



# Countryside Jobs Service

## Focus on Trees and Hedges

23 November 2009

In association with The Tree Council  
For National Tree Week



### Tree Council launches new phase of its Hedge Tree Campaign

Hedge trees, and the hedgerows they grow in, have a special place in this year's National Tree Week as The Tree Council and its member organisations start a new phase in the drive to plant many more of them.

It's never been more urgent. In the ten years to 2007, hedgerow tree numbers fell by nearly four per cent and the trend seems to be continuing. There is certainly a scarcity of young trees to replace mature ones that are being lost. That's why The Tree Council, using its new Hedge Fund, is working with the National Hedgelaying Society and Stella Artois to plant 73km of hedges and more than 8,500 hedge trees across the UK.

It's the latest stage of The Tree Council's Hedge Tree Campaign, supported by Network Rail. This aims to reverse the decline of the trees that are so important to the British landscape and its wildlife, complementing the work of other partners in Hedgelinek – the Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan steering group. (see article on page 2)

Over 600 species of plants, 1,500 insects, 65 birds and 20 mammals inhabit hedgerows, including more than 125 priority biodiversity action plan (BAP) species. Hedgerows provide food, shelter, nesting and roosting sites, and habitat corridors along which to travel. They are vital for 20 priority species of birds and 10 of Britain's rarest mammals, including the dormouse and bats like the soprano pipistrelle. Oxford University research also shows that hedgerow trees increase the number and diversity of moths. So the hedgerow can reasonably claim to be Britain's largest nature reserve at 642,000kms long.

About 80 Hedge Fund grants have been allocated to Tree Council member organisations – including 34 to volunteer Tree Warden networks. Landscape and wildlife are two driving factors for projects being carried out by organisations that range from the Snowdonia National Park Authority and Central Scotland Forest Trust to the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and the Bat Conservation Trust. The People's Trust for Endangered Species is choosing hedgerow plants that are particularly valuable to dormice, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has curlew in its sights.

Tree Wardens are planting wildlife corridor hedges in West Sussex and replacing lost hedges and boosting hedgerow tree numbers in Shropshire. In London, they will be planting hedges to create a safe attractive environment in one of the Haringey's parks and as screening around a play area in Merton. The Tree Council is also funding individual Tree Wardens to plant new trees in or close to parish hedges.

With 30,000 new trees needed every year just to stabilise the current population of 1.6 million isolated hedgerow trees, efforts like these are essential.

 photos online

The Tree Council began National Tree Week in 1975 and it's now a major part of its Community Action Programme. This includes the Tree Care Campaign (March to September), Walk in the Woods (throughout May) and Seed Gathering Season (23 September to 23 October). Find out more at [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

- As part of The Tree Council's National Tree Week, the BBC Breathing Places team is organising the Tree O'Clock record attempt on Saturday 5 December 2009. Tree Wardens and Tree Council member organisations will be helping to set the Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in one hour in multiple locations.



National Tree Week 2009

25 November - 6 December 2009



Wherever you see this symbol against an advert or article it means that the organisation is a member of The Tree Council. An environmental charity, The Tree Council is an umbrella body for 150 organisations working together for more trees, of the right kind, in the right places; for better care for all trees; and to inspire effective action for trees. Its goal is to make trees matter to everyone. Members range from professional, non-governmental, specialist and trade organisations, including other environmental charities, to local authorities and government bodies.



## Hedgelink

The UK Hedgerow Habitat Action Plan (HAP) group has given itself a new, shorter, name, Hedgelink, and set up [www.hedgelink.org.uk](http://www.hedgelink.org.uk). We hope this website will serve as the first stop for anyone wishing to find out about hedges, and are very keen to make it as useful as possible. Suggestions about content are most welcome and should be made

through the contact page. Currently the site focuses on biodiversity, management and legal protection, but we are eager to build up content on resource protection (the role hedges have to play in water control, soil conservation, carbon storage, etc) and on cultural and historic aspects.

Our focus is on delivery of the HAP targets, which cover the extent and condition of all hedges composed predominantly of native species, including hedgerow trees and herbaceous flora. One major concern is that too many hedges are being either neglected altogether or cut unrelentingly year after year, with a result that the national stock has declined significantly over the last decade. Inevitably such management or lack of management leads to ever bigger gaps at the base of the hedge or along its length. Another major reason for poor condition is an excessive cover of nettles, docks or goose-grass at the base of the hedge, reflecting nutrient enrichment and adversely affecting the ground flora. However, there are positive signs that agri-environmental schemes such as Environmental Stewardship are starting to improve hedgerow condition. To help influencing policy and resource allocation we have recently listed the reasons why hedges are important and the ecosystem services they provide - scroll down to the bottom of the Importance of Hedges page on the Hedgelink website.

