



*Putting Life into your Landscape"*

Winter 2016

### Chairman's Remarks

Once again winter is here and our year starts again about now. Nearly all the leaves are off the underwood but good underwood is in very short supply on the Hampshire/Dorset border. We will, as in past years, cut off over stoolled hazel, then in the spring we can grade it out, if long and silver we can use the tops, make sails and body rods from the butts and the real big stuff used for logs for the following winter.

On the Shows and Events for the past season, the attendances have been down and there has been a shortage of buyers, especially since June. Brexit is not good for us. Hurdles and coppice products are being purchased on the internet and being supplied from Europe. We have been receiving complaints about hurdles and spars which have been bought in this way, some of the buyers thought they were buying English. If it is measured in metric it is an import!

Anyway, press on for 2017.

That's it for 2016.

Peter Lane

Here are two photographs of my father Walter Leonard Lane; he is working in Palmers Copse at Brickhill which is between Rockbourne and Sandleheath. He is making a ten sail sheep hurdle in April 1937. This copse is on the West Park Estate. He was paid six old pence for a hurdle and made 20 or more a day to earn around ten shillings, or around two pounds a week. At the time farm workers received around two pounds ten shillings a week.



## Grown in Britain

Grown in Britain are proud to announce that we are shortly going to launch our Grown in Britain Coppice licence and as a coppice worker you can apply and be one of the first suppliers on our list and be able to use the Grown in Britain logo on your products.

Grown in Britain's main goal is to reconnect people with trees and the supply chains that created the array of the woody things that enhance daily life. We are all about our getting our fantastic woodlands and forests into great shape for people, wildlife and the amazing array of homegrown wood products that they can produce. Two thirds of timber used in the UK is imported and we want to see more management of British woodlands and more British product innovation to replace these unnecessary imports.

Creating a sustainable wood culture by increasing the use of homegrown wood products is at the heart of Grown in Britain. Over the last four years we have been using a licensing system to support this aim and coppice products can now be added to our licence list.

We started our licensing programme with Grown in Britain forests and woodlands licence and added a chain of custody onto this. This standard is underpinned by the UK Forestry Standard to ensure that the woodlands are well managed. To prove UKFS compliance, a management plan and felling licence is required in order to label the product Grown in Britain. Since much coppice requires neither of this, we have been pondering how to demonstrate this for coppice and now have developed a checklist solution.

The latest venture in the Grown in Britain licence is working with coppice groups to develop a coppice standard that whilst legal and sustainable, is also relevant to coppice workers and satisfies the elements of the UK Forestry Standard.

We have developed the certification system and guidance that we are about to test with a number of coppice groups. The assessment must be sufficiently robust to pass scrutiny and covers topics such as:

- The products and sale of the products
- Diversity of habitat and woodland structure
- Skills and knowledge
- Designations and consultations
- Felling licences if required
- Pests and diseases
- Restocking

We will launch this standard early in the New Year. If you are interested, please contact us and we can put you in contact with the appropriate group scheme manager.

Other licences we have are:

- A woodfuel licence which complies with the requirements for Ofgem so that the timber can be used in a boiler supported by the Renewable Heat Incentive. This is a specific licence for just woodfuel suppliers.
- A Christmas tree standard where the principles of UKFS are adhered to, although the primary goal is to provide a fresh cut tree from the UK.

In early stages of development is the nursery standard with a focus on biosecurity and supporting the UK tree nursery industry. We have been working with DEFRA, FERA, Woodland Trust and the Horticultural Trade Association to develop this.

We now have 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of timber being sold each year as Grown in Britain, extracted from well managed woodlands within the UK. This supported the requirements of industry using timber and lead to preference statements being written into contracts and on websites for Grown in Britain sourced timber.

For more information  
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The upper picture is copyright of Grown in Britain  
The lower picture is by courtesy of Colin Drake.

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Helen Bentley-Fox



## A bit more about Grown in Britain

Some of you may recall Toni Brannon asking for anyone willing to take part in a trial for the new Grown in Britain Coppice Certification. I understand that there are now several people taking part in this via the NCFed, and hopefully any issues will be sorted out and the scheme will be open to all some time next year. It is currently being run by Steve Fowkes from the Forestry Commission, but we will keep you informed of developments.

We have a Grown in Britain Licence for our woodland, as the cost was not too onerous and it seemed a good idea to support the scheme. Whether it will help us we are yet to find out. This means, in our case, that any timber or wood we sell from the wood, or any products made only of this wood, can have the Grown in Britain logo and our licence number on them. It will make our products stand out from the crowd slightly, and will provoke some interest at shows no doubt. As we only received the licence recently, we have only done one minor show, so didn't have much chance to find out.

One advantage of this scheme is that it shows at a glance that the product is made of British wood. Charcoal is a major case where most bags sold in supermarkets do not have any country of origin, so even if the purchaser is interested, they cannot be sure that it is not British. Being able to put a label with a stylised Union Jack superimposed on trees gives an 'at a glance' British connection in the same way as the 'Red Tractor' scheme does for farm produce.

