Winter 2024/25

National Coppice Federation

Supporting the Coppice Industry

The Cleft Stick

News from the National Coppice Federation and the UK Coppice Industry



[credit Guy Lambourne]

Gathering

The East Anglian Coppice Network was both honoured and a little nervous over the invitation to host the Annual Gathering. Could an affiliated group dispersed over six counties pull it off? Well, we hoped so. Read more - page 12

From affiliated groups

Updates from some of our south of England groups. All you others – what are you up to? Tell us in time for the next edition! - page 15

Group member profile

Essex coppice worker, Andy Basham of Coppice Designs talks to Cleft Stick about his business and hope for the future. Read more - page 22

Deer repellent and fencing

Brian Williamson's promising trials in Gloucestershire - page 26

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The National Coppice Federation

Uniting regional coppice groups

The National Coppice Federation (NCFed) was formed in 2013 with the aim of uniting already existing regional coppice groups under one banner. Since then more local groups have formed and become affiliated to the NCFed, growing our membership and reach considerably.

National Coppice Federation

Supporting the Coppice Industry

Aims

The NCFed has three key aims:

1. to promote coppicing as a form of woodland management that provides economic, ecological and culturally significant benefits;
2. to bring together regional coppice groups and provide a unified voice for the industry; and
3. to encourage and promote best practice

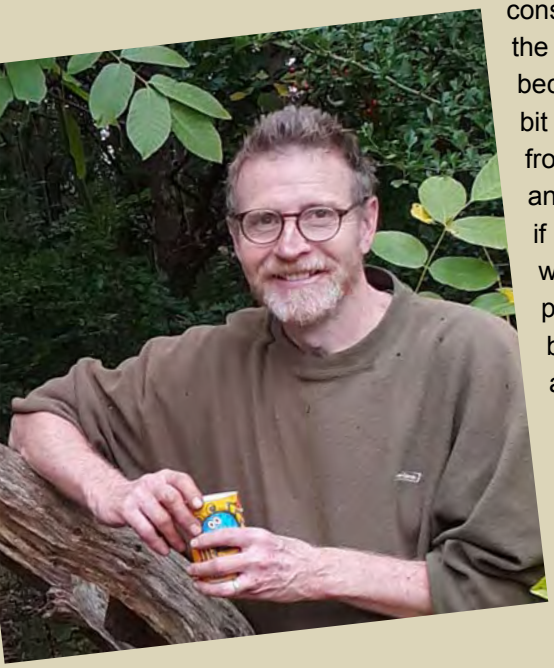
ncfed.org.uk/news/



[credit Kiri Roberts]

Editorial

The hugely successful Annual Gathering and AGM is covered thoroughly elsewhere but I wanted to mention one aspect of it: the discussion on the subject of mental wellbeing in which I was involved. This had worried me considerably in the lead up, partly because it was a bit of a departure from the norm and I wondered if anyone would want to take part, but mainly because I had agreed with Eva and Andrew, the group facilitators, to talk about my own mental health, if that seemed necessary to get the ball rolling; I entered the discussion feeling very anxious. I needn't have worried on either count. The room was full and I felt thoroughly supported by everyone who took part, warmed by other similar and different stories.



The experience has made me try to focus on positives more. Something obvious that I hadn't considered much in the past is the physical benefit of what we do for a living. I started working outdoors because I loved the countryside, trees, a chainsaw, driving Land Rovers... As my career progressed I did less of all those things and mostly found myself behind a desk, in meetings or on the phone. Ten years ago, I quit a sensible part-time job to concentrate full-time on our forestry and farming business. I wasn't young then and breaking the sixty barrier has been difficult, but I am fitter now than I have been, probably since I was sixteen, swam competitively and walked over a mile to school every day... Carrying a flippin' trumpet!

There are enormous benefits to being involved in coppice work and I often wonder what state I'd be in if I was still vegetating behind that desk, accruing a better pension and sclerotic arteries. I know I'm physically fitter and convinced that despite the stresses of self-employment and regular black moments, my mental health is better than it would have been otherwise. Of course if I've died by the time you read this, you'll have the last laugh.

On the same subject, that discussion introduced me to the concept of Mental Health First Aid. Developed in Australia, it was adopted recently by Forest Research who now have a network of Mental Health First Aiders across the UK, trained to offer help to colleagues and members of the public at times of mental trauma. Something NCFed might champion perhaps? The attendance at that discussion group might suggest it's needed. More information here - https://bit.ly/4fGcWFW

On a related subject and also from the same discussion, in response to a thread of conversation focused on worries about the future of a coppice business, the Forestry Commission's Steve Fowkes threw in a real nugget that has stayed with me since (I paraphrase). "The future holds a great deal of uncertainty in all sorts of ways and Artificial Intelligence is becoming a worry for many in terms of their future employment. There's a measure of comfort to be had from the fact that it's not going to force any coppice workers out of a job any time soon".

Back to the Gathering – I want to pay tribute to my colleagues at the East Anglian Coppice Network together with Federation director, Tim Roskell, for bringing such an excellent event together. It was a lot of work, but the reaction from all who took part suggests it was very worthwhile. In the same vein, huge thanks to NCFed's directors and all the other people who put such a lot of time into the organisation, for no financial reward. Finally, thanks to Kiri Roberts, who has taken on the design and layout job for this edition of Cleft Stick. It's great to have you on board.

Guy Lambourne, Editor



[credit Guy Lambourne]



[credit Guy Lambourne]

Hugh and Carolyn receive their trophy from fellow coppice worker and nominator, Brian Williamson

Coppice Peer Award Winners

Hugh Ross and Carolyn Church - Coppice Restoration Award

Hugh and Carolyn took on Rawhaw Wood in Northamptonshire in 1995, at a time when probably nobody in the country was doing anything similar. Double-handedly they have taken its 30 acres from dereliction to productive hazel coppice with nothing to guide them but their own mistakes and experiences. Along the way they managed to get planning permission for a timber-frame dwelling and so are now able to live comfortably on site - prior to this they had the uncomfortable situation of mobile homes and temporary permissions. A beacon of possibilities and hope for us all.

Rowan Thompson - Best New Entrant

Here is a flavour of the nominations for Rowan received this year. “Rowan started working for Leeds Coppice Workers (LCW) just a couple of years ago and very quickly became a hugely valuable part of the team. She approaches all tasks with the same level of commitment; be it dressing out, felling, hedge laying, running workshops, hurdle making or admin behind the scenes. Halfway through last season she took on the role of booking work for everyone in the co-op, which requires an in-depth understanding of all the woods we manage, plus the team and their capabilities. Coppice work naturally requires a level of practical skill which Rowan has taken to brilliantly, but the organisation of a coppice business that has varied income streams is in some ways an even bigger challenge. It has been especially impressive to see Rowan rising to this challenge.”

Unfortunately Rowan wasn’t able to attend the Gathering in Suffolk so we are grateful to Josh Lawson for taking the beautiful award to Leeds and presenting it to her on behalf of us all.