By Rod Wolton, Hedgelink

## Hedgelaying

Hedgelaying, the craft of cutting through the stem of a tree or bush, bending it over and weaving it to create a stock proof fence has been practiced in the UK and Northern Europe for at least Two thousand years. Until the start of the first War it was the most cost effective method of creating fences to retain livestock, because farm labour was cheap and abundant during the winter months when the work is normally carried out.

Different styles of hedgelaying were developed over the years to suit the hedges which varied with the differing terrain and farming practices. Although hedges are generally composed of Hawthorn and Blackthorn there are many other shrubs which may occur locally, Guelder Rose, Spindle, Maple, Holly etc. Each requires specialist knowledge if they are to be laid successfully.

A hedge which will retain sheep must be thick and bushy to prevent the animals pushing through, thus hedges in the upland areas, (Wales, Cumbria) etc tends to be low and bushy whilst one to retain cattle such as in the Midlands, and Staffordshire must be sturdy enough to withstand the weight of an excitable bullock. In Yorkshire hedges are laid around arable land which reverts to grazing dairy cattle after two or three years once the hedge has regenerated. Devon utilizes the Devon Bank as the main livestock barrier with the hedge on top of the bank to prevent livestock climbing over.

By the 1960's hedges were being grubbed out at an alarming rate to facilitate intensive farming. It was realised that unless something was done the skills of the hedge layer would be lost forever the National Hedge Laying Society was formed in 1978 to document the skills, pass them on to others and keep the craft alive. Competitions were organised all over the country. A National Competition is now an annual event. There are some thirty recognised styles in the UK although these are all based on seven basic styles which are used in competitions and also form the basis of the Societies "Accreditation" scheme which ensures that commercial hedge layers are working to a high standard.

In 1997 Legislation was introduced to help protect hedgerows. The decline of the hedgerow has now been halted, new hedges are being planted and neglected hedgerows can be restored using a variety of techniques. There is an increasing demand for hedge layers, working with modern tools such as Chainsaws these skilled craftsman have a detailed knowledge and understanding of hedges, bringing them back into use both for the benefit of wildlife and for agricultural purposes as livestock fences and field boundaries.

The Society works closely with organisation such as Natural England to ensure that the hedgerows; one of the most outstanding features of our countryside, are protected and properly maintained for future generations. This year is holding the National championship on the Countryside Restoration Trusts farm at Vowchurch Hereford.

For more information [www.hedgelaying.org.uk](http://www.hedgelaying.org.uk)



photos online

## Coppicing and pollarding – 'cut and come again' for trees!

Our woodlands are quieter today than they have been for thousands of years. Up until early in the last century most of our woodlands were active places of work, providing employment for thousands of people and a range of products for local communities. But now there is renewed interest in coppicing, green wood crafts and coppice products and a new generation of woodland workers is returning to the woods.

### What is coppicing?

Most of our native trees will sprout again from the stump or 'stool' when cut down. This regrowth is very vigorous and rapidly produces a crop of straight poles which were historically harvested for a variety of purposes. The most commonly coppiced species across most of the UK is hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The majority of our woodlands were managed as 'coppice with standards' where most of the wood was occupied by growing hazel with a scatter (typically 12 or so trees per hectare) of timber species such as oak or ash. These 'standards' would be of a range of ages, so that each time the area of coppice (coupe) was cut one or more standards could be felled to give a continuous supply of timber. Each coppice woodland would be divided into a number of coupes of around 0.5 ha which would be felled in rotation annually to ensure a steady annual supply of coppiced hazel poles. Hazel coppice is normally cut at a rotation of seven to ten years depending on the proposed markets. Products include hedging stakes, thatching spars, pea and bean sticks, hurdles, garden items such as obelisks.

Research has shown that restoring coppicing in a neglected and dark woodland can have significant benefits for biodiversity – the maintenance of the diverse habitat varying from open ground to closed canopy is good for many woodland birds, butterflies and mammals such as dormice. And if coppice restoration also provided economic and social benefits to the woodland owner or manager and local coppice workers, everyone benefits.

