



# Wiltshire Tree Warden News

September 2012

[www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk](http://www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk)

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## *Message from Vicky*

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or 01225 718647

Turning dreams into reality - You always live in hope that one day your dreams will come true. Well, for me a long burning desire to travel the world, experience new cultures and share my experiences in a meaningful way with others was granted early this year when a three month career break to do just that was approved.

From the beginning of October, I shall be temporarily leaving my role within the Countryside Team and embarking on an adventure of a lifetime. Within those three months I shall be travelling to Thailand visiting the world heritage site of Ayutthaya, trekking in the Nepalese Himalayas to Everest Base camp, walking across glaciers, visiting the Kauri trees of New Zealand and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. I finally finish my adventure in Singapore before the long journey home to the UK to resume my job as Tree Warden Coordinator.

From 8 October 2012 until 11 January 2013, if you have any Tree Warden enquiries please contact [Alison Rasey](#) copying me in just to keep me in the loop for when I return, or telephone 01225 718647.

From 14 January I shall be back in post and all communication should then be directed back to me. I will be working hard in the meantime to pull together a comprehensive training programme of events for you all for 2013. If there are any topics you would like covered, please let me know.

## **Wanted** - Tree Wardens to sit on a new Steering Group in 2013

The aim of the Steering Group will be to help ensure that the objectives of the Tree Warden Scheme are met, help identify any issues, highlight training opportunities and assist with organising social events, running projects etc. It will be a forum for discussion and decision making, providing you with the opportunity to have your say and help formulate the direction and future of the Wiltshire Tree Warden network. We will aim to meet twice a year starting in February 2013 in a location central to all, with the meetings expected to last no more than two hours.

Interested in getting involved? Any questions, please get in touch. I look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

## *News from Wiltshire Tree Wardens*

### **Parish Meadow**

**Tisbury** - Debbie Carter

As the Tree Warden, in partnership with the Tisbury Natural History and the Parish Council, I have been very involved in creating a meadow to benefit both people and wildlife. The majority of the site will be a wildflower meadow to enhance wildlife and allow an open space for Tisbury residents to use. We will be planting a new hedge of native plants along the North East boundary, filling in gaps in the existing hedges and planting a copse of specially selected shrubs and trees to encourage butterflies and bees in the West corner. In addition there are plans for a two acre 'Community Garden' on the site which is being planned by the 'Sustainable Tisbury Group'. An orchard will be part of their garden and I will be getting eight old variety Wiltshire apple trees towards this from Andrew Howard of the [Heritage Fruit Tree Company](#). Funding for the whole project is complicated but the apple trees are being funded by the Tisbury Jubilee committee.

We have also been awarded a free tree pack of 420 'Wild Harvest' plants from the Woodland Trust's 'More Trees More Good' scheme. These shrubs/trees will arrive in November so we are hoping to involve local schools, local people and *maybe willing Tree Wardens* in a big planting event in November! For the remainder of the hedge and copse plants and probably also for the planting we have another source of funding.

### **Calstone Wellington Jubilee Woods**

**Calne Without** - Kevin Last

As the local Tree Warden, I submitted an application for a free Woodland Trust community tree planting pack on behalf of Calstone Wellington Access Group. This has been successful allowing Calstone Wellington to create a permanent tribute to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee which will be enjoyed by the community for many years to come. Calstone Wellington has chosen their tree pack to have a year round colour theme. In just a few years, these new saplings which include species such as Hawthorn, Hazel, Silver Birch, Rowan, Wild Cherry and Dogwood, will provide natural colour and shade and help support local wildlife. The pack will also include a Royal Oak sapling grown from seed gathered from Royal Estates.

Delivery of the pack of 105 trees is due in November and the Access Group intend to involve as many of the community as possible in a planting event, details of which are yet to be confirmed.

### **Jubilee Diamond Trees from the Tree Council**

**Marlborough** - Bryan Castle



We plan to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by restoring historic links between common land and local foods for local people, by planting on the edge of Marlborough Common, close to the town centre. It is intended to become the focal point of the community project – a living larder, a magical beauty spot, an outdoor classroom and convivial meeting place, where everyone has a sense of ownership and feels encouraged to participate and share in events.

We propose a diamond-shaped plantation of rare Wiltshire varieties of apple. A few quince, medlar, pear, plum and damson trees will be grouped round the diamond; the whole area will be under-planted with wild meadow flowers and bulbs. If the diamond 'points' to a single venerable Mulberry tree (*Morus nigra*) kindly provided by the Tree Council planted at the town centre end of the site, it would be the jewel in the crown of our project. If Marlborough is chosen, the children who help plant the Mulberry will learn how King James I planted a mulberry orchard in what are now the private gardens of Buckingham Palace, and that Windsor Castle still boasts a Mulberry Walk. They will learn that 'their tree' will cast lovely shade, shelter birds and bear glorious fruit 300 years hence, albeit supported on crutches by then!

