restrictions means that we are able to have task days again, provided that we follow our volunteering protocol to reduce the risk of transmission – things like maintaining social distancing and regular washing or sanitising of hands. We will have a spring and summer of extracting felled timber, cutting logs, putting up our new shed, preparing for the next felling season and - drumroll please - charcoal making! (More on this later.) We have published our task day schedule on our [webpage](#) and if you would like to get involved please [contact us](#).



### Biodiversity Survey Training

Excellent news! We have successfully bid to Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales for funding to train volunteers in biodiversity survey training techniques and to buy the necessary equipment. The funding has been awarded under the Shared Outcome Request scheme and will allow us to have volunteers trained in how to carry out botanical, ornithological and moth surveys and record the results. We will also be learning how to share the resulting data with other conservation organisations. Until now we have had to pay others to carry out surveys for us: this funding will allow us to become self-sufficient.



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru**  
**Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

We had originally planned to carry out the project in 2020-2021 but due to covid restrictions and the seasonal nature of survey work we have delayed the start of the training until 2022. So, this year we are looking for

volunteers who are willing to be trained in plant, bird and moth surveying techniques and to then act as surveyors in those areas for the Woodlanders. More information will follow, and full descriptions of the volunteer roles will soon be issued via our website but, if you are interested in the survey training, please drop us an email at [woodland@tveg.org.uk](mailto:woodland@tveg.org.uk)

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## Charcoal Making

More good news on funding. Due to the support of the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, through the AONB Conservation Fund, we are buying a charcoal retort and receiving training on how to use it. We wish to use a retort, rather than a traditional ring-kiln, as a retort burns much more efficiently and cleanly, producing more charcoal and far less particulate pollution.



Charcoal making will allow us to use more of the timber we grow and turn the 'waste' side branches and tops that arise from our work into a value-added product, generating an income and making us more financially self-sufficient. We will, in time, run training courses on making charcoal - generating a second income stream from the equipment.

In order to assist other local conservation groups, the grant allows us to provide two one-day training courses on charcoal-making free-of-charge to members of Shropshire Hills AONB-based organisations.

More information will follow, and full descriptions of the volunteer roles will soon be issued via our website, but if you are interested in leading on this please drop an email to us at [woodland@tveg.org.uk](mailto:woodland@tveg.org.uk)

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## Forestry Skills Training

[Focus on Forestry First](#) aims to support firms within the Welsh trees and timber sector to access skills, plan staff development and increase qualifications.

To allow members who regularly volunteer with us access to subsidised training, KCWG has re-registered with FFF because the scheme closes later this year. We are hoping to access a range of first aid and chainsaw qualifications for our member volunteers.

Registered KCWG volunteers have been contacted directly but if you missed the emails and would like to be considered for training, please [contact us](#).



**Focus on Forestry First**

## State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021

This report, compiled by the Woodland Trust, is the first 'State of' report and presents state and trends focusing largely on native woods and trees. It reports on their extent, condition and wildlife value, the benefits people gain from them, the threats and pressures they face, what is being done to help them and what more we need to do. The report can be downloaded at

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2021/04/state-of-uk-woods-and-trees-2021/>



## Wales Nature Week 29<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Wales Nature Week is an annual celebration of nature featuring the fantastic habitats and species of Wales. Organised by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership, the virtual set of events commences with a welcome return of the Garden BioBlitz. You can take part across Wales by spotting and sharing nature visitors and residents in your garden. Helpful tips and support

from their community of experts will ensure your participation is fun and informative. The celebration continues with a focus each day on habitat types and the species they support. Confirmed events are “Garden BioBlitz” on 29<sup>th</sup> May and “Big Nature Quiz” on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Be sure to check [the website](#) for further updates.



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## Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) Training

BIS have free online training events and talks that may be of interest to you.



**BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SERVICE**  
FOR POWYS AND BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK  
**GWASANAETH GWYBODAETH FIOAMRYWIAETH**  
POWYS A PHARC CENEDLAETHOL BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG

**Skills for Bees** is a Bumblebee Conservation Trust project and training opportunity being run in partnership with BIS over 3 years. Trainees will learn to identify bumblebees and record them. To take part you must live in Powys / Brecon Beacons National Park area, be willing to commit to identifying and recording bumblebees over the next few years and help record this under-recorded taxon group. The training will start on 6<sup>th</sup> May with an introductory zoom session followed by a second zoom session on 13<sup>th</sup> May. To find out more about the project and book a place visit [www.bis.org.uk/diaryevent](http://www.bis.org.uk/diaryevent). There are limited spaces so please only book if you can make both sessions, can commit to this project for 3 years and live in the BIS area. If it's full, do join their waiting list as spaces may become available.

Learn about **Invasive Non-Native Species** that inhabit the Brecon Beacons, the impact they have and what you can do help map & eradicate them. Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm. To book click [here](#).

**Burial Grounds as Biodiversity Hotspots.** Burial grounds can be surprisingly rich in biodiversity. Find out about them on this talk from Caring for God's Acre, and what services CfGA can offer to burial ground managers in Powys to support biodiversity. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm. To book click [here](#)

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Last but not least, Survival is campaigning for **indigenous land rights** to be considered in the push for conservation areas. You can read more and watch an animated poem, narrated by activist-poet Nnimmo Bassey, on the [Survival website](#).



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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 [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. For more information about the Woodlanders, please visit our webpage: <http://tveg.org.uk/wordpress/woodland-project>

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*Registered Office: The Toot, Garth Lane, Knighton, LD7 1HH.*