### Pollarding

Pollarding can be thought of as coppicing out of the reach of grazing animals. Centuries ago in hunting forests and parklands landowners would cut (most commonly) oak, beech and ash trees at a height of ten feet or so, allowing the tree to send out shoots from just below the cut. The resulting poles could then be cut after a couple of years to provide fodder for cattle, or allowed to grow on for 20 years or more to provide firewood and other produce. As with coppicing, this repeated cutting could be continued in rotation for centuries. The UK is particularly fortunate in holding a large number of veteran pollards, many up to 1000 years old or more, which have great biodiversity importance.

**The Small Woods Association** is Britain's leading organisation for all those with an interest in the sustainable management and wellbeing of our small woodlands. We provide our members with training, networking opportunities and a quarterly magazine, support the coppice industry, run social forestry programmes and a UK wide coppice restoration project, and our policy work with regional and national bodies ensures that the interests of small woodland managers, workers and owners are represented. For more information phone 01952 432769, email [philtidey@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:philtidey@smallwoods.org.uk) or visit our website [www.smallwoods.org.uk](http://www.smallwoods.org.uk).



See also [www.coppiceproducts.co.uk](http://www.coppiceproducts.co.uk) and [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum/](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-forum/)

## BRITISH HARDWOOD CHARCOAL

Recent years have seen a welcome increase in the production of charcoal in Britain. British charcoal is better quality than most imported charcoal, it is made from a renewable, managed resource, using wood for which there is no other market and providing employment.

Charcoal burning, and other traditional coppice crafts, offer a solution to the problem of small neglected woodlands. The charcoal-burner can take low value timber which is only good for firewood and convert it to charcoal. He can therefore afford to work in the restoration and management of woodlands which would otherwise be abandoned.

Most burners use steel ring kilns sited straight onto the ground. The kiln is filled with timber of roughly equal size which is then burnt. The first stage of the burn produces dense emissions which are mostly steam. During the second stage air inlets are blocked, usually with sand or earth, and the emissions change from steam to mostly smoke. Then when the kiln is burning strongly it is sealed and left until the smoke turns thin, blue and wispy signalling the end of the burn. Finally the kiln is shut down completely and left to cool before unloading the charcoal.

The Woodland Skills Centre in North Wales ([www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk](http://www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk)) runs a number of courses, Charcoal Production being one of the most popular. We have run dozens of courses over the years and are delighted that a significant number of our former students are now making their own charcoal.

By Rod Waterfield



photo online

**Tre evolution** is a pro-active Company delivering training to the Tree Work Industry in the UK and overseas. Based in Snowdonia, with Associates located in Cumbria and Scotland, we aim to deliver training and assessments to prepare individuals for industry. Contact: Jane on 01766 890495 [www.tre evolution.co.uk](http://www.tre evolution.co.uk)

**World Land Trust** saving Biodiversity. £50 will purchase One Acre of rainforest or other critically threatened habitat in South America, and protect all the wildlife that depend on it. WLT also offers six-month internships for post graduates to gain valuable experience and training in conservation management. Tel: 01986 874 422 Email: [info@worldlandtrust.org](mailto:info@worldlandtrust.org) Web: [www.worldlandtrust.org](http://www.worldlandtrust.org)



TREES FOR LIFE

**The Caledonian Forest needs you!**

Trees for Life is an award winning conservation charity carrying out vital forest restoration work. Volunteers are invited to come on conservation Work Weeks to help restore the natural environment - spend a week in the Highlands amongst forests, rivers & mountains,

learning about ecological restoration. Work includes tree planting, felling non-native trees, fence removal and tree nursery work. Work Weeks run from March to May & August to November. The 2010 dates are available online now! Minimum contribution of £70pw, includes all food, accommodation, transport from Inverness. Reasonable level of fitness, no previous experience required, 18+ years. Contact Rosie 01309 691444, [rosie@treesforlife.org.uk](mailto:rosie@treesforlife.org.uk), [www.treesforlife.org.uk](http://www.treesforlife.org.uk)

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The Institute of Chartered Foresters is the Royal Chartered body for foresters and arboriculturists in the UK. Chartered status is a widely recognised mark of excellence and professionalism for those working in the industry.

For more information on how you can become a chartered forester or chartered arboriculturist, visit [www.charteredforesters.org](http://www.charteredforesters.org).



