

Trees in Winter



On 10th February Richard Irvine of The Wembworthy Centre took learners on a walk in local woodland for a taster session called Trees in Winter. Learners identified native and non-native species, and discussed the uses of bark, wood and roots of various species. As well as trees' practical uses, Richard also talked about the folklore and natural history associated with them. Participant Cathy Gleeson said 'It was certainly good fun. I liked the way that everyone joined in – Richard let everyone go at their own pace but kept us together. I learnt a fair bit too – it was interesting to find out about trees in context. I've signed up for two or three other Learn Devon sessions about the countryside and I'd probably be interested in taking more in-depth courses in the future.' Another learner, Julie Jamieson, works as an advisor to tree surgeons – checking on the possible presence of protected species before trees are cut down, and was particularly interested in identifying tree species. 'My knowledge is more with mammals than with trees species, and it can be a real struggle to identify trees in winter, just from the bark and buds. I realized I did know perhaps more than I thought I did, but Richard was able to identify a few species that were unknown to me. It was also a nice and relaxed atmosphere to learn.'