As things progress no doubt there will be more about Grown in Britain in future issues of the Teller, and circulated by Toni for those that want to be involved.

### Happy Birthday Ern

Happy Birthday to our third oldest member. On 25th November 2016 HCCG life member Ern Steel celebrated being 80 years young!! Darren Hammerton and Ken Gaulton felt that this momentous occasion could not go by unmarked by fellow hurdle makers and other greenwoodworkers.

Those of you who know Ern know he is not a great one for fuss or extravagance, so to this end it was decided a fish and chip lunch and a glass of dandelion and burdock at his place with a select few was the order of the day. Darren and Ken travelled over from Swanmore to "deepest Dorset" late morning as the advanced guard, with Charcoal Peter, Leather Jackie and Weaver Alex arriving after mid day.

What do you buy an 80 year old for a birthday present? As Ern has now worked for 70 years in the woods (part time aged 10 to 14 then full time and in his prime putting in a double week of woods and papermill or engine works.) we thought we would get him a book entitled "A Year In The Woods" by Colin Elford as this book is primarily about Vernditch Woods near to his home.

As HCCG we always like to go one better if we can, and to this end Peter contacted Colin if his workload allowed a lunch hour near Ern's house on the relevant day so that he could look in. Colin duly obliged so Ern was handed the book by the author.

As the "nippers", Darren and myself were sent to Shaftesbury on the chip shop run. (We have our suspicions that this was a ruse by the old boys to be alone with a young lady apiece but as we were not there we will never know.)

I am reliably informed that there was healthy banter between Ern and Ken as to who is the best hurdle maker, reminiscing of the days when sheep were folded with hurdles and much other woodland talk whilst we were away.

The fish and chips were good sized portions, Ern knows the best place to send his runners to. I guess there is no point in getting older without getting wiser. After the fish and chips HCCG member Jackie Broomfield had made Ern a birthday cake decorated with a hurdle made of chocolate (9 zale of course). Four of us in the room counted the zales; we could not help ourselves and Jackie had thought that possibility through on the basis of an audience who would notice. A delicious fruit cake to keep the lads and lasses strength up none of this fluffy sponge stuff in mid winter.

In the afternoon we got some tools out and talked bill hooks. An enjoyable lunch plus good company and good simple food. I am a bit worried that I am developing a taste for dandelion and burdock. Cheers.

P S Jameson

P.S. Ken is slightly older than Ern, but kept his birthday quiet and I/ we would like to wish our oldest member (88 years young) a Happy Birthday at the beginning of December. Happy Birthday L.G.





## Weald and Downland Autumn Countryside Show

Several members attended the Autumn Countryside Show, as demonstrators and stall holders, taking part in the competitions or as visitors.

Apart from a sharp shower on Saturday at about 4pm, which cleared the public early, we were blessed with good weather, and the field the green woodworking is usually in was reasonably dry, so we didn't have to pitch between the puddles. The Museum had taken the organisation back in house, which made me a little apprehensive, but it worked out all right. Luckily they had delegated the task of organising us on the day to Mark Allery, who has done this very competently for some years now. Working on the principle that 'organising coppice workers is like herding cats', he just points us in the right direction to set up and leaves us to it.



The besom making took place in the competitors own stand site on Saturday, and attracted 5 people. The prize money was given by the Weald and Downland Museum. Judges were Karen Barrett (W&D museum), Colin Hampton (SSCG) and Mike Gordon (APT&GW)

The results were;

- 1st Terry Herd
- 2nd Mark Allery
- 3rd Alan Waters
- 4th John Westcott
- 5th Claudine

On Sunday the spar making competition had 6 competitors, although Peter Lane hid in the background and nearly missed being counted. The prizes were given by the National Society of Master Thatchers.

The results were;

1st	Ivor Parsons	89 spars	84 accepted	£150
2nd	Rod Miller	58 spars	53 accepted	£75
3rd	Peter Jameson	32 spars	25 accepted	£50
	Peter Lane	34 spars	24 accepted	
	Tom Macconnell	25 spars	24 accepted	
	Jackie Broomfield	5 spars	5 accepted	

Jackie should be congratulated for getting no rejects, even though her numbers were very low. It was only the second time she had attempted spar making.

The hurdle making competition was judged by Ken Galton with Peter Jameson on the other end of the tape measure. Thanks to Ken for stepping in as a judge at the last minute and the Weald and Downland Museum for the prize money.

1st equal	Darren Hammerton
	Peter Thorne
3rd	Ivor Parsons
4th	Robert Dixon
5th	Rod Miller
6th	Hugh Edwards

Darren and Peter shared the 1st and 2nd prize pot of £200 and Ivor received the 3rd prize of £50.



## CPRE Award

HCCG member Paul Brockman won a CPRE award in the Young People category sponsored by Steve's Leaves for the Woodlander Hoburne Bashley project and New Milton. The awards were presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Nigel Atkinson. This was the 10th annual CPRE Hampshire Countryside Awards made to a diverse range of rural-inspired projects. CPRE runs the award to celebrate the beautiful and living countryside at Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall.

