

TALKS (Picnic Barn)

10.15 Dougald Purce, Ancient Woodland Restoration Officer, Shropshire Hills National Landscape: Ancient trees and Ancient woodland

Dougald grew up in Ludlow, where the veteran and ancient trees on Whitcliffe Common and the expanses of Mortimers Forest influenced his choice of a career in arboriculture and conservation forestry. Funded by the Woodland Trust, he currently works on the Ancient Woodland Restoration Project being delivered by the Shropshire Hills National Landscape team. For 36 years Dougald has worked with trees in a range of roles from tree surgeon, conservation management, consultancy, and as a local authority Tree Officer. His talk seeks to explain the difference between Ancient and Veteran trees whilst putting into context the importance of both for our biodiversity and cultural heritage.

10.50 Duncan Bennett, Upper Onny Farmer Group: Farming in the Shropshire Hills

Duncan runs a 160-acre upland livestock (beef & sheep) farm at Pennerley, near Minsterley. His farm has become familiar to volunteers in CPRE Shropshire's Hedgerow Project since we are currently laying a 200m hedgerow on his land at the Bog and have planted multiple new hedges on-farm.

11.35 SHORT FILM: Life in the Coppice**11.45 Danny Hodgson, Handpowered: People on the land: conservation through utilisation**

Danny has delivered many courses in traditional rural skills (hedgelaying, coppicing, scything and tool making) for community groups, charities and individuals. He previously worked for the Wildlife Trust and has spread his enthusiasm for traditional land management since completing his degree in Countryside Conservation at Aberystwyth University. His talk today is aimed at rekindling our interest in the pre-industrial knowledge that landworkers refined over centuries managing their farm and woodland sustainably. By tackling the various tasks of maintaining boundaries, providing firewood and timber, as well as growing food (all without mechanisation), our forebears have a lot to teach us.

**PERFORMANCE TENT (on the green)
Music & poetry**

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| 10.15: Rapsquillion | 1.30: Men from Off |
| 11.00: Border Poets | 2.00: Border Poets |
| 11.50: Men from Off | 3.00: Rapsquillion |

**Hedgerows in the Hills:
Programme****Sunday 25 October, 10-4****SHORT FILM: The Hedgelayer****12.30****Nigel Adams:
The history of hedgelaying****12.45**

Hedges are one of our most iconic landscape features in the UK. The ancient craft of hedgelaying was developed to provide a living stockproof barrier before wire fences were invented. Whilst that need is perhaps less relevant today, hedgelaying is still considered to be one of the most effective methods of providing good wildlife habitat and for rejuvenating a hedge as part of its lifecycle. Nigel (himself a professional hedgelayer) will talk about the history of hedgelaying and the remarkable number and variety of hedgelaying styles in the UK, the subject of his new book.

**“Hedgerow Matters” Q&A with
Nigel Adams & the National
Hedgelaying Society****1.30**

Ask the question you have always wanted to ask about hedgerows and their management, including hedgelaying to our knowledgeable panel!

**Carole Ryan-Ridout, CPRE Shropshire:
The evolving rural landscape****2.30**

The talk will explore the many changes in the built landscape complementing those in the hedges and fields, from the medieval period to the late 20th century, drawing on literary sources and first hand experience of a vast range of structures and features, ranging from rural settlements and the great estates down to humble chapels, all reflecting the wide spectrum of socio-economic change that defines the countryside. Carole was previously Head of Historic Environment and Principal Conservation Officer at the former Shropshire County Council. She then moved to an academic post as a Senior Lecturer and Director of an MSc. Programme in Building Conservation and Historic Environment at Bournemouth University, before retiring and running her own consultancy. She is now Heritage Adviser for CPRE Shropshire.

Tamsin Abbott: The story of Wild Folk**3.15**

Tamsin is a stained glass artist living in south Herefordshire. She will talk about her recent book, “Wild Folk: Tales from the Stones,” which features her beautiful stained glass paintings and the words of Jackie Morris: “These are tales to make you see, listen and most of all feel, the wild magic that links stone, tree, fox and star.”

**WALKS (gather at CPRE tent)**

- 10.30** Nigel Adams: A Walk Around the Hedges of Acton Scott
- 12.30** Dave Pearce: Bird walk
- 2.30:** Joseph Coyle: Tree folklore walk