



Training for Coppice  
Woodland Futures  
Registered Charity No. 1096755

## **Coppice Apprentice Placements in Arnside/Silverdale Area**

Following successful funding bids to The Arnside/Silverdale AONB Sustainable Development fund, the Headley Trust and The Naturesave Trust, The Bill Hogarth MBE Memorial Apprenticeship Trust (BHMAT) were able to recruit a new apprentice to work with Coppice Merchant Rebecca Oaks who has a business of 15 years standing within the AONB. Sam Ansell was recruited at a selection day where BHMAT interviewed 6 people for the post. He joined BHMAT apprentice Mike Carswell who had started his apprenticeship the previous year. These two apprentices have proved a valuable addition to Rebecca Oaks' Coppice business. Undertaking, during this year courses on timber framing, hurdle making, horse logging and longbow making. They were able to put their new found skills in hurdlemaking to use completing orders for hurdles that came into the business. Barbeque charcoal trade was steady through the first part of the year and they both proved enthusiastic and proficient at making and bagging it. The timber framing course proved invaluable as they were able to build an extension on the barn for holding courses under and a deluxe composting toilet to improve the facilities on site. The winter season was a busy one with a number of contracts to coppice woodlands with the National Trust and Butterfly Conservation. Exceptionally cold weather meant that the firewood trade was brisk and many, many nets of logs were filled. As the year comes to an end the work has come full circle with the first burns of charcoal completed for the Easter trade and hurdle orders on the books. They are due to complete end of year assessments in April and submit their portfolios for marking. Mike to then enter his final year and Sam to begin his second year. They both show plenty of entrepreneurial spirit and will undoubtedly gain the Bill Hogarth Diploma on completion of their three year training but perhaps more importantly will be well placed to forge their own self employed businesses.