**The Woodland Skills Centre**, based in 50 acres of woodland in the Clwydian Range AONB in North-East Wales runs courses in woodland and other crafts. All ages and abilities welcome. Free camping. Courses include coppice and greenwood crafts, basketry, bushcraft, coracles, woodland management, carving, bee-keeping. [www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk](http://www.woodlandskillscentre.co.uk) - tel 01745 710477

**Institution of Sustainability Professionals** welcomes new individual and corporate members. Everyone working in the countryside sector is working towards a sustainable future. Join our network and have MISP or AMISP after your name. For further information see [www.webisp.org](http://www.webisp.org) or tel 01827 722153.

**Volunteer opportunities at Carrifran Wildwood** and other BFT projects, in the Scottish Borders Wildwood every 3rd Sunday of the month and every Tuesday 10am to 4pm native woodland planting in remote areas contact George Moffat on 01835830750 or email [george@bordersforesttrust.org](mailto:george@bordersforesttrust.org)

**Volunteer on the Galapagos Islands** working with plant conservation, agro forestry and reserve maintenance, along with programmes to promote biodiversity conservation and awareness. Make a difference in the conservation of this unique place! For more information and other opportunities, please visit our website at [www.gvi.co.uk](http://www.gvi.co.uk)

**Moulton College Northampton.** Set amid rolling Northamptonshire countryside, Moulton College offers a superb learning environment for those interested in arboriculture, horticulture, turf management, floristry and countryside management courses. Moulton College, Moulton, Northampton, NN3 7RR. Tel: 01604 491131, email: [enquiries@moulton.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@moulton.ac.uk) or visit [www.moulton.ac.uk](http://www.moulton.ac.uk) for details of all courses available.



# THE NATIONAL TRUST

## TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS AS A PRIORITY HABITAT

Traditional orchards occur throughout the UK, but with an estimated area of just 25,350 hectares and an average size of around 1 hectare they are a relatively small feature in our landscapes. And yet so many of us, young and old, city dwellers and country folk, have an experience or a fond memory that relates to orchards – a flurry of confetti like blossom petals, scrumping apples, delicious crumbles, climbing trees and falling out of them. Orchards are part of our heritage - a link to the practices and traditions of our past. And they are finally being recognised as important in our future; providing sanctuaries for a huge array of wildlife, focal points for community gatherings and sources of delicious local and seasonal produce.

### Making Traditional Orchards a Priority

In some parts of the country, we have lost as much as 75% of our Traditional Orchards. Grubbing out grants, poor protection under planning policy and competition from intensive practices and international markets have all contributed to this bleak figure. But, thanks to the work of several organisations (including Common Ground, who gave us Apple Day and Community Orchards, PTES and a brigade of Local Orchard Groups) there is now a much brighter outlook. A resurgence in the cider industry is also positive news, with many businesses, large and small, supporting traditionally managed orchards instead of or in addition to the more intensive, commercial set ups.

The recognition of Traditional Orchards as a valuable wildlife habitat resulted in their designation as a 'priority' under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 2007. Traditional Orchards differ from many habitats in that they are recognised more as a combination of elements (undisturbed pasture, standing and fallen dead wood, hedgerows and ponds) than for a particular floristic assemblage. Each component provides habitat for its own suite of species from across the plant, animal and fungi kingdoms. An intensive study into three Tradition orchards in the Wyre valley revealed a total of 1,800 species. Wood-decay invertebrates such as

the rare Noble Chafer beetle are a particular feature of veteran trees and standing and fallen deadwood. Birds such as the red listed Lesser Spotted Woodpecker use rot holes and hollows for feeding and nesting, small mammals utilise hedgerows and feed on buds and fruit and the undisturbed pasture supports diverse grassland species. Traditional Orchards may be a 'man made' habitat, but they are brimming with wildlife.

### Traditional Orchards and the National Trust

At the National Trust, we are pleased to be able to make our own contribution to the orchard conservation effort. We are thought to be the largest landowner of Traditional Orchards. An audit revealed 101 separate sites, but this is the tip of the iceberg – we know there are more. Last year, the National Trust Conservation Team secured a grant of £268,000 from Natural England's Countdown 2010 biodiversity action fund, which the Trust has matched to deliver the Conserving and Restoring Traditional Orchards in England project. Running until March 2011 the project aims to conserve and restore Traditional Orchards across England through practical work, training, surveying and raising awareness.