Making the presentation, Carrie Hutchings of sponsor Steve's Leaves said: "The Woodlander Hoburne Bashley project reflects the passion and commitment of Paul Brockman. He supports and works with young people of all ages and abilities in order to help them achieve their full potential in the woodlands and develop positive life skills through working with nature.

He inspires secondary school students to pursue woodland management skills and encourages children in primary schools to feel at one with nature. They learn to respect, use and care for an environment they would otherwise have no knowledge of. It is with great pleasure that the judges consider that the Woodlander Hoburne Bashley project in the New Forest National Park is an exceptional winner. Bashley Woods provides an excellent facility and backdrop for all children to connect with nature and as such the project is very special."

The picture shows Paul with his second year woodland management student at the award ceremony.



## APT Meeting Pondhead Enclosure



On the 26th November 2016 the Dorset/Hampshire APT group met (along with several Hampshire Coppice Group members) at Pondhead Enclosure near Lyndhurst.

Firstly let me thank Pondhead Conservation Trust and particularly Derreck Tippetts for use of the venue.

Secondly the event was a team effort, with my thanks to John Westcott for doing the mail shot and coordinating the replies and Jackie Broomfield as a New Forest resident arriving early helping me to set up and providing an excellent fruit cake to keep spirits up in the afternoon.

Sixteen people attended. Pondhead Enclosure is hazel with standards. We set up a lathe, shave horse and portable forge in a glade of mature beech, which in the midst of Autumn was very picturesque. Some turning and peg making took place on the wood front, the idea of the forge was twofold. One a rapid heat up for the lunchtime soup and two to make a poor man's (or poor woman's) forge out of an old lawn mower bottom blade.

It was a dry day as no rain but almost a mist, a cold damp that gets in your bones type of day and it was interesting to see the ancient man instinct of gather around the fire when the forge was lit.

Warmth, food, networking. A good meeting.

Peter Jameson

## **A Curious Story**

We have been thinking about buying a Retort Kiln for a couple of years; we looked at the Exeter kiln, which is very nice, but decided even with a grant we just could not afford one and accepted that we were going to have to stick with standard ring kilns.

Having seen a Hookway kiln, developed by James Hookway, at both the Bodgers ball and the APF forestry show, our interest in retorts was reawakened and we decided that we would seriously look at buying one. However, other things got in the way and we didn't do anything about it. This is when things got weird.

In October we had a log load to deliver on Hayling Island, (many of you will know Hayling, but for those that don't, you get on to the island via Langstone bridge at the Island end of which is a petrol service station; bear with me that bit is important) but having made the delivery, the customer couldn't find her cheque book, and didn't have enough cash to pay us. She suggested that we went to the local petrol station, which was on our way home, and which had a cash point machine, so she could get the money for us. We said OK and off we went in the lead to Langstone filling station.

We drove up there and parked at the side of the petrol part, as not knowing it, we didn't realise there was additional parking for the shop at the back. As we pulled in, there was a car with a man and woman and a small child who had evidently just been ill. The woman was dealing with the child, and the man looked at us a couple of times and wandered over and said to us "I know you don't I?" It was James Hookway. He lives in Sheffield so what was he doing at the filling station on Hayling Island? We got talking to him and found he was in the area for a family get together and the woman and child were his sister and niece, who had been unwell going over the bridge and he had pulled into the first place available. So what are the chances being in the same place as someone you wanted to talk to at somewhere neither of you expected to be, bearing in mind that we live hundreds of mile apart and were there for totally different reasons.

After that series of coincidences, we decided it must be preordained and we had to do something about the kiln, so we exchanged phone numbers and arranged to buy one. James brought it down to us and stayed to show us how to fire it. Not particularly difficult, but useful to know the way to get the best out of it.

That he delivered is worth noting as the kiln is marketed by the Exeter Charcoal Company from Devon and the only one available had to be picked up, by him, in Exeter, the previous day.

John Westcott

## **Standard of Work at Shows**

After a few issues raised by members over the last couple of years, the Committee discussed this at our last meeting. While we are sure that most of you follow the guidelines below, please just read them and do your best to give the rest of the world a good impression of our industry.

Remember that a show is a showcase, not just for you and your business, but for HCCG if you have any logo or banner showing, and the coppice industry as a whole. If you are inexperienced at what you are showing, please make it clear, and if anyone with more experience than you gives you pointers, please take heed of what they are saying. Always be professional, whatever you are doing.

If you are out of your area, make it plain that there are other people, particularly other members of HCCG, SSCG or DCG as appropriate also selling that product, and refer anyone enquiring to the relevant web site. If you are working with someone else, only give your card if asked, or agree that you will give both cards before the show.

### **Seasons Greetings**

On behalf of the Committee, may I wish all of you a Merry Yule, Christmas, or whatever else you celebrate at this time of year, and may you have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Here's to good hazel and other woods, and weather that allows us to work without getting to wet, cold and muddy.

### **Management Committee**

Peter Lane, Member 01425 654413 (Chairman)  
Toni Brannon, Assoc 02392 580988 (Secretary and Membership)  
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