



SURREY TREE WARDENS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

Blooming Marvellous 1



The Surrey Heath Tree Wardens are celebrating this spring more than usual. Three years ago they started work on restoring a piece of Ancient Woodland, Warren Wood at Frimley. It was a dark, silent and dangerous place, full of litter; oaks and yew were being lost to laurel and holly. Slowly, the laurel has been cut down and the holly reduced. Three years ago there were only brambles and not much sign of other woodland flowers. Two years ago, one or two native daffodils appeared; a year ago there were twenty; this year there is a carpet - a burst of daffodils as rain and dappled sunlight once again touched the woodland floor.

About 40% of the woodland has now been restored, mostly working with hand tools and with a small amount of professional help. Bird and bat boxes have been installed; bird song is now everywhere and there are fresh badger diggings. A local who walks through the woodland every day remarked "People walk here again now, the litter that was everywhere is gone; it is a nice place to visit." There is lots more to do. Some of the woodland is still dark, with timber overhanging the paths. But each time a work party visits a little more of the woodland is put on the way to recovery.

Blooming Marvellous 2

Dormansland in East Surrey used to be known for its cherry orchards. So when Tree Warden Fiona French was looking to plant new trees in the village, she turned to the past for inspiration, and put out a call to come plant a cherry. The trees went in this year. The first step was to find suitable locations in the village and get the relevant permissions from Tandridge and Surrey Councils. Funding was the next problem. Fiona put notices in local magazines asking if anyone wanted to buy and plant a tree in memory of anyone, or as a gift to the village. Seven trees were donated, mainly flowering cherries, and also two beech trees. They were all in memory of family members who had lived in the village. In addition there was one tree in memory of a family pet and another as a gift from a man whose whole family had been born and raised in the village. The Parish Council donated a further five cherries.



Says Fiona 'I took on role of Tree Warden in Dormansland in 2019. There is only me and no funding.' She has done spectacularly well, and is planning more planting next year.

Diary Dates Diary Dates Diary Dates

There was no formal AGM last year, but Report and Accounts for the Year 2019 /20 were dealt with by a Zoom meeting of the STWN committee, and are on the website. This year, all being well, we plan to hold a full AGM open to all. The date has been pencilled in for **October 16**, but this date will be confirmed nearer the time.

Tree Warden Training – Coming Soon

The Tree Council is about to launch a new national training scheme for all Tree Wardens – old and new. It will be online, but with real people there to advise and help. A series of seven training modules have been prepared on these subjects: Tree Biology, Trees and the Law, Tree Health, Tree Threats and Challenges, Tree Planting, Tree Care, and Organising Events and Projects. Once launched later this year, these modules can be accessed through the Surrey Network, via our Secretary, Patricia Brookwick. The training is free for all registered Surrey Tree Wardens.

In addition, The Tree Council is currently recruiting trainers to help deliver the training modules, and answer questions. This could be via Zoom, and in person once restrictions are eased. So if there are knowledgeable Tree Wardens out there who would like to train as a trainer, this is your chance. The first Train the Trainer Day is likely to be in the second half of April. Contact Sam Village, the Tree Warden co-ordinator, if you are interested: sam.village@treecouncil.org.uk

Highway Tree Planting

Some Tree Warden groups have hit upon obstacles concerning their highway tree planting under the 'Surrey's New Tree Strategy' 2020 guidelines. If you haven't seen the guidelines yet you can view the document at

https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/225620/Surreys-New-Tree-Strategy-June-2020.pdf

You may need to copy and paste the link - highway planting is detailed from page 38. A meeting has taken place with the SCC Highways Manager to discuss the problems that have arisen, and a written response is expected. This is clearly a big issue for many Tree Wardens, and one that the Surrey Tree Warden Committee will follow up.



Elm

A special elm has been planted in the new Jubilee Wood in South Nutfield. It is *Ulmus 'New Horizon'* and is resistant to Dutch Elm disease. The Nutfield Tree Wardens applied for and won, one of thirty of these elms which the Tree Council have given out to celebrate 30 years of the national Tree Warden network. The elm will be a focal point at the entrance to the new wood which has been planned by the Tree Wardens and planted this year by village volunteers – not easy in a pandemic.

Thankyou Chris Pead

Our long-standing Secretary Chris Pead stood down last November. His life **was** trees. He was for many years the Tree Officer for Spelthorne Borough Council. In 1999 he was active in setting up the local Spelthorne Tree Warden group, keen to share his knowledge, give advice, and helpful too in gaining permission to plant trees. He was also heavily involved in the planning of Spelthorne's Millennium Wood. His knowledge of trees is matched by his extensive knowledge of the wild and rare flowers of Surrey. He was Secretary of the Surrey Tree Warden Network from its inception. On his retirement Chris moved to Bexhill but still made the journey back to Surrey to attend meetings, events and training days, whatever the weather.

We send our heartfelt thanks to Chris for his hard work and advice over the years. We are sure his love of trees will remain, and he will continue to gain satisfaction from knowing how much he has helped the cause in Surrey.

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

Membership: Sue Henderson marchharecottage@gmail.com

Newsletter: Liz Ramsay lizramsay@aol.com

And please send the Newsletter Editor details of any stories or event details