

SURREY TREE WARDEN NETWORK Autumn Meeting/AGM 2025

MINUTES OF THE Autumn Meeting/AGM

Saturday 4th October 2025 - Nutfield

Apologies:

Maggie Allen, Gill Gibbins, Gillian Hein, Gina Par Davies

Chairmans Welcome

Trefor Hogg welcomed members to this year's meeting and introduced guest speaker Jon Stokes.

Jon Stokes – Trees of Britain a Personal Insight

Jon, Director of Trees, Science & Research at The Tree, council shared his journey of plotting all of the native trees in Britain in all seasons. He had a supply of books to sign for any interested members.

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

An interesting session explaining how the NHS is using nature's healing influence to make patients better faster.

AGM

Minutes of the previous AGM

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

Secretary's Report

Patricia thanked the Nutfield tree Wardens for hosting this year's AGM and for helping so much with all the arrangements.

Patricia thanked everyone for attending the Autumn meeting, with the hope that everyone had had an interesting day so far and that they had at least one new piece of information, thought or idea to take away. Patricia thanked members for the effort and commitment they had taken in their roles as Tree Wardens - with tree planting projects and for continuing to be the eyes, ears and voice for our local trees.

She mentioned that Surrey is the most wooded county in England, with over a quarter of its land covered in trees, they are an important part of the counties identity. About 24% of Surrey woodlands are classified as ancient woodland, which have existed continuously since at least 1600 and are rich in diverse ecosystems. The county is home to rare, ancient yew groves, including the Newlands Corner yews that are over 1,000 years old, and the nationally important Box Hill native box trees. At Newlands Corner and Box Hill,

conservation efforts are in place to protect these trees from the effects of increased footfall with many trees now having root compaction protection systems in place. There are also around 2 million highway trees lining our roads and residential streets so there's plenty for us tree wardens to observe, nurture and protect.

The Network has been busy since our last AGM:

Tree Planting

Some groups had been particularly active this year, these included tree planting initiatives in Spelthorne with more than 120 new plantings, Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Nutfield with more than 300 new plantings, Bookham, Limpsfield, Tadworth & Walton on the Hill and Red Hill.

In partnership with SCC and their climate change campaign to plant 1.2 million trees by 2030, Surrey has now surpassed the planting of at least 700,000 new trees since the scheme began on **October 5, 2019**, with the planting of the first tree at the [Surrey Hills Wood Fair](#) in Cranleigh.

Free Trees

The Library Free Tree Initiative, organised by SCC, achieved further successful events this year with more than 650 native tree saplings being given away to members of the public. In many libraries demand outstripped the supply of trees - the good news is that there will be two more events this autumn. This year the giveaways will be held over two days at community recycling centres on a much larger scale than in previous years. The giveaways will be held on Friday 28th November and Monday 1st December between 9am and 4pm at recycling centres in Dorking, Earlswood, Cranleigh, Leatherhead, Witley, Shepperton and Chertsey. Once again we will be looking for Surrey tree wardens to help again with support for these events. An email will be coming out.

Training

Our on-line training sessions continue to be popular, and this year we have seen many members attending the TW Induction, Tree Biology and Tree Threats sessions and in December this year we will host the very first Surrey hedgerow training session. The next Zoom is Tree Biology with Liz Ramsay on Friday 10th October at 7pm.

Events

We continue to host a selection of special events for our members following a very successful visit to RHS Wisley last year where we said farewell to long standing committee members David Pope and David Woods. Our next event is another opportunity to visit Wisley for a guided walk – this will be on Saturday 1st November. Some events have sadly

been less successful with the planned visit to a guided tree walk in Kew Gardens cancelled due to lack of interest and very few attending the families day held in Lingfield this summer.

Wardens. had taken part in many events organised by TTC, the last being the Tree Health Citizen Science Workshop at the Alice Holt facility in Farnham. Here there was an opportunity to explore the effect of drought and disease on our trees and understand the processes involved in identifying and reporting such issues. All so important now with the escalating issues surrounding climate change.

There have been a number of scheduled on-line events too from TTC that we are very grateful for. The next occasion is the South East Forum in Portsmouth on 25th October which we hope as many STWN members will attend as possible.

We would like to thank TTC for their continuing support and guidance with all things tree related.

Network Quarterly Newsletters

Liz has continued to provide us with excellent newsletters throughout the year. These often include details of individual and group tree and hedgerow activities, useful contact details, information on the various grants that are available to you and much, much more. Thank you Liz.

Patricia mentioned one pressing key issue of concern and that is the proposed new Planning and Infrastructure Bill currently making its way through Parliament. It is deeply concerning and we wrote to members quite recently asking them to make contact with their MP concerning it. Many of you have responded and we will keep you updated regarding the progress of the Bill

We have not received any proposals for new committee members so the committee will stand as per last year. So, last but not least, special thanks go out to my fellow officers and members of the committee for their generous efforts in helping to lead and support the network. The members are:

Trefor Hog, Chairman

Liz Ramsay, New Editor

Sue Henderson, Membership secretary

Elaine Griffiths, treasurer

Sally Pemberton

Anne Richards

Treasurer Report

Elaine Griffith 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 Sally Pemberton and accepted by the members.

A.O.B

None.

After lunch and the usual raffle, members enjoyed a windy walk around the Nutfield green burial site.