

Wiltshire Tree Warden News

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Message from Vicky

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Happy New Year and welcome to Frank Hughes and Alan Slavinski, the new Tree Wardens for Kington St Michael and John Fletcher from Holt! Perhaps this is a good time to clarify the role of a Tree Warden.

The scheme aims to enable Tree Wardens to play an active role in conserving and enhancing local trees and woods. The range of activities that a Tree Warden can get involved with are diverse and can include

- Planting and caring for trees, and managing local woods
- Setting up tree nurseries using seeds collected locally
- Surveying trees and gathering information about them
- Providing early warning of threats, disease, decay and vandalism
- Getting together with like minded people for training and field trips
- Working with local groups and schools - teachers often welcome projects that link with the National Curriculum
- Developing imaginative initiatives, such as tree adoption, to encourage others to value the community's trees - and so help to reduce vandalism
- Leading guided tree walks and giving talks to local groups
- Helping farmers to lay hedges or tag hedge trees for protection.

Together with the training proposed for 2012, we will provide you with the necessary fundamental knowledge required to carry out your role effectively, but remember, as a Tree Warden, you should not

- Advise whether or not a tree is safe: if it falls you would be liable and you are not insured for this
- Undertake practical work outside your ability or without appropriate permission
- Enter private land without the owner's consent

- Attempt to handle tree disputes yourself
- Carry out chemical weed control without having completed the certificated training
- Use a chainsaw without having completed the certificated training or without insurance.
- Allow anyone to carry out work on trees to disturb wildlife during the breeding/nesting season.

For further advice, please refer to the Tree Warden Handbook.

[The International Tree Foundation](#) has been planting, protecting and promoting trees for over 85 years. Why not sign up for the free e-bulletin to stay informed?

News from (and about) Wiltshire Tree Wardens

Children plant for Wiltshire's future



The Rights of Way & Countryside Section of Wiltshire Council ran a seed gathering day at Drews Pond Wood in Devizes during half term in October 2011, as part of the Tree Council's National Seed Gathering month. Despite heavy rain the night before, the day was a fantastic success and families went out into the woodland armed with quiz sheets, tree identification keys and bags to bring back the seeds and fruits they wished to plant. Around 150 seeds and fruits were planted in pots and taken home by the children, along with instructions on how to nurture Wiltshire's trees of the future.

Thanks are due to Wiltshire Tree Wardens Kevin Last and Ben Fitch who helped pot up the seeds.

Volunteers required!

Digger Booth – Tree Warden for East Knoyle

We have some exciting news from East Knoyle. An area of our woodland is to be cleared and coppiced. Our coppicer, Lucie Cowles, starts work on 16 January. Volunteers are needed on 19 and 21 January at Underhill, East Knoyle, SP3 6BS. Contact Tim Hyde for more details – Mobile: 07880 557436

Trees in Salisbury Market Place

Jenny Bickerton – Tree Warden for Fovant

The campaign to save the 34 trees in Salisbury Market Place was successful. A dedicated group of people collected signatures on market days, lobbied councillors, attended meetings, contacted the media and wrote letters to the local papers. A petition signed by 11,485 people clearly indicated the strength of local opposition and was finally presented to the full Wiltshire Council on Tuesday 8 November. The original plans were withdrawn and future plans for the Market Place have now been taken over by Salisbury Area Board who are working with a group of local people to decide how to improve the Market Place without destroying the existing trees and disrupting market trading. We will be keeping an eye on plans for the Market Place and future developments elsewhere in the city. Every campaign is different but The Woodland Trust has a very useful page to help those who want to take effective action to protect local woods and trees from development enabling people to benefit from the experience of previous campaigns.