For more information contact [orchards@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:orchards@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Kate Merry, Orchard Project Officer, The National Trust



photos  
online



## PLANTLIFE

### Juniper – down the hatch?

One of only three native conifers in Britain, Juniper, the shrub beloved by gin drinkers, is now in serious decline. In the New Year, Plantlife is launching a new Juniper project in the lowlands of England, where the shrub's decline has been gradual but inexorable. In the worst cases, some vice-counties

have lost 100% of their populations, including North Devon, North Somerset, Essex, Worcester and Shropshire.

Between 2004-2005, Plantlife carried out an ambitious public survey of Juniper in the uplands, covering Scotland, North Wales, Cumbria and Northumberland. 250 Plantlife volunteers surveyed 44,000 Juniper bushes to find out why this charismatic species is declining and to determine the health of remaining populations.

It is not often that botanical reports recommend conservation action to 'improve sex ratios' but this is the conclusion that Plantlife came to as it became increasingly clear that remaining populations are failing miserably to regenerate. Volunteers found that although many populations seemed healthy, only 13% of sites recorded had Juniper seedlings present. 62% of the sites surveyed had no seedlings or young plants recorded at all. The problem is further compounded as Juniper, which has both male and female plants, is suffering from a lack of productive female plants.

As if this wasn't enough, many juniper populations are too small in number, or too far apart for the existing trees to be viable. Argyll West and the islands, the Border Hills, East Lochaber, NE Coastal Plan, NW Seaboard, the Peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland, the Western Highlands and the Western Southern Uplands and Inner Solway in particular had impoverished populations.

Dr Deborah Long, Conservation Manager at Plantlife Scotland, comments that 'Juniper is an important part of our ancient landscape and culture. The aromatic berries are prized for the flavour they impart to one of our most popular drinks - gin - and are also regularly used as a key ingredient in game dishes. Juniper trees are also a haven for wildlife, supporting over 40 types of invertebrates and providing habitat for specialist fungi and lichens. The survey was vital in confirming how serious the current threat to juniper is: the long life of the adult bushes means that populations may be recorded for a very long time, although they are in fact functionally extinct.' In Scotland, 5-year trials are now ongoing to test the best ways of encouraging juniper populations to regenerate and stabilise.

In January, Plantlife will start trialling three techniques to bolster the most endangered populations in England. More than 30 Juniper sites have been assessed and the charity has advised landowners and land managers on the best options. Over the winter, Plantlife will clear scrub at 10 or more sites, adjacent to existing Juniper stands where seed can be collected and broadcast across the clearing. These sites will then be closely monitored. At other sites, Plantlife will install specially constructed shelters to protect fallen berries and seedlings. The third option is a last resort targeted at the most vulnerable colonies. At sites where there is negligible chance of bushes reproducing naturally, Plantlife is taking cuttings and growing these on at special nurseries, with the aim of planting 1,000 bushes by the end of the project.

In the coming months, Plantlife will be launching a lowland England Juniper survey and looking for volunteers to help with this and other fieldwork. If you are interested, please contact Tim Wilkins – [tim.wilkins@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:tim.wilkins@plantlife.org.uk).

The Lowland England Juniper Project is funded by Countdown 2010, Biffaward and Buckinghamshire County Council.



By Joanna Bromley, Plantlife



photos  
online

## Trees Under Threat?

Recent years have seen tree diseases grabbing the headlines. Sudden Oak Death, Oak Dieback, Bleeding Canker, Alder Phytophthora and Red Band Needle Blight have all made it to the pages of the national press and onto television and radio. But what is the truth about these diseases and are new diseases appearing with greater frequency than before? Could it be due to climate change?



### Oak Dieback

The first case of what we now call Oak Dieback was recorded in 1989. Since then the number of cases has grown steadily with affected trees to be found in woodland, parkland, hedgerows and large gardens, mainly in central, eastern and southern England. The cause of Oak Dieback is believed to be complex with a number of factors acting together or in sequence to bring about the death of the tree. We believe, however, that the main initiating factor is climatic and, specifically, repeated severe droughts. In recent years a different form of oak decline has been recognised, characterised by extensive stem bleeding and a relatively rapid decline. This new form has been designated as Acute Oak Decline while the decline mentioned above has been renamed Chronic Oak decline.

