

DIARY DATES

Autumn Meeting: Saturday 4 October, from 9.30 to 4.30
At Nutfield Memorial Hall, High Street, Nutfield RH1 4HE

This year's Autumn meeting, which will include a brief AGM, will be held on Saturday 4 October with a busy programme of speakers and events.

Inspiration This will undoubtedly come from the first speaker, Jon Stokes, Director of Trees, Science & Research at The Tree Council. His theme is the Trees of Britain – an all-encompassing title from a man who probably knows more about trees in this island than anyone else. Expect a hugely informative presentation, based on his new book, and expect the unexpected.



Health Trees and Health - how the NHS is using Nature's Healing Influence. The guest speaker is from the Frimley NHS Trust. There is plenty of evidence that trees really do help general feelings of wellbeing, and aid recovery from illness. This will look at the evidence and how the NHS is already incorporating nature into treatment, and how that can be taken further.

Left: Tree Art in the Family Room, Surrey & Borders Hospital, Leatherhead

Rest: Final Rest Health fails everyone eventually. And still trees have a role to play. The afternoon activity is a guided walk through the Nutfield Green Burial site. It is a peaceful 30 year old woodland, owned by Nutfield Parish Council, and has been operating as a green burial site for about 20 years. Trees: they do indeed accompany us from wooden cradle to the grave.

Wisley: Guided Tree Walk.
Saturday 1 November, 9.30 to 12.00

Last year, the Surrey Tree Warden committee organised a hugely successful guided walk in spring in the RHS Wisley garden. It was led by Jonathan Newell the Head of Public Engagement at Wisley. He is happy to do another walk, this time in autumn. Be prepared for extraordinary stories, mind bending facts, and Jonathan might even test your taste buds, if you are up for it. You will already have had an email from Patricia, the STWN Secretary, about the Autumn meeting, which includes the AGM. Please respond quickly, as it is important to know numbers attending. She will shortly be in touch with full details of the Wisley visit.

..... AND CONNECTING WITH OUR MEMBERS

The Committee are very anxious to open a conversation with Surrey tree warden members. There are quite a lot of you throughout the county. But recent events we have organised have been very poorly attended. Last year's summer meeting for instance had many many empty chairs, in spite of a good line up of speakers. A guided visit to Kew this summer had to be cancelled because so few people signed up. It seems the committee need to connect more with you, and you need to connect more with us. The autumn meeting will see the launch of an initiative to try to bridge the gap. Most of all we want to hear from you about what you do as a Tree Warden, and what you expected when you joined. It works the other way too: we would like to hear from you whether you get the right support and information. The process will start with a Q and A at the autumn meeting. Come prepared! We are all of us volunteers, sharing a love of trees; we all can only do what we can.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Lingfield

Tree Wardens joined forces with Surrey Wildlife Trust for a Community Fun Family Event on the Lingfield Nature Reserve. The group have been creating tree related habitats in the last year including a stumpery and dead hedges from some coppicing last winter. So there was plenty to show on a guided walk plus many unusual trees, like a Weeping Ash grown from a seed donated by Tony Kirkham at Kew, a White Mulberry, some white and purple Bullace, Black Poplar, Balsam Poplar, Black Walnut, Italian Alder and Sessile Oaks.

The Lingfield group have successfully pot-grown many native trees from seed and planted them on in a tree nursery to establish before finding their home. Perhaps tree wardens should do an Autumn collection and do a tree seed swap?

Betchworth

This report was sent in by David Ewing, a new Tree Warden in Betchworth. It's an article he wrote for the local Betchworth magazine – just one example of the many ways local Tree Wardens can contribute.

Back many tree rings ago in the mid 1990s I became a Tree Warden in Buckland village near Reigate whilst being a member of the Parish Council. As a Tree Warden, I am part of a national network of volunteers organised through the charity The Tree Council. Locally, I arranged Tree Walks and a couple of events involving the village. I also used to write a small update in the parish magazine under the name of Twiglet. I would like to continue this in the Betchworth magazine.

I recently attended The Tree Council's Tree Health Citizen Science Workshop at the Forestry Research station at Alice Holt. This was an event to see how we, the general public, would be able to help with their research into the state of the trees in the UK. We had a guided walk, led by one of the scientists, looking at damage caused by the recent drought conditions and also diseases and bugs that are causing limbs to suddenly drop, and fully leaved trees to suddenly fall down. There are signs that these trees are under stress, but it is not always immediately apparent that anything is wrong.

The love of the trees around us is my motivation. This summer, I watched Horse Chestnut leaves turning brown. This is invariably caused by Chestnut leaf-miner and can result in a decrease in the weight of the seeds (conkers), thus impacting seed germination and vigour.

Do you look closely at the trees around, and question as to why a tree looks sick? This first article is a pilot to see the response from the residents of Betchworth. Hopefully in future articles, I can let you know more on the Tree Warden scheme and how to be a Tree warden yourself. Many eyes are better than one.

Seed Gathering Season begins on the autumn equinox and is a time to gather seed from local sources to nurture the next generation of trees. It's a great opportunity for Tree Wardens to come together to collect seeds of local provenance to grow on and plant out in future tree planting seasons.

Printer Ink Cartridges Reminder *The Surrey TW network raises a modest amount of money each year by selling used print cartridges for recycling. If you have any, please contact Sue Henderson at the Autumn Meeting or at marchharecottage@gmail.com*

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. The sessions last an hour 7 – 8pm.

Friday 10 October: Tree Biology

Wednesday 12 November: Tree Threats

NEW Wednesday 3 December: Hedgerows. NEW

Contact Us

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