



THE TREE
COUNCIL



Tree Warden Update

Autumn 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

TPO consultation

TWS anniversary

Urban tree wardening

Green Monuments

Tree trails

Championing local trees

Technical update

Tell us your news

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[?q=UpdateSignUp](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=UpdateSignUp) and completing
the simple form.



12 HEDGEROW HARVEST

Hedgerow Harvest is a new Tree Council project that builds on exciting work being carried out as part of our Hedge Tree Campaign.

The project encourages local people to gather and grow food for free on their doorstep. It aims to build a network of hedgerow foragers who can inspire their neighbours, share their favourite recipes and carry out projects to plant productive hedges in their communities.



NEW SECTION FOR TREE WARDEN HANDBOOK

Hedgerow Harvest is the theme of the latest section of *The Tree Warden Handbook*, reinforcing The Tree Council's Hedge Tree Campaign that Tree Wardens are spearheading.

The leaflet gives hints on where, what and how to plant to create different kinds of fruitful hedges, as well tips on foraging the resulting harvest.

The idea is to encourage more people to seek free food on their doorstep, with the aim of building a network of hedgerow foragers who can inspire their neighbours, share their favourite recipes and carry out projects to plant productive hedges in their

Dear Tree Warden

We're gearing up for a really special National Tree Week – the culmination of the 20th Anniversary of the national Tree Warden Scheme. The Government is also planning to launch the National Tree Planting Campaign during the Week – and that's something in which Tree Wardens have an important role to play.

The new national campaign will help communities to improve their environment and people's quality of life, echoing the concerted push of the Plant a Tree in '73 campaign that was the genesis of The Tree Council.

We were founded to encourage action for trees and to run National Tree Week, and for two decades Tree Wardens have played a vital part in all of this.

You have proved to be a very effective way of helping to make a community more liveable by planting and looking after its trees, making you a thriving example of what the Coalition Government wishes to see on a wider scale – Big Society.

The Tree Council launched its national Tree Warden Scheme in September 1990 with eight local Tree Warden networks in place – in East Sussex and Leicestershire, whose existing tree volunteers were an inspiration for the national scheme, plus Cheshire, East Hampshire, Kent, Mid Suffolk, and Surrey at county level and in South Hams District.

Now there are 8,000 volunteer tree champions in 150 local networks in England, Wales and Scotland, acting as the "eyes and ears" for trees in both rural and, increasingly, urban areas – in communities which particularly need trees and the benefits they bring.

There will be further information for Tree Wardens, via network co-ordinators, on the National Tree Planting Campaign as soon as more details are available.

In the meantime, thank you for all you are doing to green your local communities.

Margaret Lipscombe & Jon Stokes, The Tree Council

communities.

The leaflet is being sent via local coordinators to Tree Wardens in networks run by members of The Tree Council.

See also the Hedgerow Harvest website, going live in National Tree Week: www.hedgerowharvest.org.uk

DIARY DATES

Community Action Programme
Over the next few months The Tree Council's Community Action Programme will be stressing the importance of trees for the future. Tree Wardens are currently gearing up to celebrate National Tree Week in their communities including, for example, in **Plymouth, Portsmouth, Surrey, Wakefield, Walsall.....**

[Read more](#)

The calendar for the forthcoming month is:

National Tree Week

27 November to 5 December 2010
Plant trees, make a greener future

Tree Care Campaign

21 March to 21 September 2011
Healthy trees for a healthy future

Walk in the Woods

Throughout May 2011
Enjoy trees, enjoy the future

[Read more](#)

For more details of The Tree Council's Community Action Programme and tips on organising activities, to download free National Tree Week posters for advertising local events or to register your events for free publicity on The Tree Council website go to www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=community-action-programme

FUNDING

Tree Futures grants

Tree Wardens have until 31 March to apply for the 2011 round of The Tree Council's Tree Futures planting grants for school or community group projects that actively involve children under 16.

The idea of the Trees for Schools and Community Trees funds is to encourage people to plant trees locally and make a greener future, with The Tree Council's National Tree Week as the focus.

Find out more on The Tree Council's website

<http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=grants>

Free community tree packs

TPOs: have your say

There's a deadline of 20 December for responding to the consultation paper, *Tree preservation orders: proposals for streamlining*, which is on the Communities and Local Government (CLG) website (www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/treestreamliningconsult)
[Read more](#)

Anniversary celebrations



Tree Wardens have been celebrating 20 years of the national Scheme at regional forums this autumn.

At each regional forum, tree champions from different local networks gathered to hear from tree experts, share project ideas and discuss the important contributions

that Tree Wardens can make to their communities over the next two decades. [Read more](#)

The urban perspective

One of the particular successes of the past five years has been the development of urban Tree Wardening and The Tree Council has drawn out some of the lessons learned from the experience in a report to Communities and Local Government (CLG). [Read more](#)

Green Monuments

Help save special treescapes

Concerned about the number of trees disappearing from conservation areas, **Worcestershire** Tree Warden Cliff Willmot is campaigning for protection for their treescapes as a whole – and he is calling on others to follow his example.

