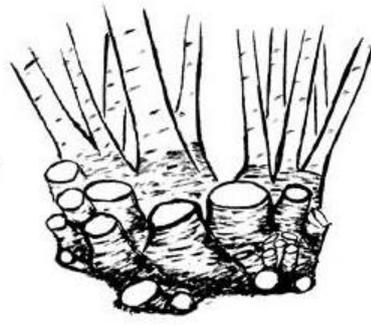


Avon and  
South  
Cotswolds  
Coppice  
Group



Spring 2016

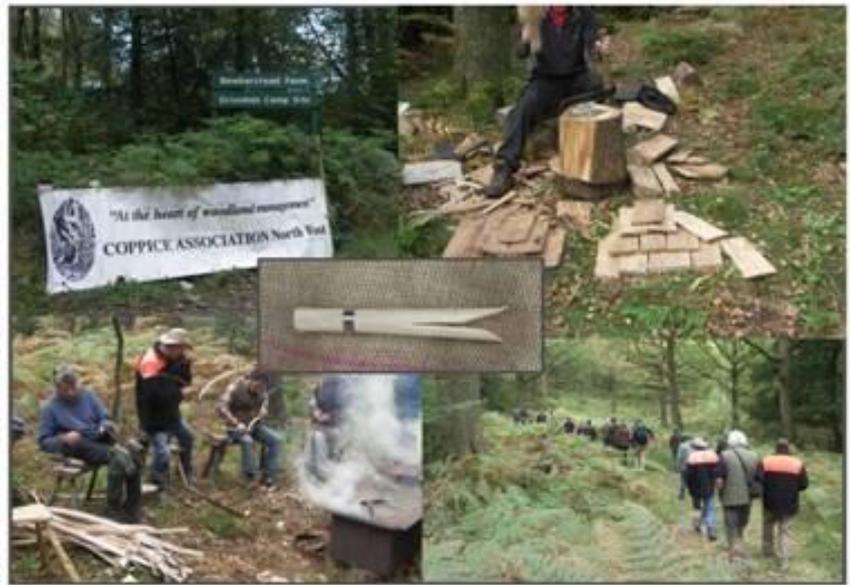
*...custodians of our native woodlands and traditional crafts.*

**What have we been up to lately?**

## Previous ASCCG Events

### National Coppice Federation 2015 Weekend Gathering and AGM

Some 90+ members of Coppice Groups from all corners of the UK (including 9 of us from ASCCG) attended this very enjoyable NCFed event in the Lake District hosted by the Coppice Association North-West over the weekend of 24/25<sup>th</sup> of October last year. There were a variety of site visits to oak and hazel coppices, wildlife walks, talks and discussions, demonstrations and hands on and activities including oak swill basketry, leather work, long bows, gypsy peg making, making oak shakes etc.



Blessed with glorious sunny weather, visiting members could either sleep under canvas, in yurts or camping pods on the beautifully located Grizedale camping site which provided the base for the weekend. If you missed last this year's NCFed bash then watch this space closer to the time for information about the 2016 weekend.



### ASCCG Skittles December 2015

This social event was attended by 20 ASCCG members as well as some new faces who decided to become fully paid up members of our Group that evening, without any persuasion from us. Welcome aboard! The quality of skittling was, well.... interesting but we all had a good laugh and none of us seemed TOO competitive about it all! Brian gave a brief summary of what the Group had achieved in its first year and expressed thanks to Olly and Emma and others who contributed food towards the evening.

### National Hedge laying Competition October 2015

Held at Chew Valley Lake, North Somerset the event was subjected to absolute foul weather! Brian Williamson braved the elements with a stand to promote the ASCCG as well as the NCFed. Well done Brian!

## ASCCG Facebook Page



The new Facebook Page of the Avon and South Cotswolds Coppice Group is now set up. Please "like" the page and "follow" so that you'll be kept abreast of what Group members are up to, details of forthcoming events of both ASCCG as well as other Wood Fair events etc. Help spread the word about ASCCG by sharing Posts on our page to other Facebook friends, Facebook Groups etc. It will all go towards helping promote our industry and public awareness of the benefits of the traditional woodland management system of coppicing along with all the associated skills and crafts of green woodworking etc. Not registered with Facebook? Not a problem! You don't have to be, in order for you, or anyone else, to view our Page but you won't be able to post any pictures, comments etc.

This is the link to the new Facebook Page of the Avon and South Cotswolds Coppice Group! You'll have to click on to this until Mr. Google and his crawling spiders have found us and we will then hopefully, come up on a Google search!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/896832920435769/?fref=ts>

## Spotlight on an ASCCG Member

### The Cherry Wood Project, Near Bath

Set up by Tim Gatfield and his family, some 11 years ago, the Cherry Wood Project is a sustainable woodland management project occupying a glorious location on the Wiltshire/North Somerset borders near Bath. It offers a wide range of courses not only in green woodworking but also in other traditional crafts and skills, such as hedgerow medicine, leatherwork, earth oven building and for the younger ones; WoodKidz Activity Days.

Volunteers, who are keen to learn amongst a friendly and vibrant group of like-minded people, have contributed to much of the work carried out at Cherry Wood. They have helped in both management of the extensive woodland as well as construction of the many numerous structures on the site.

Check out their **Volunteer Thursday**. Every Thursday is volunteer day at Cherry Wood. Join them to work on the project of that particular week. Food and tools are provided. 24 hours advance notice is required.