### Bleeding Canker

There can be hardly anyone who has not seen a horse chestnut with bleeding patches on the trunk and large limbs, often with associated deep bark splits. This disease was always associated with Phytophthora and was also found on lime but always in low numbers. All that changed in 2001 when over 20 cases were but in none of these was a Phytophthora found. In the cases that were examined in detail, a bacterium was isolated. This was later identified as *Pseudomonas syringae* pathovar *aesculi*. In the most severe cases the trees die or are weakened so that they have to have drastic surgery or be felled. There are, however, many trees that survive an attack, so there is no reason to consider felling a tree just because it has bleeding. This is a disease where it is important to judge each tree individually rather than apply a blanket solution.

### So have new diseases increased recently?

The short answer to this seems to be 'yes'. When I joined the then Pathology Branch at the Alice Holt Research Station in 1981, it was two years before I came across my first new disease. The pattern seemed to be that a new disease came along every five years or so. However since 1993 I have encountered eight new tree diseases, so why is this? If you look at the trade in live plants over the last 25 years it becomes clear that there has been an almost exponential increase. This is a certain recipe for serious disease outbreaks. So it's nothing to do with climate change? Well not exactly. Some diseases that arrive in the UK may not be able to survive either because the climate is not suitable or the potential host trees are not susceptible. What happens if the climate changes and starts to favour the disease or affects the host trees resistance? We know that year on year variability in climate can influence the severity of many native diseases so it would not be surprising if a permanent shift in climate brought about major changes to existing diseases or allowed new diseases to become established.

Should we be worried? Before we can answer this question we need to get more information and we are very busy doing just that.



For more information on current disease problems, go to the Forest Research website at <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/protectingtrees>



photos  
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By David R Rose, Head of Disease Diagnostic & Advisory Service, Centre for Forestry & Climate Change

**WildGuides** has just published *Flowers of the Forest* by Clive Chatters, illustrating the plants and trees of the New Forest and the botanists that have studied them over the generations. Beautifully illustrated and with 245 colourful pages, it costs £24.95 from [sales@wildguides.co.uk](mailto:sales@wildguides.co.uk) or [www.wildguides.co.uk](http://www.wildguides.co.uk)

**Muddyfaces** provides a one stop shop for forest school and outdoor play resources enabling organisations to source a range of items including health and safety equipment, tools, ropes and bags, outdoor play kits and outdoor clothing on one purchase order saving administration time [www.muddyfaces.co.uk](http://www.muddyfaces.co.uk)

**Wildlife & Countryside Services** provide a wide range of services and materials for countryside management, including: trees, planting, pruning and felling; hedge planting and laying; wildflowers, shrubs and trees; pond liners; protected species surveys; and much more!! Check us out at [www.wildlifeservices.co.uk](http://www.wildlifeservices.co.uk), email [martin.bailey@wildlifeservices.co.uk](mailto:martin.bailey@wildlifeservices.co.uk), or call us on 0845 2300 927.

**Nicholsons:** Specialist suppliers of Container Grown Native Trees and Hedging - 1.0-2.0m tall container grown Plants - prices from £5.00. Contact email: [cat@nicholsons.gb.com](mailto:cat@nicholsons.gb.com) or tel: 01869 340342 press 1 for Plants. Availability lists weekly.

**Nigel Adams Countryside Management.** Hedge management. Experienced and practical hedge management advice plus complete hedgerow management plans for farms and estates. Employed by Natural England as speaker at hedgerow management events and author of numerous hedge articles including the advisory DVD 'A cut above the rest', contact [nigeladams@aol.com](mailto:nigeladams@aol.com). with over 30 years of expertise

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**Civic Trees** specialise in supplying, planting and relocating large and semi mature trees. Their 2.15m diameter tree spade is the largest tractor mounted machine of it's type in the UK and is capable of moving trees with girths up to 90cm. For more information contact Deric Newman deric.newman@civictrees.co.uk

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## Pancake Wood Challenge

In August 2009 the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) launched the Pancake Wood Challenge a new teaching resource developed for primary school teachers and their pupils. This multi-level interactive virtual woodland encourages children to have fun exploring the wealth of wildlife – animals, insects and plants – that woodlands support, and to consider how species thrive.

The Challenge helps deliver specific attainment targets in the Key Stage 1 & 2 National Curriculum for Science and Geography.

RFS Education Officer Debbie Cotton said: "The challenge is an ideal introduction to the woodland environment for children in inner cities and towns who might never have had the opportunity to explore a wood on their own. Equally, schools with their own areas of trees, or woodlands nearby, can combine the Pancake Wood Challenge with local field work. It is a creative way of familiarising children to the sights and sounds of a woodland in preparation for a visit. Successful woodlands in the UK are often the result of human management and Pancake Wood Challenge starts to develop an awareness of the intervention that is essential for many species to thrive."