From all at the Federation, the very best for the future to all three of our winners.



[credit Josh Lawson]

Rowan with trophy safely home in a Yorkshire woodland

Hazel Coppice Restoration and Ash Dieback



[credit Guy Lambourne]

The Federation's new(ish) Secretary, Melanie Fryer, has started sending links to the Forestry Industry Safety Accord's regular safety bulletins to coppice Group Reps. So in theory if you are a group member, you should have received these from your Group Rep.

They are useful, extensive, easily scanned, if a little alarming. For anyone working in woods, they definitely fall into the must-read class. (*https://ukfisa.com/Safety/Safety-Bulletins*)

There is no point my repeating here what FISA does very well, but the inclusion of something on felling ash trees affected by ash dieback was very timely for us last month. We were about to start felling some biggish ash and in Bedfordshire, that means diseased ash. So timely was this inbox arrival that having forwarded the link the same evening, we were able to discuss the trees on site,early the following morning, in the full light of excellent information. We went ahead, safely. But that knowledge helped!

One thing came to light later that isn't included in the FISA guidance. This is particular to anyone involved, as we are currently, with hazel coppice restoration in woods where diseased ash trees are present. Thirty-to-forty-year-old hazel stems in a dense coppice inevitably hang up. Although still small enough to be manhandled, old hazel's habit of growing hooks and crooks in their tops leads to a deal of huffing and puffing to get them down. It's slow but safe enough. However if the hazel hangs in an ash, things can be different. Pull the hung hazel and those dry, brittle ash tops can rain down on you. And those tops can be big enough to hurt. Avoiding hang ups with ash is the best solution but if it happens, we found a more careful than usual examination of the hang up usually allows a solution by an operator who is clear of falling wood.

Bedfordshire Trainee Scheme for Autumn 2025 Announced

The Forest of Marston Vale is a Community Forest based in Bedfordshire, established in the early 1990s as part of a network of Community Forests across England. It covers an area of approximately 61 square miles between Bedford and Milton Keynes. When first established, tree cover in the area was around 3%, but with the completion of many successful planting schemes, it has now reached 16.5%. The long-term aim is to reach 30%. Whilst tree establishment remains a focus, there is an increasing need to look after what we have and tackle the restoration of some of our neglected and ancient woodlands.

A great number of these woodlands have not seen any form of coordinated management for thirty to fifty years and we are lucky enough to have some great examples in the area, of which we have taken on the management.

It has become apparent that there is a lack of new entrants into the forestry industry, and something of an aging workforce. Skills and experience are slowly being lost, and it can be a very tricky industry to get a start in, particularly in this part of the country.

As a result, the Forest of Marston Vale have designed a trainee scheme to help people get into the forestry industry. With pay in line with the National Living Wage, this will be a one-year fixed term position with a training budget. By the time this edition of Cleft Stick is published, the first trainee will have been appointed, but the scheme will expand to two trainees in September 2025, then recruiting two per year in future years. The trainee will work closely with, and be mentored by the team's Community Forester and will work across all areas of the business.

Trainees will complete one to four, week long work placements with local contractors and estates and be given the opportunity to complete a level 2 or 3 Forestry qualification. These will be full-time positions, though there is the possibility to work a four-day week. The Royal Forestry Society will be providing support and guidance. By the end of the year successful trainees will have the skills, experience, contacts and qualifications needed either to go into full time employment, become self-employed or carry on into further education in the sector. The scheme is designed to give trainees full exposure to all aspects of the industry and provide the skills, confidence and experience needed to break into the industry properly.

If you are interested in these posts or would like further information or an informal chat, please contact...

Luke Quenby, Community Forester
Luke.quenby@marstonvale.org
07375 805501



National Hedgelaying Championships



The National Coppice Federation had a stand at the National Hedgelaying Championships, held near Driffield, Yorkshire on Saturday 26th October. Competitors needed to have qualified, usually by winning classes at several local area championships previously. However the decision of the Chief Steward is always final!

Ninety-eight competitors, laying in ten styles, took part, at either Intermediate or Open level. The standard was high! Where numbers allowed, veteran classes were also included. The venue was a conveniently large stubble field surrounded by previously unlaid hedges ready for laying. This allowed easy access for spectators. All competitions started together at 9am, and finished at 2pm. The Judges were free to watch progress during the competition, before making their final examinations.

The attendance was more than 500 over the day, including competitors. Apart from the large competition and catering tent (staffed by local Young Farmers), there were more than fifteen stalls, some selling food, but several wildlife/tree trusts were there, along with two stands advertising biodegradable tree shelters, two plantsmen, a honey farm, a woolspinning group, local Men's Shed and of course NCFed. We were sporting one of our new "scroll up" banners, the new NCFed leaflets and business cards.

Many National Hedgelaying Society members at Driffield were not previously aware of NCFed, or the fact that many members of groups can often supply stakes and binders. We attracted a steady stream of interest from visitors. One competitor from West Yorkshire finds it economical to take a large four wheel trailer down to the South to fill up with hedging stakes and bring them back. Cost wise, an advertiser (from East Anglia) in the Championship programme was offering willow binders at £32 plus VAT and delivery, for a bundle of 40 binders, and the same for a bundle of 25 chestnut stakes.

Good hazel stakes and binders are frequently in short supply in Northern England and the Borders, so maybe there is a market here that members of NCFed affiliated coppice groups could satisfy. Also, making leaflets available at your local NHLS championship events would be useful, possibly together with a list of members with product to sell.

Lancelot Robson
North East Coppice Network

Thanks Lancelot, for that excellent write up. Our Hedgelaying Officer, Russell Woodham, is currently on the case in respect of coordinating information about a list of suppliers, (for stakes and binders) who are members of NCFed affiliated coppice groups - Ed

NCFed on the Road

Marketing literature

At the Weekend Gathering and AGM in Suffolk in October, we distributed bundles of newly printed NCFed leaflets alongside new, generic business cards. These were handed out to Groups Reps present at the Gathering or someone else from the group. Each group was also provided with five, newly printed, Correx "Coppicing" signs. Designed to be used in woods, to help members of the public understand the coppicing process, they are a joint venture between NCFed and Small Woods Association, sponsored by the Forestry Commission.

Pull up banners

We now have four identical, newly designed, pull up, freestanding, tall and eye-catching NCFed banners for use at events. These are spread around the country so if you are planning to be at an event where the Federation needs to be heard about, let us know and we will tell you where the nearest one is currently stored.

Bodgers Ball

We would like to see NCFed represented at this annual event, run by the Association of Pole Lathe Turners and Green Woodworkers (APTGW), in May each year, particularly as there is a large number of people who are members of both organisations. However, we do need you - members of NCFed affiliated groups - to step forward to volunteer and help man a stand.

We want to spread the word as far as possible so if you know of a relevant event with a high attendance, where some NCFed leaflets and a banner might attract some attention, please let us know. Remember the Federation's literature doesn't promote membership of your local group so there is no reason why, at the same time, you shouldn't also promote your own coppice group, or coppice/green woodworking related business alongside. In fact it makes a lot of sense.



