

OPEN TO ALL
INCLUDES WOODLAND CAMPING
AND CATERING

WEEKEND IN THE WOODS 2026

16th & 17th May

COPPICE
ASSOC.



NORTH
WEST



Hawes Villa Farm
Silverdale



How to book...
<http://coppicenorthwest.org.uk>





ENJOY LEARNING INSPIRING
TRADITIONAL CRAFTS IN A BEAUTIFUL
SOUTH LAKELAND WOODLAND.

WHAT IS IT?

For over 20 years, the Coppice Association North West has run our Weekend in the Woods, a weekend of traditional craft workshops set within a beautiful woodland in South Lakeland.

Workshops are outdoors, surrounded by nature and are led by experienced, professional tutors.

There is a choice of workshops to choose from, have a read through, then book your ticket online. If you have any questions, just get in touch.

WHAT TO EXPECT...

Coppice Association North West invites you to spend a Weekend in the Woods again in 2026 with experienced, professional tutors to learn traditional crafts.

Each day will have courses running from 9am to 5pm, camp in the beautiful woods and enjoy breakfast & vegetarian lunch.

We always have a BBQ & campfire on Saturday night, please bring your own drinks and food. We'd love you to join in and bring your instruments for the Campfire singalong.

BECOME A MEMBER

Although Weekend in the Woods is open to Members and Non-Members, it's a great time to sign up and join us. With a discounted price for Weekend in the Woods and the chance to meet many of our other members, as well as regular meetups throughout the year, membership is open to ALL, wherever they may be, who wish to support the aims of CANW.

There is no restriction on the nature of Members' interests. They can be craft workers, charcoal makers, conservationists, coppice merchants, woodland owners, or just wood lovers who care about the future of our broadleaved woodlands and want to help promote them.



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WHERE IS IT?

Our 2026 Weekend in the Woods is at a new venue for us. The lovely Hawes Villa Farm in Silverdale.

The site provides a tranquil retreat situated in beautiful countryside. It is a haven for nature lovers and birdwatchers. For those who love the outdoors, walking, cycling and rock climbing are 'on the doorstep'. The site is only half-an-hour's drive from both the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The entrance to Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve and nearest footpath is less than 100 metres from the site entrance. This path, which has been upgraded for wheelchair use, leads to a boardwalk overlooking Hawes Water lake.



A HEXAGONAL WEAVE ASH SPLINT BASKET

Be guided through the creation of a hexagonal weave basket using traditional techniques and European Ash wood.

In this two-day workshop, you'll craft beautiful baskets in the style used in 1900s United States, following methods historically used by communities such as the Shakers. These hexagonal weave baskets were traditionally employed to strain milk curds for cheese-making, though they're equally suited to holding fruit or displaying as decorative pieces that showcase the natural beauty and flexibility of ash wood.

Throughout the course, you'll gain knowledge of ash splint basketry, including the history of this traditional craft, techniques for selecting quality material, and hands-on experience in bashing and preparing ash splints. You'll then weave your own basket, learning efficient methods to make this laborious process more manageable.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £10



MEET THE TUTOR



DANIEL SAMS

Dan is a woodcrafter, basket maker and coppice worker based in the North East of England. He has over 30 years experience of woodwork; he has been working with wood since childhood but his passion to make a living from it came from his frustration with mainstream products and the lack of creativity and beauty that we see nowadays. Dan aims to create products that are beautiful and unique using ethically and locally sourced natural materials.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE REQUIRES PHYSICAL STAMINA AND INVOLVES WORKING WITH SHARP TOOLS. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR AN ACTIVE, HANDS-ON WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE





LEATHER TOOL SHEATHS

Come and learn how to make a leather sheath for your tools. Bring an axe, a drawknife, some chisels or a billhook.

You will learn about leather and different options for sheaths, how to make templates and then measure and cut the leather. You will then learn to either sew or rivet the leather together (depending on the size of your sheath and time constraints).

Finally you will treat the edges and surfaces and walk away with a beautiful and functional addition to your toolkit along with the skills to make more!

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £5 - £30

PLEASE NOTE: TYPICALLY AN AXE SHEATH COSTS AROUND £10, DRAWKNIFE £10, CHISEL SLIP £5 AND BILLHOOK SHEATH £30



MEET THE TUTOR



TONY MORGAN

Tony Morgan runs Morgan Leather – a small leather workshop producing top quality leather goods for lovely people!

Tony has been creating leather tool sheaths since 2009 and is a regular here at Weekend in the Woods with his very popular tool sheath course.

The leather he uses comes from cows, deer, goats and horses that have lived and then their skins tanned in Britain, Italy and Spain using a natural tanning process that takes up to two years.





BOWL TURNING

Join us for a hands-on pole-lathe turning workshop, where you'll create your own bowl to take away. This foot-powered method requires focus and energy, offering a rewarding journey into traditional woodworking.

