



AGM & Skills Share 2024

Programme and Booking Form

Fri 27 and Sat 28 September

Join us for our Annual General Meeting at the Green Wood Centre, in Coalbrookdale, Telford, the home of the Small Woods Association.

Fees

The fee to attend for members is £25, which includes all refreshments. Non-members fee is £35.

Lunch & refreshments

The Embers Café is catering for us and will be providing a delicious light lunch along with refreshments on Saturday.

Opportunities

Take this opportunity to swap notes with fellow woodland enthusiasts, meet SWA staff and trustees, and find out exactly what goes on at the Green Wood Centre. There is also an exciting raffle this year!

Tool, kit, and book swap

We will also be arranging a tool, kit, and book swap, a popular feature of previous AGM events. So, if you have tools or books that you think will be of interest to other attendees, please bring them along and you might find something that fits your needs and interests in return.

Programme

Friday

Small Woods Study Tour

The theme of our 2024 study tour is Timber, Valuation, and Products. A minibus will be provided for the day, from 8am to 5pm, departing from and returning to Edge Wood, in Westhope, Shropshire. Highlights will include:

- 9.30am** Enjoy a guided tour of Whitney Sawmill, discussion with Mill Manager, Dermot Doyle, and an opportunity to discuss workshop solutions, e.g. opening up the possibility of extracting millable timber from small woodlands
- 12.30pm** Take a walk around Mortimer Forest, in Ludlow, to hear about how timber is measured, sorted, and valued
- 2.30pm** See our retort kiln in action at Edge Wood, in Westhope, and hear about coppice product sorting and valuation.

A donation of £100 per person is suggested to cover the tour costs. Please bring a packed lunch and environment/weather appropriate clothing.

Places are limited to 16 so book early to avoid disappointment by emailing [**office@smallwoods.org.uk**](mailto:office@smallwoods.org.uk)

Saturday

- 9am** Tea and coffee
- 9.30am** Welcome | Chris Duncan, Secretary
Introduction | Simon James, CEO
- 9.45am** Keynote speaker | Rob Penn, Patron – Woodland Resilience
Rob Penn is an author, photographer and broadcaster. The former columnist for *Smallwoods* magazine frequently writes for national newspapers on subjects including British woodlands and life in the Brecon Beacons.

10.15am **Speaker | Dr Jo Clark, Future Trees Trust – Utilising Forest Genetic Resources**

Dr Clark is the Trust's head of research, responsible for a tree improvement programme across seven species. Her work includes investigating the adaptability of ash trees to climate change.

10.45am **Comfort break, tea and coffee**

11am **Speaker | Dr Gabriel Hemery, Sylva Foundation – Innovative Tools for Woodland Management**

Co-founder and chief executive of Sylva Foundation, Dr Hemery leads the charity's scientific work, including the delivery of the British Woodlands Survey series.

11.45am **Speaker | Dr Joan Webber, Forest Research – Pests and Disease**

Dr Webber advises on pathogens impacts and undertakes research into the health of trees, with particular emphasis on ecology and pathology of ash dieback and recently arrived pests and pathogens.

12.30pm **Small Woods Annual General Meeting | John Blessington, Chair**

1.15pm **Esmond Harris Award for Innovation in Small Woodland Management**

Esmond will introduce the award and announce the 2024 winner.

1.30pm **Lunch**

2.30pm **Workshops**

The afternoon will be devoted to a range of workshops and demonstrations, including woodland management discussion and techniques. Each workshop will run two sessions during the afternoon.

Workshop 1 – Nearly Wild Camping | Steve Evison

Workshop 2 – Green woodworking | Tom Dillon

Workshop 3 – Hybrid Oaks | Louise Gathercole

Workshop 4 – Build a Bench demo | Chris Doody

Workshop 5 – Roundhouse demo | Volunteer group

4.30pm **Panel session and discussion (30 minutes)**

6pm **Barbecue and social**

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Please complete and return this form by Thursday 12th September. Send it to: Small Woods Association, Green Wood Centre, Station Road, Coalbrookdale, Telford, TF8 7DR, or email to office@smallwoods.org.uk. Alternatively, visit smallwoods.org.uk and select our AGM and Annual Reports page.

	Number of places required
Members at £25	
Non-members at £35	
Virtual attendance (Online) £0	
Total	

I wish to book places on the AGM and Skills Share 2024 as listed on the booking form. I confirm payment by BACS has been made.

Total paid: £

Name(s)

Address

Email*

Phone number

*Please supply an email address if possible as it is more efficient and economical for us to communicate with you in this way.

Payment can be made by BACS to our account, giving your name and 'Skills Share' as a reference.

Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-18-55, Account No: 03006722

NB - Members wishing to attend the AGM business ONLY can do so at no cost – please contact the office by email office@smallwoods.org.uk