NCFed Gazebo

The NCFed Media and Marketing Subcommittee are looking into the cost of NCFed buying a good quality gazebo, suitably emblazoned with the name and logo, to provide a standalone, highly visible space in which to promote all things coppice at such events.





[credit Guy Lambourne]

NCFed at the APF Exhibition 2024

The APF Exhibition, in Ragley, Warwickshire, is the UK's largest forestry and woodland trade show and typically attracts over 320 exhibitors and 23,000 visitors. This year, NCFed and the More Coppice Into Productive Management (Coppice Mapping Project) team were represented, in the Forest Worker Zone, by Cheryl Silvawood (Coppice Mapping Project's Secretary and National Comms and Outreach Officer), Simon Maskrey (Coppice Mapping Project's National Technical Specialist), Brian Williamson (Avon and South Cotswolds Coppice Group), Neil Owens (Sussex & Surrey Coppice Group) and Tim Cumine (former NCFed Membership Secretary).

The Coppice Mapping Project team representatives held productive conversations with various people, received good feedback about the Project and collected contact details of organisations, woodland owners and managers who are interested in the Project's opportunities and outputs. They also met representatives of organisations who are keen to work alongside NCFed in furthering our aims and those of the coppicing sector. There were also discussions with organisations that host timber sales platforms as well as potential venues to hold future training and events.

Brian shared his extensive expertise in coppicing, while Neil collected useful feedback and contacts from event attendees on behalf of NCFed. Tim led a productive discussion on the theme of Forestry Skills - on behalf of the Forest Worker Zone - and elicited some interesting responses from a diverse range of participants. Read Tim's article here: https://bit.ly/3OmFiJh

NCFed would like to invite volunteers from its affiliated regional coppice groups to represent it at major events like the APF in the near future. For the individual it is an opportunity to network. For the regional coppice groups and NCFed it is an opportunity to raise the profile of the respective organisations and spread the positive message of coppicing amongst a wider audience.

For further information on volunteering at events, contact:

Cheryl Silvawood
Secretary and National Comms and Outreach Officer of the Coppice Mapping Project
mamsc@ncfed.org.uk

The Teller - More Than a Magazine

Many of you will be familiar with this fine publication, produced by and for the Hampshire Coppice Group and edited by Chris Westcott. On arrival in my inbox, I generally give it a thorough reading and find myself slightly in awe of the range of things HCG members get up to.

Clearly, the origin of this publication's name was chosen for its ambition to tell fellow members about HCG's many and various activities (how do they get to so many shows?). But apparently, according to Phil Allen, one the Teller's co-founders, a teller is also an old name for an intermediate pole stage tree, destined to replace mature standards in a coppice with standards system.

Lovely! Whether this is a Hampshire dialect word I can't tell you, but I may give it a whirl next time I'm out in the woods with a group of people.

Have you knowledge of obscure or local terms for trees, tools or coppicey practices? If so, do send them to the Cleft Stick editorial team.

Guy Lambourne



[credit Guy Lambourne]

An oak 'teller' recruit in hazel coppice

Departures

Glenn Hadley, now ex-Webmaster

Glenn has finally managed to wriggle out of the rather onerous task of managing the Federation's electronic stuff. From the outset, he claimed to be ill-equipped for the role, having only a little experience of editing and managing a website and of greasing the dials and gears behind numerous email addresses. He took on the role when the site had been hacked and was on the verge of collapse and I have to say that given this claimed lack of experience, he always did a very good job. He managed to keep the whole thing going and always came up trumps when presented with what must have seemed like an endless stream of "Glenn could yous…?"

So a heart-felt thank you to Glenn on behalf of the Directors and everyone else who has had cause to use our electronic systems over the last few years.

Tim Cumine

Tim has, in the past, been an NCFed director and latterly our Membership Secretary. He chose to stand down from that role when Melanie Fryer took it on this summer. We have Tim to thank for the organisation's tiered membership system, which cleverly allows smaller groups to pay a lower subscription compared to the groups with a much larger membership roll. You will have seen his name in other parts of this magazine (a talk at the APF in 2024 comes to mind); he has a huge experience of woodlands and coppice work which he was always willing to share. Thanks Tim for your huge contribution to NCFed over the years.

New Appointments

We are delighted to welcome these good people who have taken up the following roles...

Website Administrator, Maria Jenkins

Maria lives on the River Thames, not far from Reading, working as a grower on an organic vegetable farm. After studying maths, she worked as a software developer, building websites, apps and AI algorithms. Then she swapped her office for a field, her computer for a tractor and her pen for a spade and finds she now prefers to harvest carrots rather than data! She still tends to the odd website, including the NCFed's. In her free time, she has begun trying her hand at coppice crafts, including making a hay rake at the wonderful recent NCFed Weekend Gathering.

Membership Secretary, Naomi Cantor

Naomi is soon to complete a two-year coppicing apprenticeship through Smallwoods, sponsored by Brian Williamson, working on the 45 acres of hazel coppice restoration at Westonbirt Arboretum. She is based in Stroud, Gloucester and plans to continue to produce coppice products and other woody crafts from Westonbirt, and in the future, teach. Using her administrative skills, honed during her life before coppice, she will be supporting NCFed and its membership to develop and promote the interests of coppice workers over the coming years.

Cleft Stick Layout Design, Kiri Roberts

Kiri is relatively new to coppicing but she's very quickly fallen for it and wants to make a living from it. She's made a start at Westonbirt Arboretum working alongside Brian, Naomi and the team, and is gaining experience in coppice management and greenwood working there. She's also a newly qualified chainsaw operator, so watch out! Coming from an arty background, she studied graphic design and illustration at university, and has kept her hand in doing odd jobs for friends and acquaintances over the years. She's also taken up pyrography, which is a great fit alongside woodland craft.



Left to right; Maria Jenkins (Website Administrator), Naomi Cantor (Membership Secretary), Kiri Roberts (Cleft Stick Layout and Design)

Events Officer, Rachel Hutton

Rachel has a wide and diverse range of skills to bring to the NCFed table in this newly created role. She has extensive background skills in event management, teaching and as a ranger. She is also a very talented craftsperson. She is very much a hands on person and has lots of great ideas to help increase our presence at events and help raise awareness about NCFed and what we have to offer.

Social Media Officer, Yeva Sands

Yeva is pursuing a career in the conservation sector and has background knowledge in ecology, has worked in a marine science consultancy and is regularly involved with practical conservation volunteering. During his industrial placement at Ocean Science Consulting Ltd he took over managing the company's social media platforms to share global marine conservation news.

Yeva is currently applying for jobs in the North West. He's very interested in getting local communities involved in volunteering and education and says, "It's such a hopeful and fulfilling activity and we need more hands on deck to improve biodiversity and access to nature"!


[credit Guy Lambourne]

The Annual Gathering and AGM, October 2024

The East Anglian Coppice Network (EACN) were both honoured and a little nervous over the invitation to host the NCFed Annual Gathering. Could an affiliated NCFed group dispersed over six counties pull it off? Well, we hoped so.