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/campaigning/woodwatch>

A Field Maple to celebrate the Royal Wedding

On Saturday 3 December 2011 (during National Tree Week) a field maple was planted at Clays Orchard, the residential home in Fovant. A field maple was chosen because these were the trees, together with hornbeams, which lined the aisle of Westminster Abbey for the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. The proposal was made to the Parish Council in April and it was agreed that funds would be made available. Steven Gevaux, the Neighbourhood Manager for Fovant, is pictured filling the hole, with two members of the Parish Council looking on and some local residents in the background. It is wise to check the planting site in advance to avoid overhead power lines and underground pipes. We had to alter the planting site slightly as we encountered both of these hazards on

the day! People are now keen to plant more trees in Fovant for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.



Planting Fovant's Field Maple

Southwick celebrated National Tree Week with tree planting in Country Park

Children from Southwick Primary School helped the Friends of Southwick Country Park and Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way & Countryside staff celebrate National Tree Week – by digging in!



Together with Wiltshire Tree Wardens, Jim Gooding and Aldetha Raymond, Southwick Parish Council and students from Lackham College planted 90 trees which were kindly donated by [The Wiltshire Tree People](#). The tree species was carefully chosen to enhance the nature conservation value of this

popular country park which is owned by Wiltshire Council. In years to come, the trees will provide food and homes for birds, bats and hopefully dormice. Joan Jones, Chair of The Friends said "We are so grateful to The Wiltshire Tree People for funding this project. It is fantastic that we are able to do something today that will have such a huge positive benefit for the future. It will become lovely diverse woodland which our children's children will be able to enjoy in the years to come".

Hedge Planting

Norman Hodnett –Tree Warden for Sutton Benger



At the end of May 2011, after more than two years of campaigning, Sutton Benger's would-be allotment holders began work on .6 of an acre of former pasture. The land was sold to the Parish Council at a nominal figure by Jephson Homes who had built seven houses alongside. The sale conditions required a fence to be built along one open boundary and within a year a hedge to be planted along the three stock-fenced sides of the plot.

The morning of Saturday 26 November was bright, dry and clear as allotment holders and their families gathered at the site to plant the hedge. In the weeks before, they had prepared the ground along the fencing. Four hundred and thirty rooted hedge whips were planted, four to a metre, in a staggered pattern along the fences. Hawthorn, buckthorn and field maple were the principle varieties interspersed with crab apple, hazel and dogwood. The object was to meet the sale conditions and to create an attractive mixed hedge around the allotments which would act as a windbreak and provide a haven for birds and insects and hopefully benefit the crops.

Saturday 26 November was the start of National Tree Week and the turnout on that day was the best for tree planting so far.

Vandalism in Atworth

Mavis King – Trustee Atworth Recreation Ground

We have recently suffered vandalism in the small copse of trees in Atworth Recreation Ground. Nigel Player (Tree Warden) has been rescuing some of the young trees which were almost pulled out of the ground when youngsters tried to remove the support stakes to use as weapons presumably. Lee Nevill (Tree Warden) has also been helping and it was my husband who located the damage when out for a walk. The trees may not survive the pain to their roots. They were planted by children for the [BBC Million Trees project in 2010](#). My husband has been out of commission for a year but he is now going to join Nigel in regular visits to the copse.

Atworth Parish Council is considering taking on the ownership of a small copse of old ailing pines and brambles on the edge of the Parish, an area at present owned by Wiltshire Council. It would be good if the Parish could take on this responsibility and involve the community and local Primary School. Steve Russell in his role as Countryside Manager at Wiltshire Council visited it in 2008. Steve also looked at the Recreation Ground copse and advised the committee to plant new trees over a ten year plan. I can't see anything happening with the present committee, sadly, but our BBC trees were planted as a result of Steve's advice.

The History of Grovely Wood

Tony Caceres – Tree Warden for Wilton

On a fine sunny afternoon on 15 September 2011 I undertook a guided tour of Grovely Woods with a group of people from the charity, the [Wiltshire Tree People](#). A tractor and trailer with a driver was kindly supplied by Wilton Estate for the afternoon tour.