[Read more](#)

Go nuts for ancient trees

The Tree Warden Recorder of the Year will be announced during National Tree Week, following an autumn when the Ancient Tree Hunt put a particular focus on sweet chestnuts. [Read more](#)

Tree Council member the Woodland Trust is offering a choice of free tree planting packs for community groups. Community tree planting packs come in a choice of themes – jams, jellies, chutneys and cordials; wildlife; wood fuel; and year-round colour.

There is also a choice of 105 or 420 trees. The large pack is ideal for roughly an acre of land and comes with canes and spirals.

To find out more or apply for a pack of trees to plant in spring or autumn 2011 – as a hedge, in copses or as a small woodland – visit

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/communitytrees

RESOURCES

Oak processionary moth

A Guidance Note on the problem of oak processionary moth can be downloaded from the London Tree Officers Association website

www.ltoa.org.uk.

It gives recommendations for those who manage trees and woodlands to help them formulate search and treatment plans and to understand the background to this serious pest.

Hedge habitat survey

The Opal Biodiversity Survey aims to find out more about the importance of hedges to nature by asking people to identify the insects that live in them and upload their findings on the survey website

www.biodiversitysurvey.org

[Read more](#)

New books

Queen Beech, King of the Forest (oak) and the *Lady of the Woods* (silver birch)

Three photographic essays by Bronwen Coe.

RRP £6.50 each or three for £17.00 (+ p&p). Price for Tree Wardens: £4.50 each (+ p&p). Available from

www.BronwenCoe.com or

tel: 01308 428 374.

These little books are called “tree biographies” and are a personal view by the photographer Bronwen Coe.

[Read more](#)

Whitebeams, Rowans and Service Trees of Britain and Ireland.

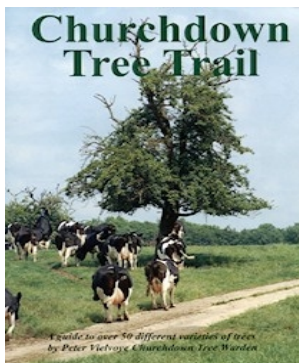
BSBI Handbook No 14.

by Tim Rich, Libby Houston, Ashley Robertson and Michael Proctor, ISBN 978-0-901158-43-7, £29.99, Botanical Society of the British Isles

As a review of the current state of knowledge of the sorbus group of trees in the British Isles, this new book

Tree trails show the way

Creating a tree trail and producing a leaflet to guide schools, families – and others around it is a great way to flag up the importance of trees to a community.



Tewkesbury Tree Warden Peter Vielvoye, for example, has created a tree trail around his parish of Churchdown in Gloucestershire.

[Read more](#)

Elsewhere in Gloucestershire, **Cotswold** Tree Wardens have come up with the idea of a Tree

Walk in The Abbey Grounds leaflet for Cirencester.

[Read more](#)

Havant Tree Wardens in Hampshire have so far produced three tree trail publications. [Read more](#)

In **West Sussex**, Tree Wardens have just produced a new edition of the Chichester City Tree Trail. [Read more](#)

Championing local trees

Bournemouth Tree Wardens are planning to mark their south coast town's 200th anniversary with a special tree initiative. [Read more](#)

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York Tree Wardens are carrying out walkabout welcomes for new members of their urban-based network. [Read more](#)



magnificently fills a gap in the literature. [Read more](#)
Planting and Maintaining a Tree Collection

by Simon Toomer, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-930-0, £20, Timber Press
This is a great little book, packed with practical 'how to' information about planting and maintaining a tree collection. [Read more](#)



Technical update

As promised in the spring issue, here are some hints on growing and maintaining a healthy, productive hedge – good for foraging free food and for encouraging wildlife. [Read more](#)

Tell us you news

If you have news to report, dates to flag up or ideas and information to share with fellow Tree Wardens in the spring issue of Tree Warden Update, please email the details to TreeWardenUpdate@treecouncil.org.uk

Or write to Tree Warden Update, The Tree Council, 71 Newcomen Street, London SE1 1YT

Tree Warden Update supplement

Autumn 2010

TPOs: have your say

There's a deadline of 20 December for responding to the consultation paper, *Tree preservation orders: proposals for streamlining*, which is on the Communities and Local Government (CLG) website (www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/treestreamliningconsult)

The paper details CLG's proposals to consolidate the existing regulations governing the making and management of tree preservation orders (TPOs), reduce the complexity of the model order and produce a unified system which will apply to all TPOs.

It is likely that the new regulations will be brought into effect in 2011.

CLG is currently looking across the full range of its responsibilities to see what regulations can be removed or streamlined to cut red tape. As part of this, the Secretary of State announced on 7 July his intention to consult on streamlining the approach to tree protection to reduce the administrative burden and create a more equitable system.

