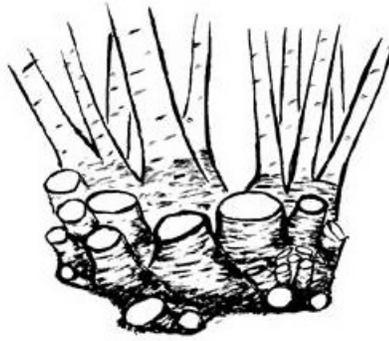


March 2015

Avon and
South
Cotswolds
Coppice
Group



...custodians of our native woodlands and traditional crafts.

Welcome to the first mailing from the newly formed ASCCG! The logo above is close to being the final version which will represent the new group – it's just one of the many things that a core group have been busy progressing during the last three months.

The ASCCG is an amalgamation of the old Gloucestershire Coppice Group – which only really operated in south Gloucestershire anyway – and a whole bunch of enthusiasts from around the Bristol/Bath area. It's a pragmatic attempt to get a larger and more dynamic Group going to represent the interests of all those working in coppice and every other form of low-input, sustainable woodland management and manufacturing.

We hope that we will be able to embrace all those who work in this sector, whether full-time or part-time; those who coppice for conservation or amenity reasons; who earn their living from the greenwood crafts; who enjoy greenwood working as a hobby, or who simply appreciate well managed woodlands and well-made woodland products.

Brian Williamson

Hi All,

Since the inaugural meeting of **Avon and South Cotswolds Coppice Group** (ASCCG) the core group have been meeting once a month, and here's a brief update on what's happened:

Group structure has been purposefully kept informal, loose and non-hierarchical; Michelle has volunteered as acting secretary and treasurer but we're conscious and keen for others to volunteer to take a role in the long term such as group representative or contact etc. The core group has a rolling chair and scribe. Splinter or subgroups will naturally evolve to build parts of ASCCG; already there is one for the website and if you're particularly passionate about what is included on the website please contact one of the emails below.

We have transposed and refined the aims and objectives of the group so far:

- to join NCFed and subsequently:
- access cheaper insurance
- provide mutual support and network for local workers
- publicity and education
- pool resources, group marketing, standardise prices
- host local socials and events
- set good working practice
- challenge national and local policy

It was decided that the annual membership fee for the ASCCG would be £10 (£2 of which goes to NCFED) and as we are now fully recognised by [The National Coppice Federation](#) as a regional group, every £2 of membership supports them and allows fully paid members access discounted insurance (please see the NCFed website for more info).

How do I pay? I hear you asking...

Well we are in the process of setting up a bank account so the ASCCG can receive membership payments and safely raise funds for events etc. It hasn't been simple and so in the meantime we are using Michelle's bank account (details at the bottom).

A domain name and email for the group is also currently being set up and there will be a website to follow soon.

Thanks!
Olly Craigan
rypelwood@gmail.com

Diary dates

It is our intention to put together a whole series of events, running throughout the year, so that we can meet together on a regular basis. Site visits; skill-shares; barbecues; work-parties; gigs, all will be grist to our mill. We'd like to hear from you if you are able to host or help organise anything like this.

Below are details of the first few upcoming things in the months to follow:

April

Wed 1st (no fooling!). **Flora monitoring evening** at the Westonbirt Arboretum, meet in the car park for a 6.30pm departure into Silk Wood. This is part of our on-going programme to monitor the changes in the ground flora in response to opening-up derelict coppice. Bring a field guide and a hand lens if you have one; otherwise come along and brush-up on your plant ID. Led by Emma and Brian. More details from Brian (details below).

May

13th and 14th. **Hazel Coppice restoration and Improvement Seminar**, Westonbirt Arboretum, Glos. £50 per person (or £35 to members of NCFed affiliated groups). Details from Brian (**not** on his usual email address: westonbirt.coppice@virginmedia.com).

Tuesday 19th. **Flora monitoring evening**. All details the same as for April, but this time we'll hope to catch some late flowering species.

June

Sunday 14th. **Crosscut Sawing Day**, Duchy Woodyard, Tetbury, GL8 8SE. Skill-share day, led by Merlin and Brian, looking at all aspects of choosing, using and maintaining big crosscut saws (and there'll be a pit saw!). Places might be limited if this proves very popular, so please contact Brian (below) if you'd like to come. Free to paid-up ASCCG members; donation required from others.

July

On a date to be confirmed: live music in Leigh Woods near Bristol. Details to follow from Olly and Emma from Rypelwood.

Work parties

A number of Groups and Organisations run coppice management work parties. If you'd like yours included, please email Michelle the secretary with the details.

Coppice restoration in Westonbirt Arboretum.

There is a big project going on here to bring some sixty acres of woodland back into a coppice rotation and to provide a long-term livelihood for three or four people. Much of this coppice will be short (seven year) rotation hazel and some twenty five acres have already had a first cut.

The aim is to build up a Group of volunteers dedicated to moving the project along and to developing their own skills. There is essential work to be done throughout the year: cutting through the autumn and winter; restocking by layering or stooling during the spring and early summer and bramble control during the late summer.

Currently, these work parties are run on the 1st Wednesday of every month, but Brian is also trialling Sunday work parties, the next two of which will be on Sundays March 29th and May 3rd. Please contact **Brian Williamson** (brian.hurdles@virgin.net) for more details.

The formalities

Donations and membership payments

These can be made in person to either Brian, Michelle, Olly or Tim with cash or by cheques addressed to **Miss M Mateo**.

If you would like to make a direct bank transfer please send this to:

Miss M Mateo

Sort code **090128**

Account Number: **82949872**

If you are doing direct bank transfers, please email the ASCCG Secretary at michellemateo@hotmail.co.uk with your name, the amount transferred (including the date) and please state if you would like part of your donation to go towards the NCFed (especially if you are looking for the discounted insurance offered).

Want to get more involved?

Would you like to take part behind the scenes and help push the group onwards and upwards? We do have a monthly core group meeting so if you'd like to join in, drop the Secretary an email with your contact details and we'll let you know when the next meeting is.

Have you got any events/work parties/volunteer days you would like ASCCG members to be aware of? If yes, again please email the Secretary Michelle with your ideas!

Many thanks!
Michelle
ASCCG Secretary