

SURREY TREE WARDEN NETWORK AGM 2024

MINUTES OF THE AGM

6th July 2024 Surrey Heath

Apologies:

James Preston Hood, Geoff Allen, Maggie Allen, Gill Gibbins, Savitri Kegge

Minutes of the previous AGM

These were accepted by the members at the meeting as a true record.

Secretary's Report

Patricia thanked Jerry Brownlea and the Surrey Heath Tree Wardens for hosting this year's AGM and for helping so much with all the arrangements.

The STWN membership has continued to grow under the supervision of our Membership secretary Sue Henderson. In addition to new individual members a fantastic, keen and enthusiastic new group has taken off in Haslemere, a village with some fantastic trees including a grouping of the tallest trees in Surrey. It has also been good to witness the expansion of the Epsom group under the leadership of Howard Gregory, our very own Elm expert.

As part of their climate change strategy, and together with various stakeholders including the STWN, Surrey County Council have made great progress towards their goal of planting 1.2 million trees by 2023. Since the launch of the initiative in 2019, over 510,744 trees have been planted across Surrey. This figure is a combination of plantings across SCC's own land portfolio, partner sites and other external Surrey planting schemes. There is now a good system in place to monitor the progress of the new trees and to ensure that good aftercare is provided.

There is now a new interactive on-line map for residents and groups to view to see where the new trees have been planted.

Regarding our own Network:

- The Network was involved with the planting of over 7000 trees at Bocketts Farm in January 2025.
- Free trees were given away with the help of our tree wardens at various libraries across Surrey in November 2023 – with up to 250 trees distributed from each library including: Farnham, Reigate, Dorking, Chertsey, Molsey and Haslemere. Help was also provided to various school planting schemes across the county and to a small churchyard project.

- Francis Fancourt, Bookham tree warden, engaged the help of 31 Scouts to plant a new hedgerow in Little Bookham.
- In addition to the above many of our tree wardens have been involved throughout the county in their own planting schemes.

Thanks to everyone for your dedication and commitment to be the voice for our local trees and for giving so generously of your time.

Network Insurance Cover & Charity Control Policies

We have now reached the first anniversary of the STWN insurance provision. This offers comprehensive cover to our tree wardens once they have completed the TW Introductory Training and received their training certificate. No claims have been made in the first year. SCC Cabinet Member for the Environment MARRISA HEATH is thanked for covering the expense of this for us.

Our Chairman Trefor Hogg is currently working on updating the Network's Charity Control Policy documents. This includes our financial Controls Policy, Risk Management and Health & Safety.

The finalised documents will shortly be available for you to view from our website.

Events

The busy tree and hedge planting season has been followed by:

- Southeast Forum - held in March at the Goodwood Estate and hosted by TTC. The meeting enabled the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Chichester tree wardens to take place amongst the various talks. Thanks to Sam Village and Jon Stokes for that.
- In April we saw the Network's Spring Event – this was a well-attended guided tree walk through RHS Garden Wisley and was successfully organised by our New Editor Liz Ramsay. This was a great opportunity for us to say farewell to departing committee members David Woods and acting Treasurer Dave Pope. They were presented with beautiful bowls made from fallen trees at Wisley.
- In May the Remarkable World of Trees returned, this time to the Dorking and Leatherhead libraries. The opening night saw author Paul Wood talk about his hunt for remarkable trees throughout the UK. The event which runs to the end of August 2024 should make its next appearance with the Chichester tree wardens.
- Also in May we trialled a Yew tree walk near Westhumble and Box Hill Station with tree warden Julian Everett. We saw some incredible trees that are well over 2,000 years old. We hope to share this walk with Members in the future.
- Our training offer has continued this year with:
 - Induction – January 2024
 - Law – February

- TTC's Hedge Champion training courses. May was an Introduction to Hedgerows, June the Great British Hedgerow Survey and July Hedges and the Law. A huge thank you to Jeremy Wylie, Churt in Farnham, for coordinating the scheme for us.
- Tree Biology will be in September followed by Pests & Diseases.

If you are interested in becoming a training facilitator please do let me know as we are currently looking for volunteers.

- Clive Davidson, Haslemere, will be leading tree walks in Haslemere on the 13th & 14th July – please take the printed details away with you if you would like to join in.

Committee Update

Sincere thanks to our committee members for the tremendous efforts they have put in over the last year. Chairman, Trefor Hogg, Membership Secretary Sue Henderson, News Editor Liz Ramsay, Sally Pemberton, Anne Richards and new member, Treasurer Elaine Griffith.

Sadly we say goodbye to acting Treasurer Dave Pope and Dave Woods.

Special thanks go to Rod Thorn, coordinator of our elmbridge group, for continuing to help us with the management of our website following his illness last year.

If you would like to join the committee we are always open to new members, please do contact me if you would like to get more involved.

Finally, to our wider membership, thank you for standing up for our trees and hedgerows and for the giving of your valuable time and experience. We appreciate every single one of you.

Treasurer Report

Dave Pope presented the accounts to the meeting; details available for members at the AGM and to be posted to the website.

These were proposed by Patricia Brookwick, seconded by Rod Thorn and accepted by the members.

Election of Officers and Committee

The current officers and committee were re-elected for a further year.

A.O.B

None.