



# SURREY TREE WARDENS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2020

## National Tree Week – From Your Armchair

There has never been a National Tree Planting Week like it. Coronavirus lockdown means tree planting events have had to be cancelled. So no muddy boots, frozen hands and short days. Instead, a virtual feast of tree related literature, art, photography and music to enjoy in the warmth of your home.

The Tree Council has put together a series of afternoon and evening events to celebrate Tree Week starting on **Saturday 28 November** with Trees in Art, where the close relationship between art and trees over the ages is explored. Then prepare for a weekend of treats. On **4 December**, Adrian Houston reveals the secrets of tree photography. On the **5 December** authors Tracey Chevalier and Jonathon Drori promise to bring together the science, culture and folklore of trees through conversation and readings from their work. And on **6 December**, a live performance from classical guitarist Geoff Robb performing his show 'The Music of Trees'.

This is a free online programme of events. For the details, and to book, go to the Tree Council website: [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk) and on the Home page click on National Tree Week.

Enjoy these events from the warmth of home, and just maybe restrictions will be lifted enough to allow some tree planting in the early months of next year. Guidelines on how to organise Covid aware events have been put together by The Tree Council, in conjunction with other major conservation organisations. Keep safe.

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/leading-charities-publish-guidance-for-covid-aware-tree-planting/>

## Tree Wardens – Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday

The national Tree Warden network is celebrating 30 years of operation this year. It was set up by the Tree Council in 1990 in the aftermath of the great hurricane (that wasn't truly a hurricane) to encourage 'local feet on the ground' in all and any matters to do with trees. To commemorate the anniversary, Tree Wardens throughout the country were asked in October to apply 'to win' one of 30 special elms.



Ulmus 'New Horizon' has been developed to be completely resistant to Dutch Elm disease, and in the UK is sold through Hilliers Nursery. It grows fast, and is quick to establish, making it a popular alternative to ash which is no longer available for planting in the UK. It's tough, drought resistant, and tolerant of most ground conditions. A tough tree for tough times.

The Tree Council had more applications than elms, but one Surrey Group was successful. The Nutfield Tree Wardens, one of the oldest groups in Surrey, will be planting a 3m tall Ulmus 'New Horizon' as a focal point in the new Jubilee Wood, which is being planted in a field alongside the village. Planting will take place in March, Covid restrictions permitting.

## Contact Us

Join the conversation on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyTreeWardens> where you can find tree related news and information from around the world.

The website has up to date news of events: [www.surreytreewardens.org.uk](http://www.surreytreewardens.org.uk), and

Newsletter articles are always gratefully received: [lizramsay@aol.com](mailto:lizramsay@aol.com)

And for general enquiries: [info@surreytreewardens.org.uk](mailto:info@surreytreewardens.org.uk)

## Centre of the Tree Warden Web



Sam Village is the new National Tree Warden Scheme Coordinator at the Tree Council. She began in April – what a year to start. Her job is to encourage, coordinate and support the work of volunteer Tree Wardens throughout the country. She has worked with Tree Wardens for over 20 years coordinating the Leicestershire group, and in her work in local government there. She is a passionate believer in the importance of connecting people with the natural world, particularly through trees.

One of her early projects is how best to train Tree Wardens – new and old. Online modules are being prepared, but the idea is to have them delivered locally by tree tutors. So training the trainers – if you would like to become a Surrey tree tutor, contact Sam for more information via the Tree Council website.

## The AGM That Wasn't: Report and Accounts

2020 – the year when no AGM could be held for the Surrey Tree Warden Group. The planned meeting in June had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions. However, the 2019 accounts have been prepared and submitted to the Charity Commission. The STWN Committee met online on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and the accounts were approved unanimously. You can find a copy at the end of this newsletter. They show a healthy surplus, mainly from sales of the booklet Remarkable Trees of Surrey, copies of which are still available. A surplus in the Bank account is a stepping stone to a project – please come forward if you have any ideas for a tree related Surrey scheme. It was also agreed that an AGM would definitely be held next year: online or in person. Let's hope it's the latter.

During 2019, the Surrey Tree Warden Network worked hard to support Surrey Tree Warden groups and individuals. The AGM was held in Sunbury in June, on the theme of Action for Trees - the positive things that can be done in the face of huge challenges: tree disease; tree felling in the face of development pressure; the difficulties of planting street trees. Keynote speeches came from Trefor Hogg, who has masterminded the rescue and restoration of a pocket ancient woodland, Warren Wood in Frimley. Patricia Brookwick, of Walton and Tadworth, talked about the problems and the pleasures of street tree planting. And also of her work with children in local schools, and hands on, in Jubilee Wood in Tadworth.

A new Treasurer was elected: thank you Dave Pope. Other members of the Committee were re-elected too. But new faces are always welcome. Come forward if you would like to join us.



In the afternoon, the Spelthorne Group gave a walk around demonstration of street tree planting, and discussed how they had organised so many successful plantings over the years.

In October 2019, both Trefor and Patricia organised open days for other Surrey Tree Wardens to visit their projects and share experiences. In Tadworth, this included seed collecting and sowing, and tree and leaf identification.



**But attendance could have been better at both events!**

**So a message from the Committee: Looking to the future, please support your local Surrey Tree Warden Network, and the events we organise. We work on your behalf.**

**SURREY TREE WARDEN NETWORK**  
**Registered Charity number 1106731**  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2019**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
Donations	200.00	165.00
Raffle	115.00	75.00
Sale of Tree Warden Vests	-	124.00
Sale of Remarkable Trees of Surrey to 31 December 2019	905.40	777.99
Speakers fee	100.00	
Empties Please (Recycling)	-	17.25
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,320.40</b>	<b>1,159.24</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>		
Room hire	74.00	60.00
Tree Council membership	250.00	250.00
Web hosting	-	238.43
Booklet distribution	-	80.50
Bank account fees	60.00	60.00
Newsletter costs	-	89.08
Speaker fees	-	51.10
Purchase of Tree Warden vests		
Nutfield	64.40	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>448.40</b>	<b>829.11</b>
<b><u>Deficit/ Surplus</u></b>	<b>872.00</b>	<b>330.13</b>
<b><u>Balance Sheet as at year end</u></b>		
Liabilities		
Balance owed to Nutfield Tree Wardens	157.13	221.53
Assets		
Cash At Bank at 31/12/2018	4,995.24	4,123.24

**The Income and Expenditure accounts and Balance Sheet accord with the books and reflect the figures for the year ended 31st December 2019**

Chris Pead ( Secretary)

David Pope (acting Treasurer)

Date 16/11/20

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