Anniversary celebrations

Tree Wardens have been celebrating 20 years of the national Scheme at regional forums this autumn.

At each regional forum, tree champions from different local networks gathered to hear from tree experts, share project ideas and discuss the important contributions that Tree Wardens can make to their communities over the next two decades.

And there were celebratory cakes at all of them, like this one at the West Midlands



forum, which was hosted by Worcestershire County Council.

Productive trees were covered in talks and workshops, and the lunchtime pudding was made from food foraged in the park where the event occurred.

The East

Anglian forum took place on 19 September – 20 years to the day after the Tree Council launched the Tree Warden Scheme in 1990. The forum was hosted by Mid Suffolk District Council, which set up one of

the eight original Tree Warden networks. After morning talks, delegates headed outdoors to watch demonstrations such as green woodworking and extraction by horse (pictured here).



The East Midlands and South East forums were hosted by Leicestershire County Council and East Sussex County Council, both of whose existing tree volunteers in the late 1980s were inspirations for setting up the national Tree Warden Scheme 20 years ago.

The two forums proved excellent opportunities to celebrate the work of Tree Wardens over the last 20 years and look at the issues facing trees over the next two decades.



Two different sorts of cakes featured in the celebrations, for the South East (above) it was iced with the Tree Warden Scheme logo and for East Midlands (below) it was in the shape of two acorns.



Topics covered in talks at the South West Forum, hosted by East Devon District Council, included heritage trees, pests and diseases in a changing climate and new life for Devon's hedges. Tree Wardens then

headed outside for an afternoon of workshops, with a particular focus on dead and dying trees, like the one pictured here.



When Welsh Tree Wardens came together for a forum at St Brides Orchard, hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, there was a particular emphasis on fruit trees – including planting and pruning them. They even had the chance to sample juice from a fruit press that the Pembrokeshire network has just bought to loan out to its Tree Wardens. The fruit was collected in baskets made during the event.



The urban perspective

One of the particular successes of the past five years has been the development of urban Tree Wardening and The Tree Council has drawn out some of the lessons learned from the experience in a report to Communities and Local Government (CLG).

For many years the Scheme was strongest in rural areas, with Tree Wardens often linked with parishes.

However, funding from CLG's Special Grants Programme helped The Tree Council to devote particular attention to extending Tree Wardening further into towns and cities where the community infrastructure is more complex, communities have less connection to the natural environment and the population is more transitory.

The funding enabled The Tree Council to develop 21 new urban networks during the five years of the grant, help existing networks extend Tree Wardening into their urban areas and develop successful models to support future new urban networks.

"We found that key to success was developing local partnerships with voluntary sector organisations and local council departments with an interest in trees and the environment," says Margaret Lipscombe, who joined The Tree Council in September 2005 as director of urban programmes. "These local partnerships can then support the development of a Tree Warden network.

"Tree Wardening can help develop a sense of community because people get to know their neighbours through their volunteering activity, and the support they receive by being part of a formal network helps them build skills and confidence."

Other findings outlined in the report to CLG include:

- to be successful, networks need the support of the local authority and the involvement of the tree officer, whether that be supporting a volunteer group to run the network or actually running the network themselves
- networks set up because Tree Wardening was written into the local authority's tree strategy have a particularly good chance of success
- networks need the support of The Tree Council and found it invaluable to be part of a larger movement
- meeting Tree Wardens from other networks (e.g. at regional forums) and sharing project ideas was inspiring.

Green Monuments

Many Tree Wardens are in the vanguard of The Tree Council's concerted effort to highlight the importance of and gain special protected status for trees of great historical, cultural or ecological significance – heritage trees. Find out more about the Green Monument Campaign at www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/47

Help save special treescapes

Concerned about the number of trees disappearing from conservation areas, **Worcestershire** Tree Warden Cliff Willmot is campaigning for protection for their treescapes as a whole – and he is calling on others to follow his example.

Trees in conservation areas that are not significant in their own right – and therefore covered by a tree preservation order – have very little protection and this has an effect on the overall treescape, points out Cliff. He is Tree Warden for Bewdley, a town which has conservation area status.

"Many urban trees are poor specimens,

diseased, dangerous or simply too big for their current location and it would be wrong for the local planning authority to deny applications to remove them. But without the right to ask for a replacement, the number of trees is diminished, with the consequent inevitable change to the conservation area and with a similar diminution of the benefits that trees can bring to urban areas."

He says that greater powers for the local planning authority are needed, including:

- a statutory duty to publicise the Section 2.11 application so that local residents are informed of the proposals and are able to comment
- the power to impose conditions including, where appropriate, replacement planting
- the requirement to provide advice and assistance in carrying out the proposed work
- the right to require the applicant to bear all the costs related to the application.

He suggests that if it was inappropriate to replace a tree in the same place, the local planning authority would either be able to provide a site on its own land or link the tree planter with a private landowner who would act as a host to the new tree – anywhere that would enhance the conservation area.