Our venue choice, Wakelyns Agroforestry in North-east Suffolk, had solid experience of hosting events, a great on-site caterer, plenty of camping space and also other accommodation for those not in a van or a tent. The compact site gave us a few set-up head scratches, but with half a dozen Friday courses and ten Saturday demos planned, we knew we could just about squeeze it all in.

The Friday courses were well attended; rake making, lime-bast cordage, willow basket making, bowl-turning and wooden haberdashery were all a hit, but oddly no-one wanted to make billhook sheaths or do fish-skin bark tanning. The traditional Friday night barbecue was followed by a screening of *'Tim Stead- a magician with wood'*, a truly inspiring film about a woodworker, furniture maker, artist and conservationist who died tragically young. The film is now on STV Player and Freeview so available across the UK. Even if you don't think you'd be interested, you will be truly hooked. We all were, despite the cold of the outdoor screening.



Saturday dawned cold and clear, especially for Jonty's breakfast crew, hard at work preparing an amazing cooked breakfast for all attendees. Saturday morning is all about the demonstrations, which this year included the award-winning Andy Basham making spars, Fay Jones (our Woodland Haberdasher) making lime-bast cordage and the Tool Store selling an enticing array of sharp instruments!'


[credit Guy Lambourne]




Friday's varied training courses were very well received



Left – 'Departing chair Dave Jackson receives a beautiful bowl in recognition of his enormous past contribution; Right - Saturday evening highlight - The King Driscolls

Wakelyns inhouse cook, Henrietta, provided a delicious lunch of soup, wonderful bread made with local flour, local cheese and apples from on-site trees. She also cooked up a hearty dinner of venison stew followed by apple crumble.

Saturday afternoon discussions were very well attended, covering the topics of deer management, biodiversity and coppice interactions and mental wellbeing. (Brief outlines of these discussions will shortly be available on the Federation's website - Ed).



I am pretty sure there was an AGM after the discussion groups, but as one of the organising group I was actually just asleep on one of the sofas in the seating area so I can't tell you a thing about that bit! (Notes will be on the website soon - Ed, again!)



Amanda Illing of Wakelyns presents craft competition prizes to Mark Ricketts (miscellaneous treen) and Emma Lucas (willow basket)

Our resident barman, Jacob just happened to also be one third of the Saturday live music. The King Driscolls put on a brilliant set of East-Anglian rural-inspired folk/rock. Jamming continued well into the night for the hardy souls and those not once more on the breakfast prep shift.

Sunday brought the auction, and the announcement of the winners of the craft competition. The categories were diverse, and at least 3 of the winners just happened to be EACN members. Many of the attendees also had guided tours around Wakelyns from the staff, enthusing their passion for agroforestry.

After another hearty lunch from Henrietta's kitchen, there were two excellent site visits. One was to Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Bradfield Woods, a famous local ancient woodland nature reserve and SSSI, led by Alex Lack, the warden. The other saw a small and select band visit the Sutton Hoo longship recreation in Woodbridge; a project working native timber with authentic equivalents of the tools of the Bronze Age.

From the East Anglian Coppice Network, thank you to all our demonstrators and tutors; to everyone at Wakelyns for wonderful hospitality and amazing food, all our members who helped plan and run the weekend, Tim Roskell for directing everything and of course you for coming and making it such a fantastic event.

Thatchers Sponsor Spars

Huge thanks to the National Society of Master Thatchers for once again sponsoring our spar making competition to the tune of £100. This is an important, developing link between coppice workers, spar makers and thatchers. Pictured are Kit Davis (right) of NSMT presenting the prize to Andy Basham for his winning bundle of fifty spars. Their newsletter, *The Thatcher's Standard* is now carrying several spar makers' ads.





Auctioneer Peter Jameson, assisted by Jane Lambourne and MJ, closing the first deal – the sale of a horse shoe for £1

[credit Guy Lambourne]

A Personal Reflection

As a Gathering newbie, a coppicer only in a volunteer capacity, and a possessor of dexterity issues precluding me from ever being able to make any of the wonderful rakes, baskets, bowls etc. on show over the weekend, I was happy to be part of the organising group but really wasn't sure what I would get from the weekend.

As I was at work, turning up for a Friday course wasn't going to be, but we did arrive in time for the film, and I was absolutely enthralled. It was, really great to meet so many of the coppice clan from across the UK and to learn so much from the demonstrators and other attendees. And of course, there is always a role for the more peripheral folk like me; volunteering in the kitchen, tea-station monitor, carpark duty, all nice simple jobs I could embrace with enthusiasm.

Ok, I won't be able to go next year, as the regular date is, as ever, not a date I can do, (yes there is already something in my diary for that weekend), but if I was free I would definitely be there, as I actually did enjoy it despite all the hard work volunteering through two whole days. And The Longship was absolutely top notch!

Louise Bacon

Auction Report

Organising and running the auction at the Gathering was surprisingly good fun. This year it was smaller than usual (only 15 lots) but no less entertaining for that. The first lot, a lucky horseshoe, reached the princely sum of £1 and got the bidders warmed up. The average sum achieved per lot was £27. A fierce bidding war took place over a "wonderfully warm, wool, woodworkers' waistcoat", that fetched £50. The star lots were a bark spud and an Elwell spar hook which both made £51.

Dorset Coppice Group's Peter Jameson did a magnificent job as our auctioneer. Standing next to Peter on the rostrum as the auction clerk, made me appreciate the skill and subtleties required to work the crowd, to keep the bidding going and achieve the best possible price. Whoever has the job of organising the auction at the next Gathering, keep your fingers crossed that Peter is willing and available to be your auctioneer! Thank you to our porter MJ and everyone who entered lots and helped move them.

Jane Lambourne



[Credit Ashley Martin]

Phil and Neela with pimp and pimp engine

Sussex and Surrey Coppice Group

Skills Days in Shadow Woods

We've been organising Skills Days since October 2023, and I thought I'd muse back to near the beginning of our then new Project.

Skills Day - December 2023

Yet another fandabbydozi day in the Sussex woods. I obviously set out to give the appearance of being busy but without actually doing anything. Didn't do a bad job but did also manage to mark up all my wood for some serious work next time. And yes it was pallet wood Alan and thank you Simon, for your support - this was indeed still making stuff and moreover recycling. Anyway, Katie wanted a DIY Xmas tree and that is what she'll get!

I did bring in my own, first shave horse (homemade in a bit of a rush) and hurdle former, with two sets of holes – one straight and one in a curve – the traditional way. I'd seen both used and this allowed for experimentation. Both had to be smuggled past the Guru in case he asked me why I'd brought some firewood – so rude!! Look, it was my first try, it works, and I learned a lot.

About twelve people came to the event on Saturday and another enjoyable but busy day was had by all.

