



Rural Action

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Pomeroy Woollen Woods Event – Crafters Newsletter 5 – Berries

Thank you for your interest and participation in producing artwork for the Woollen Woods event, which has been postponed until Spring 2021 (subject to Covid -19 restrictions), we will continue however to encourage crafters to produce items so we have an even better display next year.

Although we are still continuing with our theme of Bees, Butterflies and Blooms, in this newsletter we focus on Berries that are a result of the flowers from early in the year which have been pollinated by a wide range of insects including bees and butterflies.

These berries form an important food source for our wildlife including our birds, so when out walking in the countryside or whilst in Pomeroy forest why not try and identify a few using the attached identification sheet.

Hawthorn is one such shrub with lots of berries at this time of year called Haws.





Our native hedgerow contains a high proportion of Hawthorn. It is a deciduous tree growing to up to 10 metres; it has shiny lobed leaves and has distinctive frothy white blossoms in spring. The hawthorn is a fairy tree par excellence. When it grows together with the ash and the oak in close proximity, that place is steeped in fairy lore. Because of the thorns, the tree is considered to be protective and this includes against fire. In days gone by, a globe of woven hawthorn would be brought into the home to ask the fairies to make sure the house wouldn't be burned down, each year the globe would be replaced. The magic of the tree is further marked in the shape of its flowers; the five petals make a pentagram, itself a magical sign sometimes known as the Elven Cross.

Your grandparents might remember eating the young leaves of hawthorn, they're so filling they were known as 'bread and cheese' they also have the added advantage of lowering your cholesterol. The young leaves can be added to salads or used as greenery in sandwiches. The haw berries are rich in vitamin C and Haw syrup was traditionally made and taken to ward of colds.

I have included some further knitting and crocheting patterns associated with blooms.

Finally, thanks to Pomeroy Resource Centre (Phyllis) and The Rowan Tree Centre (Caroline) they will continue to be the collection points for items that you have completed, so we can store them until next year. Please send me your photos of the wonderful items that you all have been crafting so I can feature them in our crafters

Newsletter. Also, please feel free to contact me if you require any additional materials – wool, felt etc. or indeed require any further help or support.

All the best and happy crafting!

Rosemary Hunter

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