"All that is needed is a small amendment to the relevant Act to give the local planning authority more powers along the lines that I have suggested. It would make it possible to retain the overall tree population and to replace old and inappropriate trees with new specimens more suited to the urban landscape.

"I have already gained support from the local civic society who have promised to lobby Civic Voice, and I have written to my MP. If anyone feels as I do that our urban trees need more protection, would they do the same?"

Go nuts for ancient trees

The Tree Warden Recorder of the Year will be announced during National Tree Week, following an autumn when the Ancient Tree Hunt put a particular focus on sweet chestnuts.

Prizes for recording the most ancient trees in the last 12 months will be £100 for the winning Tree Warden and £900 for the winning network – to buy saplings to plant in local woods. They are a way of recognising the key role that Tree Wardens are continuing to play in the Ancient Tree Hunt.

"This autumn we asked people to focus

their recording efforts on sweet chestnuts. We're hoping that we can find out the largest in each county and get a better national spread of records," explains Ancient Tree Hunt project manager Edward Parker.



The largest recorded in the UK is pictured above – the Tortworth Chestnut in Gloucestershire. It featured among the Great British Trees that Tree Wardens helped The Tree Council to highlight for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. "An immense mass of contorted trunk and branch, it is virtually a wood in itself, with bluebells, dog's mercury and wild garlic growing in its shade," says Edward.

A plaque on the iron fence surrounding the tree dates it as 600 years old in 1800.

The sweet chestnut (also known as the Spanish chestnut) is believed to have been introduced to Britain by the Romans, possibly to provide a ready supply of chestnut flour for the legionaries.

"It's now considered an honorary native and grows commonly in woods and copses, especially in Kent and Sussex where it's cut to make fence palings, gateposts and stakes. Popular as a landscaping tree, it was also planted widely in parkland and on large estates, such as at Croft Castle in Herefordshire," says Edward.

The Ancient Tree Hunt (www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk) is run by Tree Council members the Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum, with the Tree Register of the British Isles.

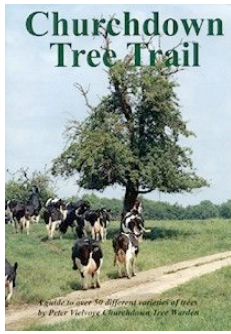
It reinforces The Tree Council's Green Monument Campaign (www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/47) to gain special protected status for heritage trees.

- When you fill in the form to record trees on the Ancient Tree Hunt website, be sure to complete the recording organisation box by selecting **Tree Council Tree Warden**.

Tree trails show the way

Creating a tree trail and producing a leaflet to guide schools, families and others

around it is a great way to flag up the importance of trees to a community.



Tewkesbury Tree Warden Peter Vielvoje, for example, has created a tree trail around his parish of Churchdown in Gloucestershire. It's a guide to over 50 different varieties of trees, where to find them, how to identify them and points of

interest about them.

The leaflet opens out into a map of the area, marked with the trees to look out for and a choice of three routes of different lengths, all starting from a car park. There are also ideas for family activities during the trail, ranging from identifying a species and then counting how many there are on the route to taking bark rubbings using crayons and paper.

The leaflet can be picked up from the Churchdown Parish Offices or email petervielvoje@blueyonder.co.uk

Elsewhere in Gloucestershire, **Cotswold** Tree Wardens have come up with the idea of a *Tree Walk in The Abbey Grounds* leaflet for Cirencester.



Anthea Steel drew up the initial list of interesting trees (like this copper beech) and notes about them and Alan Jones has taken photographs to illustrate the leaflet.

It will be published next spring by Cirencester Town Council, ready for the new tourist season.

Following a training course on mapping important trees, other Cotswold parishes are also looking at tree trails.

Havant Tree Wardens in Hampshire have so far produced three tree trail publications.

Emsworth Tree Wardens were the first to publish, backed by a grant from Awards for All. Sales – so far standing at about 1,000 – then enabled them to go for a reprint, with revisions where necessary.

The guide is available in a couple of

local shops, including a very popular café which has proved the best place for sales. It is also available in the local library and a number of solicitors hand it out to people buying a house locally and moving into the area.

Inspired by this success, trails and accompanying leaflets have been devised for Hayling Island and Jubilee Park in Waterlooville.

In Waterlooville, Tree Wardens designed a cheap-to-produce leaflet that is available on the network's website. They also printed a thousand for free distribution at community centres and events.

Hayling Island Tree Wardens intend to distribute their tree trail guide with a request for a donation on the cover.

The aim is get all the Havant tree trail booklets and leaflets on the website as free pdf downloads at www.havantboroughtreewardens.org.uk

In **West Sussex**, Tree Wardens have just produced a new edition of the Chichester City Tree Trail.

It shows the changes to the city's trees that have occurred in the 10 years since the one and a half-mile trail was created. It includes seven new trees, such as a wollemi pine planted in the city in January 2008 after the species was rediscovered in Australia in 1994.

The Chichester City Tree Trail is available from the West Sussex County Council website, www.westsussex.gov.uk, search for 'tree trail'.