The RFS is developing a range of additional downloadable teaching resources within its Discovery Zone designed to spark interest in woodlands, their management and their potential for producing greener fuels, wood products and for helping climate change.



Find the Discovery Zone at [www.rfs.org.uk/learning/woodland-discovery](http://www.rfs.org.uk/learning/woodland-discovery)



images online

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*Promoting wise management of trees and woods*



**Need to top up your woodland skills, refresh your certificates of competency?****Short Training courses**, all one day unless otherwise specified.**December 2009**

Safe Use of Woodland Tools on 3/12 and Woodland Crafts for Young People on 4/12 both run by Wilderness Experiences at Ballater. To book: 01540 661295, info@wildernessexperiences.co.uk

Arboricultural Association course, Basic Tree Survey & Inspection held on 4/12 at Broomfield, Derby For info: 01242 522152 www.trees.org.uk

Friday 5th:

Forest Gardening Course at Ardeley, Stevenage by Naturewise. Information from 01438 861447/ 07522 466355 info@churchfarmardeley.co.uk www.naturewise.org.uk course repeated monthly on 23/1/2010, 27/2/2010, 13/03/2010 and 25/04/2010

Coppicing & Hedgelaying two days at the Moelyci Environmental Centre in Tregarth, Bangor . contact the centre on 01248 602793 office@moelyci.org www.moelyci.org

Hedgelaying for Beginners run by the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust details from: 01727 858901 jennifer.gilbert@hmwt.org

The Blackdown Hills Hedge Laying Association is running a Hedge Laying Day in the Yarcombe Area call: 01404 881634, repeated on 2 January and 6 February

More Hedgelaying on Saturday 6th, this time by BCNP Wildlife Trust at Ditchford, Northamptonshire book with the Trust on 01604 405285 trainingworkshops@wildlifebcnp.org

Starting Monday 7th for five days CS 38: Basic Tree climbing and perform aerial rescue

At both Capel Manor College Capel Manor College (08456 122 122 extension 245 shortcourses@capel.ac.uk) and Bicton College (01395 562387 shortcourses@bicton.ac.uk)

Archimedes Training is running the Forest Schools practitioners Award Level 2 in Whiteley Woods, with the Sheffield Forest Schools (0114 2855534 www.forestschools.com)

Three days starting on Tuesday 8th Felling Medium Trees Course in Snowdonia by Treevolution for more details: 01766 890495 jane@treevolution.co.uk

Saturday 12th Identifying Trees in Winter meet at Testwood Lakes, Totton run by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Call: 01489 774400

Monday 14th for three days CS 31: Felling of small trees at Capel Manor College (as above)

Basic Chainsaw Techniques five days and Chainsaw Maintenance & Crosscut two days both by Treevolution as before

Starting Thursday 17th CS 39: Operate a chainsaw from a rope and harness max guide bar length 380mm 2 days at Capel Manor College

**2010**

9/1: An Introduction to Tree Felling Using Hand Tools by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Details from: 01652 637055 hhornbyshwap@gmail.com

Neroche Scheme is running a Coppicing Day on Saturday 16th Jan at Staple Fitzpaine. Information available from 01823 680846 info@nerochescheme.org

5 days from Monday 18th Basic Tree Climbing & Aerial Rescue by Treevolution

20/1 Apple Orchard Winter Pruning by Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust at Cockington Court Call: 01803 606035

Starting 26/1 for 3 days Treevolution course Use of Chainsaw from a Rope & Harness

On Saturday 6 February Learn About...Winter Tree Identification with Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust at Sherrardspark Wood (as before)

10/02 Traditional Woodland Coppicing in Ocombe Valley Woods, run by Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust

Also on 10/2: Green Woodworking with Teenagers at and by the Bishops Wood Centre. Contact the centre on 01299 250513 bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk

Learn Winter Tree Identification at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on 20 February. Contact the Gardens on 0131 248 2937 education@rbge.org.uk

For more information or to book your place please contact the individual providers using the details listed.

***And don't forget to have a look at the Training Section of countryside-jobs.com which has further details for many of these courses and providers plus lots more...***

The CJS team would like to thank everyone who has contributed adverts, articles and information for this CJS Focus publication. Next edition will feature Volunteering, published 8/2/10.