You'll learn material selection, wood preparation, and how to turn on a pole lathe. Emphasis will be on safe technique, process, and the joy of working with green wood.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £5

MEET THE TUTOR



SHANNON BERRY



Using self-built lathes and running nature-based workshops, Shannon shares not just the wood's journey, but a story of creativity, sustainability and inclusion. Everything she does honours tradition, empowers others and supports regenerative woodland practices.

Each piece begins in nature, surrounded by birdsong and rustling leaves, where Shannon finds calm and connection. She works with greenwood, alive with moisture, giving it a second life shaped by hand and heritage.



WESTMORLAND PANELS

Westmorland panels are a traditional product local to South Cumbria - originally used for fencing livestock. Made entirely from hazel, the flexible rods are coaxed into a frame to make a beautiful and sturdy fence panel. Learn the arts of splitting, bending, weaving and twisting using just a few simple tools and a dash of determination. And if you don't happen to have a sheep to pen in - they look fantastic in the garden too!

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £20



MEET THE TUTOR



SAM ANSELL

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MAKE A SHAVE HORSE

Create your own shave horse out of greenwood using traditional tools, pole lathe and lots of good energy!

The shavehorse is an ancient device that has stood the test of time - and is one of the key components of any greenwoodworkers toolkit - allowing you to shape wood quickly and effectively in combination with a drawknife.

The making process also involves learning several key greenwoodworking techniques such as cleaving, axing, pole lathing and making round mortice and tenon joints

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £20

MEET THE TUTOR



TWIGGY

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FORGING A DRAWKNIFE FROM AN OLD CAR SPRING

On this two day course you will make a small french style drawknife from an old car spring.

You will be taken through the forging techniques needed to draw out the tangs and form the blade, then go on to the heat treatment and sharpening of the blade before handling the drawknife to finish the project.

You will go home with a working drawknife and all of the knowledge to make another. No previous experience is needed.

MEET THE TUTOR



MATT WHITTAKER

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £30



Matt has been working with wood and steel for over twenty years now. What first attracted him to these materials and the crafts of the Greenwood and Forge was their immediacy, the need for a very few tools in order to be able to create practical, everyday objects.

Blacksmithing is the perfect counterpoint to woodworking. Many of the devices and tools used in Matt's green woodworking are made at the blacksmiths forge onsite.

Tools are often made with recycled steel on a charcoal hand cranked forge onsite



MAKING CHARCOAL

Charcoal burning in a steel ring kiln is a tried and tested way to add value to large volumes of low grade timber, off cuts and other unused wood. Compact and readily saleable charcoaling is an integral part of many a coppice workers business.

Learn the whole process from choosing a suitable site and setting up the kiln, timber selection, processing and filling the kiln, lighting and managing the burn right through to grading, bagging and most importantly of all, marketing your product.

Take home your own 20ltr bag.

Bring old clothes and overalls if you have them, work gloves and a dust mask- it's mucky!!

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS COST £0

MEET THE TUTOR



DAN SUMNER

Dan lives and works in South Lakeland and has been involved in practical woodland management for over 30 years.

He started burning charcoal with his colleague Mike fifteen years ago and they both enjoy it as much as ever.



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DURING THE WEEKEND

You are welcome to arrive and set up camp from 5pm on Friday 15th May. Registration will open at 8am on Saturday 16th alongside breakfast, we'll have an opening talk around 9am with courses to start soon after.

It's a Weekend in the Woods tradition to have a fireside gathering on the Saturday night. Please bring your instruments, voices and anything else you might need!

CAMPING AND FACILITIES

There is a woodland camping field for quiet enjoyment of the National Nature Reserve. The fields are not accessible by car, barrows are available to transport your camping equipment the 350m.. There is a hot shower, composting loo and cold water washing up facilities & drinking water on site. Dogs are permitted this year.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Waterproofs and sturdy footwear are essential. Please also bring a bowl, plate, mug and cutlery and some warm clothes. If it's possible with your transport choice, please bring a camping chair or two. If you are camping, then appropriate equipment including a torch will be useful.

COMING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We encourage public transport or lift shares if you can! Silverdale Shuttle (bus) service is 0.5 mile away at the top of Moss Lane. Silverdale Train Station is a 1 mile walk from Hawes Villa. There are regular direct trains to & from Lancaster and easy access to Arnsdale, Grange and beyond to Cark & Cartmel.

COMING BY CAR

There is free parking on site and limited capacity for live-in vehicles at an additional charge. We encourage you to take advantage of this beautiful place and camp in the woods, otherwise, you can reserve your live-in vehicle spot as you book your event tickets.





Head to our website
<http://coppicenorthwest.org.uk>
to find out more, see the FAQ's or
to book tickets

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