Championing local trees

Network celebrates town's milestone

Bournemouth Tree Wardens are planning to mark their south coast town's 200th anniversary with a special tree initiative.

Bournemouth 200 will involve finding out which are the borough's 200 favourite trees, planting 200 more – starting this winter – and creating tree trails of some of the parks and gardens, with leaflets to help residents and visitors to enjoy them.

The outcome of an application to the Big Lottery Fund Community Wildlife Fund to support the initiative will be known in mid November.

The idea of highlighting Bournemouth's favourite trees was inspired by a walk among the 'champion trees' of Canford School Arboretum in July, guided by foreman Andy Beale. Many of the arboretum's trees date from the 17th century, particularly a magnificent sweet chestnut.

Earlier in the year Tree Wardens surveyed the trees in Iford Meadows, where there are many old oaks. The information they collected, including grid references, has been submitted to the Dorset Wildlife Trust ancient tree survey.

They have also been hedge planting at Kinson Common as part of the BBC's Tree O'Clock record attempt. This event was attended by the Mayor of Bournemouth.

Parish rewards its Tree Warden

Broadland Tree Warden John Fleetwood has received the Good Citizen Award for 2010 from his parish of Brundall.



As he's also chairman of the parish council, the rest of the council made the decision behind his back and the presentation (pictured) came as a complete

surprise to him. A Tree Warden for 15 years, John's love and passion for trees has benefited the whole village, the council points out in the announcement of the award on its website.

He advises villagers on how best to nurture trees on their property and regularly gives guided walks through the village.

But the council particularly singles out John's achievement in creating and managing a 'wet woodland' nature reserve – on land which gives people the only public access to the river in the whole of the parish. And as John's job in IT involves him travelling all over the world, Tree Wardening has to be very much a weekend hobby.

"His biggest contribution has been the creation and constant improvement of the award-winning Church Fen, the woodland walk down to the River Yare that we all enjoy.

"In an age where there are so many demands, John has given freely his time, talent and practical guidance that is much appreciated. This award is a small token of our gratitude."

Couple win environmental award

Leicestershire Tree Wardens Pat and Dave Tebutt are the first winners of the Neil Mason Environmental Award for their commitment to volunteering.

This new award has been created in memory of an Oadby & Wigston Borough Council officer.

The Tebbuts are not only Tree Wardens

for Oadby but also active volunteers in the borough's Fludes Lane Woodlanders and for Brocks Hill Country Park.

As Tree Wardens they regularly talk to visitors in the park or the lane to inform them about what they do and why conservation work is important. They have designed and put together a Tree Warden display for the park's visitor centre and to take to events

to promote the network. The couple (pictured here at an Apple Day event) spoke at the East Midlands Regional Tree Warden Conference to raise awareness of the borough's Save the Saplings Scheme (see *Tree Warden Update*, spring 2010), in which they are very involved.



"Not only do they carry out practical conservation work, they also 'go that extra mile' on many occasions – such as taking tools home to sharpen," said Helen Gregory, the borough's countryside and diversity officer.

Even an operation on Pat's wrist has not reduced the commitment. "With her one arm in a sling, she has still attended the volunteer work days and looked for tasks that she can do."

On special task days Dave, a professional hedge-layer, works with volunteers who wish to learn the skill.

"Dave and Pat do an incredible amount of good work in Oadby and Wigston and beyond. They are bastions of the Tree Warden and Heritage Warden Schemes who are always prepared to muck in cheerfully," said Sam Forster, project manager of Leicestershire County Council's Stepping Stones Project.

That's why the Tebbuts were invited to one of the county council chairman's receptions for volunteers to celebrate their work.

Mexican forests inspire new book

Suffolk Coastal District Tree Warden Bernardine Freud has just published a book inspired by her time volunteering in Mexico.

Garden of the Jaguar is about travel, plants and people in Chiapas, Mexico. Bernardine, Tree Warden for the Suffolk

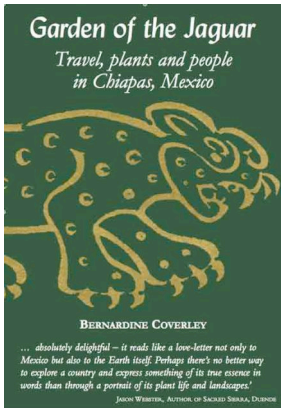
village of Ubbeston, describes it as a travel book with a plant theme – the jaguar's garden being the forests.

"In 2003 I travelled to the heartland of the Mayan world, and worked as a gardener for a pioneering environmental charity – Na Bolom, House of the Jaguar. It was founded in the 1950s to protect the Lacandon rainforest and champion the people who lived there. *Garden of the Jaguar* tells the story of my months in Chiapas and the people I met.

"I hope the book will inspire others to love the plants, trees and the forests around them," says Bernardine, whose writing surname is Coverley.

In the UK she has been a Tree Warden for Ubbeston for about 12 years. "I love and believe in this work.

