

surrey tree wardens

newsletter

march 2026

Reply Yes!

Urgent. We are updating the Surrey Tree Warden Network Membership Database. You will have been sent an email asking you to confirm if you wish to remain as a Tree Warden with the Surrey Tree Warden Network and The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme - a national project that depends very much on local tree champions like you.

If you received the email and now this newsletter you are currently listed as a Surrey Tree Warden Network Member. Membership is free and all that's required to remain on the database is that you respond with a 'YES' by 31 MARCH 2026. If you haven't already done so, you can reply now to secretary@surreytreewardens.org.uk. If we do not hear from you we'll assume that you are no longer an active member and will remove your details from our database in line with our Data Protection Policy.

A quick reminder that as a Member you currently receive the following free support from your Network: Training, Insurance cover, Newsletters, Tree Projects and Grant information, Citizen Science opportunities, Speaker meetings and Events such as the guided walk below.

Wisley's Wonderful Trees

This is first event of 2026. Plans last year for an Autumn walk at the RHS garden at Wisley were scuppered by an M25 shutdown and then a gas leak which meant the garden was all but impossible to reach. Now: a new year, a new plan. Jonathan Newell, Head of Public Engagement at Wisley, and a fount of knowledge on the trees in the garden has again agreed to do a guided walk for Surrey Tree Wardens.

DATE: Saturday 11 April

Arrive by 9.30 at the main entrance. The guided walk will begin at 10.00 at the Hilltop building inside the garden, a ten to fifteen minute walk away. A shuttle bus is available for those with mobility problems. The meeting point will be outside Hilltop at the back entrance behind the building.



COST: The walk is free, but entry to the garden is not.

If you are an RHS member, you come in for free with your membership card. But please do consider making a donation to the Surrey Tree Warden Network to cover costs and boost funds. A five pound donation would be most welcome.

For non RHS members, we have a special discounted price of £8.30 per person (normally £19.80). All places must be booked and paid for in advance, and no later than 1st April. Payment details are below.

If you would like to come, please contact Liz Ramsay lizramsay@aol.com to book a place, and include your RHS membership number. If you are a non RHS member payment details are below. The guided walk will last for up to two hours, and will be at a slow pace. Jonathan is entertaining and knowledgeable about all things arboreal. Warm clothing and wellies or waterproof boots are recommended: we will likely be walking off the paths and through long grass. When the walk is over you are free to explore the rest of this beautiful garden.

Payments and Donations to:

Bank: CAF Bank. Account Name: Surrey Tree Warden Network. Account Number: 00014782. Sort Code: 40-52-40
Please give your surname when asked for "Reference".

NEWS FROM GROUPS

LINGFIELD *Report from Elaine Griffiths*

It was a real pleasure to support Anne Richards and the Lingfield Nature Reserves Committee at their orchard planting day on Sunday 30th November. It was an excellent turn out with lots of hands to dig, prepare the soil and plant the trees.

It was a real eyeopener to see how much planning and preparation (and dare I say cost!) went into the day. Anne had carefully chosen and ordered 12 fruit trees from a quality supplier, on good root stocks. Notable were a Williams Pear ‘Bon Chretien’, Quince A and a beautiful Crab Apple ‘Comtesse de Paris’, possibly the best of the crabs I’m told, keeping its apples late into the season for wildlife and a good flowering pollinator into the bargain. In addition, I planted an apple tree, New Discovery, on behalf of the Surrey Network. A volunteer also brought an Elder (Sambucus) Haschberg with some saplings grown from its berries.

The trees arrived in time. Not to mention the stakes, compost, soil improver and mycorrhizal fungi to give them the best start. The soil was prepared using a digger to scrape a good amount of the grass turf away. This bare soil will be seeded in early spring to allow wildflowers to grow around the trees and encourage pollinators.

A wonderful morning was had by all. The weather was absolutely beautiful - sunny and mild, compared to the torrential downpour the days before and after! Afterwards, we admired our work eating a lovely selection of cake and mince pies.



EPSOM AND EWELL *Report from Richard Cotmore*

The Mike Ford Copse In June 2024 Mike Ford, founder of the Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board (EETAB) and Epsom's truest Tree Champion, sadly passed away following a short illness. Mike's legacy and dedication

to tree husbandry are evident across the borough, reflected in the success of the numerous projects he undertook over the twenty-five years he managed the group. He will be remembered for this inspiring work, and is sorely missed.

One of Mike's first projects was to create a copse in the corner of Alexandra Park, featuring a variety of native trees. The copse was subsequently named after him. Mike was able to be present at the ceremony of dedication in December 2023, where the Mayor, councillors, Friends of Alexandra Park, and EETAB gathered together to honour him, and recognise his many years of tree planting and conservation in the borough.



Mike Ford, centre, at the Ceremony of Dedication in 2023

Three months later in March 2024, volunteers planted an additional 30 saplings at the copse, all sourced from the EETAB tree nursery, to revitalise it and add more native trees. The species included a disease-resistant Elm, Beech, Crab Apple, Holly, Hawthorn, Rowan, Hazel, Hornbeam and Field maple. Volunteers kept the trees watered and mulched in the hot summers of 24 and 25, and most of them have thrived. The new trees supplement the existing wildlife habitat and provide a succession of tree ages. That feels a fitting way to celebrate Mike's many years of dedication to Epsom and Ewell's treescape.

Raise Funds While you Shop

The Surrey Tree Warden Network is now registered with easyfundraising, the UK's biggest charity online shopping site with over 7000 retailers taking part. Here is their website for more details:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

All you need to do is sign up using this link, and remember to use it whenever you shop online. There is no extra cost to you: the donation comes from the retailer.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/surrey-tree-warden-network>

You may also run or know of a small business. Business buying through easyfundraising is one of the easiest ways to raise big donations more frequently. What is "business buying"? It's anything a business purchases online: office supplies, train tickets, flights, hotel bookings, technology, internet, couriers, food supplies, and much more. These donations could really mount up.

Easyfundraising Explained: here's a YouTube link to tell you more: <https://youtu.be/E2Md8GncMas>

Trees Matter (sometimes): New Planning Guidance



The government issued new planning guidance earlier this year in its National Planning Policy Framework. Trees are to be encouraged in all new developments, recognising the contribution trees make to biodiversity and climate change mitigation. New streets will be required to be tree-lined unless there are strong reasons why not. Green networks are to be encouraged with trees planted in parks, green corridors and all suitable green spaces. Community orchards are to be encouraged. Importantly, developers must make provision for the long term care of existing and newly planted trees in any development, a welcome move to those of us who have watched fine new trees die because they have not been watered. However, this applies to new developments only. Tree and nature protections otherwise have been watered down.

Ancient woodland, recognised as an irreplaceable habitat, and ancient and veteran trees does get better protection – equivalent to listed building status. But national infrastructure projects, such as HS2, would still override that.

Training Courses

The Surrey Tree Warden Network is again offering online training sessions to all Tree Wardens. The first module is the basic How to be a Tree warden, and it is essential for all new members. STWN insurance does not cover you unless you have completed this module. Many of you may well already have done this or other modules, but if you haven't, or want to repeat them, here are the dates. The sessions last an hour 7 – 8pm.

Friday 27 March: Tree Warden Introduction

Wednesday 22 April: Tree Biology

Contact Us

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www.surreytreewardens.org.uk

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

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