

Welcome to the first Woodlanders' Update for 2022

Hello! Being a new Woodlander and having taken on the task of creating the newsletter, I should introduce myself

Having moved to Beguildy in June last year with my husband, Toby, from Buckingham in North Buckinghamshire, we are now living in an isolated old Georgian farmhouse, requiring considerable improvement, with a small area of young woodland and running water. I have always been interested in wildlife, the countryside in general and a passionate gardener and grower. We have three daughters, three grandchildren and two dogs! Having worked across health, disability and education for many years, this chapter ended in March last year. I look forward to meeting more of you on Task Days and developing my interests as well as my limited woodland skills!

We are thankfully seeing welcome hints of spring such as snowdrops, catkins and daffodils after a period of quite unsettled weather. Below is a range of news, training courses, links and articles we hope you will find of interest.

Best wishes

Jane Cliff, Woodlander
March 2022

Great News!

The Volunteer Biodiversity Surveyor training is at last going ahead with the moth, botany and bird survey training courses all full; the training is taking place over the next few months.

Following a successful bid, funds have been provided by Natural Resources Wales to increase and develop the skills of interested volunteers in the identification and recording of different plants, birds and moths. Survey results will be reported to the National Biodiversity Network. It is our intention that all those who receive the formal training will pass their knowledge on to other existing and new volunteers through informal on-the-job training and practice, so broadening our skills base and ensuring continuity of skills as individual volunteers join and leave our Group. In this way we maintain a pool of volunteers who are either formally or informally trained to carry out surveys, from which we can draw Volunteer Leaders.



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**

We are also working with Radnorshire Wildlife Trust to see if we can provide additional training to our volunteers. There will be more information on this in future editions of Update.



What have the Woodlanders been up to recently?

An excellent first aid course was well attended in February by Woodlanders and delivered by Wayne Gladwin of GLC First Aid. All who attended passed and have received their up-to-date certificates. Good news for Task Days when a first aider is clearly important.



Wayne, the instructor, and Woodlanders in action!

The Task Days continue to be well attended and the weather has only thwarted the activities of the Woodlanders on one day so far over the autumn and winter! Work has continued on thinning birch and coppicing hazel as well as preparing wood for charcoal making. Details of the task day programme for the spring and summer will be released soon.

For the next newsletter it would be great to include some photos of the Task Day activities as well as any flora and fauna of interest that is spotted, so please keep your cameras and phones handy sending any photos to the email below, many thanks.

Projects in Wales



Plantlife International, the wild plant conservation charity, details their work in Wales (Plantlife Cymru) including current projects and policy. Campaigns include *Dynamic Dunescapes*; *Magnificent Meadows Cymru* and *Green Links, Bridgend*. Throughout Wales there are also legacy projects such as restoring the *Gower Cliffs* in Glamorgan and keeping the *Carmarthen Bay Dunes* in top condition. To learn more about these projects and others, visit their website plantlife.org.uk

Toads on the move



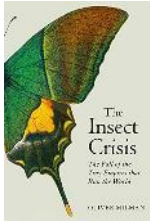
Toad patrols at Landrindod Wales Lake have recently begun! Chloe Jackson, Project Officer for Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT) reports that few toads were spotted (likely to be still hibernating) but a number of palmate and smooth newts were found as well as one great crested newt! The newts were safely moved out of the road and relocated to the lake.

RWT also report on interesting news on River Action's successful crowdfunding campaign raising £34,000 for citizen science groups across the Wye Valley. River Action is a campaign group

endeavouring to raise the awareness on river pollution as well as seek solutions with industrial and agricultural producers.

If you are interested in finding out more on the above, please visit [Radnorshire Wildlife Trust](#)

Book Reviews



Country Living Magazine (March): “From *The Guardian*’s environmental reporter, this is part celebration of our insect population, part wake-up call to protect the species upon which our own survival depends”

The Insect Crisis by Oliver Milman
Atlantic Books £16.99



Read [The Guardian review](#) on *A Blue New Deal – why we need a new politics for the ocean* by Chris Armstrong

Yale University Press £20

The **Living Woods** magazine’s winter issue reviews books on a variety of topics including woodland folklore, sustainable woodland management and woodland craft. To read the reviews visit page 8 of the [Winter issue](#).

Surveying for Bats

12th & 13th May 2022 at St Fagans, Cardiff.

This Bat Conservation Trust course will give you the knowledge and skills to plan professional bat surveys, as well as developing practical survey skills and field sign identification. Visit the [BCT website](#) for more details.



The Woodlanders are currently hoping to arrange for some bat survey training for our group – watch this space for more details!

We are pleased to receive feedback in response to **Update** and your thoughts and comments on anything else. Please email 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/what-we-do/woodland-project>

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