

## Chainsaw Maintenance, Safe Operation and Crosscutting March 2019 - Kirstin Kelly

This chainsaw course, provided at cost of £380 by Excel Training in West Sussex, gives students a thorough understanding of chainsaw maintenance and safe operation as well as the cross cutting of timber. It's a two day course - one day in the classroom and one day onsite together with half a day assessment. I was a complete novice at the start but thanks to Alastair at Excel Training I can now dismantle a sprocket together with replace and sharpen a chain. I know how to go about cross cutting in consideration of tension and compression in the wood and how to release a trapped saw. My favourite cut ironically is a 'boring cut'. This is just a snippet or rather cross cut of the course and what I learnt.

My career began as a volunteer gardener in 2009 with the National Trust, this led to me to apply successfully for a 1 year 'Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Traineeship' hosted by Nymans National Trust Garden, West Sussex. I am currently a Senior Gardener working at Nymans, my key roles are supervising horticultural students, managing volunteers and caring for my garden areas of responsibility. This certificate will give me the opportunity to partake in chainsaw work, gain experience, widen my skill set and progress in my career.

I am hugely grateful to have been awarded £320 towards the course and be given the opportunity, which was funded from a donation from the National Garden Scheme, the NTS of the Yellow Book of Open Gardens, and is administered by the PG Trust.



*Clockwise from left: The kit you need; selfie; training site with chainsaw; maintenance tools.*