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www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk

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Message from Vicky

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Trees are particularly vulnerable to new threats arriving in the country, so it was good to see so many of you at the two evening sessions, which were held in the north and south of the county at the beginning of August, to demonstrate how to take part in the OPAL Tree Health survey. As well as looking out for pests and diseases affecting our most loved trees, Oak, Ash and Horse Chestnut, the Tree Health survey includes a guide to six of the most unwanted pests and diseases such as Ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) and the Emerald Ash Borer which could spell disaster for our forests, urban and countryside trees if they spread across the UK.

To download your free survey pack, including tree identification guide, field notebook, field guide and Six Most Unwanted card go to www.OPALexplorenature.org or, alternatively, please [contact me](#). There is more information on the [Wiltshire Tree Warden website](#).

News of Tree Warden Activities

Mulberry tree planting

Bryan Castle, Marlborough



An enthusiastic crowd of about 150 attended the planting of the Mulberry tree in Marlborough. Philippa Davenport of Marlborough Community Orchard described it as ‘the culmination of our achievements – so far’ saying “We are proud to be one of just 60 parishes nationwide to be awarded a tree by the Tree Council to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. We chose a Black Mulberry tree because it is handsome, exceptionally long lived, deliciously fruitful and has strong royal connections”. Marlborough’s Mulberry tree-planting event is to be recorded on line and in a special book to be presented to the Queen.

Marlborough’s Black Mulberry is a variety called King James (aka Chelsea). It is descended from trees planted in 1608 by the King himself and by thousands of loyal supporters countrywide. One of the King’s very own trees still bore fruit in 1931 at a site now within the gardens of Buckingham Palace. Another was felled in what is now Chelsea Physic Gardens to make way for an air raid shelter during World War II, but not before cuttings were taken: Prince Charles planted one of the direct descendants of this particular tree at Brogdale in 1993. King James I urged people to plant Mulberry trees because he wanted to start a silk industry here. Unfortunately for

spinners and weavers (but happily for fruit lovers), he chose the wrong colour. Silkworms thrive on a diet of soft, easily chewed *white* mulberry leaves. The leaves of the *black* mulberry are too leathery for them to munch willingly.

Guests of honour at Marlborough's event were Sue Clifford and Angela King, founders of the award-winning environmental charity Common Ground, creators of Apple Day and the inspiration behind the revived Community Orchard movement. Marlborough's Mulberry tree was planted jointly by Mayor Edwina Fogg, Sue Clifford and Angela King of Common Ground, and Alison Galvin-Wright, widow of landscape and garden designer, Jeffrey Galvin-Wright, who designed Marlborough's lovely Diamond Jubilee Plantation and was such a valued member of the Community Orchard committee.

The spade used for the planting was loaned by MTC Head Gardener, Richard Beale, who reported that the Queen herself had used it a few years ago. This made the Brownies happier than ever to take their turn at adding a spadeful of soil round Marlborough's royal tree.

The Rev Canon Andrew Studdert-Kennedy blessed the tree and the crowd with holy water, then invited the Brownies to sprinkle water over him. They did so with relish before charming everyone with their rendition of 'Here we go round the mulberry bush'.

Success for bluebell planting application at Harnham

Dave Wilcock, Salisbury

Having been a tree warden for about a week I suddenly realised that I did not know where to start. Fortunately, Vicky Roscoe informed me that FOHS (Friends of Harnham Slope) wanted to apply for a 'bluebell' grant from the Tree Council. This grant was to be awarded to approved applications that had to be submitted through a Tree Warden = me. I duly contacted the chairman of FOHS - Barry Wilkins, who forwarded to me the application he had put together. Through consultation with Vicky and Barry, the application was tweaked a little and submitted to the Tree Council. We have now heard that the application has been approved and funding will be arriving in due course.

This was an excellent first venture for me; it introduced me to Harnham Slope and Barry, who gave my wife and me a guided tour of the slope, a wonderful facility for all to enjoy. The grant is for £348; £300 for 2000 native bluebells and an additional £48 for small hand tools for the volunteers to use when planting. The annual planting day will be held on Saturday 5 October. This will take place at 2-00pm and there will be free refreshments. The event is being opened by Penny Brown the Mayor of Salisbury. If you have never visited Harnham Slope then I suggest you give it a visit. There are excellent views of the city whilst enjoying a lovely wooded stroll.

A Walk in the Woods at Neston



On a glorious weekend in May more than thirty keen tree enthusiasts turned out for a guided walk around the private estate of the Fuller family (producers of Fuller's London Pride cask ale). The event, marked the Tree Council's 'Walk in the Woods' month and was attended and supported by Sir James Fuller and led by Bill Ayres who has managed the woodlands on the estate for many years. Topics covered included historic and newly planted woodlands, the importance of woods, woodland management, parkland trees, ecology and historic features.



Restoration of Grove Wood

Irene Johnston, Sherston

A team of volunteers meet every Sunday during the dormant season to slash, burn, coppice, clear, plant and nurture a two-acre stretch that was totally overgrown less than four years ago. Each year, a quarter of the wood is coppiced and the logs and branches either thrown on the bonfire or piled up for habitat. All four sections have now been completed so a year off coppicing will allow a number of alternative activities to start this autumn.

On the agenda are: the creation of a small dam to raise the river bank slightly for our visiting kingfishers, planting more snowdrops in the green, removing brambles and weeds along the river, grafting an ancient and rare crab apple tree, planting some of the 100 saplings that we received from the Woodland Trust and also finding homes for some of the native trees being grown by the children at the local primary school. We shall also conduct a new botanical survey as the coppiced ground continues to reveal new plants where light levels have increased. This year, the bluebells and wood anemones formed a breathtaking carpet of colour in the late spring. More bat and bird boxes will be requested from the Cotswold Rangers who have proved a tremendous source of advice and practical help over the years.

Elsewhere in the village, more trees are earmarked for the High Street where long-awaited traffic calming measures are improving life for pedestrians. A new flowering hawthorn and ornamental pear tree will mean attractive spring and autumn colour in the future. On the village recreation ground, the Acer campestre, one of the 60 trees donated nationwide during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year, continues to thrive. A project is also in the early stages of planning for May 2014, embracing the environment, conservation, wildlife, landscape, local trees, wild flowers and much more. Watch this space!

Future events of interest to Tree Wardens

13 September – 15 November



Trees under Threat - an exhibition of paintings by Jenny Bickerton (Fovant Tree Warden) and Sandy Loader will be on display at the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Abbey Walk, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8BD. It is open Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm. Entrance is free.

Saturday 21 September

[South West Region Tree Warden Forum](#) organised by the Tree Council at Montacute Village Hall and Montacute Estate. The closing date for registration is 9am on Thursday 12 September.

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 October

[Cranborne Chase Woodfair](#) at Breamore House near Fordingbridge. A variety of exhibitors and demonstrators from the wonderful world of wood will be displaying their products and skills at the Woodfair. Visitors will be able to see why shire horses are still one of the most effective means of logging; they can learn why wood is an efficient and renewable source of fuel and admire the traditional skills of a wide range of craftsmen and artists.

Saturday 2 November

A practical woodland management workshop primarily for Tree Wardens at Oakfrith Wood, Urchfont, near Devizes is being planned followed by a BBQ in the woods. It will be led by Steve Russell of [Woodland and Countryside Management](#). More information on our website.

Reminder!

23 September - 23 October 2013 Seed Gathering Season

23 November - 1 December 2013 National Tree Week

For up to date information on what you can do to protect trees in your area, future events, funding available, useful links, diseases to look for, past activities of Wiltshire Tree Wardens, and who to contact go to www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk