



SURREY TREE WARDENS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020

Keeping in Touch

After 3 months, lockdown is easing. But it is a lost three months for much Tree Warden activity. This newsletter cannot be an update on what local tree warden groups have been doing. Nor can it publicise forthcoming events. It is important nevertheless to stay in touch, and maybe lockdown has allowed time for new projects to take shape. The Surrey Tree Warden Network AGM in June had to be cancelled. It will be rearranged as soon as possible, and the Report and Accounts will be circulated. Our speaker was to have been author Paul Wood. He has published two books on London's street trees, the latest titled "London is a Forest". In it, he describes over 300 varieties of trees on London streets. Let's hope he can still be our main speaker when the AGM is finally held. Let's look to the future. There are two dates that Tree Wardens can work around – social distancing permitting. These two campaigns are organised nationally by the Tree Council, and here, from its website, is why these dates matter.

Seed Gathering Season: 23 September to 23 October
National Tree Week: 28 November to 6 December

Grow the Trees of the Future

Our annual Seed Gathering Season inspires everyone to join us to gather seeds, fruits and nuts which can be nurtured to grow the trees of the future. Now in its 21st year, The Tree Council welcomes all our volunteer Tree Wardens, member organisations, local communities and families to get involved during the month-long celebrations. The campaign runs from September 23, which is the autumn equinox and considered to be the first day of autumn. It finishes on October 23.

Now more than ever the true value of trees is being recognised in helping to tackle climate change and restore habitats. And at a time when trees are also facing the threat of newly imported pests and diseases, one important factor for the survival of some species is diversity of stock. Growing seeds from healthy UK trees on home soil is the way forward. We must plant and protect more trees, ensuring that they thrive.

Growing trees from local seed can have great benefits in restocking areas with trees of local provenance. The concept of local provenance suggests that trees that are adapted to the local circumstances are more likely to flourish and so help restore, conserve and beautify local urban and rural spaces. Collecting seeds and growing trees is also a great way to get children involved and start growing the next generation of tree enthusiasts.

National Tree Week: The UK's Largest Annual Tree Celebration **Get your hands dirty!**

National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). The Tree Council, one of the UK's leading charities for trees, first established National Tree Week in March 1975 in response to the replanting required after the outbreak of Dutch Elm disease. National Tree Week – 28 November – 6 December – is a great chance for communities to do something positive for their local treescape. Each year, The Tree Council's member organisations such as voluntary bodies, local authorities, up to 200 schools and community groups, and their 6,000 strong network of volunteer Tree Wardens support the initiative by setting up fun, worthwhile and accessible events, inspiring upward of a quarter of a million people to get their hands dirty and together plant trees.

Ash Dieback

The Tree Council has just published new guidance for homeowners who have to deal with ash dieback. It has been prepared in consultation with DEFRA and the Forestry Commission, and aids home-owners with ash trees on their land to manage the infection.

Ash Dieback: a Guide for Tree Owners, helps tree owners to understand the safety risks of the disease, while also helping to reduce its ecological impact. Anyone with a tree on their land has a legal responsibility to ensure that risk posed by the tree is kept within appropriate limits, particularly if it is next to a busy road, public pathway or community grounds. But where it is safe to do so, a tree can be retained. For instance, cutting back the canopy, rather than felling it completely, might be an answer.



Dieback is likely to wipe out 80% of ash trees nationally, but the other 20% may show some resistance. It is these trees – the next generation - that must be helped to survive. The guide should prove an extremely useful tool for tree wardens, who can circulate the information as required.

The guidance provides simple steps to identify ash trees, assess their condition on a scale of 1 – 4, and consider management options if ash dieback disease is suspected.

Link: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Tree-Council-Ash-dieback-tree-owners-guide-FINAL.pdf>

In Brief

Sam Village, a Leicestershire Tree Warden and representative, has recently been appointed as National Tree Warden Scheme Coordinator at the Tree Council. She has already been hard at work and is responsible for the regular national newsletters. If you are not receiving them, please contact our membership secretary Sue Henderson marchharecottage@gmail.com

Major tree planting grant funds will be available from The Tree Council this year, largely as a result of a successful National Tree Week campaign in 2019. There's the Orchards in Schools fund, which aims to plant fruit trees in every school, and Branching Out, this one for community led projects in Tree Planting week in November – social distancing rules permitting. For details see www.treecouncil.org.uk



Nutfield Tree Wardens have recently completed a survey of veteran and ancient trees in the parish. It took a gentle 18 months to complete, walking roads and footpaths, and asking for access where possible to private gardens and farm land. The information has been put on a map and will be circulated in the local area. One oak qualifies as ancient, if only for its looks. It is still alive - just - and has a mighty 6m girth. The list includes many oaks, and several beautiful mature ash trees. Also some hard to identify poplars – any help gratefully received! The survey can found on the link below.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1AwS1EKCl6KIfwlr3AJu6Z7oP_pQRsknS&usp=sharing

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www.surreytreewardens.org.uk

Check the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyTreeWardens>.
And please send the Newsletter Editor details of any stories or event details.

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