

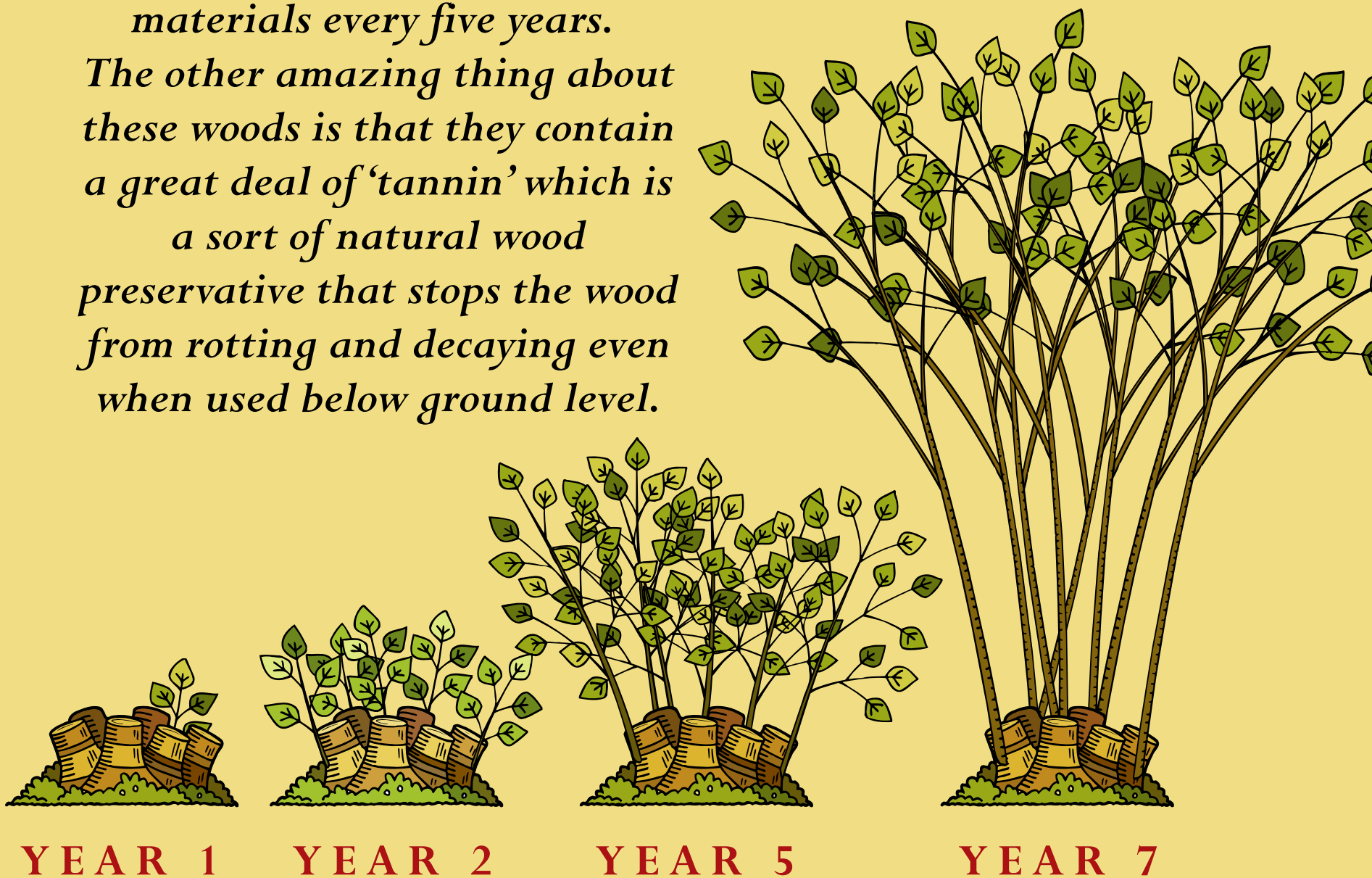
The Interpretation Lodge

Wow ... This amazing building has been built by one man (with a bit of help from his Dad) using only local timber cut from the woods around here. With the exception of the concrete base and the nails, only natural materials have been used – he’s even used wooden pegs to hold it all together. Mark who built the lodge also made the carved totem pole and the carvings through the woods, using a chainsaw and sander, that you may have seen.

Timbers ... The main timber used in its construction is Sweet Chestnut and Ash. Both timbers are fast growing and, if you know how, are easy to split into long lengths and can be used in all sorts of different ways ... Have a close look at the Lodge and see how many different ways wood has been used in its construction.

Coppicing ... Chestnut and Ash will also ‘coppice’ – this means that when you cut it, it will re-grow and can be harvested again and again to make building and fencing materials every five years.

The other amazing thing about these woods is that they contain a great deal of ‘tannin’ which is a sort of natural wood preservative that stops the wood from rotting and decaying even when used below ground level.



The Roof ... The roof of the lodge is made from ‘Wood Shingles’ – a wooden tile made from splitting or sawing blocks of Cedar or Chestnut called ‘bolts. The wood is always split along the grain to prevent water getting into the wood. Not only do the shingles look good, they also allow the air to circulate between them and allow the roof to breath.

Drainage ... Surrounding the Lodge is an underground land drain containing a perforated pipe bedded in shingle that allows the water to drain away from around the Lodge into to the pond behind.

Yum Yum ... One of the best things about the Sweet Chestnut tree are the chestnuts themselves which are produced in the autumn. These are wrapped in a very spiky coat and can be eaten raw, roasted or ground into a special flour to use in chestnut bread.

So, you can eat the chestnuts, the trees will keep growing again and again when it is cut it is easy to split and work with and it’s full of a natural preservative – wood just doesn’t get any better than that!