Shave horses were the main focus, at various stages of manufacture - legs being split and shaved and joints being made. Roger had been on that stage last week, cutting down the excess with his Japanese saw and putting in some wooden wedges to expand the tenon for a tight fit. John had abandoned his foot adze, not for safety reasons, but because it was a slow process; (I like to call them shipwright's adzes for the romanticism but they must have had multiple uses in agricultural manufacturing and construction). Using these traditional tools in traditional ways on traditional projects were interesting experiences and certainly made us all think about technique and muscle memory. We could have done with a Tardis to pop back for a masterclass. Anyway, Bob and John opted for a couple of shave knives and hammer/chisel combinations and, it seemed to me, made more meaningful progress.

Elsewhere, kindling was being cut up for pimps and faggots and Dom was on thatching spars from hazel. Alan had done a bit of coaching for that. He, himself, was working on a hazel obelisk – seven vertical poles and some intricate weaving. The rather chilly nature of the day had its impact at this point, making the hazel just a little brittle and therefore less inclined to be woven. And I must not forget the two formers (or moulds) made out

of a split trunk so we can make hazel or willow hurdles in the future.

What more? Lots of coffee and some Masterchef frying on the fires. Who needs more than this!

Skills Day 26th October 2024

Since October 2023, these Skills Days have gone through two transformations. We started out every week for a couple of months and although well attended (12–20+), it was clear we could exhaust enthusiasm, causing the Project to stall. We moved to bi-weekly sessions with more skilled and experienced members offering advice and training as requested and everybody pursuing their own interests. This was supplemented by occasional specific skills training – the like of pimp, faggot and besom broom making.

Clive Cobie, our chair and resident in the woods, produced a wealth of materials supplemented by coppicing projects he found for us in local untended coppice stands. Post AGM, we took this strategy a stage further and decided we all needed to get our act together on the gathering of material for our skill development and product completion.

So Skills Day 26/10 was, after earlier pollarding of some of our hornbeam, the processing of wood ie. material put aside for pimps and faggots or biochar, and sized for charcoal making or firewood. A day or so's work for Clive reduced to about an hour's hard graft by a group of very willing members, alongside a bit of banter of course! We also looked out for suitable widths/branch joins that would lend themselves to mallets and mauls. Clive does also like us to use our imagination. As this was hornbeam, with a lot of interesting twists and kinks, we considered 'what if' constructions.



[Credit Ashley Martin]

A freshly crafted mallet

Whilst we laboured in the woods Phil was kind enough to show Neela and Katie the ins and outs of pimp production. With good instruction and the correct kit, artists were in the making and some effective learning was going on for sure!

As always, this was a great opportunity to catch up, have a yarn, get the kettle on, roast some corn cobs and bbq some sausages.

Sussex and Surrey Coppice Group are the hosts for the 2025 NCFed Annual Gathering. Get the dates in your diary now - 10th to 12th October 2025, Weald & Downland Museum, West Sussex. It's going to be huge!

Ashley Martin
(Show Sec and NCFed Group Rep)
and latterly Chair of Gathering 2025.



[credit Kiri Roberts]

Devon Coppice and Smallwoods



Devon coppice workers at their ease

This has been an interesting year for us and the running of the group continues to be a challenging learning curve. We have Facebook and Instagram pages and a Whatsapp Chat Group for our members to use and have continued to have a presence at various shows in Devon.

Our chairman, James Dyson stood down at the AGM in June, after two years of much appreciated chairmanship. Thank you to him for his work in the creation of and continuing help with the Mill Leat Coppice Project and the ongoing contract/project with Forestry England, for which he organised liability insurance. He also set up a standard risk assessment for DCSG and much, much more! James has promised to continue to move the Mill Leat Coppice and Forestry England projects forward. And, as no one was forthcoming at the AGM to take James's place, Jane Baker, our Treasurer, bravely offered to take on the role for a year. (Phew!). Our main focus now is the uploading of the DCSG website, the creation of several hubs for our members and as many Gatherings as we can muster!

DCSG Spring Gathering - Moving Timber, Tools & Techniques Day - hosted by Nigel Cole

One of the biggest barriers for self-sustaining and productive small woodlands is extracting the timber; choosing the right method for the site, for the timber value and for the bank balance. There are many factors to consider and several options to decide upon, each with its own merits and distinctions. Not all are always suitable. Working with our members, we organised a day visit to committee member Nigel Cole's wood near Buckfastleigh, to cover the essentials and basics of what is available to small woodland owners and workers. A series of displays and demonstrations of hand winches, tractor winches, vehicle power and their skilled operation highlighted how these methods and tools can be used to efficiently and safely extract timber. In addition, the Dartmoor Horseloggers, Will Hampton, Polly the Ardennes and Beano the Comtois were onsite to demonstrate the work they do alongside the lighter forestry machinery, to provide professional, low impact, ground sensitive extraction - an increasingly important objective of modern woodland management. We plan to repeat this successful day next year.



Ancient and modern, horses for courses



Learning, sharing and bonhomie - DCSG is everything a coppice group should be

DCSG Autumn Gathering - October 2024

Hosted by Ali Waterman of the Druid Mine Project near Ashburton, this day provided an opportunity for members to socialise in a woodland setting, sitting round a fire, chatting. Many thanks to Ali for providing the perfect venue for our Gathering, which included a kitchen, seating area and two barbecues. We had planned to do a tree survey at the beginning of the day, but somehow, chopping wood, lighting the fire and sharing ideas took over. Although, in the afternoon we did manage to get Sean Helman to give us a demonstration of his refined precision at making a traditional fan bird. Beautiful work, although we know that it has taken him many years to perfect the process and Sean said himself that he is still making little adjustments.

This post from Ali the next day: ‘Thanks for bringing more human life to Druid Mine, splitting logs, lighting and gathering round the fire, cooking and sharing food and so many ideas and interconnections. These common unities are at the core of DCSG’s reason for being. We are nourished’.

More information about the Druid Mine

Logo

Sean Hellman has very generously designed and gifted a new logo for us which is now available in badge form. We have a silkscreen of the logo and will have a printing workshop for the membership next year.

Website

This year we will be finalising and completing our website, having secured a Farming in Protected Landscapes grant. We aim to have it up and running by April 2025.

Hubs

An ongoing project for DCSG. Devon covers quite a large area and we are hoping to establish hubs north and south so that members can organise get togethers for themselves. Watch this space!

So, as this year ends and another begins we might maybe get half of the things done that we want to achieve in 2025, who knows! And may we wish you all a happy and prosperous 2025!

Joanna McClure - Secretary
Devon Coppice & Smallwoods Group



Sean Helman’s lovely logo - now available as a badge

Dorset Round Up

It's been a busy time in Dorset since the previous issue of Cleft Stick. As well as the usual summer show season, we held our annual Wood Fair in July. This was delayed from its normal May date due to the wet ground conditions that made parking and access impossible. As ever, it was a hugely successful event, receiving great support from both Dorset Coppice Group members and the wider public. We also celebrated our 25th anniversary! It's fair to say that the Group has come a long way since a few Dorset woodsfolk got together in a local pub back in 1999. The success of the Group is testament to the vision of our early members who laid the foundations for where we are today. It was great that some of those people could join us for a BBQ and to celebrate the Group's success.

