



# Allan Marshall's Open Days

*Allan Marshall sells just about everything you need to set yourself up in forestry. Items on display at his open days in North Yorkshire included trailer-cranes, winches, a felling head, firewood processors and kindling machines, a 60-ton splitter, a large chipper and a mobile sawmill.*

The event was hosted by Landguard Forestry & Woodfuel, who had their Binderberger SSP 520 firewood processor on display. It is hired out nationwide, and has just come to the end of a busy season – not as busy as the year before, due to the milder winter, but very active nevertheless, and it will be fulfilling bookings throughout the year ahead, its next destinations being Oxfordshire and Lincolnshire.

“The job is quite relentless,” said Stephen Lake of Landguard – so much so that he could do with a second operator if only he could find a good one in the locality.

The 520 is very versatile and can be set up in woodlands or yards, wherever required. Landguard bought it when they began contracting, having previously run a smaller-scale firewood operation using logsplitters.

The 520 is normally transported on a low loader, but for jobs within a 50-mile radius it is towed by a Valtra tractor which can be used to feed it with its roof-mounted Botex.



Geoff Pay is pictured with his new 11-tonne Binderberger trailer which was delivered towards the end of the first day of the show. He ordered the trailer after visiting Binderberger in Austria. He asked an extra half a metre on the length of the chassis – a request with which Binderberger were happy to comply – to enable him to carry two bays of 3-metre timber. He also chose a piston pump to increase and smooth hydraulic pressure, assisting in driving the wheels and powering a Woodcracker, for which extra buttons were fitted on the controls.

The trailer is very versatile and can be converted for non-forestry use. For instance, a tipper body can be fitted, or it can be modified to carry bales.

Trailers are a new departure for Binderberger, but in just 18 months they became the market leader in Austria, and sold 600 units last year.

This dual (electric and PTO) powered Dalen 2054 was going to the WoodfuelBarn immediately after the open day, to supplement their larger and smaller firewood processors – a Binderberger 450 and a Bilke S3. This will enable them to efficiently process all stock from first thinnings to final clearfell – 75 to 450mm in diameter.

The split logs are passed through two tumblers designed and built by the WoodfuelBarn. The first takes out slivers and splinters, which are used in the company's furnace. The second produces hardwood kindling, an unusual product.

The WoodfuelBarn is only in its second season. They made the decision in September to sell only kiln-dried logs, “for quality and customer delight,” as company director Peter Stenner put it. He explained that the WoodfuelBarn had

designed a unique kiln which was able to dry logs down to 10 or 12% water content without singeing them.

The company has trebled sales in its second season, despite the milder winter, “So we must be doing something right,” said Peter Stenner (pictured on the right of the processor). Operating from a location adjoining Chopwell Wood, halfway between Newcastle and Consett, they will now begin contracting for the first time using the Dalen.





Joe Dunn demonstrated his Eschlböck Biber 82 chipper, powered by a Fendt 936 tractor. Over the two days the stack of logs was chipped ready for collection. Visitors to the demonstration commented on the excellent quality of the finished woodchips. Joe has a selection of different sized screens which are easily exchanged so he can produce chips of the size required by his clients. Any logs too big to fit through its 55x38cm feed opening are broken up using the attached Westtech L700 Woodcracker.



This 60-tonne splitter was sold to Nigel Cunliffe. Specifically designed for large, difficult timber, it will take logs up to half a metre in length, splitting them into 24 pieces.

Pete Lewis from Warwickshire was demonstrating his Westtech guillotine felling head, which comes into its own for jobs such as land clearance, tree shearing and estate maintenance. It can grip and handle wood (it is also available with an accumulator), and is especially adept at restoring overgrown and over-mature hedgerows, and for work along riversides.

The Austrian-made head weighs 850kg, and can cut very low (or high). It will take out stems up to 14 inches in diameter, and boasts a number of clever features. The offset design means the operator always gets a good view of the cut, instead of this being obscured by the boom. This is particularly useful when working, at night, during a road closure, for instance.

The fluting on the guillotine eases the knife through the wood, and minimises shattering of the stem, meaning the end of the log is not ruined if it is to be put through a firewood processor. Also, since there is only one knife, there is no missed movement in the middle of the cut.

In many situations the head enables operations to be carried out without climbers. It is easy to leave standing poles, for bat boxes or simply deadwood in ecological operations. In fact, the first job the head performed was the pollarding of maiden willow stems,



*The Westtech head will cut close to the ground or half-way up a tree.*

8 to 14 inches in diameter. With climbers using chainsaws this would have taken almost four weeks. Pete Lewis realised he was on to a winner when he completed the task in just five days.

There are also two other heads in the range, one larger and one smaller.

*The fluting on the top of the knife is repeated on the underside in the spaces between the top indents.*



Simon Tofield cutting oak on the Serra mobile sawmill

The Vahva Jussi trailer-crane is a low-impact, go-anywhere extraction option that can be pulled behind a compact tractor, where it uses the tractor's hydraulics, or behind an ATV, as shown, where it utilises its own Honda power pack.

Estonian made, the crane will lift 280kg at 3.2 metres, and there is now a 4-metre reach version. It has a range of optional extras – a tipper body, earth augers, or a four-wheel drive kit. The trailer will carry 1½ tonnes.



(Above) Simon is shown explaining the inner workings of the Woodpecker, a very simple device that makes kindling from old pallets and joinery waste.



(Right) Also being put through its paces was the Diamond kindler.