

Venue: Sheffield Park



What a venue for the upcoming South East Tree Warden Forum. Sheffield Park is an ancient and significant English landscape park. In the 18th century, Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton both left their landscape legacies in the magnificent wooded valley with its cascading lakes. But it is the twentieth century owner Arthur Gilstrap Soames who created the garden enjoyed today. Say the words Autumn Colour, and Sheffield Park is one of the first gardens to spring to mind. Soames planted hundreds of trees, including many species from North America, among them *Taxodium distichum*, *Swamp Cypress*, and *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Tupelo*.

Sheffield Park is now owned by the National Trust, and will welcome Tree Wardens from Kent to Hampshire and all counties in between on Saturday 11 July. It is an all day event, organised by The Tree Council, and starts with a welcome coffee from 9.30 with

the programme beginning at 10.00. Among the speakers, Steve Feazey, the Head Gardener who will talk about how he is adapting the garden to climate change. Another session looks at the latest research for looking after ancient and veteran trees.. Lunch is provided, and in the afternoon, there's the garden itself, with outdoor workshops using the magnificent landscape as a way to learn.

Above all the Forum is a chance to meet and network with other Tree Wardens from other parts of the South East. The cost is £10 per person, and you can find out more about it, and book your place using this link: <https://buytickets.at/thetreecouncil/2217965>

Saturday 11 July 9.30 – 4.30 at Sheffield Park, Uckfield, East Sussex. TN22 3QX

News From the Tree Council

The Tree Council is looking for volunteers to take part in a research project on the best conditions for tree establishment. What IS a good tree survival rate after planting? That's the basic question. Volunteers will be asked to monitor newly planted trees using a new App to record details on individual trees, and to rate establishment as Excellent, Good, Poor and Dead. The project, involving DEFRA, Forest Research as well as The Tree Council, is in its early days, and will run for a further four years. But already, say the organisers, interesting results are emerging.

Grants to support the planting of trees, orchards and hedges on streets, in parks, and in school and community spaces are now available through The Tree Council. There's the Branching Out Fund with small grants ranging from £250 - £2500. Or the Network Rail and SP Energy Networks Community Tree Planting Funds for grants over £2,500. Go to The Tree Council website for further details.
<https://treecouncil.org.uk>

Don't forget that you can order free 'Please Water Me' tags from the Arboriculture Association. The hot weather in May was a serious setback for newly planted trees which struggle to produce new roots. Watering through summer is the difference between a living tree for the future, and a very dead one now.

<https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Tree-Care-Campaigns/Watering-Young-Trees>

The Upright and The Weeping

Upright trees, properly known as Fastigate, and Weeping trees, properly known as Pendulous – that was the broad theme of the Wisley Tree Warden walk in April. It was led by Jonathan Newell, head of Public Engagement at Wisley Garden, and a master of all things arboreal. 36 people came along on a cold, blowy spring morning to be entertained, amused, educated and awed by Jonathan's knowledge and enthusiasm.

The walk was through a small corner of Wisley, dominated at the start by two huge purple leaved Dawyck (fastigate) Beech trees, one planted by the Queen the other by Prince Philip. Along the path, more fastigate specimens: Oak, Field maple; Gingko, Sequoia, Crab apple, Lawson's cypress, Turkish hazel, Norway Maple.



Jonathan showed us two trees from very different parts of the American continent that were planted together in a Welsh garden of a Mr Leyland in 1870: the Nootka cypress, *Cupressus nootkanensis*, and the Monterey Pine, *Cupressus macrocarpa*. They cross-pollinated and produced the Leylandii - high value specimen or monster, depending on your point of view.

A weeping cherry provided another fascinating insight into relationships between insects and trees. At the base of every cherry leaf is a small red nodule known as an Extra-floral Nectary. It produces a tiny

amount of sugar: taste it and see! Ants are attracted, and as they gather the sugar they clean the cherry leaves.

DIARY DATES

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Tree Warden Training

Friday 19 June at 7pm via Zoom: Threats and Challenges to Our Trees

This module outlines some of the challenges that trees face including in gardens, near existing buildings, on development sites, and how Tree Wardens can help.

Friday 3 July at 7pm via Zoom: Tree Warden Induction Course

This is a mandatory course for all new tree wardens and must be taken in order to qualify for the STWN Tree Warden insurance cover. An introductory module which will help you to understand the history and structure of the Tree Warden Scheme, the role of Tree Wardens and why Trees matter.

Friday 11 September: Hedgerows: Nature's Highways

Contact Patricia Brookwick to register: secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk

Guided Walks: Haslemere tree warden Clive Davidson will lead two walks as part of the Haslemere Walking Festival. The first is on Saturday 27 June, and will visit some of the town's most interesting and notable trees all within a mile radius of the town centre. Meet at 2pm outside the Georgian in the High Street, GU27 2JY. It will last a couple of hours.

On Sunday 28 June, there's a 90 minute walk around The Roughs, off Tennyson's Lane, looking at native woodland trees plus some fascinating exotic plantings. Meet at 10am in the National Trust Black Down carpark on Tennyson's Lane, GU27 3BJ.

July 11: South East and Central Tree Warden Forum at Sheffield Park

July 17 – 9 August: Big Butterfly Count

21 September - 21 October: Seed Gathering Season. 21 – 29 November: National Tree Planting Week

Contact Us

www.surreytreewardens.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyTreeWardens>

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