Only a couple of weeks ago we hosted our Taster Day. People pay for a whole day and can choose four different crafts/skills to have a go at. This gives a brief introduction to the craft, allowing them to decide if they would then like to book an in-depth course and learn more. Sessions on offer included (among others): charcoal making, hurdle making, pole lathe turning, spoon carving, walking stick making and an introduction to coppice management. The day was a huge success, as evidenced by the number of positive emails we have had since, such as:

"Just wanted to send you a heartfelt THANK YOU for a wonderful Taster Day today. I am still feeling the glow of being outside all day, getting wet and then dry again and working with my hands. It was beautifully organised and everything (as far as I could tell) went smoothly."

"Hi DCG. Can I say a big thank you for all the hard work that went into today's Taster Day. So well organised and learned so much."

Coppicing at Bonsley has now started in earnest and we're running numerous courses over the winter months, as well as our regular work parties. It doesn't look like things in Dorset are slowing down any time soon…

Finally, we're really pleased to announce that we have been selected as a cause that Co-op has chosen to support through their 'Local Community Fund'. If you are a Co-op member (wherever you are in the country), please do consider choosing us as 'your cause' to help fund an educational day for local school children. You can do so, and find more information at: https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/89107

Pete Etheridge



[credit Dave Ewers]

Jim Bettell talks charcoal



[credit Tim Roskell]

Craftsman's tool block

Well, ol' Terry 'ere decided to 'ave a day out down in sunny Dorset a few months ago and went to check out the Dorset Coppice Group's Wood Fair. Well, I spotted this nifty idea for holding your craft tools when you're not in your workshop - maybe out and about demonstrating at a show or wood fair.

Some upholstery webbing was wrapped around and secured to a chopping block log, leaving different sized loops so that all the tools could be slipped in, all close to hand and easily taken out to use. The top of the log of course doubles up as a chopping block at a height that you can use while still sitting on the shave horse.

As my ol' man used to say when he was working in the woods: "son, it ain't rocket science but it's a darn good idea" and I have to agree.

With thanks to Pete Snelson from Dorset Coppice Group for letting me share his idea.

View from the Loft



Richard shows off newly acquired rake making skills at the Gathering

[credit Guy Lambourne]

The recent annual gathering in Suffolk at Wakelyns** (thanks to all, it was terrific!) saw me making a hay rake from ash. It has already seen action and none of the tines broke despite harsh treatment, reminding me how extraordinary ash is.

In fact a discussion broke out during the day, about ash die-back, and whether it was really serious. Certainly we had some good wood for the rakes, so it is not the case that ash is a lost cause.

But the discussion had that meandering quality and remained inconclusive, with one suggestion that ash dieback was perhaps not a big deal at all, maybe even a hoax! Days later I received my Royal Forestry Society journal with a feature on ash dieback and it was a real eye-opener, so I thought I'd share a few notes.

First of all, dieback is a fungal pathogen, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. It gets to work quickly on younger trees, typically killing them within a year after infection. Mature trees can withstand attack for several years but normally die in the end.

Ash dieback was first observed in the UK in 2012 and has been particularly rampant across South-East and East England. Since 2013 there have been some excellent, government-funded screening and monitoring projects.

First the bad and then the good news.

In one ash-dominant wood of 4,200 trees in South-East England, between 2016 and 2023, 60% of the ash trees died. After eight years, just 20 trees were visibly unaffected and there is a question mark even over those. That's how bad it can be.

The good news is that a small number of ash trees have shown tolerance to the pathogen, and the tolerance has been shown to be heritable and durable. That has allowed grafting of tolerant trees to take place, then monitoring over several years to see whether they have survived.

The work began in 2013 with the Future Trees Trust, and Forest Research. The government funded 14 mass screening trials and approximately 200,000 trees were surveyed. Five years later there were about 1,000 trees isolated for their robustness, having apparently defied the pathogen. Grafting took place in 2018; planting in December 2019. By June 2024 only 49% had died and nearly a third (31%) remained in the top two categories of health.

That is hopefully a sign that ash will bounce back, just as elm has done in recent years. But it will take time, with 'clonal archives' of the super ash only being planted up as I write.

**I attended the deer control discussion and for those of you who missed it, the subject was sobering. We've gone from an estimated 400,000 deer in the early 1970s to possibly 2.5 million, the result of milder winters and abundant food. It's the most sustainable and ethical meat being from unfarmed, wild populations, yet we need to be culling a million a year to stand still and we're probably only culling 1-200,000. They do enormous damage to coppice if allowed to browse. For now the only solution is fencing.

Richard Lofthouse, NCFed's Press Officer
richardlofthouse@gmail.com

Group Member Profile

In this new feature, we have dug a little into the background, motivations, hopes and concerns of a member of one of our affiliated groups. Our groups are full of amazing, inspiring people; some of whom are prepared to bare their souls so the rest of us can learn a little.

Andy Basham, of Coppice Designs in Saffron Walden, Essex

Andy is a well known and well respected member of the East Anglian Coppice Network (EACN). He is also known around the country as someone with a great deal of experience in coppicing and related crafts. He cuts hazel in Hales Wood, an ancient woodland, National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). He also runs training courses in rustic furniture making and has been responsible for organising several other training days for members of EACN.



Andy splits a gad

Cleft Stick: How did you get into coppicing?

Andy Basham: I was a cane furniture maker based in London and was getting into conservation, when I started volunteering at Parndon Wood in Harlow, under the tutelage of Vyvyan Veal. I got the bug and started going to BTCV (as was, now TCV) at Kings Cross, near where I lived. It was through them that I first experienced coppicing. I also discovered Herbert Edlin's wonderful book – 'Woodland Crafts' and as a result experimented with lots of crafts myself, most of which quickly got shelved! It was rustic furniture that caught my attention; it's easy to sell and training courses have proved popular and lucrative.

Hales Wood is in private ownership and loosely managed by Natural England (NE). I first got in by trespassing! It was being cut badly and the hazel was just burnt or left. I found the contractor and he agreed I could clear up after him in exchange for the product. He left after a few years and I became the contractor and have been working there ever since.



Coppice specialist, herb paris at Hales Wood

CS: As an NNR and SSSI, Hales Wood is in theory closely protected. Does this have any effect on your work and coppicing business?

AB: As long as NE don't change the rules or the established plan of work, it's fine. I go to great lengths to protect and enhance the diversity and that has earned me brownie points! The original management plan goes back to 1955 so it's well established, but I have no long term security. NE staff like that I'm there and that I do a lot of additional maintenance, particularly looking after the deer fence, badger tunnels, access gates etc. They couldn't do that without spending loads on it and wouldn't be able to react quickly like I can. NE like to be kept up to date but due to my good track record, spanning 17 years, they let me get on with it.

The designations are for the woodland flora; particularly oxlips and various orchids like Butterfly, Birds Nest etc. I think the cutting I do on an eight year rotation has improved things and so do NE. I've restored overstood areas and brought them back to productivity, layering stems to up the stocking rate.