**Lunchtime on a recent Volunteer Thursday... sitting beneath the replacement Kitchen structure that is currently being built.**

<http://www.cherrywoodproject.co.uk/information/volunteer-thursday>

**Courses** typically range from £80.00 for Spoon Carving or Tool Sharpening, up to £550 for example their 9 day armchair/rocking chair course. They also run a **Project Week**, twice a year which only costs £15 per day with free camping. The next one is this **April 18-24<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**For further information about Cherry Wood:**

**Website:** <http://www.cherrywoodproject.co.uk/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CherryWoodProject/?fref=ts>

## ASCCG Website

[www.avonandsouthcotswoldscoppicegroup.co.uk](http://www.avonandsouthcotswoldscoppicegroup.co.uk)

This is now up and running with some inevitable on-going tweaking and polishing to be done! If you are a paid up member of ASCCG then you can have a free listing on the site. Don't miss out on this added publicity opportunity! So, just send an email to [creativechestnutco@btinternet.com](mailto:creativechestnutco@btinternet.com) requesting a *Web Member Template* and you will be emailed one back to fill in with your details about your business. It's as easy as that! This will be then forwarded on to our Webmaster, Louis, to load up on to the site.

## Diary dates

We're busy behind the scenes at ASCCG lining up some interesting events for your delectation and delight! Information about some of these will be emailed out to the membership in due course. In the meantime, please make a note in your Diary of the following events which we feel may be of interest to you.

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

### April

#### **April (on a weekend, TBC) - Visit to Lower Woods, South Gloucestershire.**

Lower Woods is one of the largest ancient woodlands in the south-west of England and comprises some 700 acres of reserve with 23 woods and coppices whose boundaries have remained unchanged for several centuries. It is the largest Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust nature reserve and is jointly managed with Avon Wildlife Trust. A visit to Lower Woods is to go back in time to what is still a mediaeval landscape of individual woodlands and coppices surrounded by ancient woodbanks and separated by fingers of grazed Common land and old grassy roads called 'trenches'.

**May**

**Sat 7th / Sun 8th May - The Bodgers' Ball at Tyntesfield**

This is the Annual bash and AGM of the Association of Pole Lathe Turners and Green Woodworkers to be held at this National Trust property in North Somerset. Members of APT GW only are allowed to attend BUT they are permitted to take non-members as guests. Tickets for the weekend (payable by both members and non-members) will in due course be available at £25 each.

The ASCCG is intending to have some space here to promote awareness and encourage membership of our Group. Are any of you in our Group, intending to go and demonstrate? Anyone else intending to go? Do you want to go but are not a member APTGW? Please can you email Tim at [creativechestnutco@btinternet.com](mailto:creativechestnutco@btinternet.com) as he is coordinating things for this event and needs to let the organisers know what we will require in terms of space.

In the meantime, for further information please visit the following pages:

[www.bodgers.org.uk](http://www.bodgers.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/associationofpolelatheturnersandgreenwoodworkers/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/associationofpolelatheturnersandgreenwoodworkers/?fref=ts)

**Wed 13th and Thurs May 12th-Flora Survey at Westonbirt Arboretum.6.30pm**

Flora Survey on the coppice coups at Westonbirt Arboretum. Meet in the south west corner of the main Arboretum car park by 6.30pm. Come and brush-up on your knowledge of wild flowers and help improve our species lists. A plant identification guide (and maybe even a hand lens!) would be handy but not essential. Contact Brian Williamson on [brian.hurdles@virgin.net](mailto:brian.hurdles@virgin.net) if you'd like more information (and especially if you're likely to arrive late, as you may not find us!).

**June**

**Saturday 11th June - Visit to Roy Henderson's Wood, Near Bath**

This is a small, private wood owned by Roy who has been, over the years, nurturing it back to life!  
More details will sent out in due to course

**Sunday 12th June - Green Scythe Fair**

Green Scythe Fair - local family Green Fair and West Country Scything Championship - one day event at the lovely Thorney Lakes in South Somerset. Share and celebrate eco and rural solutions and activities with food, bar and wonderful music.

The ASCCG is proposing to have a stand at this event and Brian Williamson is coordinating this. Can anyone interested please let him know if they would like to be part of our stand and what they would like to be doing - would you be there to sell items (please specify/give some idea) or promote your business, or demonstrate something (and if so, what- they're keen on demonstrations) or just to man the stand and talk-up coppice? Please contact Brian: [brian.hurdles@virgin.net](mailto:brian.hurdles@virgin.net)

For more information see the links below:

<http://www.greenfair.org.uk/>

[www.facebook.com/groups/177286732394629/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/groups/177286732394629/?fref=ts)

**Coming up in Autumn...**

**First Aid at Work training.**

There are a number of people due for the renewal of their 1<sup>st</sup> Aid certification this autumn. This is the three day course that requires a two day refresher/re-qualification course – FAW+F (First Aid at Work +Forestry). The two day renewal is a good, stand-alone, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid course for those simply wanting to update their skills but is also required if you work for (or on land belonging to) some organisations such as the Forestry Commission.

The 'F' bit signifies a concentration on topics such as crushing, massive haemorrhaging and Lymes disease: all of particular significance to those of us who work in the woods with chainsaws. If you're in need of one of these courses and the timing suits you, get in touch with me at [brian.hurdles@virgin.net](mailto:brian.hurdles@virgin.net) . I'll be trying to arrange to book a group course (probably at Westonbirt) because they're cheaper than attending a pre-arranged course elsewhere.

# The formalities

## Donations and membership payments

Becoming a member of the ASCCG entitles you to some benefits such as discounts or free entry to some ASCC and/or NCFed events/workshops and talks as well as discounted insurance too.

If you'd like to donate to the group and the work we do, or to become a member, this can be made in person to either Brian, Michelle, Olly or Tim with cash or by cheques addressed to **Miss M Mateo** or the **ASCCG Coppice Group**.

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

**Miss M Mateo** or **ASCCG Coppice Group**

Sort code **090128**

Account Number: **82949872**

If you are doing direct bank transfers, please email the ASCCG Secretary at [michellemateo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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