"I've encouraged people to plant trees and hedges, record ancient boundary oaks and in winter take moonlit walks through



the multi-stemmed hornbeam wood and along old Saxon roads.

"We have just completed a hedge species survey, finding spindle, elm, dogwood and native black poplar."

Garden of the Jaguar by Bernardine Coverley was published by Green Bee Books in January 2010, ISBN 978-0-956427-106, £8.99. Find out more on Bernardine's website (www.bernardinecoverley.co.uk)

Call to end use of metal sets

Surrey Tree Warden Michael Ford has alerted his local council to the risk to young trees of protecting them with metal sets and is urging other Tree Wardens to do likewise.

"Protecting trees from vandalism in town centres by planting them in metal tree sets, often within a metal cage, has been marvellous in getting them established and strong enough to survive," explains Michael who, as Tree Warden for Epsom and chairman of its Tree Advisory Board, is very much involved in tree planting and aftercare.

"But on surveying trees in Epsom town centre planted about 10 years ago and doing very well, I realised that within a short time they would be growing into the metal planting sets. Obviously this would

weaken the trees, prevent proper growth and shorten their lives."

He alerted the tree officer to the problem and all the metal has now been removed, the trees mulched and topped up with gravel.

"Having just done this in time, I notice that wherever I go throughout the country other councils have the same problem," warns Michael.

"All Tree Wardens could check if the problem exists in their area because if this is not addressed many trees will have their lives cut short to the detriment of our environment, a loss to visual amenity and also a great waste of money spent planting them.

"Basically I think this method of planting should cease, thus preventing unnecessary expenditure and loss of tree cover in our towns and villages."

Walkabout welcomes for new wardens

York Tree Wardens are carrying out walkabout welcomes for new members of their urban-based network.

They send a small 'foraging' party to a new Tree Warden's area to take a local walk looking at trees and tree-related issues.

This introduces new recruits to the trees in their local streets and green spaces – and they learn how to tackle problems and work needed to protect and care for street trees.

New member Vicky Stretch is pictured with fellow Tree Warden Graham Pearson inspecting a young lime during an introductory walk in the Holgate area where she lives.

Vicky, an archivist with Tree Council member Network Rail, said: "It was a real opportunity to look around the area, and it certainly opens your eyes to the trees that I pass by every day."

Tree Wardens on the Holgate walkabout decided that there was enough pruning and other remedial work to justify organising a work party soon afterwards.

New members of the network were also encouraged to take part in a pruning exercise in the Huntington area of York at the request of the parish council.

The work – in a small copse, next to a



popular walkway on the banks of the River Foss – involved pruning lower branches, hedge cutting and making habitat piles.

“It was good, practical work and gave new members valuable lessons on how to approach pruning, the tools involved and safety aspects,” said Cap Fowles, chair of York Tree Wardens.

Technical update

Managing a productive hedge

As promised in the spring issue, here are some hints on growing and maintaining a healthy, productive hedge – good for foraging free food and for encouraging wildlife.

We’ve drawn on tips from Tree Council member the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (www.rspb.org.uk/advice/gardening/planting/hedges/plant_and_maintain.asp) and from Hegelink. This is a partnership of organisations, such as The Tree Council, and individuals who are leading and supporting the conservation of the UK’s hedgerows (www.hedelink.org.uk).

Get the hedge well established

To establish a bushy hedge, early maintenance and how you plant are important. If your hedging needs protection from rabbits, use spirals or a fence rather than tubes as this allows the lower buds to develop and it is these low laterals that will give a bushy hedge.

Either when you plant or in the second autumn, cut the hedge by a third to encourage side shoots. Each year cut the growth from the previous year by between a half and two-thirds until the hedge has reached the desired size.

Keep it thick and dense

Close interwoven branches in a hedge will provide safe secure nesting and roosting places for small birds. Open hedges tend to attract magpies, crows, pigeons and squirrels.

To encourage a bushier and denser hedge cut at least 2cm above the previous year’s growth – do this when the hedge is dormant in the late autumn. Most hedge plants, such as hawthorn, flower and fruit on the previous year’s growth. Cut them every other year, or a proportion of them each year to allow flowering and fruiting.

Cutting should be carried out in late winter after any berries have been eaten by birds. Avoid cutting during the nesting

season between early March and the end of August.

Don’t cut it too often or too tight

Although cutting is necessary to keep a hedge thick, if it is cut back to the same point every year it will produce very few flowers or berries and this can also make the growing tips too woody, so losing their ability to produce new growth.

So try to cut every two or three years, or just one side each year, or let the hedge grow out and up a little each time.

The sides of the hedge should taper slightly towards the top to allow light and rainwater to reach lower foliage and the ground at the base. An ideal cross section is a flat topped 'A'.

Old, gappy hedges can be rejuvenated by laying or coppicing, which involves cutting stems to within 10-15cm (4-6 inches) of the ground. Fresh growth from the base creates a thicker hedge.