I'm very careful not to wreck the rides after rain. I don't demand much from NE but occasionally they have spare money which allows me to buy more tools or training for our volunteers. They could change things, perhaps to a 20+ year rotation as is now the norm in some East Anglian Wildlife Trust coppices or to chip the product for biomass. Don't know where that would leave me!

CS: Where did you get other essential skills to run a business?

AB: I was lucky to get a good grounding in maths and English at school and my family were busy working people, so I was gifted/saddled with a work ethic. I can be good, ok diplomatic, with people! Essential really for running courses and encouraging recommendations.

CS: What's the most important product you sell at the moment?

AB: I was talking to someone about this recently. I don't have one thing I rely on. If one thing drops away there's something else to pick up. That seems a strong position.

CS: I came to a great spar making training day a year ago at Hales and I should mention your win in the spar making competition at the Gathering in October. As a result of the training day I can say for sure I'm not going to be earning much money from spar making any time soon! How is your spar production now?

AB: I have all the spars I've made bundled up and stashed in the back of a shed. I know thatchers soak them up to make them workable, so they're fine. I'm not going to sell them for £250 for a thousand though. I'll wait for the price to rise until launching them onto the market.

CS: How are you feeling about the future of your business?

AB: Slightly uncertain. The present government's plan for farmers could alter everything in the hedgelaying world and beyond. If hedgelaying finished I would lose that huge outlet for so-so quality hazel. Stakes and binders provide a very important part of my income. Impossible to predict.

CS: You were a founder member of the East Anglian Coppice Network and I know you get to the Annual Gathering regularly, do you intend to stay a member and is it good for you?

AB: Of course it is! I've had lots of jobs passed on through the network including one really important one, so just for that, the small membership fee is fully justified. I've said this to other people and it's puzzling why some people in the trade don't get involved. I've recommended membership to several people. It's worth being a member just for the chance to attend the Gathering.



CS: What's the future for you and your work in Hales?

AB: Because I don't have a lease with the landlord and only an annual contract with Natural England, anything might happen. I do receive a small fee from NE to do the coppicing but the landlord could ask for a rental payment at any time, which would have to be covered by the NE income. There's not much likelihood that I will ever have a long contract/lease, I don't ask, I'm letting sleeping dogs lie. Any volunteers are very well covered by my extensive/expensive insurance with NFU. NE are very happy that the health and safety buck stops with me, not them.

I am drawing a state pension so I can be more picky about what I take on, definitely no more site work! I am wondering about my future and if I was to meet someone with suitable credentials, there might be a way to work with another person. Perhaps another BHMAT apprentice - Jacob Lambert has been my one and only so far, him of the twangy banjo at the Gathering!

I think hosting/running training courses is key for anyone coming into coppicing, it's very difficult to make a living just by cutting and making. People are keen to experience life in a woodland and I think I've missed a trick – I could be charging people to do the volunteer work!

CS: What's your greatest hope for the long term future?

AB: I'd like to do more to encourage kids to be involved, we know they spend too long in front of a screen. 30% of young adults would be unfit for service now, I think they need to be introduced to heritage crafts as part of the curriculum. Working in the woods is a great way to help development in all sorts of ways but we need to get into their heads before they are fourteen. Forest School is good but not always very creative or active enough.

CS: Are you still enjoying it?

AB: Yes – it's absolutely intrinsic to me. My forebears farmed around here and would have known Hale's, I find that strangely comforting, hopefully one of my sons will come back to it. Perhaps if I'm not too annoying I can be allowed to be involved.

With thanks to Andy

Andy Basham, Coppice Designs
a.basham@coppicedesigns.co.uk

Is there a member of your group who has an interesting story to tell? If so, let us know.



[credit Kirr Roberts]

Coppicing life - by Clive Cobie

We are the carers of the copse,
Although some think that we kill the trees,
the laid down brash it doesn't please.
Some stubborn folk they curse and rant,
when seeing trunks laid up the cant.

Yet, if it were more widely known,
by bringing back coups, many seeds are grown.
The stools enlivened with new life,
annuals, perennials, growing rife.
Pollinators pleasant to the eyes,
fluttering jewels against blue skies.
The earth is warmed, creating abundant activity,
invisible to us the microbes feed,
breaking down materials as they breed.
Fungal threads wind their way;
a microscopic mat connecting trees,
plants and flowers, that feed the bees.

So, if you see someone distressed,
by the limbs upon the ground,
Say to them, "I can see your pain,
but when we cut it's not in vain.
Do you know what life is created?
By pruning maidens to the ground,
Mother Nature's abundance does rebound!
As you walk this way six months from now,
your eyes will bless you with a gift;
so much will your spirits lift.
Then you will know the reason why
we cut the copse and do not cry."

We enable the rotation of biodiversity,
by gleaning materials for rural craft mastery.
For millennia our species has worked alongside our mother;
in nature her gifts are given for free.
Some crafters use wood,
which is riven to size,
weaving and bending before our eyes.
They make it look easy, many hours unseen,
the practical life, a rural dream.

There are many groups across this land,
who cut the copse and understand
the potential for biodiversity,
in this world full of adversity.
We recognise the need to share,
the skills we learn, with folks who care.
To regenerate coppice that is unseen,
create some ripples,
a worthy dream.

A hopeful vision for a future,
where communities can get involved.
A hub for connecting the many crafts, and interests that lie waiting within the copse.
The NCFed is to a hub,
connecting coppicers throughout the land;
to promote more interest,
and so, understanding,
in a world that's quite demanding,
So every year they whittle a plan,
an event to help keep the passion alive,
So our rural crafts can thrive

Twenty twenty five it will be held,
in the rolling Sussex Weald,
The Weald and Downland living museum of rural craft,
What a place to sip a draught!
The Sussex and Surrey Coppice Group, invite you all to share your company, ideas and skills,
at this site between the hills.

With best wishes for a fruitful season, to you all.

Clive Cobie SSCG.



[Credit Brian Williamson]

Fences and Repellent - Defending Against Deer

Defending regrowth against deer browsing is one of the major pre-occupations of many coppice workers. In the hazel coppice restoration project at Westonbirt Arboretum, roe and muntjac used to browse both coups (approximately 1 and 1 ¼ of an acre respectively) down to around 15”/18” by the end of the summer. The regrowth would then grow up through the developing bramble in the second and third summers, providing a crop of fairly low quality rods.

About ten years ago we started using a double row of plastic deer-netting to try and keep the deer at bay. The two rows are roughly two metres apart, the netting being 0.9m high, topped by a run of security tape for high visibility. The premise was that deer don’t like jumping into small enclosures, so the double row was an attempt to replicate the appearance of such an enclosure. It’s a system that has worked remarkably well for us and was gradually extended to four coups a year as more coppice came into the restoration programme. There have been minor incursions most years but we’ve been able to either block these or simply live with them and I would say that at least 95% of the rods get away undamaged. As the restocking has progressed, both the number and quality of the rods has improved and it has become more and more important to keep the deer away from them.

