



SURREY TREE WARDENS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2019

Surrey – THE Tree Planting County

Surrey County Council have backed the Government's national tree planting campaign to help counter climate change. Not only that, the Council, at a meeting in July, declared a "Climate Emergency", and committed to developing a strategy to help tackle it.

Tree planting is one of the top priorities. The new commitment to tree planting is overdue. In the July debate, Councillor Eber Kington, a member for Epsom and Ewell, called for a review of Surrey Council's existing tree planting policies in urban areas, with a view to being much more proactive. He said Surrey should become the tree planting county of the country. He also said that Surrey Highways, whose permission is needed for street tree planting, should be encouraged to take advantage of outside funding to help with costs, including schemes where local residents and community groups fund the planting and the future maintenance of trees. Mr Kington identified Epsom and Ewell, where a Tree Warden and Community Group had raised over £12,000 and identified specific sites for planting trees, but had faced objections from Surrey Highways. There had to be far greater liaison, he said, between local authorities, Surrey Highways, and community groups.

Other Council members praised the work of Tree Warden groups, in particular, Spelthorne, praised for its tree after care programme, Ashted where many new trees were planted last year, and Bookham and Fetcham which had recently planted its 200th street tree.

The debate concluded with the Council voting to aim to increase the number of trees planted throughout the county, and recommending too a new strategy to educate children about the benefits of trees, and to get them involved in tree planting.

Street Tree Planting – Join the Challenge

The Government has pledged to plant 11 million trees by 2050. Tree planting after all, is one of the best and cheapest ways to counter climate change, and has other advantages too – not least in mitigating air pollution and flooding.

With that in mind, the Environment Department this summer launched a new urban tree planting scheme with up to £10 million available. The funding is to be spread over two years. The scheme has opened first to large block tree planting bids, but next it will open to small players like local tree warden groups. It is in the form of challenge funding, where those applying will have to find matching funds either in the form of money or labour. The scheme is administered by the Forestry Commission, and the aim is to see 130,000 new trees planted in urban areas by 2022. The grant will cover tree planting and three years maintenance. The scheme is open now, and you can find out more about it, and register online interest, on the Forestry Commission website: Urban Tree Challenge Fund.



Street tree planting in Spelthorne

Events

Two training events for Tree Wardens are coming up next month. Come to one, come to both, meet some other Surrey Tree Wardens, and enjoy the day.

On **Sunday 13 October** come along to Seed Gathering Sunday organised by the Tadworth and Walton Tree Wardens. This is specially aimed at children, to show them the wonder that is a seed. They will be despatched out into Jubilee Wood, carefully supervised of course, to find tree seeds to plant. That will help show them the difference between an acorn, an ash key, or a sycamore helicopter. And even a hazel nut if the squirrels have left any. Then back to base, and the seeds will either be planted direct, or into a pot, the pot to be taken home and nurtured over winter.

That won't be all. There will be tree related crafts and games to play, free seed books, and refreshments too – drinks, soup and home made cakes. And children, and grown ups, can turn their hand to making apple juice. There be a crusher and fruit press on site, and help with juicing. So bring along a bag of your own apples, as well as the children and grandchildren and make an afternoon of it.

Sunday 13 October, 2 – 4pm.

At Jubilee Wood, Tadworth St, Tadworth. The entrance is through an iron gate near the railway bridge on Tadworth St, the B2220. There is plenty of parking close by.

Please contact Patricia at twtw@surreytreewardens.org.uk to say if you are coming.

From the future to the past, from tree seed to ancient woodland: the next training day could not be more different. On **Saturday 19 October**, join in a morning to develop practical knowledge and skills on restoring a pocket of Ancient Woodland. This will be held at Warren Wood, Frimley in Surrey Heath, and is organised by the Surrey Heath Tree Warden Group. Warren Wood was an unloved 3 acre woodland remnant left by a new housing development, until research showed that underneath the enveloping rhododendron and holly, it harboured old trees and an ancient woodland flora. Restoration has been slow and careful so that habitats are not needlessly destroyed. The work to clear the understory continues, but already there are signs of natural regeneration. Come prepared for outdoor work: this will be a hands on session. Strong gloves and footwear are advised. Tools will be provided, and of course refreshments.

Saturday 19 October from 10 – 1pm.

At Warren Wood, Warren Rise, Frimley GU16 8SW. Parking is generally available in Warren Rise, but please don't block residents' driveways. And note that there are no toilets on site.

Please contact Trefor on treforh@googlemail.com to say if you can come.

Network News

A new Facebook group has just been set up for everyone in the Surrey Tree Warden Network. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyTreeWardens>. Join the conversation, and post details of your plans, events and triumphs. And send the Newsletter Editor details of what you are doing too. All publicity helps.

The Surrey Tree Warden Network has a new Treasurer, Dave Pope, a longstanding Tree Warden in Spelthorne. He inherits a healthy set of accounts, and plans to keep them that way!

Photographers stand by. The Committee is on the look out for high quality photos of trees and landscapes in Surrey for a project next year. Trees are notoriously difficult to photograph. Cool early mornings, or golden evenings, are the best times to catch light on trunk and branches. Autumn is a good time too, with colour and a thinning leaf canopy. So cameras out, and more details will follow.

Contact the Surrey Tree Warden Network

Secretary: Chris Pead secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk
Membership: Sue Henderson marchharecottage@gmail.com
Newsletter: Liz Ramsay lizramsay@aol.com