

# Knighton Community Woodlands Group

# Update

## Welcome to the latest Woodlanders' Update.

Hello! After a bit of a break, we are back with news of our activities and news from other organisations that may be of interest to you. We hope you will find this Update interesting and be inspired to get involved! A lot of the third-party events and courses we have included are imminent but please note that we won't have checked that there are still places available. 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, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Charcoal Making

Thanks to our successful bid to the [Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund](#), on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July we took delivery of a charcoal retort and received training in how to use it from the designer/retailer James Hookway of [Hookway Retorts](#). We have chosen to use a retort over a traditional ring kiln as it produces very little particulate pollution and converts more of the timber into charcoal. The retort was simpler to set up and use than we anticipated, which was a pleasant surprise. The retort produced practically no smoke, completed its burn by around 5pm, and was left to cool at the end of the training day. We returned to it at our next task day and found that the conversion had gone well and we had very little “brown ends” (partially converted timber). Our experimental carbonisation of fern leaves in the top of the retort has also worked well - see photos. We sold our very first bag of charcoal to a volunteer at the training!

The purchase of the retort and the training are a huge step forward, but this is only the beginning of the process. We are looking forward to demonstrating our equipment and what we have learnt to other woodland groups in the Shropshire Hills AONB this Autumn.





## Castle Ring Wood Wildlife

On almost our last task day before our summer break we had a bit of a wildlife bonanza at one of the woods we work in, Castle Ring Wood. Finds included a Jay feather, some magnificent honeysuckle, a common toad, an (out-of-focus) pupa of a Magpie Moth (*Abraxas grossulariata*), a Stinkhorn fungus (*Phallus impudicus*) and an insect unknown to the author...! If you can name the insect (or wish to correct any of the other identifications) then [please get in touch](#).



## Hedgelaying

Covid restrictions allowing, we hope to run our hedgelaying course again this autumn – pictured is our last course. Two of our volunteers, Mark and Clare, have kindly provided the venue for our courses to date. However, they have now run out of hedge to lay. If you would like to host a course and have a hedge suitable for laying (we can advise on suitability) then [please get in touch](#). Our training venue requirements are a suitable hedge, parking for 5 or 6 vehicles and access to a toilet – we provide everything else.



## Friends of Mortimer Forest

This is a new charity is working to help preserve and conserve the forest and its wildlife, as well as organise activities of social benefit in the Forest. They will be holding a launch event on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021, from 1pm at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow**. The centrepiece of the launch will be a talk by one of their Patrons, **Sir Jonathan Porritt, entitled "Forget the Global If We Can't Secure the Local" at 3pm**. There is also the opportunity for people to 'become a friend' which is free and shows support for the new charity. You can sign up via their [website](#) and follow them on social media where they will update followers on events and activities.



FRIENDS OF MORTIMER FOREST

Celebrating the launch of the charity: a talk by our patron

**Sir Jonathon Porritt, CBE**

The internationally-renowned environmentalist, writer, former Director of Friends of the Earth and Chairman of the UK Government's Sustainable Development Commission

**'FORGET THE GLOBAL IF WE CAN'T SECURE THE LOCAL'**

Please join us at St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow  
3pm on Saturday 11 September

FREE EVENT  
Refreshments including venison sausages from 1pm with donation

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## Community Woodland Gathering 2021

Llais y Goedwig have organised the annual gathering of the community woodland groups of Wales for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Coxwood, near Wrexham. We have attended in past years and found it to be a thoroughly enjoyable event. Here is a little taste of what they have planned:



*Practical workshops and demonstrations:* Collecting and growing on seeds from your own trees; Making essential oils from foraged products; Willow crafts; Apple pressing; Charcoal making.

*Discussions, talks and sharing ideas:* Managing a woodland for diverse products; How to identify and manage Ash Dieback in your woods; Community woodlands and the National Forest.

*Woodland Marketplace:* Bring your own products, or information about what you offer from your woodland to show and sell - examples so far include birch sap syrup and heritage orchard cider.

*Fun activities for the kids* – including an adventure playpark on-site!

The price varies from £10 - £25 to cover some of the costs with subsidised places available for Llais y Goedwig members. Day passes are available to the full works, and children go FREE! More information and a booking form can be found [here](#).

**Please note:** Paid-up current Members of Knighton Community Woodlands Group can attend as full members of Llais y Goedwig, with some limited bursary support available for tickets and travel costs. For more information on this, please contact Zena, at Llais y Goedwig: [info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk](mailto:info@llaisygoedwig.org.uk) / 01654 700061 / 07535 024677.

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## Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) Training

FREE **Reptile Survey Training** will take place online on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm, delivered by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust. This session will cover the theory of reptile ecology, surveying and fieldcraft. The first hour will be spent learning about the ecology of our four widespread Welsh species, the second will cover the insights we can gain from understanding ecology to enable us to find and observe these species in the wild. This session will be an introduction to the topic, with plenty of time for questions. You can book your place [online](#), [by email](#) or by calling 07791 638 201.



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

BIS also has a YouTube channel that can be watched by anyone - you don't need an account. It contains recordings of most of the event talks and training they have offered online to date, along with short videos on how to record the wildlife you see. Click [here](#) to see if there is anything you'd like to watch.

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## Fall into Nature with Plantlife

This is a free (donations invited) and extensive programme of online events being run throughout October by Plantlife. The key themes are flower-rich meadows and grasslands, and climate change. The series shows how plant conservation meets the climate and ecological crises, whilst at the same time providing an opportunity to tackle some of the crises faced in wider society. The series includes discussion, plant identification and other training opportunities and a chance to connect with nature and explore conservation through art. To see the full list of events please [click here](#).



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## Living Woods Magazine

The Summer 2021 issue of Living Woods Magazine is still available [here](#), with articles on trespassers, planting a woodland, family time in the woods, where and when you need a felling licence and the Woodlands Awards 2021.

The magazine is for anyone interested in trees, woodlands and timber. So, whether you dream of owning your own woodland, want to learn new and exciting woodland skills and activities or simply want to enjoy the therapy of quiet, green woodworking, Living Woods Magazine will show you the way. It is free to read and download.



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## Radnorshire Wildlife Trust Events

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September** 7pm to 8:30pm online - *Delivering a nature Recovery Action Plan for Powys*. Join Holly Dillon, Powys County Council Biodiversity Officer, and James Hitchcock, RWT CEO, to hear about the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Powys and the work of the Powys Nature Partnership. Sign up [here](#).



Radnorshire  
Wildlife Trust

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**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** 10am to 5pm *Habitat Management Day* at Gilfach Nature Reserve. Staff will be on hand to discuss the details of habitat management and they have also organised a series of events throughout the day. Learn how to distinguish between different habitats, what habitats are locally important, how they deal with competing conservation priorities and which specialist hand tools they use. Alongside tool demonstrations, there will be two guided walks at 10:30am and 2pm starting at Pont Marteg car park by the A470. Booking not required but contact information will be taken on the day. Refreshments available at the Farmyard throughout the day.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September** – 12pm to 4pm *Celebrating Action for Climate* at Lake Park Common, Llandrindod, part of *Great Big Green Week* across the UK. A plastic free picnic and the chance to talk about what nature does for us. Make a pledge on what small change you are going to start with to tackle the climate and ecological crisis! The event is free but please book in [here](#).

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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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*Knighton Community Woodlands Group is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee (No. 7416851) established for the benefit of wildlife and local people.*

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