A double row of netting totalling about 2,500 yards takes a fair bit of work to put up and take down (and is a large amount of material). Most of the work is done by our volunteers and it is put up around June/July and taken down again around Christmas – so it’s only up for the first growing season in each coup. We’re still using most of the original netting from ten years ago, but the security tape rarely lasts more than a single season and the posts probably only two or three (they’re generally untreated Larch). So we’ve been mulling over ways to reduce both the amount of time and materials used, but hadn’t been brave enough to try a single row of netting, although there have been reports of it working elsewhere (probably areas with very low deer numbers).

Then, whilst attending a ConFor Show on NCFed’s behalf, I came across *Trico*. This is a chemical (though largely natural) deer deterrent based on an extract of sheep fat. It can be applied as a spray or a liquid and works by providing a repellent smell that keeps the deer away from anything to which it has been applied. It hadn’t found a role in coppicing because the speed of regrowth takes the palatable shoots away from the foliar application too rapidly and it would need multiple retreatments to be effective.



[Credit Brian Williamson]

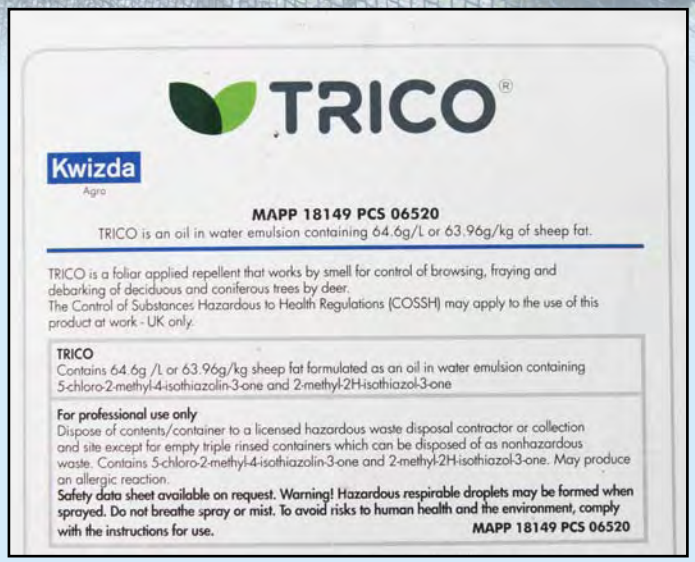
However, in young conifer plantations it can work by being sprayed on perimeter trees where it acts as a barrier to the deer passing into (and browsing on) the centre of the plantation. So, we wondered, could we apply it to our fencing?

The answer, of course, is yes we could! We have replaced the security tape with 40mm electric horse tape. This is soaked in a *Trico* solution, allowed to drain, and then strung above the netting just as the old security tape was – and we've done away with the second row of netting entirely.

We've fenced four coups again this year, one with a double row of netting as in previous years and two with a single row of netting but with a pre-soaked tape. It would be hard to spot a difference between these three in terms of damage. The biggest of the three (*Trico* treated) has had virtually zero damage, though we did re-treat the tape in late September when we thought we were seeing some early damage. The other two (one single fenced and treated, the other double fenced and not treated) have had minor browsing, though both have had rabbits nibbling holes in the bottom of the netting and damaging some stools themselves, also possibly allowing muntjac through as well.

The fourth coup was enclosed with a single run of netting with an untreated, 40mm, tape above it. The deer were obviously getting into this after a few weeks so we replaced the tape with one treated with *Trico*. This had the immediate effect of keeping them out though they do seem to have been getting back in again lately (October).

All in all it's been a very interesting (and promising) experiment and one that we shall certainly be repeating next year, probably playing around with different concentrations, tapes, timings and the like to find an optimum set up.



TRICO®

Kwizda Agro

MAPP 18149 PCS 06520

TRICO is an oil in water emulsion containing 64.6g/L or 63.96g/kg of sheep fat.

TRICO is a foliar applied repellent that works by smell for control of browsing, fraying and debarking of deciduous and coniferous trees by deer.
The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSSH) may apply to the use of this product at work - UK only.

TRICO
Contains 64.6g /L or 63.96g/kg sheep fat formulated as an oil in water emulsion containing 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one

For professional use only
Dispose of contents/container to a licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor or collection and site except for empty triple rinsed containers which can be disposed of as nonhazardous waste. Contains 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one and 2-methyl-2H-isothiazol-3-one. May produce an allergic reaction.
Safety data sheet available on request. Warning! Hazardous respirable droplets may be formed when sprayed. Do not breathe spray or mist. To avoid risks to human health and the environment, comply with the instructions for use.

MAPP 18149 PCS 06520

To find out more about *Trico*, contact the suppliers at www.laronkarn.co.uk

Brian Williamson

Brian is open to questions about his use of fencing and *Trico* in combination and is interested in working in conjunction with others doing similar things. If you are thinking about this approach or perhaps are already using *Trico* in coppice, it would be worth contacting Brian so collectively we can aim for a co-ordinated approach to factors such as fence specification, detail of application and measurement of damage. It would also be interesting to hear from others cutting species other than hazel.

About the NCFed

The National Coppice Federation (NCFed) was formed in 2013 with the aim of uniting already existing regional coppice groups under one banner. Since then more local groups have formed and become affiliated, growing our membership and reach considerably.

Aims

The NCFed has three key aims:

1. to promote coppicing as a form of woodland management that provides economic, ecological and culturally significant benefits;
2. to bring together regional coppice groups and provide a unified voice for the industry; and
3. to encourage and promote best practice

Regional Coppice Groups

Regional groups are the backbone of the NCFed. Some have been established for many years and are very active in their local areas, organising regular social meetings and training courses for members and running events for the public. Others are smaller scale and focus on encouraging networking, cooperation and support between coppice workers.

Coppicing across the country

The National Coppice Federation is the umbrella organisation for local coppice groups from across the UK. These groups in turn have individual members. They vary in size, both in terms of membership and geographical area, and also in scope, with some groups being extremely active and others less so.

Membership Benefits

• You'll be part of a national network that shares skills and ideas and better understands the bigger coppicing picture;
• You'll be part of a regional group that will connect you with local, likeminded individuals that you can cooperate, collaborate and socialise with;
• You'll be part of a movement that aims to improve the coppicing industry and to find solutions to problems and issues;
• You'll be eligible for discounted insurance through our Insurance Scheme;
• You'll be able to attend our fantastic annual Gathering at a reduced rate.

How to join

You will need to find and join your local coppice group; membership fees include a sum that is paid to the NCFed nationally. If there is no local group to join (coverage of the UK is not yet complete), why not consider setting up a new group? Alternatively, there is now an option to join a holding group designed for anyone not in an existing group's area. Full details on the website.



[credit Kiri Roberts]

Receive Cleft Stick and other important information from NCFed by signing up for our mailing list at:

ncfed.org.uk/news/

National Coppice Federation

Supporting the Coppice Industry