

Hedgerow Heroes



National Hedgerow Week is coming up fast, and there are a series of activities being planned by the Tree Council to encourage people to get involved, from surveying existing hedges to planting new ones. Hedges are now seen as keystone landscape features to help stop nature depletion throughout the UK. They link habitats, allowing insects, birds and small mammals to survive and spread. Many woodland birds find a home in them; bats, hedgehogs, invertebrates can

flourish in the dense thickets that hedgerows can provide. Traditionally hedges were seen as a landscape feature to be kept “neat” and cut once a year. Now, a two year cut on a rotational basis is seen as better for wildlife, along with varying the height of the cut.

National Hedgerow Week runs from 8 – 14 May. The Tree Council is planning a series of events, and the website is full of information about planning, financing, planting and caring for these essential landscape delineators. Find out more on the Tree Council website.

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/national-hedgerow-week>

The Tree Council website has information about two other campaigns. **Trees Love Care** runs from March to September, a reminder that once new trees have been planted, they need to be looked after.

Spring in Your Step encourages everyone to get out this spring and appreciate tree blossom, which is often unremarked. There’s a very useful guide to some unexpectedly beautiful tree blossoms on the website.

How to be a Tree Warden

The Surrey Network is running the free Tree Warden training programme again for those who missed it last year, and for those who want to refresh their knowledge. The sessions are delivered via Zoom, and each lasts about an hour with time for questions. The first Session, the Tree Warden Induction Module, is essential viewing for all Tree Wardens, new and old. It discusses the role of Tree Wardens in their community, ideas for what they can do, and instruction on what they can’t.

This session will run on **Monday 17 April**, 7 – 8 pm. It will be followed by Tree Biology on **Monday May 15**; Tree Threats on **Monday 5 June**. Trees and the Law will also be run again, but the date has not yet been settled. New modules on Hedgerows are under preparation.

You may already have confirmed you are signed up for the first module on **April 17**, but if you have not, and would like to, please email our secretary, Patricia Brookwick secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk. She will then issue a Zoom invitation to you. Once you have completed the course you will receive a comprehensive learning guide on what to do as a Tree Warden. Invitations for the May and June sessions will be issued nearer the time. **Remember: it’s essential that all Tree Wardens complete the Induction Module.**

News From Members



From Tee to Tree. An old golf course in West End by Woking has become a local nature reserve, and **Surrey Heath Tree Wardens** were first in with the spades when a new Community Orchard was planted last November. The orchard project was a collaboration between several West End community groups. 47 large fruit trees were supplied by a local wholesale nursery and a mini digger was used to dig the holes for free, saving a lot of sore backs.

A novel idea to protect street trees from strimmer damage: woven willow protectors. It was crafted by **Elmbridge Tree Warden Kate Ray**, using willow supplied by Sally Pemberton from the **Spelthorne Group**. Attractive, biodegradable, but labour intensive.

And an **Epsom** Rotary club member is looking at making strimmer guards made from coconut matting to reduce reliance on plastic. The goal is to make these available to STWN groups for trial and feedback. More street trees are lost to strimmer damage than any other cause, an issue the STWN committee is taking up with the authorities dealing with verge maintenance.



Last July a resident in **Ashted** spotted a large hole in the Rowan planted outside his house a few years ago. Keith Lelliott of the **Ashted Tree Wardens** was stumped, so asked the Forestry Commission using their online Tree Alert form. Their response was that the damage was most likely caused by the caterpillar of a leopard moth. This moth is a widespread but not common British species whose caterpillar feeds on the heartwood of young broadleaf trees.

Photo: the Rowan, the Damage and the Moth

Eighteen trees and shrubs have been planted in the grounds of Christ Church in **Staines** by the **Spelthorne Group**, using stock from their tree nursery, and from garden cuttings grown by Dave Pope. They were carefully selected for size - none of them will grow too big - and include Rowan, Irish Yew, Magnolia, Cotoneaster, Witch Hazel, and a Handkerchief Tree.



Living among Giants.

Jane Thorp a **Merrow** tree warden has been tree hunting in her patch, and discovered some giants. Merrow has no fewer than 28 giant sequoias, the tallest trees in the world, along with three species of cedar. They were planted in the 19C in the grounds of large properties whose owners would track down the 'latest finds' from intrepid Victorian plant hunters. Her list includes many other fine specimen trees, including monkey puzzles, a pencil cypress, and two large magnolia grandiflora, the evergreen magnolia. So in Merrow – look up to the sky and marvel.

Still More News From Members

EETAB, the Epsom and Ewell tree planting Group have been planting hedges as well as trees. The local Riding for the Disabled Group got in touch asking for help in planting a boundary hedge. On a wet and blustery day in January, 70 volunteers from several organisations turned up to plant 475 saplings along a 120m boundary. Into the ground went a mixture of hazel, field maple, hawthorn, hornbeam, willow, rowan, ash, dogwood and dog rose, most of them from the EETAB Tree Nursery.



EETAB are also celebrating getting over a hundred trees into the ground over last winter. Working with Surrey Council, 42 new street trees went in. More trees were planted as replacements and gap filling, and a Community orchard was planted in Auriol Park.

You can get more info from the EETAB website <https://eetab.org.uk>

Your Committee Needs You!

Put Saturday 1 July into your diary. It's the Surrey Tree Warden Network meeting and get together along with the AGM. It's going to be held in Elmbridge, which has an active Tree Warden Group. Details of the day have still to be finalised. But please think now about joining the SWTN committee. We meet every two months or so to coordinate the network and arrange events. We need a new Chair. Steve McCormick is standing down after two years in the job, and we need a new Treasurer to take over from Dave Pope. Offers to help, and nominations for the executive roles gratefully received! Contact our Secretary Patricia Brookwick secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Spiral Guards

Going free to anyone who could use them: approx. 100 spiral guards. They have been used once, but still have a second life. Contact lizramsay@aol.com

For Sale



Don't forget. We have **Greetings Cards** for sale to raise money for the Surrey Network. Each pack features five each of the two photos shown. The cost £6.00 (plus postage) for a pack of 10.

Also on sale, our bestselling booklet: **Remarkable Trees of Surrey. £4.99**

Contact secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk.



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