The theme of the afternoon tour was 'The History of Grovely Wood' and I talked about the relationship between man and woodland from the prehistoric period to the present day. The first of many stops was Grovely Park where I gave a brief talk on the history of the Park and the social history of the people that had lived and still reside in this small hamlet in the centre of Grovely Wood and their associations with forestry and game keeping. There was also a discussion on the veteran trees within the Park including the remains of a fine avenue of lime trees, possibly planted in the 18th century.

Later in the afternoon we drove down the first Broad Ride, a long avenue of beech trees which were originally planted alternately with green and copper beeches. We looked at a selection

of plantations and discussed the changes in woodland management from conifer plantations established after the Second World War to the recent mixed native and natural regeneration plantations of the present day.

The final stop was at a group of veteran beech trees where I gave a talk on their ages, size and also the folk-lore on one particular group of beeches. I explained that, as a project, I undertook a survey of the veteran Grovely beech trees with a group of adults with a range of disabilities over a period of two years. Over the period, on a part-time basis, the group recorded, surveyed, plotted, measured and photographed over 400 of these magnificent trees.

Finally there was a discussion on conservation and on the huge diversity of wildlife, flora and fauna in Grovely Wood which was a fitting conclusion to the afternoon and was much enjoyed by everyone who attended the meeting.

What are bats doing in the autumn and winter?

Alison Rasey, Countryside Officer, Wiltshire Council

In autumn our bats are eating as many insects as they can, in preparation for their long winter hibernation. They need to lay down fat reserves to get them through this time, as they won't be able to feed again until the spring. They will also have been busy mating; 'autumnal swarming' takes place where tens or even hundreds of bats fly around in a relatively small area such as a cave entrance, making social calls and generally getting to know each other. Once they have mated, females store the sperm over winter until weather conditions improve in the spring (when ovulation occurs and then fertilisation takes place – amazing!). During the winter bats hibernate in cool, undisturbed places like disused buildings, caves, or cavities in trees. Hibernation enables them to save energy over winter, which is essential because no insects are around.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Woodland Trust is helping millions of people across the country to plant six million trees. With the Princess Royal as Patron, the Jubilee Woods project aims to create hundreds of Jubilee Woods and sixty special Diamond Woods, transforming our landscape in a generation and providing a lasting and meaningful tribute for many years to come. This includes the Trust's exciting new flagship, Diamond Wood in the heart of The National Forest in

Leicestershire, a haven for wildlife and a wonderful monument to her Majesty, open for all to enjoy.

We hope neighbours, communities, schools and families will join together to plant thousands of individual trees in their gardens, playgrounds and community spaces – each taking the chance to mark this special occasion in a way that will stay with them forever. Schools and community groups are welcome to apply for free tree packs to help local people get involved in the celebration.

Contact the woodland creation team on 0845 293 5689 or email jubileewoods@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Consultant's Corner

Steve Russell, Woodland & Countryside Management
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This is your opportunity to ask any question, no matter how simple or complicated. Just drop me an email. Your name will not be disclosed so don't be afraid to ask even if you think it is trivial or silly; the chances are that others are thinking exactly the same as you. Click on the link to [Tree Wardens Consultant's Corner](#) for the answers to the questions below and to refer back to questions from previous newsletters:

Unlike commercial woodlands, most trees and shrubs in towns and villages are planted to provide beauty or shade. While these are excellent benefits, what other benefits do trees provide?

My neighbour's tree overhangs my property. Can I prune the tree?

Tree Tales

Steve Russell, Woodland & Countryside Management
A brief look at our native trees and their characteristics, uses and the folklore surrounding them.

Having just celebrated Christmas it seems appropriate to look at a species that has been linked to Christmas as far back as Roman times – Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) Go to [Tree Tales for Tree Wardens](#) to learn more.

Dates for 2012

14 March

Deadline for the next application for funding for [The Big Tree Plant](#). Tel. 0800 856 7984

21 March - 21 September
Tree Care Campaign