



surrey tree wardens

newsletter

july 2025

Keep Trees Safe

There is still time. The new Planning and Infrastructure Bill is still progressing through parliament, and debate will likely conclude in September. But the Bill is seriously flawed in its protections for woods, trees and all wildlife. Detailed and legally binding habitat and site protections are being watered down in favour of new Environment Delivery Plans. The Government says it is a “win win for nature”, but environment groups maintain rigorous protection is being lost, and the new proposals lack a strong legal framework.

One example in the bill is the proposal to exclude small development sites from any obligation under the current Biodiversity Net Gain legislation. If implemented, it would effectively give developers a free hand to fell almost all trees and hedges on a site – any tree, veterans included. A consultation is underway: use the link below to find out more. And contact your MP to tell them about the flawed nature of the Bill as a whole. Urge them to seek better protection for wildlife before it becomes law. Trees and woodland should be treated as vital infrastructure, not optional extras. The Surrey Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and other organisations are campaigning to strengthen the legislation too.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-biodiversity-net-gain/improving-the-implementation-of-biodiversity-net-g/>

Diary Dates

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A wonderful summer and autumn of tree activities lie ahead. Note the dates now and the invitations to book will follow shortly.

Sunday 20 July: Wilder Families Day at the Lingfield Nature Reserve

This is a free family event designed to connect people with nature. There will be scavenger hunts, a bioblitz, and the promise of wild challenges and more sedate guided walks. You are asked to book a two hour slot through the Surrey Wildlife Trust website

<https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/events/2025-07-20-wilder-families-lingfield-nature-reserve>

Saturday 2 August: Guided Tree Walk at Kew Gardens

This visit has been organised by one of our Tree wardens, Jane Lewis, Trees tell history, and trees tell stories: here's your chance to hear about some of the most interesting ones in Kew Gardens. Booking will open shortly, but places are limited, so book early.

Saturday 1 November: Guided Tree Walk at Wisley Garden

In Spring 2024, Surrey Tree Wardens were informed, entertained and delighted by Jonathan Newell who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things arboreal. The guided walk at Wisley is being repeated, different season, different trees. Come prepared for some tasting: Jonathan is an expert forager, and you will be surprised at how many trees are edible in some form or another.

Other dates

Saturday 4 October: Surrey Tree Warden meeting and AGM in Nutfield.

Saturday 25 October: Tree Warden South East Forum in Portsmouth

Contact the Surrey Tree Warden Network at www.surreytreewardens.org.uk

News from the Groups



Spelthorne

Throughout the last tree planting season, Spelthorne Tree Wardens planted an impressive 125 trees across the borough. a remarkable achievement made possible by their dedicated volunteer wardens. Over 60% of the trees planted were fruit trees, including apples, pears, and plums. These community orchards will not only provide residents with access to fresh, locally grown fruit but will also enhance biodiversity. Many of the trees were grown in their own towpath nursery. The Spelthorne group wish to thank Surrey County Councillor Denise Turner-Stewart for her commitment to community orchards and her help in securing funding.

Surrey Council

Surrey County Council report that the planting of new trees in Surrey has passed the 700,000 mark. The aim is to plant 1.2 million trees, one for each resident, by 2030. Watch out for more Library free tree give aways and more street planting over the coming season.

Nutfield

Over 300 trees were planted in Nutfield in March. Jubilee Wood got 200 more native trees and shrubs filling in the gaps left by poor survival rate after the drought of 2022. (It's happening again - see below). South Nutfield Cricket Club looked to the future and realised they did not have to mow the whole of their large grounds which extend well beyond the cricket pitch. The planting in both places was organised by the Nutfield Tree Wardens, and attended by many enthusiastic volunteers, especially at the Cricket Ground.



Tree Planting 2025/26

Applications for grants to support the establishment of thousands of trees, orchards and hedgerows over the next year are now available through The Tree Council. They include a new £1m grant pot funded by Defra. The Trees Outside Woodland Fund offers grants of up to £40,000 for local authorities and larger charities to grow trees on land that is publicly accessible, or of benefit to the public. The new fund joins four existing grant opportunities available through The Tree Council. Check out all these funding opportunities available for Tree Wardens at www.treecouncil.org.uk

Weather Watch

It has been a hot, dry spring, and now we are into what seems a hot dry summer, with levels of rainfall well below what once was considered normal. New trees need our help. If you were involved in any tree planting over winter please check whether they need water, and if possible, if it is a street tree for instance, water them.

Training

The Surrey Tree Warden Network is again offering online training sessions to all Tree Wardens. There is one new module on hedgerows in December. Many of you may well already have done the others, but if you haven't, or want to repeat them, here are the dates. Remember that if you want to be covered by the STWN insurance, you MUST complete the Induction module. The sessions all last about an hour, from 7 – 8pm.

Friday 5 September: Induction

Friday 10 October: Tree Biology

Wednesday 12 November: Tree Threats

NEW Wednesday 3 December: Hedgerows. NEW