We aim to become a 'town in an orchard' and have already started planting and caring for fruit trees in ones and twos in and around town (in private gardens, churchyards, school playgrounds, the grounds of retirement care homes etc. as well as on Town Council and Wiltshire Council land where permission has been given) for the benefit of the whole community, our environment and local wildlife.

**Fovant** - Jenny Bickerton

On behalf of the village of Fovant I applied to the Tree Council for one of their 60 large trees to be planted as the next generation of 'trees with a story' to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I was thrilled to be successful and plan to plant an English Oak on the edge of the cricket pitch at East Farm. The challenge was to show that, as

a Tree Warden, I would be working with the local community to involve children not just in planting a tree but in making history by holding an event to be recorded in words and pictures so that next year and 60 years from now, people will remember it.

The village of Fovant celebrated the Coronation near the cricket pitch at East Farm and this included the Fovant Silver Band. I talked to people locally who remembered the occasion and found that there were still several members of the band in the village spanning four generations. The local community takes pride in its history and its past connections with the Army and the two World Wars. By planting a tree on the edge of the cricket pitch within view of the famous Fovant Badges and close to the bridleway, the hope is this will raise awareness and the interest of the younger generation in the village's history. The plan is to have a musical event to include a talented eight year old trumpeter in the village and to invite the Earl and Countess of Wessex to attend.

### *Tree Identification workshop at Urchfont*



Rich Murphy and Steve Russell at Urchfont on 22 August.

For more pictures, information on forthcoming events of interest to Tree Wardens, copies of previous newsletters, pictures of wonderful Wiltshire trees, useful contacts and funding opportunities, go to [www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk](http://www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk).

Any comments, suggestions for improvement or anything else you would like to see included on the site, please contact [info@wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk](mailto:info@wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk)

### *Stourhead Walk for Tree Wardens*

Wednesday 24 October 2012.

Meet at the Visitor Centre at 1.45pm suitably clad for a walk of 2 – 3 miles lasting about 2 hours. This is being led by Alan Power, the head gardener, and Shane Verrion, the Salisbury Tree Officer. There is no charge. Numbers will be limited to about 20 so early booking is advisable.

Contact [Vicky](#) as soon as possible.

### *National Tree Week*

*24 November - 2 December 2012*

This is the UK's largest annual tree celebration launching the start of the winter tree planting season. National Tree Week is a great chance for communities to do something positive for their local treescape. Can you support the initiative by setting up fun, worthwhile and accessible events, inspiring the local community to get their hands dirty?

### *Seed Gathering Season*

*23 September - 23 October 2012*

Throughout the autumn the Tree Council and the Countryside Team aims to inspire everyone, particularly school children and families, to gather seeds, fruits and nuts and grow the trees for the future.

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 environment are more likely to

flourish and help restore, conserve and beautify local urban and rural spaces. Collecting seed and growing trees is also a great way to get children involved and start growing the next generation of tree enthusiasts.

Interested in getting involved? For both the above visit the [Tree Council](#) website for further information or contact the [Countryside Team](#) (Tel: 01225 718647)

### *Late September to March – what are bats doing in the UK?*

[Ali Rasey](#), Countryside Officer, Wiltshire Council  
01225 718758

Baby bats were born in June and July and by the autumn they, together with their parents, are busy eating every insect they can find in order to fatten up for the winter! Bats need to increase their body weight by about a third (hence the manic munching of insects) in preparation for hibernation in later autumn; they need plenty of body fat in order to survive their long winter sleep.



A pipistrelle  
Image courtesy of BCT

Bats that are ready to breed will also be busy mating in the autumn. This often takes place at ‘swarming’ sites – areas such as the entrance to a cave or a nice tree-sheltered corner within a field will be chosen, where bats gather together for social reasons and to mate. Males sometimes ‘perch up’ in a tree and will make loud social calls (sometimes audible to humans) to invite females over to be mated. Sperm is stored over the winter within the females’ reproductive tract until spring, when weather conditions improve; they then ovulate and fertilisation occurs – an amazing adaptation which means they are pregnant only when there is plenty of insect food about, and they can concentrate on just getting themselves through the winter.

Why do bats hibernate? Well would you want to be awake in the cold winter when there’s none of your insect food about?! It’s a survival strategy – because there is no insect food they slow their metabolic rate right down so that they’re just ticking over during winter. Trees are really important hibernation sites for many of our bat species through the winter, so if you need to carry out any pruning to trees with nooks or crannies, you should check out any cavities or cracks in bark for bats first. A bat made homeless in winter-time is incredibly vulnerable.

Check out the Bat Conservation Trust’s website [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) for further information about bats and your local bat group, or call 0845 1300 228.

### *Consultants Corner*

Steve Russell of [Woodland & Countryside Management Ltd](#) answers questions from Tree Wardens. This month’s questions are:

#### **Tree preservation Orders - what new amendments have been made?**

**Is an owner required to keep a tree, subject to a TPO, in a healthy condition? What legal and other obligations are there on the owner?**

**Click on this link to see the answers:**

[Woodland & Countryside Management](#)