Encourage native shrubs

Shrubs that occur naturally in Britain provide habitat and food for far more insects and other animals than those introduced from abroad.

If possible include a range of different species to provide food throughout the year – willows and blackthorn for early season nectar; hawthorn, rowan, bramble and rose for summer flowers and autumn berries; ivy for autumn nectar and late winter berries.

Encourage flowers and grasses at the base and margins

Hedges with plenty of vegetation at the base support lots of wildlife.

Flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees and other invertebrates, while tussocky grasses provide safe places for beetles, spiders and the like during the winter.

Frogs, toads, newts and lizards like dense cover at the base of hedgerows for food, shelter and places to hibernate, as does the hedgehog.

But keep the hedge free from rank grass and weeds for the first few years. A mulch of grass clippings or bark chippings along the bottom can suppress weeds and reduce water loss in dry weather. This greatly enhances the survival of the hedging plants.

Look after trees or plant new ones

If there is room, big mature trees, especially native ones like oak, ash and beech, will tremendously increase the amount of wildlife that uses the hedge.

Insects will congregate around the crown and beneath the canopy, providing rich feeding for birds and bats.

Small trees, like holly and hawthorn, are also valuable, especially for their rich berry crops.

Standard trees growing from a hedge can enhance its wildlife value. You can plant a tree as part of a new hedge, or allow a strong shoot to develop unchecked from the top of the hedge, and remove sideshoots until the stem reaches the desired height. Then allow it to form a head. Such a tree will produce more berries and fruit than several yards of hedge of the same species.

Link the hedge with other wildlife habitats and fill in gaps

Many creatures dislike crossing open spaces because it makes them vulnerable to predators.

So a hedge will be occupied by more wildlife, and used for safe passage between woodlands, ponds or other habitats, if it is linked to them.

Explore your hedge

Keep a close eye on your hedge and see what lives in it, and what parts of the hedge are most favoured by the wildlife you want to attract. You can then adjust your management accordingly.

- To find out more about The Tree Council's Hedge Tree Campaign go to www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/47 and to www.hedgerowharvest.org.uk for more about its Hedgerow Harvest project.

Community Action Programme

Over the next few months The Tree Council's Community Action Programme will be stressing the importance of trees for the future.

Tree Wardens are currently gearing up to celebrate National Tree Week in their communities including, for example, in:

- **Plymouth** during a Family Tree Site volunteer morning, when Tree Wardens will plant new trees in Central Park and carry out care and maintenance on some they planted in previous years
- **Portsmouth**, where the Lord Mayor will plant a tree to launch the Tree Wardens' Favourite Trees project, calling on residents to nominate their favourite trees in the city

- **Surrey**, whose Tree Wardens will be fielding a team in the annual Great Tree Race, organised by Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers. This year's race will be to enhance Hawke Park in Sunbury. Each team of five adults is challenged to plant 50 trees in a race against time – and the other teams
- **Wakefield**, where Tree Warden plans include planting a large tree as part of a multi-faith event and also involving children, especially, in helping to create a young native woodland
- **Walsall** where Tree Wardens will be inviting other volunteers – of all ages – to help them plant about 1,000 new fruit trees in an embryonic new country park. This is the launch of a wider project to plant community orchards in the borough, involving increased numbers of community volunteers.

The calendar for the coming months is:

National Tree Week

27 November to 5 December 2010

Plant trees, make a greener future

First mounted in 1975, National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration. It marks the start of the winter tree-planting season and is a great chance for Tree Wardens to get their communities to do something positive for their local treescape.

Tree Care Campaign

21 March to 21 September 2011

Healthy trees for a healthy future

This highlights the need for better care for all trees, of all ages, in order to ensure their survival and increase the number reaching maturity. The Tree Council urges anyone who has planted trees in the past five years to revisit them and carry out a few simple tree care tasks, such as clearing weeds, mulching and checking ties.

Walk in the Woods

Throughout May 2011

Enjoy trees, enjoy the future

May is a great time to organise walks, talks and other events that inspire people to go down to their local woods or parks or just enjoy tree-lined streets. This month-long festival is a chance for everyone to enjoy trees and woods in spring when flowers, birdsong and fresh green leaves make them particularly inviting.

For more details and tips on organising activities, to download free National Tree Week posters for advertising local events or to register your events for free publicity on The Tree Council website go to www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=community-action-programme

Hedge habitat survey

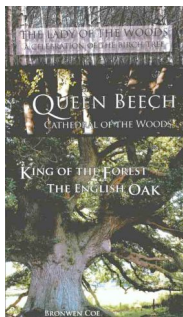
The Opal Biodiversity Survey aims to find out more about the importance of hedges to nature by asking people to identify the insects that live in them and upload their findings on the survey website www.biodiversitysurvey.org

A free identification guide and activity book can be downloaded from the website which is already displaying survey results from around the country, building a picture of the ecological health of Britain's hedges in all kinds of rural and urban locations.

