



## Heartwoods West Midlands Woodfuel Project

The Green Wood Centre  
Station Road  
Coalbrookdale  
Telford  
TF8 7DR

Phone: 01952 435860

E-mail: [info@heartwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@heartwoods.co.uk)

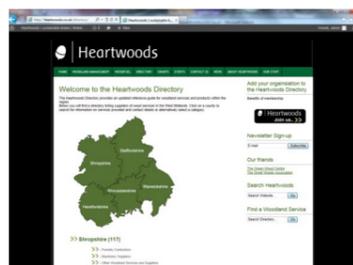
Website: [www.heartwoods.co.uk](http://www.heartwoods.co.uk)

### Our Mission:

To significantly increase the use of wood for fuel in the West Midlands of England and facilitate the development of a sustainable woodfuel supply chain.

Heartwoods is a project of Small Woods  
Registered Charity No. 1081874

## Heartwoods Directory



If you are a woodland owner or manager looking for woodland contactors, agents or consultants in the West Midlands region then the Heartwoods website directory could help you find them.

All the information on our directory is added by business owners themselves so if you are a contractor, agent, consultant, equipment supplier or woodfuel supplier and your business services Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire,

Herefordshire or Warwickshire then adding your business to the Heartwoods directory could help you find new clients.

Harriet can help you with any technical queries on 01952 435860

<http://heartwoods.co.uk/directory/>



HEARTWOODS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

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## Extended Programme Now Confirmed

In the last Heartwoods newsletter we announced details of a 3 month extension to the West Midlands Woodfuel Project – we can now confirm even better news in that further funding has been agreed for a full programme of events and support to be delivered during 2014.

The availability of this EU funding, being administered by DEFRA, was finally given the green light at the beginning of December and we are now in the process of drawing up and agreeing the details of a support programme aimed at encouraging woodland management and timber production in the West Midlands.

The support will be in the form of events and meetings, such as the very well attended recent Woodfuel Dating Event (report on Page 3) ; free advice; and subsidised professional assistance to help the woodland owner draw up management plans, crop inventories, apply for felling licences and put timber on the market. We are very keen to hear from woodland owners who would like to take advantage of this first come-first served funding and also from suitably experienced woodland managers who may be able to provide this service to new or existing clients. More details are available, please feel free to pick up the phone on 01952 435860 and have a chat in the first instance.



So, good news as this year draws to a close and plenty to look forward to in 2014, such as the next event that we have planned – see Page 2.

Merry Christmas to you and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Mike Bentley—Heartwoods Project Manager



## Managing Woodlands for Multiple Objectives

Are you a woodland owner seeking advice on any of the following topics:

**Woodland Creation**—native woodland for multiple objectives including, water protection and reducing flood risks, conservation and climate/disease resilience.

**Plant Health**—Rhododendron clearance for *P. ramorum* in stands of mature woodland covering methods, costs and biosecurity

**Young Woodland**—Maintenance, economics, first thinnings, small scale extraction equipment suitability



Staff from Heartwoods, the Forestry Commission and Environment Agency will be on hand throughout the day as well as contractors and woodland agents

**When?** - Friday 24th January 2014— 10.00-13.30 followed by lunch

**Where?** - Wood Farm, Great Gate, Near Tean, Staffordshire ST10 4HF

The event costs £10.00 which includes refreshments and lunch and is targeted at woodland owners and managers within the West Midlands. To book your place, contact Harriet Wood at Heartwoods on 01952 435860 or email [harrietwood@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:harrietwood@smallwoods.org.uk)

## Ground Truthing the Marches Timber Study



Work to assess the accuracy on the ground of the assumptions made by the Marches Timber Study is progressing. Most of the woodland owners identified for this ground truthing work have been identified and many of the woodlands have been visited and assessed. The work will continue in the New Year and findings will be published in March.

## Farewell Charlie



Charlie Horsford is leaving the Heartwoods team to pursue his contracting business.

Charlie has worked for Heartwoods for the last three years providing advisory visits in Staffordshire and Warwickshire and managing the SITA Woodland Restoration Project.

We wish Charlie the best of luck in his new venture, which will include woodland management, conservation work and farm advisory in Staffordshire. He can be contacted on 07967 192911.

Heartwoods will be recruiting to replace Charlie, so if you know anyone who would make a great Heartwoods Advisor, send them our advert—<http://smallwoods.org.uk/about-us/jobs/>

## Wood Chain Dating Event Report

The first event of the new Heartwoods programme was attended by 28 woodland contractors, woodfuel suppliers, woodland owners and consultants from the West Midlands region.

Following a hearty breakfast from the restaurant at Bodenham Arboretum, Mike Bentley introduced Guy Mayer, from Logalog who spoke to the audience about the increasing demand for woodfuel. Jim Unwin from B J Unwin Forestry Consultancy, provided information about getting timber to market. Finally Justin Mumford of Lockhart Garratt gave a interesting presentation on timber prices, timber markets and net returns for the owner.

This was a lively event, with plenty of questions for the speakers from the floor. After the presentations there was time for networking opportunities and many business cards were exchanged. Hopefully these newly made and re-established connections will help the wood supply change to get moving in the coming months and years.

