



SURREY TREE WARDENS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021

Welcome to the 2021 Conference and AGM

The **Tadworth and Walton Tree Wardens** are preparing to welcome Surrey Tree Wardens to this year's Conference and AGM. It's a great opportunity for Tree Wardens old and new to meet, to discuss, and it's hoped, come away inspired.

The guest speaker this year is Paul Wood, who has written many books on trees, including 'London is a Forest' and 'London's Street Trees'. The extraordinary and wonderful variety of trees to be found in the capital will be the theme of his talk. Jon Stokes from the Tree Council will also be there giving an overview at a time of huge opportunity for tree care and planting. The conference will also launch the new training sessions for Tree Wardens – with Sam Village also from the Tree Council, talking us through the training modules. And a local walk is planned to round off the day. That's not all. You can buy from our new Christmas card range and raise funds for the network, and there's a raffle too. What's not to like!

Saturday 16 October from 9.30 – 5.00

St John the Evangelist Church Hall, 59 The Avenue, Tadworth, KT20 5DB.

The venue is opposite Tadworth station, and there is plenty of parking. Registration is from 9.30, with the conference beginning at 10.00 and finishing at 5.00. Coffee and tea are provided, but bring your own packed lunch. Face masks are recommended, but not mandatory. To help give an idea of numbers, please email Sue Henderson, our Membership Secretary to say if you are coming: marchharecottage@gmail.com

How to Be a Tree Warden

The Tree Council is launching a new online **Training Programme** for Tree Wardens. There are eight training packages in all, and the first four are about to be made available. You can come and see how it works yourself. The first training module – How to Be a Tree Warden - will be launched at the Conference on 16 October. (*See above.*) The modules will also cover such subjects as Trees and the Law; Tree Biology; Threats and Challenges; Tree Planting and Care; and Organising Events and Projects.

The training is free for all registered Surrey Tree Wardens, and will be accessed in group sessions, probably via Zoom, through a local coordinator, in this case, Secretary Patricia Brookwick, secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk Look out for more details in the next Newsletter or on the website www.surreytreewardens.org.uk

Plant At Least One in 21

Want to plant some trees – look no further. If you haven't got a local Tree Warden project, go online to www.futureforestsnetwork.org This is an organisation set up to connect volunteers with tree planting schemes. Look out too for events during **National Tree Planting Week**, Britain's largest annual tree celebration. It will run this year from Saturday 27 November to Sunday 5 December.

Street Trees – An Update

The Surrey Tree Warden Network has continued to press Surrey County Council about the difficulties some Tree Wardens have faced trying to plant new trees in street verges. Several applications have been turned down in recent years. There was a meeting in August between STWN Committee members, Jon Stokes from the Tree Council, Councillor Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, Councillor Rebecca Paul (Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood) and Councillor Trefor Hogg (Camberley East) who is also STWN Chairman and organised the meeting.

Everyone involved wanted to see more trees planted. Four issues were discussed:

- more information about why applications are refused
- providing contacts in the Highways Dept to better liaise with Tree Wardens
- more flexible interpretation of the distance rules regarding utilities and new street trees
- the list of approved tree varieties to be expanded

Matt Furniss also agreed that some tree planting applications that had been refused, might be resubmitted, and he would investigate the best way to do this. Mr Furniss said afterwards that he had found the meeting very useful, and he would discuss the issues further with the Highways team. He promised to come back with an update. Jon Stokes also agreed to provide assistance from the Tree Council. For its part the STWN welcomed the new policy on verge cutting which has allowed wild flowers to grow and blossom. Welcome too for the progress being made towards Surrey's target of planting 1.2 million trees, and that planting street trees is recognised as making a contribution towards that.

News from Groups

Tree Wardens in **Warlingham, Chelsham and Farleigh** have set up a new tree working group with local Councillors and Parish Councillors and are kicking things off by planting a copse on Common land in November. The group is also on the look-out for other sites suitable for tree planting. If you live locally and would like to join them, the contact is Grace Kempster: grace@kempster.org.uk

Funding has been received for a new centre for **Elmbridge Tree Wardens** in the woodlands alongside Walton Charity's allotments off Rydens Road in Walton-on-Thames. A meeting is being arranged on 11th October at 3pm for anyone interested in taking part. No experience in tree management is needed, just a love of trees and a few hours to spare. For more information, and to attend the meeting, email Karen Heynike on kheynike@waltoncharity.org.uk

If you are interested in collecting tree seeds you are welcome to join Rod Thorn for a walk on **Esher Commons** on Sunday 10th October at 2pm. The plan is to collect a small number of acorns, nuts and other seeds to germinate at home. The aim is to build up a collection of saplings for later planting. Paper bags supplied! For more info, email Rod: info@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Tadworth & Walton are organising a Winter Walk: Sunday 28 November. Meet at 2pm at Jubilee Wood, Tadworth Street (next to the railway bridge). It's a circular walk for all ages with a treasure trail for children and refreshments in Jubilee wood at the end.

Christmas! Yes. It is that time of year! Why not buy your Christmas cards from the Surrey Tree Warden Network and help finances. 6 photo designs have been chosen, and they will be launched and for sale at the Conference in packs of 10, with 2 designs per pack. If you can't make the Conference, cards will be available by post: £5 + postage for 10 cards 120 x 120. £6 + postage for 10 cards 178 x 127. More details to come.

CONTACT US

<https://www.surreytreewardens.org.uk>

Check the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyTreeWardens>

Secretary: Patricia Brookwick secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Newsletter: Liz Ramsay lizramsay@aol.com (She always needs your news!)