The Opal (Open Air Laboratories) survey is led by The Open University, in association with Hedgeline and the People's Trust for Endangered Species (a Tree Council member).

Tree Wardens have long been key players in the Tree Council's Hedge Tree Campaign (www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/50)

New books



Queen Beech, King of the Forest (oak) and the *Lady of the Woods* (silver birch). Three photographic essays by Bronwen Coe. RRP £6.50 each or three for £17.00 (+ p&p). Price for Tree Wardens: £4.50 each (+ p&p). Available from www.BronwenCoe.Com, tel 01308 428 374.

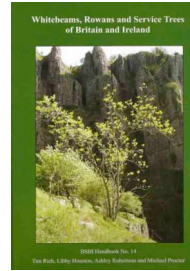
These little books are called "tree biographies" and are a personal view by the photographer Bronwen Coe.

They draw together personal observations, snippets of fascinating history and poems lauding the beauty and qualities of their subjects, along with some practical tree facts.

Printed on semi-gloss paper, each book is around 40 pages and has as many photographic images contained in the 164mm square format.

Ideal as a stocking-filler, or as a small gift for any of your fellow Tree Wardens whom you want to please, it also fits nicely into a coat pocket for sitting and reading when out amongst the subjects.

Pauline Buchanan Black, director-general, The Tree Council



Whitebeams, Rowans and Service Trees of Britain and Ireland. BSBI Handbook No 14. By Tim Rich, Libby Houston, Ashley Robertson, Michael Proctor, ISBN 978-0-901158-43-7, £29.99, Botanical Society of the British Isles

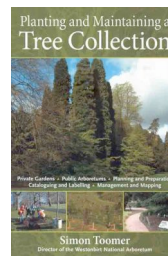
As a review of the current state of knowledge of the sorbus group of trees in the British Isles, this new book magnificently fills a gap in the literature.

Until now there has been a lack of detailed information on a group that not only includes rowan and whitebeam, but also Britain's rarest trees.

This book gives a full description as well as the history, leaf shapes, photographs and distribution of each of the 52 sorbus species and forms recorded in the British Isles. There are also sections on ecology, biology and the origins of species, hybrids and crosses.

A combination of detailed biological flora and coffee table book, it is a must if you are interested in this group of trees, or have ever looked at a whitebeam. And if you want to discover a new tree species, then buy this book and do your homework. New species are being found – you just need to know what you're looking at.

Jon Stokes



Planting and Maintaining a Tree Collection By Simon Toomer, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-930-0, £20, Timber Press

This is a great little book, packed with practical 'how to' information about planting and maintaining a tree collection.

And it's not just for people with large estates or public gardens. It's all applicable to community woodlands.

Simon Toomer draws on his years of experience as director of Westonbirt Arboretum and his love of trees. So he speaks with real authority and provides information on planning your arboretum, where to get your plants, and maintenance and cataloguing.

With over 100 colour pictures, tables and diagrams, this book provides an invaluable first stop if you are considering planting any collection of trees.

Margaret Lipscombe

Dear Tree Warden

As we said in the autumn issue of *Tree Warden Update*, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will launch a new national tree planting campaign during National Tree Week (27 November to 5 December) to raise awareness of the importance of trees in urban and residential environments.

It has now been announced that the campaign will be called The Big Tree Plant and will aim to work within communities to increase the number of trees being planted and cared for in neighbourhoods throughout England, with a particular emphasis on planting in areas that are currently deprived of greenery.

The Big Tree Plant will look to support community groups and organisations to establish (or expand) projects to plant and care for trees. The campaign will also encourage individuals to get involved, for example through volunteering at local tree planting events if they exist, and if not to set up new events.

The campaign takes a Big Society approach, with Defra and the Forestry Commission joining forces with The Tree Council and other key partners.

Tree Wardens have a vital role in shaping and delivering this new campaign. Defra has recently written to all tree officers, asking for their support to help reach and engage local people with this national campaign and ultimately increase the number of trees planted in their local area.

Defra is very keen to hear what Tree Wardens are planning – so please get in touch with us at The Tree Council if you have any ideas we can pass on. Defra is particularly interested in hearing about local tree planting schemes in your area, such as 'adopt a tree' or 'request a street tree', and whether you would be happy for local people to contact you if they are thinking about tree planting in their neighbourhood.

More information about The Big Tree Plant will shortly be added to the Directgov website, and will go live during National Tree Week (at www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant). This will include information about the work of Tree Wardens and a link to an updated events listing on The Tree Council website, just some of the ways people will be able to get involved with the campaign.

The Tree Council is working with Defra to prepare further briefings on the campaign for you. You will be able to use these materials to communicate the campaign locally, in particular to help raise awareness of the need for more tree planting in your local area. We aim to circulate these materials shortly before the campaign launch.

Margaret Lipscombe and Jon Stokes

The Tree Council
71 Newcomen Street
London SE1 1YT
email: treewardens@treecouncil.org.uk