



NHLS News

The News Bulletin of the National Hedge Laying Society
January 2011

We wish you a happy new year



“So who needs a hedge anyway?”” at least with barbed wire you can see that the grass is greener on the other side”

Please Note

Chainsaw Course Grants.

The current round of offers by the society of a £50 grant towards a chainsaw course will end on 31st December 2010. No applications will be accepted after that date.

First Aid Course Grants.

The current round of offers by the society of a £50 grant towards a First Aid course will end on 31st December 2010. No applications will be accepted after that date.

2011 A.G.M.

Have Your Say if you are a member.

The 2011 AGM takes place at Toddington Church Hall (Bedfordshire) on Saturday 26th March at 10:30am. This year the AGM could be a significant one for the society. Make sure your membership is up-to-date so that you can attend the meeting.

December Newsletter

Apologies.

We apologise for the late distribution of what was intended to be the December Newsletter. This was due to production difficulties beyond our control. The problem has now been resolved and a copy of the newsletter will be sent free to all members during January.

Optimistic future for Hedge Layers despite Government cuts.

Old Oak gazes into his crystal ball and sees a rosy future for hedge layers.

DEFRA has already indicated that cuts in the budget will inevitably cause a slowdown in the processing of applications for the Agri-Environment schemes. The weak Euro will reduce the benefits accruing from the Common Agricultural Policy and as a consequence there are likely to be fewer hedge laying contracts in 2011. The rise in VAT and other farm costs will make many land managers think twice before contracting major hedge work.

There is however likely to be a rise in the availability of countryside volunteers, people who have taken early retirement as a result of job cuts plus community payback labour directed by the courts as a result of the new government policy.

The future for hedgelaying looks good. Hedgelayers with the necessary skills will be required to train others and supervise volunteer work, so get your plans ready for becoming a training instructor. 2011 will be a busy year for those who are willing to take up the challenge.